

DR. SAIHA MARJIA

MBBS | MPH | Executive Master's in Health Economics

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Visionary public health leader with 13+ years of experience spanning clinical medicine, programme management, and intergovernmental health cooperation across Asia. Demonstrated expertise in leading large-scale reproductive health, population, and development programmes aligned with the ICPD Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Proven track record in resource mobilization, donor-funded grant management (Global Fund, USD 8M+), and strategic partnerships with UN agencies, international NGOs, government ministries, and leading academic institutions including Yale University and Michigan State University. Experienced in South-South Cooperation principles, results-based programme delivery, capacity building, and high-level policy dialogue with government officials. A physician by training, combining clinical depth with managerial and economic rigor to drive equitable, sustainable health outcomes.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Programme Leadership & Strategic Planning • Resource Mobilization & Donor Grant Management • South-South & Triangular Cooperation • Reproductive Health & Population Development • Results-Based Management & M&E • Capacity Building & Knowledge Management • Policy Advocacy & Government Dialogue • Humanitarian & Emergency Health Response • Intergovernmental Partnership • Financial & Personnel Management • Proposal Development & Reporting

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Lead, Urban PHC& SR management, BRAC Health Programme, BRAC | Nov 2022 – Present

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Lead strategic programme planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and results reporting for a USD 8 million Global Fund-financed Tuberculosis Control Portfolio, managing a consortium of 18 sub-recipient organizations, directly aligned with ICPD goals of strengthening health systems for population well-being.
- Drive South-South Cooperation principles through knowledge sharing, technical assistance, and capacity building across 18 national NGO partners, strengthening government health systems for integrated TB control and prevention in alignment with national and international frameworks.
- Oversee TB programme implementation in close collaboration with Bangladesh's National Tuberculosis Control Programme (government), ensuring coordinated policy adherence and results-based delivery across all sub-recipients.
- Lead the Urban Primary Healthcare Restructuring Project across Dhaka and Chattogram metropolitan areas, redesigning 33 health facilities into one-stop PHC service points, advancing equitable access to reproductive and primary health services consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Execute two research-integrated pilot projects on Mental Health in urban and rural settings in active collaboration with Yale University and the Government of Bangladesh, integrating mental health into government health structures through community screening, referral systems, and awareness campaigns.
- Lead an international research collaboration with Michigan State University's Global Health Department on a One Health and One Water initiative, contributing to interdisciplinary knowledge generation for sustainable development.
- Supervise Nutrition & Food Security Programme in partnership with Nutrition International, covering host and Rohingya communities in Cox's Bazar, including behavior change communication and social safety net programming.
- Develop programme strategies, concept notes, business models, guidelines, SOPs, and training manuals in direct policy dialogue with the Ministry of Health and international stakeholders, building evidence-based frameworks for urban health, mental health, and nutrition programmes.
- Manage financial planning, budget oversight, donor compliance, and six-monthly progress reporting to the Global Fund, ensuring accountability and transparency across a large multi-partner portfolio.
- Lead, supervise, and mentor a multidisciplinary programme team, fostering a culture of accountability, continuous learning, and results orientation.

Senior Consultant – Global Health | PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) PLC | *Mar 2021 – Nov 2022*

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Provided high-level grant management oversight for USD 123 million in Global Fund health grants in Bangladesh, reviewing performance frameworks, workplans, and budgets for Principal Recipients implementing population and health programmes.
- Conducted monitoring and evaluation (M&E) assessments of Principal Recipients, evaluating programme capacity, data quality, and results achievement to ensure alignment with grant objectives and donor requirements.
- Scrutinized proposals and budgets for pre-grant signing and funding renewal, assessing the relevance of proposed activities, reasonableness of targets, and overall budget feasibility, contributing directly to resource mobilization and strategic programme design.
- Oversaw grant closure processes, reviewing workplans, budgets, and closure reports to ensure proper implementation monitoring and achievement of intended health outcomes.
- Conducted field-level programmatic spot-checks, generating evidence-based insights into programme execution at sub-national level.
- Responded to ad-hoc requests from The Global Fund, verifying training events, supervision visits, and programme activities to ensure effectiveness and legitimacy.

Health Officer | International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) | *Feb 2019 – Feb 2021*

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Served as ICRC's COVID-19 Emergency Focal Point in Bangladesh, overseeing health and well-being of 200+ staff and thousands of beneficiaries across Dhaka and Cox's Bazar — demonstrating capacity for humanitarian and emergency health crisis management.
- Strengthened prison health systems in collaboration with national and international stakeholders including the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Home Affairs, conducting periodic health system assessments and proposing evidence-based solutions.
- Designed and implemented Health Care in Detention (HCD) projects, developing project strategies, organizing training workshops for health staff, and leading capacity building and awareness campaigns, advancing health rights for vulnerable populations.
- Coordinated health promotion, infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, and PPE distribution across humanitarian settings.

Medical Officer – TB/HIV Programme | BRAC | *Aug 2018 – Jan 2019*

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Managed monitoring and supervision of TB/HIV activities within the Tuberculosis Control Programme, identifying individuals with TB and TB-HIV co-infection and ensuring proper referrals and case follow-up.
- Fostered collaboration with the National Tuberculosis Control Programme, NGOs, and technical partners to achieve programme implementation targets.
- Provided technical support and capacity building for programme staff; contributed to proposal development, field findings reporting, and budget and workplan adjustments.

Clinical Fellow – Child Health & Nutrition | icddr,b (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research) |

Jan 2015 – Jul 2018

Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Provided direct medical care to malnourished children under 5 in the inpatient department and primary care to outpatient pediatric clients, building strong clinical grounding in child and reproductive health.
- Participated actively in research activities including monitoring hospital trials, contributing to data analysis, and assisting in proposal development, building a foundation in evidence-based programme design.

Medical Officer | Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) | *Jul 2014 – Dec 2014*

Dhaka, Bangladesh

EDUCATION

Executive Master's in Health Economics (EMHE) — Institute of Health Economics, University of Dhaka, 2022–2024

Master of Public Health (MPH) — North South University, 2018–2020

Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery (MBBS) — Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, 2008–2013

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- Yale University (USA): Active research collaboration on integrating mental health services into government health structures in Bangladesh — piloting community-based screening and referral systems in urban and rural settings.
- Michigan State University – Global Health Department (USA): Ongoing research collaboration on One Health and One Water initiative, contributing to interdisciplinary approaches to sustainable health and environmental programming.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

- Certificate Course in One Health in Action against Neglected Tropical Diseases — World Health Organization (2025)
- Certificate Course in Strengthening Primary Health Care Leadership — World Health Organization (2025)
- Certificate Course in Communicable and Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology — University of Cambridge (2020)
- Internship — Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (2013–2014)

SKILLS

Programme Development & Implementation: Expert — 13+ years across global health, humanitarian, and development sectors

Project & Grant Management: Expert — USD 8M (Global Fund) direct management; USD 123M oversight (PwC)

Strategic Planning & Management: Expert — organizational strategy, annual work planning, results frameworks

Healthcare Programme Design: Expert — reproductive health, TB, mental health, nutrition, PHC restructuring

Leadership & People Management: Expert — multi-partner teams, performance management, capacity building

Policy Advocacy & Government Dialogue: Experienced — Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, national programmes

Global & Humanitarian Health: Experienced — ICRC, Global Fund, icddr,b, WHO-aligned frameworks

Research & Knowledge Management: Experienced — Yale University, Michigan State University collaborations

Computer Skills: MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint; data analysis tools; internet and communication platforms

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Bangla: Native

English: Highly Proficient (professional fluency in written and spoken communication)

REFERENCES

Clement Diarga Basse

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