Bangladesh

Joined: September 2010
**Demographic data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Population (million, 2010)</td>
<td>151.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children under 5 (million, 2010)</td>
<td>15.3</td>
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<td>Adolescent Girls (15-19) (million, 2010)</td>
<td>7.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Number of Births (million, 2010)</td>
<td>3.20</td>
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<td>Population growth rate (2010)</td>
<td>1.09%</td>
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**WHA nutrition target indicators (DHS 2011)**

- **Low birth weight**: 21.6%
- **0-5 months Exclusive Breastfeeding**: 64.1%
- **Under five stunting**: 41.4%
- **Under five wasting**: 15.7%
- **Under five overweight**: 1.9%

**Coverage of Nutrition-relevant Factors**

**Infant and young child feeding practice**

- **6-23 months with Minimum Acceptable Diet**: 20.9%
- **6-23 months with Minimum Diet Diversity**: 25.2%

**Programs for vitamin and mineral deficiencies**

- **Zinc Supplementation for Diarrhea**: 49.1%
- **Pregnant Women Attending 4 or more Antenatal Care Visits**: 25.5%
- **Vitamin A supplementation (6-59 months)**: 99.0%
- **Households Consuming Adequately Iodized Salt**: 57.6%

**Women’s Empowerment**

- **Female literacy**: 62.9%
- **Female employment rate**: 54.2%
- **Median age at first marriage**: 15.8
- **Access to skilled birth attendant**: 32.0%
- **Women who have first birth before age 18**: 30.2%
- **Fertility rate**: 2.4

**Other Nutrition-relevant indicators**

- **Rate of urbanization**: 27.44%
- **Income share held by lowest 20%**: 8.88%
- **Calories per capita per day (kcal/capita/day)**: 2,402.9
- **Energy from non-staples in supply**: 16.99%
- **Iron availability from animal products (mg/capita/day)**: 0.9
- **Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities**: 36.6%
- **Open defecation**: 4.2%
- **Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources**: 98.5%
- **Access to Piped Water on Premises**: 5.6%
- **Surface Water as Drinking Water Source**: 1.2%
- **GDP per capita (current USD, 2013)**: 829.00
- **Exports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)**: 0.03
- **Imports-Agr Products per capita (current USD, 2012)**: 0.19

**Stunting Reduction Trend and Target**

- **Current AARR**: 2.70%

**Distribution of stunting across wealth quintiles**

**Trend of Exclusive Breastfeeding Rate**

**Targeted Stunting Reduction (million U5 stunted children)**

- **Beginning prevalence**: 41.40%
- **Current AARR**: 3.3%
- **Target prevalence**: 10.38%
- **Beginning prevalence**: 3.36%
- **Target AARR**: 0.59
Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Established in December 2011, the Steering Committee for Nutrition Implementation chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) regularly convenes meetings with 28 representatives from 13 Ministries and 10 Departments, donors, UN, academia as well as the Nutrition Working Group (NWG).

A multi-sectoral Steering Committee convened by the Ministry of Food (MoF) also gathers 13 Ministries to monitor the implementation of the National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008-2015) and the Country Investment Plan - CIP (2011 -2015). Civil Societies, NGOs and private sectors are also actively engaged with the Government through different platforms like NWG and Civil Society Networks.

Nutrition has been declared as the central component of the national development agenda by the Honorable Prime Minister. To ensure the dynamism of the multi-sectoral approach of nutrition related services, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) is going to be revitalized and chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister. In 2014, UN agencies in the REACH partnership (IFAD, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO) produced a ‘Common Narrative on Under-nutrition’ to strengthen their coherence on nutrition as a developmental priority and to set out how they will support the government and citizens in scaling up nutrition through multi-sectoral approaches. Later on, this document was endorsed by 5 other development partners (Canada, UK, EU, USAID, WB) and others. A pilot of catalyzing a multi-sectoral platform for scaling up nutrition is lead at sub-national level, focusing on one District.

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

Bangladesh has revisited National Food and Nutrition Policy (1997) and drafted National Nutrition Policy 2012 (NNP) focused on nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions.

Through its web-site, MOHFW shared NNP with people of Bangladesh and key nutrition actors to integrate their feedback by mid-2014. It is now in process to be placed in cabinet for final endorsement by the Government.

The National Food Policy Plan of Action on which the Ministry of Food was working since 2006 was developed through a multisectoral approach and finalised. It outlines nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in the food, agriculture and health sectors.

Bangladesh national legislation includes laws on Food Safety, BMS Act 2013, food fortification and maternal leave up to 6 months, all widely disseminated. A National Nutrition Services Operational Plan was adopted and incorporated within the comprehensive Health Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program 2011-2016 of the Ministry of Health. The 1,000 Days of Life framework is now widely incorporated into the Health, population and nutrition sector-wide programs of Bangladesh.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework

Bangladesh has begun developing a Common Result Framework (CRF) with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and it would be based on existing frameworks in key sectors: National Plan of Action for Nutrition (1997); National Sixth Five Year Plan; Vision 2021; 2011 Country Investment Plan for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition; Draft National Nutrition Policy-2014; other relevant sectoral policies.

All Government and Non-Government actors are implementing their programs in line with national policies and programs.

The National Nutrition Services, under the MoHFW, delivers a comprehensive nutrition package to communities, including support for IYCF, dietary diversification, food supplementation and fortification, and management of acute malnutrition both at facility and community level.

All Government initiatives including education, women empowerment, safety net programmes are moving towards being more nutrition-sensitive. NGOs and Civil Societies are also focusing on nutrition-sensitive activities.

Financial Tracking and resource mobilization

Bangladesh is mobilizing domestic and international finances to support national efforts to improve nutrition. Funds from government and development partners have been allocated through the Government’s Annual Development Programme, formulated by Ministry of Planning with all the line ministries and departments. Funds have also been channelled from development partners to non-governmental organizations.

Both the Ministry of Health and Food have robust mechanisms for tracking expenditures, in particular for the Flagship Nutrition Program- National Nutrition Services (NNS) of MoHFW and the Country Investment Plan (CIP) for agriculture, food security and nutrition.
Progress Across Four SUN Processes
Bangladesh

2012\(^1\) and 2014\(^2\) Scoring of Progress Markers

- Bringing people together into a shared space for action
- Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework
- Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework
- Financial Tracking and resource mobilization

2014 Dashboard for Progress Markers

<table>
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<th>Stage of Preparedness</th>
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<td>56% 66% 73% 65%</td>
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1 Externally assessed by the SUN Movement Secretariat
2 Internally assessed by in-country self-assessment exercise