

Annexure 1. Programme and Result Based Framework

Scaling Up Nutrition by Civil Society Alliance for Scaling up Nutrition, Bangladesh

1. Background

The malnutrition situation in Bangladesh is among the worst in the world and remains a serious public health problem. According to the 2007 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), approximately 9 million Bangladeshi children aged between six months and five years suffer from under-nutrition, with 43% of children stunted, 41% under-weight, and 17% wasted. Over one in three children are born with low birth weight (National low birth weight study of Bangladesh, 2003-2004), with high maternal under-nutrition at 30% (BDHS 2007). Bangladeshi children also suffer from high rates of micronutrient deficiencies, particularly vitamin A, iodine and zinc. According to National Anemia Survey 2004, Anemia – one of the major micronutrient issues – is present among 49% of pre-school children, 47% of pregnant women, 33% of non-pregnant women and 29% of adolescents. Inappropriate infant and young child-feeding practices remain a cause of concern with only 43% of infants exclusively breast-fed from 0-5 months of age (BDHS 2007). Malnutrition has a cumulative negative effect on the health parameters and hence the economic development of the country. To overcome this situation, the government of Bangladesh has recently formulated the next five-year sector plan, entitled “Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP)”, wherein nutrition has been mainstreamed through a separate operational plan titled “National Nutrition Service (NNS)”. This is a major shift of the government’s previous strategy for combating malnutrition through a vertical approach. Although the country formulated a Food and Nutrition Policy and a Nutrition Plan of Action dated back to 1997, the absence of a comprehensive national nutrition policy has slowed down the success achievement process.

2. Civil Society Structure in Bangladesh

The general landscape of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Bangladesh is characterized with diversity and plurality in structure, missions and functions. Despite having a large vibrant civil society in Bangladesh, there is no consensus on the number of CSOs. However, there are relatively few CSOs with focus or capacity regard to nutrition as a development sector. Further, CSOs do not have any formal platform to raise their voice in the nutrition policy arena, although some CSOs do participate in a network entitled the ‘Nutrition Working Group.’ This group, however, is largely driven by government agencies, donors, bilateral partners, international NGOs and UN organizations and *does not* represent CSOs exclusively and thus does not comply with the definition promoted by SUN. After the Washington meeting of SUN, an independent and exclusive civil society effort has been initiated by the country focal points. Once initiated, collaboration between the CS network and other task forces of SUN was also started.

3. Civil Society platform in Bangladesh

NGOs and Civil Society Organizations have been contributing to successful implementation of large-scale government interventions like Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP), National Nutrition Program (NNP) for more than 25 years. During this time, they have gathered experiences and learning. At the same time, government agencies under several Ministries are

also implementing various nutrition projects and programs. These initiatives and interventions of GOs and NGOs are not appropriately coordinated in line with the guidelines provided by the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) in 1975 and National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN) in 1997. As referenced above, the NNS has been developed to mainstream nutrition activities. During the same period, the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management (MOFDM) has developed a Country Investment Plan (CIP) to implement nutrition activities under their jurisdiction and government bodies including the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) have been implementing nutrition related activities within their portfolio. More importantly, nutrition-related interventions had also been incorporated in different OPs under the HNPSDP of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). However, it is evident that there is no proper system in place to establish coordination between these implementing agencies.

Most importantly, there is no scope for CSOs to take part in designing these interventions and strategies or helping to track the implementation status of planned interventions. To improve CSO participation in dialogues with governments and international organizations and enable them to contribute and participate effectively, a representative body of relevant CSOs needs to be formed.

Moreover, the changes that need to take place at the national (and global) level in order to provide the enabling environment for the scaling up of nutrition policy and programs are precisely three fold: 1) nutrition governance – in particular the establishment of accountable multi-stakeholder platforms at the national level; 2) nutrition financing – the establishment of systems and approaches to track nutrition related expenditure and increase expenditure on nutrition over time; and, 3) sustained political commitment and action that will ensure nutrition is identified as a national priority and is understood to be one of main issues for which government's track record will be judged. In order to attain these changes, the civil society groups were organized and mobilized to voice for nutritional needs and rights.

4. The Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh

The Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh was formed through transparent and democratic process in Bangladesh on May 24, 2012. Through the structure of inclusive and sustainable partnership, the CSA for SUN, BD is positioning the profile of nutrition and holds the government and other stakeholders accountable to execute their responsibility to fight back hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh.

An executive committee has been formed as the highest body in this alliance to support the governance issues and lead the activities of SUN movement in Bangladesh. The membership to the CSA is open to all CSOs working in nutrition related field. Each member has equal status with major civil society stakeholders having a contributory role to play. The secretariat will rotate every 24 months, but, if required by the members, may continue for another term. The Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary supported by a core governance group may rotate every 24 months, but, if required by the members, may continue for another term.

Currently, the Secretariat is housed at BRAC Head Quarter at 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh, and operated with the support of EC and staff from BRAC Health Programme. A full-time SUN Coordinator will be recruited to serve the Secretariat, and the process of recruitment has already started. The Chair is responsible for calling and presiding over meetings of the EC and to support the activities of CSA through the Secretariat. As far as possible, the Chair and Co-Chair reflect an oversight function including setting agendas, time allocating for each item, directing discussions and summing up and disseminating decisions and actions to the CS network. The Secretary acts as the National Focal Point for the SUN CSO Network and bears the delegated responsibilities.

5. Collaboration with different constituencies for SUN movement

The CSA for SUN, BD will work closely with the SUN country focal point under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, UN groups, donors and private sectors aligned with 1000 days slogan in a coordinated manner to accelerate the progress in nutritional status of mothers and undertow children. Face-to-face meetings, electronic communications and participation in workshops will be used to support the SUN movement.

6. Overall objective

To create a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency in support of the further development and wider implementation of a nutrition agenda that will result in the sustainable improvement in the nutrition status of the people of Bangladesh.

7. Key problems and expected outcomes

Problem 1	There is no representative forum for CSOs working in nutrition in Bangladesh		
Outcome 1	CSO Network in Bangladesh is fully operational and successfully influencing nutrition policy making by 2013		
Approach	Target	Allies	Output
A participatory approach will be undertaken to aware, mobilize and capacitate CSOs, CBOs, local grass root organizations, faith-based organizations in forming a representative forum to raise their voice and participation in national	Local, national and international NGOs, grass root organizations, community based organizations (CBOs), faith based organizations , Trade Unions, academician, media,	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food and Disaster Management, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Executive Committee of representative forum of CSOs on nutrition formed by May 2012 • Organization will be identified to operate functional secretariat for SUN CSO network by May 2012

and global policy arena. Learning and innovation will also be a considered as an approach to achieve the outcome.	professional groups, think tanks	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Finance and international development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator hired based on availability of funding • More than 70% of national and local level CSOs empowered to actively engage in advocacy etc.
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targeted CS are strongly committed and understand the gravity of the task and willing to support and actively participate the network's activities • We are able to identify a set of dedicated divisional level professionals who will take forward the network's mandate. 		
Problem 2	Poor coordination among stakeholders		
Outcome 2	Enhanced sharing of evidence based information, research findings and resources among stakeholders through Nutrition Working Group (NWG), National Nutrition Steering Committee, Local Consulting Group (LCG) and others to achieve effective implementation of nutrition programs from August 2012		
Approach	Target	Allies	Output
Collection, collation and dissemination of information through appropriate use of technology, sharing information using same day and venue to avoid multiple meeting among all stakeholders will be undertaken. Simultaneously, capacity building will also be regarded as one of the key approaches to enable CSOs for performing better coordination.	Relevant Government ministries, Nutrition Working Group (NWG), National Nutrition Steering Committee, Local Consultancy Group (LCG),	Development partners, UN organizations, and private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint action plan signed by all key player will be in placed by June 2012 to improve coordination among CSO members for sharing information and also use of same date of meeting to delete too many meeting phobia on nutrition among all members • SUN CSO will be member of National Steering committee to share evidence based information, research findings and resource to track NNS progress by

Participatory learning approach and sharing of evidence based research finding, among all stakeholders to ensure active engagement will be adopted			<p>June 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO network will ensure regular meeting of inter ministerial on nutrition held at least once in each quarter Well defined agenda will be there for each CSO meeting to ensure active engagement of all member to share updated information • Quarterly joint meeting held among SUN other task force (GOB, M&E, PRIVATE and CSO)
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targeted CS are strongly committed and understand the gravity of the task and willing to support and actively participate the network's activities • The government accepts the notion of CS activities positively • There is political stability in the country 		
Problem 3	No national policy on nutrition and inadequate funding for scaling up nutrition interventions		
Outcome 3	Comprehensive, coherent and adequately financed national nutrition plan adopted by mid of 2013 and implemented by the Government by mid-2014.		
Approach	Target	Allies	Output
We will use the collective expertise, experience, credibility and reach of the CSO platform to raise awareness amongst key decision-makers, demonstrate the economic benefit of improved nutrition and highlight cost-effective	Policy makers	Media, professional associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy strategy for CSO network developed • Policy analysis conducted • Public opinion pressure is placed by sign petition • Advocacy with relevant ministries to accommodate issue-based research and regular evaluation study of

<p>solutions, in order to ensure that support for drafting and funding a Nutrition Policy is secured amongst key decision makers</p> <p>Assist NNS to developed Joint action plan in collaboration with all stakeholders involved in nutrition area</p>			<p>nutrition programs done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure public pressure to motivate policy makers through signing petition campaign • Nation plan of action developed and nutrition policy updated • Joint action plan is in place • Adequately financed nutrition program by government
Assumptions		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targeted policy makers are strongly committed and understand the gravity of the task and willing to support and actively participate the network's activities • There is political stability in the country 	
Problem 4			There is no system in place to track implementation of nutrition interventions or nutritional status in Bangladesh
Outcome 4			Joint tracking role of the CSO task force established to understand whether the govt.'s plan is implemented as planned from December 2012.
Approach	Target	Allies	Output
<p>Ensure functional system in place with GOB starting from planning phase to implementation in a well coordinated way. Assist government to develop joint action plan involving all sectors for the country to track the progress and helping government with evidence base research data to share</p>	<p>All implementing agencies (both government and non government)</p>	<p>Media, think tanks, universities, research institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M&E capacity and need gap identified • Joint monitoring plan is in place • Stakeholder consultation meetings organized to draft, pretest, and finalize the joint monitoring tools is in place to tracking progress • Quarterly tracking reports prepared,

gaps and issues during each annual planning review meeting			published and circulated
Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All targeted agencies are strongly committed and understand the gravity of the task and willing to support and actively participate the network's activities • There is political stability in the country 		

Proposed Activities

The following are the proposed activities developed following the outcome of the proposed programme for CSA for SUN, BD:

1st Outcome

- A mapping exercise will be done to find out the number of civil society organizations working in nutrition specific and sensitive areas.
- National level launching.
- One national workshop at Dhaka and six divisional seminars will be conducted to enhance awareness of major stakeholders regarding malnutrition status in Bangladesh and engage them to address the situation by actively participating in 1000 days SUN movement
- District workshops will be conducted in hard-to-reach and most nutritionally vulnerable districts of the country (at least 20) to raise awareness about 1000 days and engage them with local stakeholders to carry out the movement
- Seven divisional and district committees of representative forum of CSOs on nutrition will be formed during the workshop for wider participation and expansion of network

• Outcome Two:

- Three general CSO meetings will be held conducted over three years, one in each year to harmonize and coordinate SUN movement in Bangladesh sharing evidence and best practices
- The CSOs will be encouraged to participate in different nutrition related meetings where evidence and lessons of 1000 days will be shared
- A total of nine inter-ministerial dialogues with relevant ministries will be conducted to influence and assist them to work in a coordinated manner

- One ‘Nutrition Champion Expo’ will be organized annually with the participation of government, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders
- Bi-monthly e-newsletters will be developed and circulated to disseminate activities of SUN and other nutrition related activities in Bangladesh and beyond

Outcome Three:

- Three policy roundtables will be carried out to present report and promote debate amongst key stakeholders to understand nutrition issues especially the significance of 1000 days and coordination of multisectoral platform.
- Annual national seminar for sensitizing political leaders and standing committee members of different ministries will be organized.
- Two national workshops will organize for media both electronic and print
- 12 talk-shows will be aired on national television
- A one-day national seminar organized with Upazila Parishad Chairmen (from hard-to-reach and most nutritionally vulnerable districts) to sensitize them on the importance of nutrition, need of CSO platform etc.
- Nutrition week, World Food Day, World Breastfeeding Week will be observed at local and national level by organizing rally, posterizing, mobile messaging, seminar etc
- Formal participation of CSOs in steering committee for nutrition implementation and other government relevant committees and forums will be carried out.

Outcome Four:

- Three workshops will be organized to improve the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of government and other stakeholders to comprehend tracking performance in nutrition status
- Five stakeholder consultation meetings will be organized to draft, pretest, and finalize the tracking mechanism of government programs in different ministries.
- Quarterly tracking reports will be prepared, published and circulated.