



Introducing Civil Society for Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh

(CSA for SUN, BD)

Prepared By: CSA for SUN, Bangladesh Secretariat

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Acknowledgement

We extend our gratitude to all the participants who attended the Introductory Ceremony and made the event successful. We would like to acknowledge the extended cooperation of **HE Dr. Pascal Villeneuve**, Country Representative of UNICEF, Bangladesh for chairing the event. We would also like to show gratitude to **Mr. Md. Humayun Kabir**, Honourable Senior Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; **Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam Laskar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and SUN, Bangladesh country focal person; **A K.M Amir Hossain**, Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and **Dr. Ekhlalur Rahman**, Director IPHN and Line Director NNS.

In addition, we would also like to acknowledge the continuing support and cooperation of **Mr. Mahabub Hossain**, Executive Director, BRAC along with all the Executive Committee and General Committee Members.



The report presents an overview of SUN Bangladesh Secretariat and elaborates the introductory ceremony of CSA for SUN, BD held on October 31, 2012 at the BRAC Centre Auditorium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The report further details the background, aims, goals and objective of the alliance and provides an overview of the Global SUN movement.

Overview of SUN at the Global Platform

Nutrition has been a global public health concern over the recent years. In the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) leaders across the globe expressed optimism to uplift nutrition status of the low-nutrition level nations, which was translated at the opening speech of UN General Secretary, Ban Ki Moon where he highlighted the importance of nutrition and the critical work of the 'Scaling Up Nutrition' (SUN) Movement to address malnutrition and hunger across the globe.

In a collective effort to push nutrition upfront of the public health agenda the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), a Global Movement, led by the UN Secretary General and supported by UN agencies, governments, donors, civil societies and private sector stakeholders has been formed. At this stage, 36 countries including Bangladesh have been termed as high burden countries indicating low nutrition status reflecting the need of nutritional interventions. Currently 30 countries have been selected as SUN member countries where SUN Movement is in active operations.

The Civil Society Network (CSN) is aimed at creating a platform where all nutrition stakeholders belonging to different groups – governments, donors, UN agencies and private sectors would participate and exchange their views and ideas. The involvement and participation of all these players would aid in scaling up nutritional programmes in national levels. CSNs would also work to promote nutrition activities at the policy level.



Overview of Civil Society Alliance for SUN, Bangladesh

Despite progress in most MDG indicators, Bangladesh is considered as one of the 36 high burden countries for malnutrition. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) shows that 41% children are stunted and 45,000 to 100,000 children are dying from chronic malnutrition every year although our exclusive breastfeeding rate has improved more than 60% but quality complementary feeding is still at 21%. Our Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the Founding Chair of BRAC, have been nominated as the Lead Group members of Global SUN Movement. Aligned with the Global SUN Movement and the commitments made by the country representatives, Bangladesh has formed the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition in Bangladesh (CSA for SUN, BD). The alliance is composed of representatives from civil society networks across Bangladesh to work under the leadership of the government, to advocate for the further development of the national nutrition agenda and ultimately improve the lives of malnourished people across this country.

Since the beginning of SUN movement in Bangladesh Save the Children International, Concern Bangladesh, Plan Bangladesh and USAID funded FANTA project of AED and later on FHI360 played a vital role to identify key nutrition players in Bangladesh, conducting meeting, developing TOR for Civil Society engorgement, basic steps to create a civil society platform in Bangladesh, develop concept paper for Bangladesh for funding, support government SUN focal person to prepare for teleconferences, prepare country paper and report etc. Finally under the leadership of these organizations a transparent election process was held to form a functional executive committee of civil society for Bangladesh. Then this elected committee finalized the name, TOR, new member nomination form, logo, brochure etc. for this currently established Civil Society Alliance for Scale Up Nutrition, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN, BD) and also planned jointly for this introductory meeting.

Goal of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh

To promote sustainable improvement in nutritional status of adolescents, women and children of Bangladesh using '1000 Days Approach' through creating a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency alliance to support development and implementation of the Nutrition agenda under the leadership of National Nutrition Services and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Objectives of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh

The following are the objectives of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh.

- Ensuring functional sustainable civil society alliance in Bangladesh aligned with the national and global priorities of SUN movement
- Partnering with SUN's GOB and Donor counterparts, in order to sensitize policymakers for country led scaling up nutrition in all relevant policies
- Advocating for revisiting and revitalizing the policy and programmes for improving and scaling up nutrition
- Documenting and disseminating evidence-based best practices for adaptation and scale-up at national level.

The Introductory Ceremony of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh

The CSA for SUN, BD was formally launched on October 31, 2012 at BRAC Center Auditorium Dhaka, Bangladesh. The launching ceremony was attended by high level government officials, UN organizations,



civil society organizations, academia, media and others. Md. Humayun Kabir, Honourable Senior Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was the Chief Guest in the Inauguration Ceremony while the event was chaired by Dr. Pascal Villeneuve, Country Representative of UNICEF, Bangladesh. Among others, Md. Shafiqul Islam Laskar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & SUN, Bangladesh Country Focal Person, A.K.M. Amir Hossain, Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, Dr. Ekhlashur Rahman, Director IPHN and Line Director National Nutrition Service and Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director, BRAC were present on the occasion. Along with high level officials from GOB, UNICEF and BRAC, 165 total participants -executive members & general of CSA for SUN, BD, UN, development partners, INGO, national NGOs, grassroots level NGOs and media representatives attended this introductory meeting.

Dr. Rukhsana Haider, Chair of the CSA for SUN, BD, in her welcome speech, gave background on Civil Society for the SUN Movement in Bangladesh, and stressed the need for coordinated efforts to scale up nutrition interventions across the country. In her speech, Dr. Sultana Khanum, the focal person of the Global SUN CSO Taskforce, highlighted the commitments of global partners in SUN Movement explaining also the significant role of the CSA for SUN, BD to challenge the faces of malnutrition.

Prof. Dr. Ekhlashur Rahman, elaborated the Global SUN Movement and shared his recent experience in attending SUN meetings in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) highlighting the scope of the challenges that lie ahead. A.K.M. Amir Hossain spoke on the role the family planning directorate can play in a multi-sectoral approach to reduce malnutrition and strongly emphasized on adopting the 1000 days approach in Bangladesh.

Md. Shafiqul Islam Laskar, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Country Focal Person of SUN, Bangladesh focused on long term consequences of malnutrition further highlighting the significance of a multisectoral approach and the role of the government in investing in mitigating malnutrition by 2015. Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Executive Director

shared examples from BRAC including Alive & Thrive in improving IYCF practices and LANSAs for improving agriculture and nutrition. He argued that Bangladesh's progress towards self reliance in parameters of agricultural growth and food security is not completely translated in nutritional indicators.

The Senior Secretary formally inaugurated the launching of CSA for SUN, BD. In his speech, he pushed strongly for the 1000 days approach while stating, "Under-nutrition remains as a silent emergency, which may erupt as a volcano any day. We as the government and citizens and responsible partners in Bangladesh must not allow this to happen." Indicating the gloomy picture of under-nutrition situation across the life-cycle, he reaffirmed his ministry's stand towards mainstreaming nutrition programmes and supporting the existing and future nutritional interventions. He also stressed the need of the concerted effort of the 13 ministries, UN bodies, civil societies, private sectors and community people to uplift the nutritional status of women and children in Bangladesh.

Expressing optimism on the effective collaboration of different cross functional bodies, Dr. Pascal Villeneuve, UNICEF Representative, expanded his discussion to transmitting the Global SUN's objective to the national level. Pointing out to success stories of Brazil and Peru, he said that Bangladesh could draw on lessons of those initiatives and Civil Society should advocate for people-centered approaches, demand for nutrition to be included at the national policy level and also promote and implement nutrition interventions for mothers and children.

Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD and Director Health, BRAC concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks and reiterated Sir Fazle Hasan Abed's incessant struggle against poverty, food insecurity, malnutrition, illiteracy and ill-health, and constant dedication towards



improved futures for mothers and their children. The launching ceremony ended

with promises and commitment to act on a coordinated multisectoral approach to boost up the scaling up nutrition activities and programmes in the country.

List of the Executive Committee Members of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh

The following are the Executive committee members of the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition in Bangladesh.

BRAC



Care Bangladesh



Concern Worldwide



FHI 360



Helen Keller International



ICDDR, Bangladesh



Micronutrient Initiative



Plan Bangladesh



Save the Children



List of the SUN Member Nations

The name of all the SUN member nations is listed below.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Bangladesh | |
| Benin | |
| Burkina Faso | |
| Burundi | |
| Ethiopia | |
| Gambia | |
| Ghana | |
| Guatemala | |
| Haiti | |
| Indonesia | |
| Kenya | |
| Kyrgyzstan | |
| Lao PDR | |
| Mali | |



Madagascar



Malawi



Mauritania



Mozambique



Namibia



Nepal



Niger



Nigeria



Peru



Rwanda



Senegal



Sierra Leone



Tanzania



Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe

