

Scaling up national nutrition status

Kazi Amit Imran

THE city of Sylhet is known for its inherited richness and cultural heritage and as a land of religious monuments. Sylhet has branded itself as one of the richest and tourist attractive area of Bangladesh. Multiple shopping malls, branded restaurants, luxurious hotels and retail outlets reflect the posh lifestyle of Sylhet although on the contrary nutrition indicators mirror that Sylhet is one of the worst regions with high level malnutrition.

Despite progress in most MDG indicators, Bangladesh is considered as one of the 36 high burden countries for malnutrition. About 41% children are stunted, 36% underweight and 16% wasted showing Bangladesh in emergency situation. Although exclusive breastfeeding rate has improved to 64 per cent; the quality of complementary feeding still remains at 21 per cent. In order to bring nutrition to the forefront as a priority policy agenda, Bangladesh's Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, the Founding Chairperson of BRAC, have been nominated as the Lead Group members of Global SUN Movement, an initiative of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

The SUN Movement is composed of representatives from the government, UN cluster, donor agencies, civil society networks and private sectors pushes for country led, owned, cost effective scaled up interventions and multi-sectoral approaches to end malnutrition and hunger. 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). It promotes sustainable improvement in nutritional status of adolescents, women and children of Bangladesh by creating a strong, coordinated and vibrant civil society constituency alliance to support development and implementation of the nutrition agenda, under the leadership of the Government of Bangladesh.

Aligned with the global SUN movement standpoint to improve the nutritional status of the highly malnourished country, the civil society alliance is actively working to push up nutrition as a priority agenda of the government of Bangladesh. In line with its continuing effort to advocate for

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better nutrition policies to the government and policymakers, CSA for SUN, BD in association with a grassroots non-government organization, Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD), member of CSA for SUN, BD organized a sub-national level meeting at Sylhet division to orient the local key stakeholders on 1000 days and multi-sectoral approaches. As the meeting was held on August 1 - the first day of Breastfeeding Week, the introductory address was started with celebrating breastfeeding week, reiterating the importance of breast milk for health and development of children less than two years of age. The event was participated by high officials and representatives of different government agencies, non-government organizations, health sec-

tors and population sectors, educational institutes, private sectors and UN REACH. Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, Mr. NM Ziaul Alam attended the meeting as the chief guest whereas Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD and Director, BRAC Health Nutrition and Population chaired and moderated the session. In a brief presentation, Dr. Ferdousi Begum, Executive member of CSA for SUN, BD and Country Programme Manager of Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA-III) project, FHI 360, highlighted the background of the global SUN Movement and the role of CSA for SUN, BD and its key activities. The participants came up with various ideas using multi-sectoral approaches to reduce malnutrition of children using 1,000 days from conception to under-two children.

Relevant secondary reports including lancet series, world bank's recent publications mirror that nutrition is no more an issue to be targeted solely rather a multi-sectoral approach bringing all stakeholders under one umbrella needs to be designed to uplift the nutritional status of the country through an effective and time befitting policy.

Moreover, studies presented in the Hunger Summit 2013 and published in the Lancet series and by the World Bank reflect that high level of malnutrition acts as an obstacle to the economic emancipation of the country and research has revealed that any investment made on nutrition today would bring about a ten times benefit in the future which would foster economic growth of Bangladesh.

Therefore, it is high time that the civil society, government, private sector and media collectively work together to combat malnutrition and push nutrition as the highest national priority with actionable acts from multi-sectoral platform.

(Kazi Amit Imran is currently working in BRAC as Senior Sector Specialist and had previously worked in World Bank as DPCG's delegated Project Manager)

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Divisional Level Workshop on Civil Society Alliance for Scaling up Nutrition, Bangladesh Date:1st August 2013 Time: 04:00 pm-06:15 pm Venue : Hotel Rose View, ShajalalUpashahar, Sylhet					
LIST of Participants					
SI	Organization	Name	Designation		
Participants from Dhaka					
1.	BRAC	Dr. Kaosar Afsana	Director Health, Nutrition & Population and Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD	Preside the workshop	
2.	BRAC	Syed Shabab Wahid	Sr. Sector Specialist		
3.	CSA for SUN, BD	Kashfia Mahbub	Communication Officer		
4.	FANTA, FHI 360	Dr. Ferdousi Begum	Country Manager and Executive member of CSA for SUN, BD		
5.	UNREACH	Dr. Mary Manandhar	International Facilitator		
6.	UN REACH	Dr. Iftekhar Rashid	National Facilitator		
7.	UN REACH	Edwyn Shiell	Advocacy and Communications Officer		
Government of Bangladesh from Sylhet division					
8.	Divisional Commissioner Office, Sylhet.	N.M. Zieaul Alam	Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet	Chief Guest	
9.	Bangladesh Police	Md. Mokbul Hossin Bhuiyan	DIG of Police, Sylhet		
10.	DC Office, Sylhet	Md. Shahidul Islam	Deputy	Special	

			Commissioner, Sylhet	Guest	
11.	Divisional Health Office, Sylhet	Dr. Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury	Director Health , Sylhet	Special Guest	
12.	Divisional Health Office, Sylhet	Dr. Md. Abdul Monem Chowdhury	Asst. Director		
13.	DC Office, Sylhet	EnamulHabib	ADC General		
14.	DC Office, Sylhet	Z.M. Nurul Haque	ADC (Education)		
15.	DC Office, Sylhet	Md. Shahabuddin Khan	Deputy Director L.G.Sylhet		
16.	Islamic Foundation , Sylhet	Md. Fariduddin	Director		
17.	District Education Office, Sylhet	Md. Nazrul Islam	DD Education		
18.	District Education Office, Sylhet	Mr. Jahangir Alam	DEO (High School)		
19.	District Primary Education Office, Sylhet	Md. Hazrat Ali	DPEO		
20.	District Social welfare Office, Sylhet	Md. Abul Kalam	Deputy Director		
21.	District Woman Affairs Office, Sylhet	Razia Begum	District Women Affairs Officer		
22.	Civil Surgeon Office,Sylhet	Dr. Md. Azharul Islam	Civil Surgeon (Acting)		
23.	Civil Surgeon Office,Sylhet	SujonBonik	Senior Health Educator		
24.	Civil Surgeon Office,Sumangonj	Dr. ATM Rakibchowdhury	Civil Surgeon		
25.	MAG Osmai Medical College Hospital, Sylhet	Prof. Dr.OsulAhamed Chowdhury	Director (Acting)		
26.	District Livestock Office, Sylhet	Dr. Dherish Chandra Voumik	DD Livestock		

27.	District Fisheries Office, Sylhet	SankarRanjan Dash	DD Fisheries		
28.	Agriculture Extension Office	Md. Shaiful Islam	DD (Agriculture)		
29.	Fair service & Civil Defense Office, Sylhet	Mr. Arfan Ali	DD, FS&CD		
30.	Department of Youth Development, Sylhet	Md. Abdul Mannan	DD Youth Development		
31.	District Family Planning Office, Sylhet	Dr. LuthfurNaharJasmin	DD Family Planning		
32.	District Family Planning Office, Sunamgonj	Md. MojammelHoque	DD Family Planning		
33.	UH& FPO Sadar, Sylhet	Dr. Emdadul Haque Melon	UH& FPO Sadar		
34.	Department of Social Service Sylhet	Md. AbdurRafique	Social Welfare officer (Town Social Welfare Office)		
35.	Divisional Commissioner Office, Sylhet	Gautam Kumar Bosh	Additional Commissioner General		
36.	DPHE Office, Sylhet	Eng. Md. Hanif	Executive engineer		
37.	Water Development Board, Sylhet	Md. Abul Kalam Azad	Superintend Engineer		
38.	LGED, Sylhet	Md. Showkot Ali Bhuiyan	Superintend Engineer		
39.	LGED, Sylhet	Gopal Chandra Sarkar	Executive Engineer		
40.	DC Office, Sylhet	Md. MahamudulHasan	ADM		
41.	Department of Environment, Sylhet	FozlurKarimchowdhury	DD Environment		
42.	District Information Office, Sylhet	Julia JesminMily	DD Information		

43.	DC Office, Sylhet	Nikash Chandra Roy	District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer		
44.	Upazila Chairman Office, SylhetSadar	Alhaz. AsfaqueAhamedchowdhury	Upazila Chairman, SylhetSadar.		
45.	UNO Office, SylhetSadar	KhandukarMonowarMurshed	UNO SylhetSadar		
46.	UNO Office, South Surma, Sylhet	SaberaAkter	UNO South Surma, Sylhet		
47.	Divisional commissioner Office, Sylhet	MahammedMasumBilla	PS-To- Divisional commissioner		
48.	UFPO Office, SylhetSadar	A.K.M. Abdul Subhan	UFPO SylhetSadar		
49.	SOS- Shishu Pally, Sylhet	Md. Abdul Awaul	AD -SOS- Shishu Pally		
50.	Sylhet City Corporation	Mehdi Hasan	Chief Executive		
51.	SylhetCity Corporation	Eng. NurAzizur Rahman	Chief Executive Engineer		
52.	SylhetCity Corporation	Dr. Sudhamaymojumder	Chief Medical Officer		
53.	SylhetCity Corporation	Md. MesbaUddin	Councilor - Ward - 22		
54.	SylhetCity Corporation	Azadur Rahman Azad	Councilor- Ward- 20		
55.	SylhetCity Corporation	AbdurRokibBablu	Councilor -Ward- 11		
56.	SylhetCity Corporation	SalehAhmmed Advocate	Councilor -Ward- 10		
57.	SylhetCity Corporation	Akhtarunessa Baby	Councilor -(W- 4,5,6)		
58.	SylhetCity Corporation	Zebunnahar Shirin	Councilor -(W- 7,8,9)		
59.	SylhetCity Corporation	JahanaraKhanamMilon	Councilor -(W-		

			4,5,6 newly elected)		
60.	SylhetCity Corporation	ShamimaShadhin	Councilor-(W-19,20,21 newly elected)		
61.	SylhetCity Corporation	NazninAkhter Kona	Councilor (W-19,20,21)		
62.	SylhetCity Corporation	RezowanAhmmed	Councilor Ward-05		
61.	SylhetCity Corporation	Mohiuddin Ahmed Lokman	Councilor Ward- 07		
62.	SylhetCity Corporation	Farhad Chowdhury Shamim	Councilor Ward-06		
63.	SylhetCity Corporation	Azizul Haque Manik	Councilor, Ward 01		
64.	ShajalalUpashahar High school, Sylhet	M. Akkas Ali	Head Teacher		
65.	Aragami girls High schoolSylhet	BabliPurokiasta	Head Teacher		
66.	Sylhet Agriculture University	Eng. Md. Sharfuddin	Director, (P,D&W)		
67.	Sylhet Agriculture University	Professor Dr. Abusyed	Department of Fisheries		
68.	Sylhet Agriculture University	Asst. Professor Dr. Julhasmiah	Department of Vatenary		
69.	Shahajalal University of Science & Technology ,Sylhet	Mr. KawshikShaha	Asst. Professor, Architecture Dept.		
70.	Shahajalal University of Science & Technology ,Sylhet	Professor Dr. A.K.M MahabubZaman	Head of Social Work Dept.		
71.	M.C College, Sylhet	Deresh Chandra Sarker	Principal		
72.	Govt. Tibbia College, Sylhet	Hakim(Dr.) MdMohibullah	Principal		
73.	Govt. Tibbia College,	Dr. Miftahul Hossain Sweet	Lecturer		

	Sylhet				
74.	Modan Mohan College, Sylhet	Dr. AbulfotheFatta	Principal		
75.	Women's College, Sylhet	Md. Nazrul Islam	Principal		
76.	Hatim Ali High School, Sylhet	Md. AliesMiah	Head Teacher		
77.	Sylhet Model School & College	Ali Ahamed Khan	Principal		
78.	Sylhet Technical School &College	Eng. AKM Rafiquel Amin	Principal		
79.	FulbariAziziaFazilMadrasha	Md. Atiqur Rahman	Principal		
Donor Agencies from Sylhet Division					
80.	UNICEF	Dr. GulamMehediShadi	Nutrition Officer		
81.	UNDP	Gonesh Chandra Bhowmik	Town Manager (UPPRP)		
82.	Save The Children	Md. Rashadul Haque	Deputy Manager		
83.	Islamic Relief Bangladesh	ShaShahid Ahmed	SPO (Dipecho-7)		
84.	GIZ, Sylhet	Dr. ZiaulAbedin, MBBS, MPH	National Consultant		
85.	GIZ, Sylhet	Dr. Md. Atiquzzaman	Technical Advisor		
Representative from Academia and Associations					
86.	BDRCS, Sylhet Unit	Monshuzzaman Chowdhury Babul	Vice president		
87.	BDRCS, Sylhet Unit	Abdur Rahman Jamill	Secretary		
88.	BDRCS, Sylhet Unit	Md. Shahidul Islam	Youth Chief		
89.	BDRCS, Sylhet Unit	ShoebAhmmed	Ex. Member		
NGO					
90.	VARD	AmranulHoque Kamal	Executive Director		
91.	VARD	Archona Rani Dey	Treasure (EC committee),VARD		

92.	JASIS, Sylhet	A T M Badrul Islam	Executive Director		
93.	FPAB, Sylhet	Md.Nazrul Islam	District Officer		
94.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md.AbdusShobahan	Regional Manager (HNPP)		
95.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md. Moshiur Rahman	District Coordinator		
96.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md. Saiful Islam	Regional Manager (Manshi)		
97.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md.MizanurRhaman	RM(ESP)		
98.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md.Rafique	RM(Education)		
99.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md. Safiqul Islam	SRM (Wash)		
100.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md. Jahangir Alam	RSS (HNPP)Malaria		
101.	BRAC, Sylhet	Sankar Kumar Sarkar	BLC (in charge)		
102.	BRAC, Sylhet	Md. Siddiqur Rahman	RM(Proghati)		
103.	Prochesta- Kulaura	Ali Naki Khan	Executive Director		
104.	FIVDB, Sylhet	JahinAhammed	Executive Director		
105.	FIVDB, Sylhet	Md.ZahidHussin	Program Director (Livelihood)		
106.	FIVDB, Sylhet	SamikShaheeb Jahan	Associate Director		
107.	SSKS, Sylhet	Belal Ahmed	General Sectary & Chief Executive		
108.	Marie stopes, Sylhet	Mohan Lal Das	Program Officer		
109.	NGO Forum, Sylhet	Mir Md. Mostak Ali	Regional Manager		
110.	IDEA, Sylhet	NazmulHoque	Executive Director		
111.	CARITAS, Sylhet	John Montu Palma	Regional Director		
112.	SJA, Sylhet	A.H.M. FaysalAhammed	Executive Director		
Private Sector					
113.	Bar Council,Sylhet	Advocate Md. Jamilul Haque	Chairperson		
114.	Bar Council,Sylhet	Advocate Ali Asgar	Advocate		
115.	Women's medical Collage,Sylhet	RazulKarim Chowdhury	Principal		

116.	RagibRabeya Medical College, Sylhet	Major General Rt Prof. MdNazmul Islam	Principal		
117.	Rotary Club of SylhetSurma	Rtn. Md. Iqbal Hussain	President		
118.	Rotary Club of Sylhet	Rtn. Syed Moinur Rahman	Rotary Club of Sylhet Green		
119.	Sylhet Chambers of Commerce	A.T.M. Nurul Haque	President (Acting)		
120.	Business Firm	Advocate SuprioChakraborty (Ronju)	Business Man		
121.	Thaicon Limited Sylhet	K U Al Mahabub	Managing Director		
122.	BNWLA, Sylhet	SayadaSherinAkter	Divisional Chief		
Media					
123.	Somoy TV, Sylhet	Ekramul Kabir	Bureau Chief		
124.	Channel 24, Sylhet	Gulzar Ahmed	Staff Reporter		
125.	Sylhet Press Club	AhamedNur	President		
126.	Sylhet Press Club	Somiron Biswas	Secretary		
127.	NNB, Sylhet	KhairulZafar Chowdhury	District Correspondent		
128.	CFDA	Abdul Batenfoysal	Director& Journalist		
129.	Sylhet Express.com	Abdul Momin Imran	Reporter		
130.	Daily Sylheter Dak	Abdul Hai	Editor		