



JUNE 04, 2013 EVENT SUMMARY



Civil Society Alliance for Scaling up Nutrition, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN, BD) organized a meeting with nutrition experts and policymakers on “Exploring Opportunities for Scaling up Nutrition” on June 04, 2013 at Spectra Convention Center in alignment with the Global Hunger Summit, 2013 titled “Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science” scheduled to be held on June 08, 2013 at London.

At the onset, Dr. Sultana Khanum welcomed and thanked all participants and guests for attending the event. She also mentioned that the event has been organized in alignment with the Global Hunger Summit, 2013 titled. She emphasized on the crucial role of nutrition in the economic growth of Bangladesh.

Honourable State Minister for Women and Children Affairs, Meher Afroze Chumki, MP attended the event as the chief guest and the event was chaired by Dr. Sultana Khanum, SUN global civil society network focal point. Dr. Rukshana Haider, Chairperson of CSA for SUN, BD, Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD, Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Programme Manager of NNS attended the meeting as special guests.



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Dr. Rukshana Haider, Chairperson of CSA for SUN, BD in her speech highlighted that malnutrition in children and women still remains as a frontline challenge for Bangladesh and therefore collective multisectoral approach should be adopted to combat malnutrition in Bangladesh. She emphasized on a pivotal role and a bold commitment by the government in improving nutritional status of Bangladesh.

Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Secretary of CSA for SUN, BD in her speech stated that nutrition is not a stand only agenda but rather requires a multi-sector approach including nutrition, education, water, sanitation, agriculture, etc. According to her, a well-nourished woman would deliver a healthy baby and “if the baby gets proper nutrition he/she will grow strong and will succeed in schools and earn more”.

“Eventually families will emerge out of poverty,” she said on Tuesday, adding that investing in nutrition “can help break the cycle of poverty”. “It’s a smart investment,” she said, “It can increase a country’s GDP by at least 2 to 3 percent annually.” “Investing a dollar in nutrition can result in a return of up to \$ 30”

The chief guest, Meher Afroze Chumki, MP Honourable State Minister for Women and Children Affairs stated that her ministry is relentlessly working to uplift the nutritional status of women and children since about two third of the country’s population is composed of women and children. Alongside, she also mentioned that the current government has included nutrition as a priority component in its manifesto. She shared that the government along with other stakeholders including NGOs and private sector has been able to significantly reduce maternal mortality ratio which has been accredited by the global community. She also shared that the government has incorporated women and children health and nutrition in the Social Safety Net and has formed adolescent clubs. She also highlighted on early marriage as a key factor triggering malnutrition from one generation to the next and her ministry has given emphasis on birth registration to identify and reduce early marriages.

Following the panel discussion, the floor was made open for open opinions and questions.

Noreen Prendiville of UNICEF shared that adolescent girls needs to be targeted as they are the future mothers. Dr. Ferdousi Begum of FHI 360 appreciated government’s role in amending maternity leave policy and Vitamin A campaigns and school specific nutrition programs. Dr. Michael McGrath of Save the Children, emphasized that the current levels of activity and commitment as not sufficient and is hindering the economic growth of Bangladesh. He emphasized on coordination among different government agencies in designing and formulating nutrition policies while bolstering existing ones to positively affect the nutritional status of Bangladeshis in a sustainable manner otherwise . Dr. Selina Amin of PLAN mentioned



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that the maternity leave duration needs to be made specific and on ensuring maternal and child health in garments and other manufacturing facilities.

In response to the statements and queries, the chief guest stated that maternity leave cannot be made specific since mothers face problems both before and after delivery. Therefore, the leave is given as per advice of the doctor.

Dr. Selina Amin of PLAN thanked all for participating and attending the event.