



Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh

Global Day of Action: *Acting together for nutrition*

Date: 4 May 2014

Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Dhaka

Background

Civil society groups around the world who are aligned with the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement observed the Global Day of Action (GDA) in the week of 4-11 May, with the aim of showing global support for decisive action to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition. As an Alliance, we must call on our leaders to prioritize the malnutrition issue; on the other hand, citizens must be empowered to engage directly in setting priorities in order to Scale Up Nutrition. 2014 is a key year for ensuring food and nutrition security feature prominently in the post-2015 development framework.

GDA in Bangladesh

Activities for the GDA in Bangladesh were held in two parts: community activities in all 7 divisions of Bangladesh in April 2014, and a national event in the capital city of Dhaka, Bangladesh in May 2014.

Community level activities: April 2014

General Committee members working in 14 different districts across the 7 divisions of Bangladesh organized art and quiz competitions focusing on nutrition, at the community level. The art competition was held among students of class 4, 5 and 6 (9-12 years), with different topics assigned in different regions. Each topic represented the need for multisectoral action on nutrition through some simple messages, such as nutrition for wellbeing, homestead gardening, equal food portions for boys and girls, and hand washing. The winning artwork from all 14 regions were collected and displayed on the day of the national event to portray the multisectoral approaches to nutrition.

Alongside the art competition, a quiz competition was held in the community level for students of class 7, 8 and 9 (13-16 years). The quiz was based on a set of three comic books that focus on

the 1000 Days Approach and adolescent nutrition. The comic books were provided to groups of students prior to the competition, which they read before taking part in the quiz. The questions of the quiz were based on the comic books.

CSA for SUN's brochure as well as information on the Global SUN Movement were also provided to the General Committee members so that they could disseminate these messages amongst parents, guardians, teachers, government officials, civil surgeons, media and other local level influential stakeholders who were present during the art and quiz competition. A special Job Aid on the "1000 Days Approach" created by the Institute of Public Health Nutrition, the technical body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was distributed among relevant stakeholders who attended the events.

General Committee member organizations who were a part of the CSA for SUN Global Day of Action 2014:

1. Poribesh Unnayan Society (Mymensingh, Dhaka)
2. Family Ties for Women Development (Kishoreganj, Dhaka)
3. Rupantar (Sherpur, Dhaka)
4. Unnayan Sangha (Jamalpur, Dhaka)
5. Seba Parishad (Sherpur, Dhaka)
6. Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh (ACLAB) (Chittagong)
7. HEED Bangladesh (Sylhet)
8. Sylhet Jubo Academy (Sylhet)
9. Manob Unnayan Kendra (Khulna)
10. Shabolombi (Khulna)
11. Voluntary Organization for Social Development (VOSD) (Barisal)
12. Anirban Samaj Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) (Patuakhali, Barisal)
13. Prottasha (Pabna, Rajshahi)
14. Samajik Kallyan Sangstha (SKS) (Thakurgaon, Rangpur)

National level event: 4 May 2014

The national event which took place in Dhaka involved high level government officials, donor partners, UN bodies, technical community, researchers and civil society as participants. The State Minister of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs Madam Meher Afroz Chumki was present as the Chief Guest. Christa Räder, Representative, World Food Programme and Dr. Sultana Khanum, Member of the Global SUN Civil Society Network, were present as the Special Guests. There was an art exhibition featuring the winning artwork from the district level art competitions.

The event commenced with a welcome address by CSA for SUN Chair, Dr. Rukhsana Haider, who outlined the activities of the Global Day of Action in SUN countries with established civil society alliances, and explained the activities that took place in Bangladesh. Dr. Rukhsana Haider also requested the audience to think about what commitments they could make to improve the nutrition situation of Bangladesh, to be shared at the final stage of the event.

After the welcome address, a presentation on the role of civil society in the SUN Movement was made by Mike Foley, Director-Health and Nutrition, Save the Children and Executive Committee member of CSA for SUN. Mr. Foley described CSA for SUN's activities so far and the responsibility of civil society to highlight the importance of nutrition for the progression of the SUN Movement.

Special guest Dr. Sultana Khanum, Member of the Global SUN Civil Society Network, presented on the Global SUN Movement and the role of GDA as a key input into 2014 regional and global events to exhibit the public pressure for action around nutrition.

Special guest Christa Räder, Representative of the World Food Programme, mentioned that she is a programmer, not a nutritionist, but she understands the importance of nutrition and how it can be incorporated in different programmes. She encouraged participants of the event to consider nutrition in programmes outside the health sector for a truly multisectoral approach to nutrition.

Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, Madam Meher Afroze Chumki MP, said she dreams of a hunger-free Bangladesh. Bangladesh has been successful in achieving a lot of the Millennium Development Goals, but malnutrition is still prevalent in the country and must be addressed urgently for a healthy and productive Bangladesh. Madam Chumki also added that we must not allow under-nutrition to prevail and it is only possible to overcome malnutrition with coordinated efforts.

Dr. Kaosar Afsana, Director of BRAC's Health, Nutrition and Population Programme and Secretary of CSA for SUN, thanked everyone for attending the event. The event chair, Dr. Rukhsana Haider, then asked the audience to make commitments for nutrition that could be translated to actions. Participants from each table presented their commitments, as donors, academics, NGO's and individuals.

CSA for SUN hopes that the Global Day of Action will be an important stepping stone to highlight the nutrition agenda among both leaders and citizens, so that we can unite to end malnutrition.



Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh

Global Day of Action: *in numbers*

7

Number of divisions where GDA community level activities took place

14

Number of General Committee member organizations who participated in GDA community activities

300

Number of students who participated in Art and Quiz Competition per organization

100

Number of additional stakeholders (parents/teachers/local government officials/media) present at each community level event

5600

Number of people at the community level involved in GDA activities

120

Number of people present at the national GDA event held in Dhaka

GDA across Bangladesh

