

10.5 NUTRITION PROGRAM IN 8FYP

In Bangladesh both chronic and acute malnutrition levels are higher than the WHO's thresholds for public health emergencies, although there has been considerable progress in decreasing malnutrition, in particular undernutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies. Moreover, over nutrition due to life-style changes and intake of junk food is an emerging problem in urban areas as well, increasing the burden of NCDs such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. The key strategies and actions to be pursued during the 8FYP are continuation of nutrition service through regular government channels, micro-nutrient supplementation, treatment of severe acute malnutrition, strengthening BCC to promote good nutritional practices, coordination of nutrition activities across different sectors and mainstreaming gender into nutrition programming and promoting equity. Simultaneously, availability of adequate skilled human resources and nutrition logistics and commodities through improved supply chain management will be prioritized and ensured.

Strategy for Nutrition

It is important to note that nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue that requires a multi-sectoral approach and multi-agency actions. Nutrition is intimately linked with the quality and quantity of food consumption. Food security and food-related nutrition issues including the problem of food adulteration is discussed in detail in Chapter 14. It is important, however, to note that nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue that requires multi-sectoral approach and multi-agency actions. Table 10.3 lists the major public sector agencies that play a role in the nations nutrition outcome. This multi-sectoral multi-agency approach was advocated in the 7FYP through the development and approval of several policies and guidelines (e.g. NPAN2, CIP2, NSSS, FSNP, 4th HPNSP), strengthening the enabling environment for nutrition security significantly. The 8FYP will build on the progress and strengthen the nutrition strategy to achieve the targeted nutrition outcomes. The roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders for nutrition will be further specified, and arrangements of appropriate coordination and synergistic action will be made in line with the aforementioned enabling environment. Nutrition related policy guidance and inter/intra ministerial linkages will be facilitated through the revitalized Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC). Moreover, existing cabinet committees that address food and nutrition security will contribute to effective coordination of nutrition programming. The MoHFW will collaborate with the Ministry of LGRD&C, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Food to address nutrition and food safety issues.

Table 10.3: Multi-sectoral, Multi-agency Approach to Improving Nutrition

Domain	Role and activity towards scaling up nutrition	Ministry/Division
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate nutrition and hygiene education in curriculum, including school vegetable garden and cooking demonstrations • Ensure regular Health and Nutrition Days in the school's calendar • Ensure completion for girls' education at least up to high school • Promote and protect good dietary practices among children in places where there are school feeding programmes • Improve sanitation facilities in schools 	Education, Health and Family Welfare, Information
Water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to increased levels of hand-washing and hygiene • Ensure availability of safe drinking water • Improve availability of sanitary facilities in different settings • Prioritise the availability of water to women for agriculture and fishing 	Local Govt., Rural Development & Cooperatives, Health & Family Welfare, Water Resources.
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure improving availability of diverse foods of quality • Promote best practice to ensure food safety in agriculture sector, food processing industries, food distribution system and in food value chain • Ensure adequate food safety regulatory framework in place and monitored 	Food, Industry, Disaster Management & Relief, Fisheries & Livestock, Health & Family Welfare, Agriculture
Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve production of diversified food (source of animal protein) • Empower women to access agriculture extension services, resources • Incorporate basic nutrition into agriculture extension training and tasks • Build agriculture extension and agriculture input supply system to ensure nutrition is considered in planning and implementation 	Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock, Water Resources.

Domain	Role and activity towards scaling up nutrition	Ministry/Division
Women and children affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on empowerment of women to make decisions about their own and their children's wellbeing • Highlight child marriage/early pregnancy and childbearing, and their harmful implications for nutrition • Ensure 6-month fully paid maternity leave is implemented in all sectors 	Women and Children Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Primary and Mass Education, Information
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase availability of fortified staples e.g. salt and oil • Adhere to high standards in advertising/marketing, focus on children 	Industry, Food and Agriculture
Environment, forestry and natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoring or enhancing natural resources • Protecting forests, promoting forest-derived foods to benefit poor/women • Securing ownership, access and management rights to land and other productive resources for poor or marginalised groups (e.g. ethnic minorities, emergency-affected populations) • Pro-poor, efficient and integrated management of water resources including control for negative impacts, such as water-borne diseases • Risk mitigation and management of water-related shocks (e.g. droughts, floods, water insecurity) through adequate infrastructure, storage and flood control, supporting adaptation to the effects of climate change • Strengthening early warning and nutrition surveillance systems • Increase collaboration with other sectors and joint programming to increase household/community resilience, especially in emergencies • Monitoring & evaluation systems include nutrition relevant indicators 	Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
Law and Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, promote and monitor rights and non-discrimination: right to adequate food and to be able to feed oneself in dignity; and all other – related rights (employment, children's rights, women's rights, focus on marginalized groups, poor households and women) • Uphold refugee and humanitarian law in protracted crises 	Women and Children Affairs, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

Addressing Child, Adolescent and Maternal Malnutrition

Under the 8FYP, increased attention will be paid to the high rate of malnutrition among children, adolescent and women of reproductive age and the elderly. This is also part of efforts to mainstream gender issues in nutrition programmes. To that end, the Government will consider a multidimensional approach to address the intergenerational health impact. Among other things, such an approach will include awareness on child/women nutrition, food value and food diversity. Nutrition-specific interventions, for example infant and young child feeding, and promotion and distribution of micronutrient supplementation such as iron-folic acid supplementation among pregnant, lactating women and adolescent girls to cover iron-deficiency anaemia will be undertaken through health and family planning facilities. The national strategy for infant and young child feeding will be implemented. Existing half-yearly Vitamin A capsules distribution for children will be continued. Post-partum Vitamin A distribution to improve vitamin A status of neonates through breast milk will be scaled up. Monitoring of salt iodization will be strengthened. Zinc for treatment of diarrhoea will be adequately promoted. Expansion of intestinal parasite treatment, including the distribution of albendazole tablets, along with a separate deworming programme will be considered. With the coverage of IMCI, zinc tablets are expected to be freely provided to children with diarrhoea.

Some activities to improve nutrition services will include:

- Providing high potency Vitamin, A supplementation and de-worming to children during measles vaccination and to children 1-5 years during national events and through fortification of food with vitamin A, iron and iodine for children.
- Providing micronutrient supplementation to pregnant women (Iron folate) and Vitamin-A supplementation to mothers and neonates at postnatal period.
- Providing nutritional education and counseling to adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating mothers on appropriate caring and feeding practices, breast-feeding, supplementary feeding, micronutrients, etc.
- Strengthen quality improvement of the wasting prevention and treatment programme, and other nutrition services at facility level.
- Ensuring expansion of community-based prevention approach of malnutrition with nutrition services through C- IMCI programmes as preventive measures to malnourishment along with programmes in the CCs and managing malnourished cases at community and facility level, IYCF, etc.
- Improve positive nutrition practices through Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) including awareness on uptake of essential nutrition services from public and private facilities and at community level, as well as on food safety and healthy diet, as well as complementary issues such as water and sanitation, EPI, and prevention of NCDs.
- Ensuring timely and quality reporting and follow up of nutrition services
- Strengthening inter-sectoral and inter-OP collaboration and efficient program implementation for nutrition.
- Introduce/revise/strengthen education on nutrition and healthy diets for students in the curriculum
- Integrate growth monitoring and promotion in EPI platforms
- Develop and strengthen the regulatory mechanism and ensure implementation of policies, action plans, and acts on nutrition, food safety, and healthy diets.
- Increase coverage of services by aligning with relevant services and interventions hosted by other ministries, such as Maternal Allowance and Lactating Mothers Allowance/Child Benefit programme
- Expedite the recruitment of relevant nutrition staff where required at community and facility level

Capacity Building and Awareness

To improve the knowledge base and capacity of health personnel regarding nutrition, health and family planning workers as well as agricultural extension workers will be appropriately trained in nutrition education. This will ease the mainstreaming of nutrition in health and family planning services through community clinics, union health and family welfare centres/sub-centres, Upazila health complexes, and agriculture extension services. Capacity building in nutrition of Upazila health and agriculture workers, school teachers and women farmers will be undertaken through the NNS Operational Plan of IPHN. Community awareness regarding health and nutrition will be strengthened through disseminating messages. Community based arrangements will also promote preparation of low-cost nutritious recipes, processing

and preservation of micronutrient rich foods. Issues that are supplementary and complementary to nutrition, like water and sanitation, dietary intake, EPI and health education will be addressed through a comprehensive approach.

Monitoring, evaluation and research

Strengthen monitoring, evaluation and research to generate evidence to inform policy decisions by improving interoperability of routine information management systems, surveys, assessments and surveillance, establish feedback mechanisms, and closely monitor provision and utilization of essential nutrition services with innovative approaches to understand the level of sustainability and accountability in terms of equity, access, coverage and quality, to generate evidence for informed policy decisions.