



# BNNC NEWSLETTER

Bangladesh National Nutrition Council

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**Bangladesh National Nutrition Council**  
Health Services Division  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



## Editorial Note



**Director General (In-charge)  
Bangladesh National Nutrition Council**

It is with great pleasure to inform you that the second issue of the Newsletter of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) is going to be published. This issue comes at the time when our collective efforts toward improving the nutritional status of our population are at utmost importance.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share and document the effectiveness of the BNNC by contacting the relevant ministries involved in nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions in accordance with the guidelines of the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2). In this edition, we delve into the strides made in nutrition intervention, showcasing successful programs and highlighting areas where we need to strengthen our efforts. We also bring some insightful thoughts discussing latest innovative approaches both in national and sub-national level that can help us achieve our nutritional goals.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to honorable Secretary HSD, MOHFW, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and other officials of PH and WH wing for extending their enormous support in bringing out this issue. I also want to express my thanks to the Director, IPHN and Line Director, NNS for providing with the necessary assistance. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our development partners who have worked tirelessly to bring this issue. Through all your invaluable effort and suggestions, we can continue to raise awareness and drive action for better nutrition in Bangladesh.

We hope this newsletter serves as both an informative resource and a source of inspiration for all our readers. Together, we can build a healthier future for our nation.

**Dr. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman**

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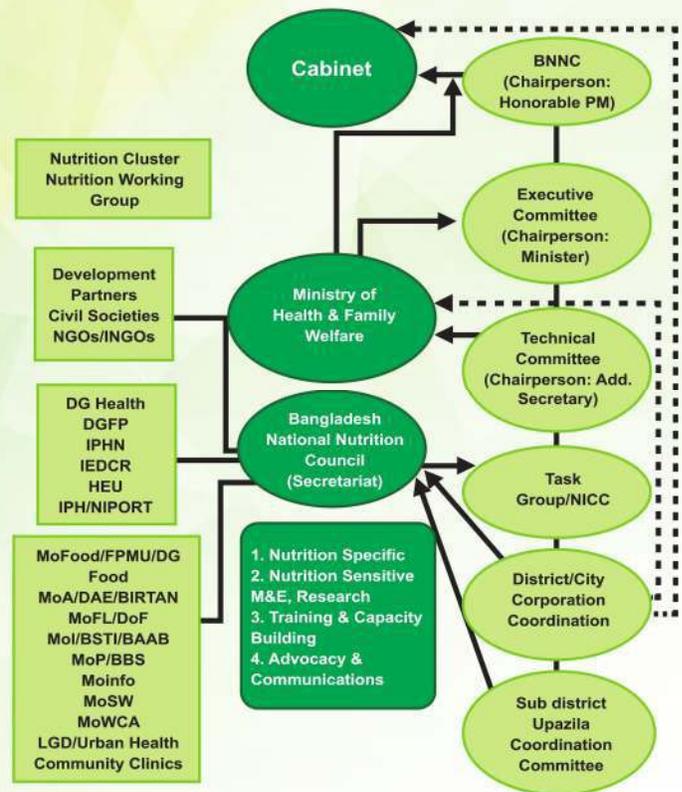
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## About BNNC

Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) is an apex body for formulation and updating the National Food and Nutrition Policy; approval of nutrition programs for different ministries and institutes; and monitoring and evaluation of nutrition research programs. The Council with Hon'ble Prime Minister as Chair and directly supported by two high-level committees. The first is a multi-sectoral Executive Committee (EC), which is chaired by the Honorable Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), has members from 22 ministries.

BNNC is working with the vision of improving the nutritional status of the people of Bangladesh through combined and coordinated effort of relevant stakeholders. The initiative of the BNNC office is intended to build national and sub-national platforms for scaling up nutrition activities through multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multilevel approaches and opportunities for improving nutritional scenario in the country.

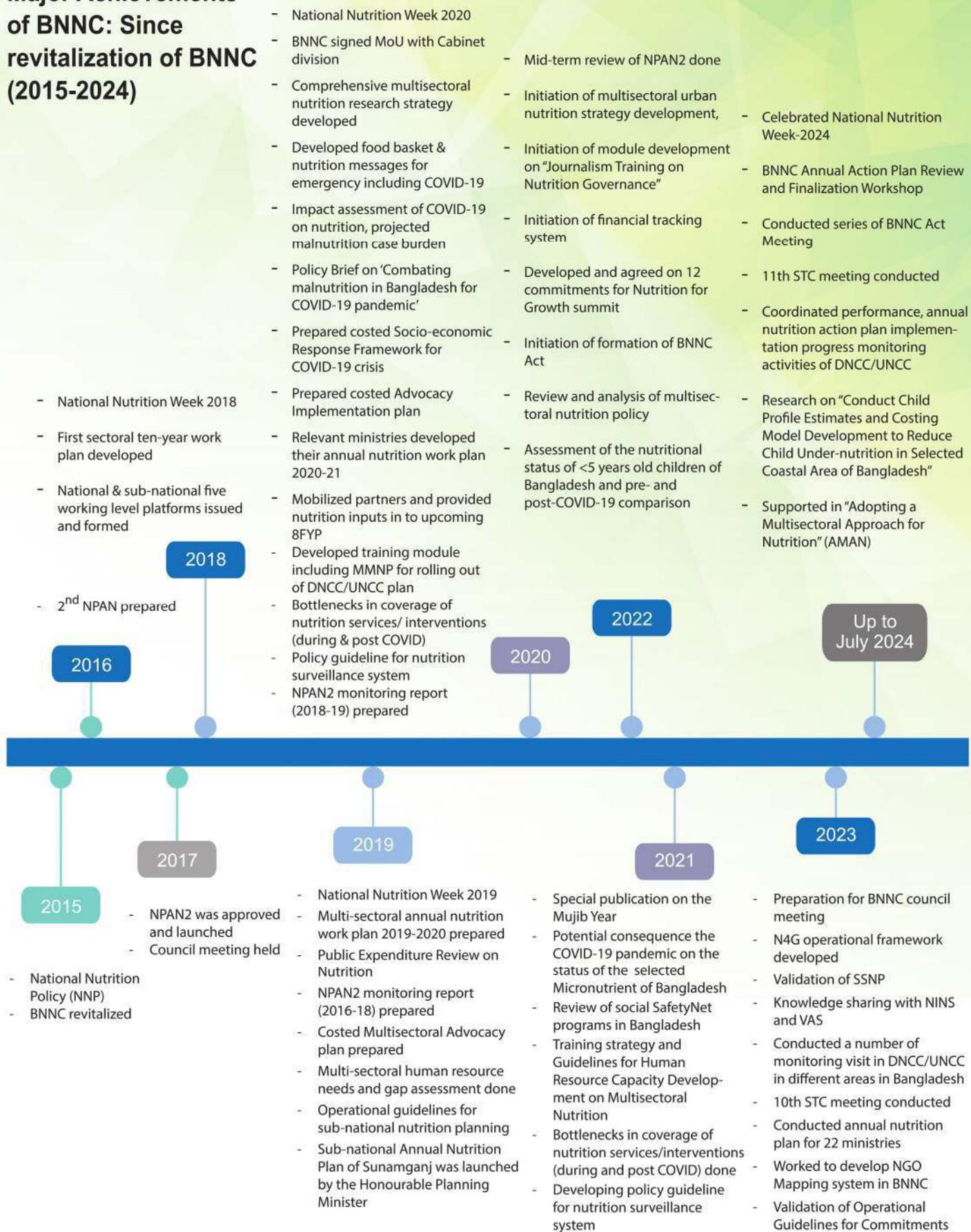


**Figure 1: Coordination Structure of BNNC**

## Functions of BNNC

1. Provide technical, analytical and secretarial support to the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), its Executive Committee (EC), Standing Technical Committee (STC) and other Committees formed from time to time;
2. Execute decisions of the BNNC, EC, STC and other committee meetings as appropriate and inform the concerned ministries/sectors, where applicable, for execution of the decision (s);
3. Conduct/coordinate research and studies to generate knowledge including provision of research grants on nutrition as appropriate;
4. Execute the M&E framework of NPAN; monitor and evaluate its implementation; and enhance multi-sectoral coordination on policies, strategies and programs
5. Review nutrition programs of different ministries whether those are implemented in line with the national nutrition policy and report to the Council for appropriate guidelines;
6. Review and evaluate progress and outcomes of nutrition programs of different ministries, departments, institutes or agencies for seeking necessary guidelines from BNNC;
7. Provide support to formulate/updating nutrition policies/plan of action;
8. Identify strategic opportunities for effective collaboration, sharing and utilization of resources;
9. Provide support to publish and disseminate technical and general information on nutrition;
10. Provide support and guidance to relevant stakeholders to develop institutional capacity;
11. Provide technical support in making global collaboration for nutrition;
12. Organize national nutrition week throughout the country; and Publish South Asian Journal of Nutrition at regular interval;
13. Organize media campaign on Sustainable SBCC using radio, television and print media for dissemination of nutrition information/messages for wider coverage;
14. Maintain a resource library on nutrition and digitalized information centre to provide information;
15. Any other functions assigned by the Council, EC and STC relevant to the cause of nutritional development of the country.

# Major Achievements of BNNC: Since revitalization of BNNC (2015-2024)



## Major Achievements (July 2023-June 2024)

### National Nutrition Week 2024 Observed

National Nutrition Week (NNW) 2023 was observed countrywide from 7-14 (instead of 23 April-29th April) June 2023 to commemorate the formation of Bangladesh's National Nutrition Council in 1975 by the Father of the Nation.



**Photo:** National Nutrition Week 2024 observation

The decision to celebrate NNW was taken at the first meeting of the revitalized BNNC on 13 August 2017 with Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as Chair. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition and Bangladesh's National Nutrition Council, was celebrated the NNW. The theme of National nutrition week 2023 was -“মজবুত হলে পুষ্টির ভিত, স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ হবে নিশ্চিত।” The NNW 2023 was observed country wide through rallies, discussions, different programs on day wise thematic areas, with participation from government and non-government officials, representatives from civil society. Other events included cooking competition, nutrition fair, school and courtyard meetings.

### Review workshop on BNNC annual work Plan 2024

The Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) Secretariat jointly with technical and financial supports from UNICEF, WFP, GAIN Health, CONCERN Worldwide, WHO, CARE, World Vision, Nutrition International (NI) and other relevant partners organized two-days "Workshop of Rolling Annual Work Plan of BNNC (January -December 2024) and reviewing the work plan of the year 2023" on 10-12 February 2024 in Momo Inn Resort, Bogra. Like every year, BNNC has conducted this workshop by ensuring the participation of valued partner's. Their full engagements in the processes to prepare the annual work-plans and rollout plan throughout the Calander year in line with NPAN2 execution plan. This process helped to clarify the stakes of implementing ministries and development partners in execution of BNNC annual plan for 2024.

The dialogues and consultations between with BNNC and its development partners began by reviewing the progress of BNNC workplan 2023 by four thematic areas named Policy, Planning and Coordination, Advocacy and Communication, M&E and Research and Capacity Building. . In the 2nd day, focal persons were presented the proposed plan for 2024.

During the meeting the more than 20 priority activities were identified along with continuous tasks in the workshops. Both the workshops were well attended by high level representatives of development partners and BNNC's officials.



**Photo:** Review workshop on BNNC annual work Plan

### 11th Meeting of Standing Technical Committee of BNNC

The 11th Standing Technical Committee meeting of BNNC held on 6 June 2024 at Bistro Hall, FARS hotel, Dhaka. As per agenda of the meeting a discussion on the initiative of review of National Nutrition Policy 2015 was highlighted. A brief session of the preparations for organizing the 2nd council meeting of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council was also discussed and necessary decisions were made in the meeting. The meeting was preceded by Dr. Md Ziauddin, Additional Secretary (Admin), HSD, MoHFW.



**Photo:** Discussion on the 11th Meeting of Standing Technical Committee of BNNC

## ToT for Divisional Multisectoral Resource Team (DMRT)

In order to activate the DNCC and UNCC across the country, the DMRT was formed as master trainer from the Divisional level to facilitate the DNCC and UNCC members. To establish the nutrition governance across the country, it is very necessary to activate the DNCC and UNCC and make them accountable. The member of the DMRT will be focusing on how to make nutrition action Plan aligning with the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the relevant departments, engagement of the communities, civil society, media and how to monitor the activities of the committees. BNNC has conducted this TOT with the DMRT members in Chottogram and Rajshahi division during the reporting time.



**Photo:** ToT for Divisional Multisectoral Resource Team in Chattogram

## Research validation workshop

A series of workshop conducted on “Conduct Child Profile Estimates and Costing Model Development to Reduce Child Under-nutrition in Selected Coastal Area of Bangladesh” as research work of BNNC. As a part of this, a validation workshop held on 25 March 2024 in Lakshore Hotel. In the workshop, Dr. Md Shibbir Ahmed Osmani, Joint Secretary (PH Wing), Health Services Division, MoHFW; Dr. Shahrear Kabir, Ex-DG, BNNC, Dr. Khalilur Rahman (EX-DG, BNNC); Dr. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman

Director General (In-Charge), BNNC were present in the event.



**Photo:** Validation workshop at BNNC office

## Finalization of BNNC Annual work Plan 2024

BNNC conducted a final workshop to finalize their annual activities by ensuring the participation of valued partner's in formulation of BNNC Annual Action Plan 2024. Many important persons from the Ministry and various partners were invited to this workshop. The workshop began with a welcome speech and explanatory speech describing the importance of having a workplan by the Joint Secretary, Public Health wing, Health Service Division Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



**Photo:** Finalization workshop of BNNC Annual work Plan 2024

The workshop was intended to develop a comprehensive multisectoral nutrition action plan ensuring the partnership of the relevant government stakeholders along with development partners. The workshop also intrigued the quench for better understanding of the planning process framework, which happens to be the same of APA for each of the relevant ministries. Along with this, participants also could know about the budget allocation, expenditure and had an idea about the budget tracking system.

## Central Multisectoral Resource Team (CMRT)

Consultative Workshop on Central Multisectoral Resource Team (CMRT) held on 3 September 2023 and chaired by Dr. Hasan Shahriar Kabir, Director General, BNNC. In the workshop, an orientation on nutrition related issues for focal persons was conducted by Bangladesh National Nutrition Council.



**Photo:** Workshop on Central Multisectoral Resource Team (CMRT)

## 9th Meeting of the Advocacy and Communication Platform of NPAN2

The 9th Meeting of “Advocacy and Communication Platform of Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (2016-2025)” was held in the BNNC Conference Room on 28 January 2024. The program was presided over by the Dr Zubaida Nasreen, Director General (In-Charge) of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council and Prof. Dr. Shah Golam Nabi, Director, Institute of Public Health Nutrition. Also Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Ex-Line Director, NNS and Other respective guests were attended in the meeting.

The workshop discussed the platform's action plan, publication of BNNC's newsletters and media advocacy, and various Government and development aid officials in attendance provided expert views.



**Photo:** 8th Advocacy and Communication Platform meeting

## Formative research guidelines for MSBCC strategy and instrument development

With the financial support of Global Affairs Canada (GAC) and technical support of Nutrition International, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) has been conducting a Formative Research to develop Multisectoral Social and Behavior Change Communication (mSBCC) Strategy, Materials, and Training Package for AMAN Project in Cox's Bazar. BSMMU has already developed a tool for research and the tool validation workshop held on August 29, 2023, at the BNNC conference room. During the meeting, the participants showed their positive interest in attending the workshop.



**Photo:** Workshop on development of MSBCC strategy and instrument at BNNC office

## Sectoral Annual Nutrition workplan for FY 2023-2024

Like every year, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) office organized a two-days' workshop back to back on 11 and 12 October, 2023 respectively in CIRDAP and BMA Bhaban for reviewing of workplan 2022-23 and finalization of Sectoral nutrition work plans 2023-24. Nutrition focal points from targeted Ministries along with few alternative focal persons from relevant divisions and departments participated in these workshops. Their full engagements in the processes to prepare the annual work-plans 2023-24 and review of progress of 2022-23 of their respective sectoral workplans helped to clarify the status and challenges faced by the implementing ministries and development partners in advancing the nutrition improvement in the country and establishing their ownerships and future commitment.



**Photo:** Workshop on Sectoral Annual Nutrition workplan for FY 2023-2024

## 10th Meeting of Nutrition Specific Platform of NPAN2

The 10th meeting of the Nutrition Specific Platform of the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (2016-2025) was held in BNNC's Conference Room on 20 September 2023 and chaired by Prof. Dr. Shah Golam Nabi, Director, Institute of Public Health Nutrition. Prof. Dr. Md. Shamiul Islam, Director (Admin), DGHS, MoHFW was present as the Chief Guest. Dr. Hasan Shahriar Kabir, Director General, BNNC, Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain, Line Director (HIS & e-Health) was also attended in the meeting.



**Photo:** 10th Meeting of Nutrition Specific Platform

## 10th Meeting of Nutrition Sensitive Platform of NPAN2

The 10th meeting of Nutrition Sensitive Platform of NPAN2 was held in BNNC's Conference Room on 19 September 2023 and chaired by Dr. Hasan Shahriar Kabir, Director General, BNNC. DR. MD. Akhteruzzaman, Additional Secretary (Public Health wing), MoHFW was present as the Chief Guest. In the meeting, the progress of the platform were discussed. Also as a part of the meeting agenda the of progress draft "Multisectoral Urban Nutrition Strategy" was shown and discussed.



**Photo:** 10th Meeting of Nutrition Sensitive Platform of NPAN2

## Nutrition Sensitive NGO Mapping

As there was no formal nutrition sensitive mapping conducted before in Bangladesh, it is hoped that it can make an impression on the nutrition status of Bangladesh by providing information of all relevant programmes and projects running at different corners of Bangladesh. As an apex body of nutrition, BNNC has taken this initiative which included apprising the nutrition policymakers and stakeholders about the geographic distribution, nutrition interventions, and coverage of different UN organizations and other NGOs. It can also Help to District and Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee for joined GO-NGO better nutrition planning and implementation at district and Upazila level. For this BNNC along with NGO Bureau (NGOAB) conducted a workshop to discuss the opportunity of establishing Nutrition Sensitive NGO Mapping system at BNNC where NGOAB can help to share the relevant information by adapting few nutrition indicators in their ongoing automation system.



**Photo:** Meeting with NGOAB and BNNC at NGO Bureau office in Agargaon, Dhaka

## Performance evaluation of DNCC/UNCC through Monitoring visit

There were a number of districts (Cox's Bazar, Madaripur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Kustia, Bhola, Hobiganj, Kishoreganj, Meherpur, Kurigram, Rngamati, Gaibandha, Sunamganj) visited by BNNC members to observe the status of implementation of annual nutrition planning and assess the functionality of District and Upazila Coordination Committees (DNCC & UNCC). The monitoring visit was held in the District level involving DC, UNO, CS and representatives from almost all the relevant sectors. The monitoring meeting was coordinated and facilitated by the Upazila Health and Family Welfare Officer as the member secretary of the UNCC. The respective departments filled-up the monitoring checklist which was provided to them during the meeting as per their understanding and as a part of the purpose of the visit to know the extend of understanding about the basic principles of the NAP, MMNP and online planning and monitoring tools.



**Photo:** Monitoring visit meeting with DNCC members in Cox's Bazar District

## Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Better Nutrition Outcomes for Success and Learning

A workshop on Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Better Nutrition Outcomes for Success and Learning was held in BNNC Conference Room on 7 August 2023.



**Photo:** Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Better Nutrition Outcomes for Success and Learning

## 14th Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Platform meeting of NPAN2

The 14th Meeting of Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Platform was held in BNNC conference room on 28 August 2023. Beyond the routine discussion of progress of the platform, a sharing of findings on “Assessment of the nutritional status of <5 children, mothers of <5 children and adolescent girls of Bangladesh: pre and post Covid-19 comparison” was also an agenda. In the meeting, discussed and shared the progress of mobile apps for sub-national level nutrition planning supported by CARE and developed by mPower.



**Photo:** Meeting of Nutrition Sensitive Platform and Formulation of 'Operational Framework for N4G

## Training on Monitoring System for progress tracking of DNCC and UNCC in Cox's Bazar

The training for the statisticians of priority government departments on the monitoring system of District nutrition activity for the progress tracking of DNCC/UNCC and annual nutrition work plan for implementation of MMNP with BNNC and relevant government officials. The training was conducted at Teknaf Hall, Best Western Heritage in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh on August 8 and August 9, 2023. The event was organized by the office of Civil Surgeon, Cox's Bazar in collaboration with AMAN Project. The training sessions were graced by the presence of the Director of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), Dr. Md. Taherul Islam Khan, as Chief Guest and Dr. Md. Akhter Imam, Dr. Nusrat Jahan, Dr. Nusrat Jahan Mithen, Deputy Director BNNC, & Md. Nowser Ibn Halim, Assistant Commissioner, NGO cell, Cox's Bazar DC Office was present as a special guest.



**Photo:** Training on Monitoring System for progress tracking of DNCC and UNCC in Cox's Bazar

## Workshop on Validation of Operational Guidelines for Commitments made by Bangladesh at the N4G Summit

Workshop on Validation of Operational Guidelines for Commitments made by Bangladesh at the N4G Summit

held on 15 September, 2022 in The Dhaka Club Limited, Moulana Bhashani Road, Ramna, Dhaka. Dr. Md. Anwar Hossain Howlader, Honorable Secretary, HSD, MOHFW was present as Chief Guest in the workshop. Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman Additional Secretary, WH-wing, HSD, MoHFW and SUN Country Focal point was also chair the workshop.



**Photo:** Workshop on Validation of Operational Guidelines for Commitments made by Bangladesh at the N4G Summit

## Workshop on 'European Union and Government of Bangladesh in partnership for good nutrition through good governance'

A workshop on 'European Union and Government of Bangladesh in partnership for good nutrition through good governance' was held on 9 July 2023 at Westin Hotel, Dhaka. In the workshop, the Director General, Bangladesh National Nutrition Council attended the workshop as a part of the Government. As BNNC is a nutrition apex body in Bangladesh, the partners are aligned with BNNC regarding good governance practice. Therefore, they shared their experiences with the government to improve their project outcomes.



**Photo:** Workshop on Developing a Sustainability Strategy for Nutrition Information

### Round table discussion on “Nutrition Governance”

A round table discussion on establishment of nutrition governance at sub-national levels organized by Samakal and SONGO project held on 13 June 2024 in Smakal Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka. In the meeting, success, learning and challenges of establishment of nutrition governance were discussed. Dr. Farzana Rahman, Deputy Director, BNNC was present there as a representative of the office. As BNNC is a nutrition apex body in Bangladesh, the partners are aligned with BNNC regarding good governance practice. She shared the existing initiatives and plans of BNNC for strengthening nutrition governance in the regional levels. Learnings and challenges were discussed by development partners of SONGO funded by EU.



**Photo:** Round table discussion on “The Role of ICT for Enhancing the Efficacy of Nutritional Improvement”

### TV talk show on NNW 2024

A tv talk show regarding National Nutrition Week 2024 was organized on Bangladesh Television on 15 May, 2024. Major achievements of BNNC towards nutrition in Bangladesh from 1975 to 2024, coordination mechanism and monitoring the different nutrition activities of various organizations was discussed in the talk show.



**Photo:** TV talk show on NNW 2024

Workshop to finalize formative research guidelines for MSBCC strategy and instrument development

A workshop to finalize formative research guidelines for MSBCC strategy and instrument development which is financial supported by Nutrition International and technical supported by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) held on August 29, 2023 in BNNC Conference Room. The meeting was graced by the presence of the Director General of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), Dr. Hassan Shahriar Kabir. With the financial support Nutrition International, BSMMU had conducted a Formative Research to develop Multisectoral Social and Behavior Change Communication (mSBCC) Strategy, Materials, and Training Package for AMAN Project in Cox’s Bazar. During the meeting, the participants showed their positive interest in attending the workshop.



**Photo:** Workshop to finalize formative research guidelines for MSBCC strategy and instrument development

### Meeting of Advisory & Technical Committee for Establishing a Financial Tracking System for Nutrition

For establishing a Financial Tracking System for Nutrition (FTS4N), Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) has already made some progress with the technical support of UNICEF. As a part of this initiative, a Advisory Committee meeting and & a Technical Working Group meeting held on 4 April 2024 at meeting room of Bangladesh Secretariat, MoHFW. Dr Md. Ziauddin, Joint Secretary (World Health) and SUN Country Focal Point, Health Services Division, MOHFW Chaired the meeting. In the meeting the progress of developing PERN and a prototype of the web-based Financing Tracking System for Nutrition that is being developed was presented. This web-based software will be interoperable with iBAS++, AIMS and other relevant GoB systems. The system will provide an option for tagging a budget line (combination of organization, operation, and other segments) as Nutrition Specific or Nutrition Sensitive activities.

# BNNC's Publications



To get the full link of these publication please visit: <https://bnnc.portal.gov.bd/site/page/405a6f3f-aa76-40e8-a7a9-856ba2f60bb0/>

## বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় পুষ্টি পরিষদ কার্যালয়



### Important web-links of BNNC achievements

#### Publications/Reports

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>

#### Multisectoral Annual Nutrition plan

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>

#### Nutrition Related all policies/Plans/Act/Strategy

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>

#### Nutrition status/profile

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>

#### Functions of BNNC

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>

#### NPAN2 documents

<http://www.bnnc.gov.bd/#>



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