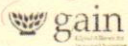




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**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**  
**Between**  
**Department of Youth Development,**  
**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**And**  
**The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)**

It is in the common interest and intention of the Department of Youth Development hereinafter referred to as "DYD" (First Party) and The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, a Swiss-based foundation (Head Office: Rue de Varembe 7, CH-1202, Geneva, Switzerland), having its Bangladesh Office at House 20, Road 99, Level 3, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh hereinafter referred to as "GAIN" (Second Party) to collaborate in youth capacity building, engaging in social and economic activities, encourage them towards productive employment; and ensure their participation in decision making process. This collaboration also aims to revise the National Youth Policy and Plan of Action through food system lens and integrating the role of youth as change agents in supporting the transformation of a sustainable, equitable and resilient food systems incorporating nutrition and environment and climate change agenda. In line with these, co-operation between the parties will enhance and sustain youth leadership, support collective actions in community development, and mobilize youth as per National Youth Policy towards achieving National Priorities aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Perspective Plan 2041 of Bangladesh.

In this MoU, DYD and GAIN are also hereinafter referred to as a "Party" and together the "Parties".

**1. Background**

1.1 The **Department of Youth Development (DYD)** was established in 1981 under the Ministry of Youth & Sports in Bangladesh, building upon the foundation laid by the establishment of the Ministry itself in 1978. Tasked with a nationwide mandate, DYD operates across Bangladesh, targeting all classes of youth, particularly those aged between 18 to 35 years, with a focus on unemployed individuals. The vision of DYD is to integrate youth into the mainstream of national development by making them organized, disciplined and productive workforce. To achieve this vision, the objectives of DYD are "To involve the youth in socio-economic activities; encourage them towards productive employment; ensure their participation in decision-making processes, form youth organizations for their participation in national advancement."

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There is national youth policy in Bangladesh depending upon which DYD is running youth activities all over the country. Recently, Government has approved rules in regards to registration of youth organizations which will stimulate working atmosphere between DYD and Youth organizations and ensure transparency and accountability in youth work. Except these, there are training manuals, Micro-credit manuals and other guidelines for implementation of youth development activities.

DYD's programs encompass a wide range of activities, including skill development training in 83 trades, micro-credit schemes for both individuals and groups, self-employment and entrepreneurship development, and initiatives promoting youth participation in national service programs through wages employment programs and public-private partnerships. Furthermore, DYD observes national and international youth days, engages in Commonwealth youth programs, offers grants and rewards to youth and youth organizations, and maintains relations with international agencies to enhance its impact and reach.

1.2 The **Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)** is a Swiss-based foundation launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. Working with both governments and businesses, it aims to transform food systems so that they deliver more nutritious food for all people. GAIN's purpose is to advance nutrition outcomes by improving consumption of nutritious and safe food for all people, especially the most vulnerable to malnutrition. GAIN has a proven record of facilitating practical solutions that increase the nutritional value and safety of foods in ways that work for consumers, businesses, and governments.

In Bangladesh, GAIN is facilitating youth and adolescent led intervention as secretariat of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Youth Network and SUN Business Network led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. GAIN supports youth led organizations and platforms to promote healthier diets and build agencies for the youth and adolescents. GAIN also hosting Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Bangladesh since 2022, under the umbrella of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Its aims are to be a space to boost youth climate action locally and create an input into the international conferences.

At country level, under the food systems transformation pathways, GAIN aims to systemically engage youth and their active voices to influence program and policy agenda in alignment with Bangladesh priorities.

## 2. Objectives of the Collaboration

The purpose of this MoU is to provide a framework of cooperation and facilitate the collaboration between the parties on a non-exclusive basis, in areas of common interest, and to establish a strategic partnership between the parties. Specifically, this collaboration between GAIN and

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Department of Youth Development is to support youth in involving socio-economic activities; encourage them towards productive employment; ensure their participation in decision making process, and form youth organizations for their participation in national advancement.

### **3. Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration**

GAIN and DYD agree to collaborate on initiatives and projects that promote youth leadership in food systems transformation process and achieving nutrition security in alignment with SDGs as well as national priorities, Perspective Plan 2041 of Bangladesh, and support DYD with the broader objective to operationalize National Youth Policy and its plan of action. Also supporting Youth organizations to engage on community development along with Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Youth Network which supports youth collectively to have a very powerful voice and leads grassroots / community-driven actions for scaling up nutrition locally.

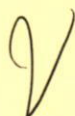
The areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### **Youth Capacity Development, and Community Action:**

- 3.1 Develop innovative programs/events on mutual understanding and co-operation to promote youth leadership, collective actions in community development and mobilize youth in the national development process as per National Youth Policy and its plan of action.
- 3.2 Collaborate on developing training modules for capacity building and modifying existing training materials from the angle of food, nutrition, agriculture, and entrepreneurs' areas. (e.g., Food System Youth Leadership Training).
- 3.3 Promoting SUN Youth Network in Bangladesh by bringing organizations and youth together to act on scaling up nutrition.
- 3.4 Support youth organizations to empower youth leadership and promote youth-led ideas related to nutrition, food systems and environmental sustainability.
- 3.5 Support NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) youth in entrepreneurship training in GAIN's working areas.

#### **Policy and Advocacy**

- 3.6 Cooperate in revising the National Youth Policy and Plan of Action in the lens of Food Systems, Health and Nutrition agendas.
- 3.7 Organise advocacy and capacity building events in coordination and collaboration with DYD and other stakeholders.
- 3.8 Promote meaningful youth engagement and participation in decision making process and policy discussions at national level.
- 3.9 Work progress tracking, developing and sharing the best practice model of youth engagement in policy spaces at national and international level.



- 3.10 Develop and joint dissemination of policy knowledge products in line with youth involvement in food systems, nutrition, health and exploring the future scope.
- 3.11 Celebrate national and international days jointly.

**Role of the Department of Youth Development:**

- DYD will designate a staff member to serve as the liaison between GAIN and the Department of Youth Development.
- With GAIN, DYD officials will facilitate the national workshop, meeting, event on revising National Youth Policy 2017 and its Plan of Action with the ministries and relevant stakeholders.
- DYD will share comments and suggestions on developing "Food Systems Youth Leadership Training" developed by GAIN along with other relevant ministries and stakeholders.
- Department of Youth Development will provide training venue facilities at Central Human Resource Development Centre, Savar and district training venue to implement the "Food Systems Youth Leadership Training" program. (Training rooms are subject to availability or training can be provided on holidays)
- Support in developing training modules for capacity building and modify existing modules and training materials related to food, nutrition, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

**Role of The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition:**

- GAIN will organize a national Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on National Youth Policy 2017 revision.
- GAIN will share the report and recommendations from the national Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Youth Policy revision.
- GAIN and its selected consultant team will develop a Food System Youth Leadership Training (FSYLT) module. GAIN will consult DYD officials for necessary recommendations in the module.
- GAIN will organize the FSYLT and provide all logistical supports for the participants and facilitators (at its own discretion and subject to the availability of funds). GAIN will promote registering youth organizations under DYD followed by the registration roles in their working areas.
- GAIN will technically support DYD in developing/updating training materials related to food, nutrition, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

- 3.12 The Parties agree that any other specific project or activity to be implemented by or between them will be negotiated within the framework of this MoU and will be formalised in separate and appropriate agreements. In this case, a separate agreement could be signed under this MoU. Themes of these joint activities and the conditions for utilising the results

achieved, intellectual property rights, arrangements for specific visits, exchanges, and other forms of cooperation will be negotiated for each specific case.

- 3.13 The parties agree to explore and mobilise resources, including financial, technical, and in-kind support for effective scaleup of youth and adolescent engagement, and empowerment approach and implement joint activities throughout the country.
- 3.14 During the course of the collaboration envisaged by this MoU, if any intellectual property rights are generated, the Parties will enter into a separate agreement to cover the use of the intellectual property rights.

#### **4. Partnership Management**

- 4.1. The Parties will use all reasonable efforts to communicate and consult with one another during the term of the MoU via telephone calls, email, face-to-face meetings or such other means as agreed, describing the progress made under the MoU.
- 4.2. Both parties shall offer an open and transparent cooperation to facilitate the smooth and regular monitoring of the activities under this MoU.
- 4.3. Any formal notice required to be given under this MoU shall be transmitted in writing by prepaid registered mail or be served by personal delivery. Any notice sent by registered mail shall be deemed to have been served 5 business days after the time of dispatch.

#### **5. Implementation**

- 5.1. The Parties agree that the collaboration as stated in this MoU will be implemented through an efficient, transparent, reliable, and result-oriented cooperation. The quality of the work under this collaboration shall be to a high standard aligned with the standards of both the parties.
- 5.2. No funds are being committed under this MoU.
- 5.3. The Parties will invite each other to attend any event (training, meeting, workshop, seminar, field visit etc. related to youth and adolescent nutrition and food systems) at national levels, where relevant.



## 6. Terms

- 6.1. This MoU shall come into force and effect on June 30, 2024 (the "Effective Date") and shall expire no later than June 30, 2029. Prior to the end of the term of this MoU, the Parties shall agree whether this MoU is to be extended for any subsequent period. Neither Party shall be liable to the other for any failure to reach an agreement on any extension of this MOU.
- 6.2. Either Party may terminate this MoU on one-month prior written notice to the other Party. The expiration or earlier termination of this MoU does not terminate any specific agreements concluded in the context of clause 3.12 above and still in operation at the date of expiration or termination (as relevant). Such agreements will continue to be governed by their own terms.
- 6.3. In the event of termination, the Parties shall agree in good faith on a mutually acceptable exit plan to enable the activities to be wound up and any contractual arrangements with third parties entered into by a Party in the proper performance of its obligations under this MoU prior to the termination fate to be dealt with appropriately.

## 7. Global Access

The Parties are committed to encouraging the public dissemination of information and knowledge and global access to research and newly developed products within the developing countries of the world. Activities done in the context of this collaboration shall comply with the communication and visibility plan and guidelines of both the parties.

## 8. Publicity

The Parties agree to publicise their collaboration to help to achieve their mutual goals and objectives. Either Party may issue press releases, advertisements, or other publicity-related public statements about the collaboration with the prior mutual written consent of the other Party. Each Party will give recognition to the other Party by mentioning its name in relation to activities/projects implemented pursuant to this MoU in pre-agreed press releases, on internet sites, in speeches or via other appropriate means. Specific terms and conditions related to the use of the name and logo of either Party will be part of the agreement to be signed for each specific activity/project.

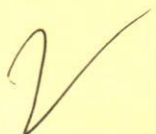
DYD and GAIN acknowledge and agree that both Parties may include information about collaborative actions and activities (except confidential information) done under this MoU in public reports and may make such information available on their website.

2



## 9. Miscellaneous

- 9.1. The Parties agree that this MoU even though it expresses good will and intent for a collaboration, is not legally binding and cannot be subject to any jurisdiction, arbitration, external monitoring, or other forms of evaluation. Therefore, any dispute or disagreement of any form shall be resolved in good faith through negotiation and shall not be subject to external communication in any way whatsoever.
- 9.2. Nothing in or relating to this MoU will be construed as creating a joint venture or legal partnership between the Parties, or with any of their agents, sub-contractors, or any other third party, nor shall a Party be deemed to be an agent of the other Party as a result of this MoU. More particularly, nothing in or in relation to this MoU will cause GAIN staff to be construed as the staff of DYD or vice-versa. The Parties are each responsible for their own acts or omissions, and those of their employees, contractors or any other personnel engaged by them in the execution of this MoU.
- 9.3. The Parties shall not make, promise, offer or secure promises thereof to any party, nor solicit or accept directly or indirectly for himself or herself or for any other party any gift, money, benefit, assistance, or in-kind advantage.
- 9.4. Both parties believe that all vulnerable persons, meaning children below the age of eighteen years and vulnerable adults, require protection from all forms of abuse and exploitation. Wishing to promote the highest standards in this regard, both parties will adhere to their Policy for Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons and to promote the values and standards laid down in the Policy in their work.





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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, both the parties have executed and signed this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 13 June 2024 in two original copies.

For the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition  
(GAIN)

For Department of Youth Development  
(DYD)

Dr. Rudaba Khondker  
Country Director, Bangladesh  
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Dr. Gazi Md. Saifuzzaman  
Director General (Grade-1)  
Department of Youth Development

Witness:

1.

Moniruzzaman Bipul  
Portfolio Lead, Drivers of Food System  
Transformation (DFST)  
GAIN Bangladesh

Prajesh Kumar Saha  
Deputy Director (Planning-1)  
Department of Youth Development

2.

Md. Sirajul Islam  
Senior Associate, Finance and Administration  
GAIN Bangladesh

Saleh Uddin Ahmed  
Assistant Director (Planning-1)  
Department of Youth Development

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