

Background:

“Suchana: Ending the Cycle of Undernutrition in Bangladesh”, a multisectoral nutrition programme works to prevent chronic malnutrition within the critical 1,000 days from conception until a child reaches its second birthday in Sylhet division, eastern part of the country. To address the highest national challenge almost 50%¹ stunting amongst under five years children in the area “Suchana” has been catalyzing support across government and other stakeholders at sub-national and national level since 2015.

TARGET GROUPS

250,000

Households
(focusing 15-45 year's women)

1.4 million

People

Newly-weds, pregnant women, malnutrition, adolescent, lactating mothers and children under two years of age, extreme poor and moderate households

Program objectives and major interventions:

Suchana is driving towards its key objective to accelerate the rate of “reducing undernutrition 6%” through its programmatic interventions. Focusing on two fundamental principles - replicability and scalability Suchana is implementing the five major endeavors:

1. Improved Nutrition Governance:

Suchana works to enhance coordination within and between concerned ministries and sectors to increase resource allocation and effective implementation of policies and services on the ground.

2. Improved access and utilisation of nutrition services:

Suchana builds capacity of local government institutions to scale-up nutrition initiatives (both specific and sensitive) in an effective and inclusive manner emphasizing on increased access to services to the poor and nutritionally vulnerable groups.

3. Better nutrition through improved economic status:

Poor and vulnerable households with pregnant women, lactating mothers and adolescent girls will be empowered to overcome nutrition barriers due to social, economic and climate shocks through income generation, consumption of nutritious food from household production as well as from government's social protection schemes.

4. Social and behavior change communication:

Focusing on intergenerational cycle of malnutrition Suchana works to increase knowledge and skills to practice and support appropriate Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF), maternal and child health nutrition behavior as well as challenge harmful gender norms, such as, child marriage, early pregnancy.

5. Generating robust evidence to support scale-up:

Suchana is on its way to deliver robust knowledge and evidence to galvanize momentum for change to support scalable interventions that address chronic malnutrition throughout Bangladesh.

1. Nutrition specific and sensitive-direct nutrition interventions i.e. growth monitoring and indirect interventions that complement to improve nutrition status like, income generating activities

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

- **2 districts (Sylhet and Moulvibazar), 20 upazilas**
- **Closely works with 8 ministries:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief



EXPECTED RESULTS:

1. Prevalence of stunting among the children under two years will be reduced additional 6% from national rate of reduction in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts
2. 40% of households accessing quality inputs from public/private sectors
3. 60% of children 0-6 months old exclusively breastfed
4. 40% of women received at least 4 antenatal check-ups by a trained service provider during last pregnancy
5. 25% of children 6-23 months of age who had minimum acceptable diet (MAD)
6. 60% of women have decision making power on: (a) major household purchase; (b) food purchase and preparation; (c) own health care and child health care; (d) visit family and relatives
7. Government, development partners and others involved with policy making will refer best practice, lessons learnt from Suchana in their strategic documents or new business plans.



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