

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE TITLE	Stakeholders Dialogue Rowangchory, Bandarban Fragile context
DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 4 December 2024 10:30 GMT +06:00
CONVENED BY	Jamal Uddin
EVENT LANGUAGE	Bengali
HOST LOCATION	Rowangchhari, Bangladesh
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Hill Area of Bangladesh (Fragile context)
AFFILIATIONS	December 04, 2024 at Rowangchory (Adult people total 54 persons 26 Male 26 Female 2 Person with disability, 100 % people will come from fragile context Bandarban representatives from Begali & Non Bengali. Profession Farmer, Teacher, Faith leaders, CSO leaders, Business sector, GO, NGO, Media, Working mother, House wife, Sportsmen, Fisherman, Carpenter, ethnic minority, Jhum cultivation traditional farmer (agriculture on hill) and other sector if possible)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://nutritiondialogues.org/dialogue/55092/



The outcomes from Nutrition Dialogues will contribute to developing and identifying the most urgent and powerful ways to improve nutrition for all, with a focus on women and children and young people. Each Dialogue contributes in four distinct ways:

- Published as publicly available PDFs on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal
- Available as public data on the Nutrition Dialogues Portal "Explore Feedback" page
- Available publicly within a .xls file alongside all Feedback Form data for advanced analysis
- Synthesised into reports that cover which nutrition challenges are faced, what actions are urgently needed and how should these be taken forward - particular, in advance of the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris, March 2025.

SECTION ONE: PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

1

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-11	0	12-18	05	19-29
20	30-49	10	50-74	0	75+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

12	Female	23	Male	0	Other/Prefer not to say
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

0	Children, Youth Groups and Students	03	Civil Society Organisations (including consumer groups and environmental organisations)
03	Educators and Teachers	03	Faith Leaders/Faith Communities
0	Financial Institutions and Technical Partners	02	Food Producers (including farmers)
02	Healthcare Professionals	08	Indigenous Peoples
02	Information and Technology Providers	02	Large Business and Food Retailers
01	Marketing and Advertising Experts	0	National/Federal Government Officials and Representatives
02	News and Media (e.g. Journalists)	02	Parents and Caregivers
0	Science and Academia	01	Small/Medium Enterprises
02	Sub-National/Local Government Officials and Representatives	0	United Nations
2	Women's Groups	0	Other (please state)

OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

Participants Types: • Government • Teacher • Faith Leader • Businessmen • NGO Representatives • Media/Journalist • Working Mother • Housewife • Sportsman • Carpenter • Ethnic Minority Group Religious Category: • Buddhist • Muslim • Hindu • Christian

ADDITIONAL DETAIL ON PARTICIPANT DIVERSITY

Religious Category: • Buddhist • Muslim • Hindu • Christian People from peri urban, rural & hill area. Rowngchory is the area where multidimensional people live and have a strong harmony.

SECTION TWO: FRAMING AND DISCUSSION

FRAMING

Climate change has significantly affected the environment, biodiversity, and human life in this region. The world, including this area, is becoming warmer, causing severe impacts on nature, wildlife, human settlements, and society. If we do not act quickly, these challenges will only intensify. The effects of climate change vary across regions and are not evenly distributed. In northern areas, winters have become extremely cold, while summers are intensely hot. Over the past few years, rapid warming across the country has harmed ecosystems, reduced soil fertility, and threatened food production. Rising temperatures also endanger food security and access to clean water, creating a pressing need for action. Human health is deeply affected by climate change. Heat stress has a direct impact on well-being, while the spread of infectious diseases presents additional risks. Vulnerable groups, such as the poor, women, children, and indigenous communities, face greater challenges due to limited resources to adapt or recover from climate-related impacts. Climate change does not affect everyone equally. Wealthy, industrialized nations—the largest emitters of carbon dioxide—are better equipped to manage losses thanks to their resources. Meanwhile, poorer countries and communities disproportionately suffer the consequences of global warming, despite contributing the least to the problem. The impacts of climate change extend to various economic sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, insurance, and tourism. These industries are vital to livelihoods, especially for vulnerable populations, and their decline poses serious risks to societal stability. Immediate and coordinated action is critical to address climate change and mitigate its effects. Supporting adaptation efforts for vulnerable populations, investing in sustainable practices, and prioritizing climate-resilient policies are essential steps toward reducing the far-reaching impacts of this global crisis.

NUTRITION SITUATION PRESENTATION

<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Introduction-to-Nutrition-Slideset-1.pptx>

DISCUSSION

Discussion topics were and open ended questions. Participants used flip chart papers in the small group and brainstormed according to the question, write and present in the larger group. • How can food security be improved? • Why is hunger particularly dangerous for pregnant women? • Who are the key actors working on food security within society? • What types of income-generating programs can be initiated to make your village, union, ward, or paurashava free from hunger? • In your opinion, what are the impacts of malnutrition? • What factors or causes affect child nutrition? • Who are the most vulnerable groups when it comes to nutrition? • What policies and laws exist in Bangladesh to support nutrition? • What initiatives can increase awareness and sensitization about nutrition, and which groups can play a vital role in raising awareness about the effects of malnutrition?

SECTION THREE: DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

CHALLENGES

In this region, the lack of proper nutritional practices remains a serious concern. Many mothers do not feed colostrum to newborns or practise exclusive breastfeeding. Awareness of healthy daily food habits is minimal, and financial insecurity, poverty, and limited knowledge about essential nutrition further exacerbate the situation. The region's susceptibility to natural disasters worsens the challenges faced by marginalised communities.

Children from poor and ultra-poor families, women-headed households, ethnic groups, and marginalised farming and fishing communities are among the most affected. For these groups, hunger and poverty are a constant struggle. Gender discrimination intensifies the issue, as boys are often prioritised over girls due to the belief that they will take on family responsibilities in the future. Consequently, girls are more likely to suffer from malnutrition. Social discrimination remains prevalent in Rowangchhari, where male children are preferred. This often leads to child marriage for girls, leaving them malnourished and likely to give birth to undernourished children.

Malnutrition causes weak immunity, stunted growth in children, and vulnerability to illnesses. Financial constraints and low crop production, driven by frequent floods and land degradation, contribute significantly to the problem. Starving pregnant women cannot give birth to healthy children, leaving both mothers and newborns prone to severe health complications.

Marginal farmers and extremely poor households face significant barriers to improving their livelihoods. Opportunities for vegetable farming, poultry and cattle rearing, or small businesses are scarce, trapping them in a cycle of poverty and hunger.

Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach. Raising awareness about proper nutrition and healthy food habits is crucial. Targeted interventions are needed to improve food security, promote gender equality, and provide access to resources and sustains

URGENT ACTIONS

In the Rowangchhari Bandarban hill area, practical measures such as homestead gardening, rearing hens and ducks, and cultivating pond fish are effective in reducing malnutrition. Educating mothers and caregivers about proper nutrition is crucial. Local governments should increase budgets for food security through food allowances and social safety net programmes. Livelihood initiatives, including livestock rearing, fisheries, entrepreneurship, and small businesses such as tailoring, grocery shops, tea stalls, and handicraft production, can help alleviate poverty and improve food security.

Mass awareness campaigns through seminars, discussions, and gatherings in mosques, churches, and temples can effectively spread the message about nutrition. Promoting practices like using vermicompost, consuming iodised salt, eating family meals together, and preparing weekly food plans can improve dietary habits. Increasing budgets for the livestock and fisheries departments, along with improved monitoring, is necessary. Providing subsidies or special allowances for marginalised farmers and extremely poor individuals, expanding maternity allowances, and introducing a midday meal programme in primary schools are vital steps.

Awareness about safe and nutritious food should target both poor and wealthy families through workshops, campaigns, and learning sessions, as many remain unaware of healthy practices. Civil society organisations, child forums, youth groups, health service providers, teachers, Union Parishad members, faith leaders, and adolescent clubs play key roles in raising awareness. Government agencies, including agriculture, health, and women affairs departments, along with NGOs such as World Vision, GROUSE, BNK, and HN Foundation, can provide essential support.

Practical community initiatives include creating gardens near mosques, rearing livestock, cultivating zinc-enriched rice with compost, and using vermicompost. Livelihood-focused efforts, like livestock rearing and

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were lots of diversification in the Participants like below people participated.

- Government
- Teacher
- Faith Leader
- Businessmen
- NGO Representatives
- Media/Journalist
- Working Mother
- Housewife
- Sportsman
- Carpenter
- Ethnic Minority Group

Religious Category:

- Buddhist
- Muslim
- Hindu
- Christian

In addition Bengali, Non-Bengali, hill dwellers participated in the dialogue.

OVERALL SUMMARY

In Rowangchhari, Bandarban, most people believe that only expensive foods, such as fruits, meat, fish, and eggs, are nutritious. However, low-income groups, including fishermen, ethnic communities, marginalised populations, and those facing religious or cultural barriers, lack proper education on food, nutrition, and health.

It has been observed that mothers and children in these communities continue to suffer from malnutrition. As a result, children may develop disabilities, experience anaemia, or face severe outcomes, including the unexpected deaths of both children and mothers.

SECTION FOUR: PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT & METHOD

PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

After a team discussion for the final selection of participants, following the prescribed criteria, it was decided to intentionally invite a Medical Officer from the Upazila Health Complex and an Upazila Agriculture Officer. This ensured that government personnel could share their plans to address malnutrition, which greatly helped participants connect with the workshop objectives. During the workshop, all participants actively engaged in discussions within small groups and wrote down their opinions on poster paper during group work, facilitating an open exchange of ideas. The first step was to select stakeholders from various categories within the community to participate in the Nutrition Dialogue, following the provided guidelines. Invited participants were briefed on the purpose of the dialogue, and facilitators shared essential information about the schedule and discussion topics. Participants played a crucial role in the success of the event by sharing the required information. Ac

METHOD AND SETTING

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ADVICE FOR OTHER CONVENORS

This workshop was highly effective in engaging stakeholders from all levels on a single platform. However, it would be better if the discussion points were concise and clearly explained for the community members, as this would make it easier to gather more valuable information.

FEEDBACK FORM: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Organising a Nutrition Dialogue in the fragile context of a hill area like Rowangchhari Bandarban was truly a great opportunity to gain deeper insights. I am grateful to the program operations team for enabling us to organise this event and extend my thanks to the advocacy department for their continuous support.

ATTACHMENTS

- **1. Prokash Chambugong, AP Manager, Rowangchari AP is delivering Welcome Speech**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/1.-Prokash-Chambugong-AP-Manager-Rowangchari-AP-is-delivering-Welcome-Speech-scaled.jpg>
- **2. Objective Sharing & Inauguration-Ruven S Halder, Sr. Manager, Field Operations, CACO, URC**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2.-Objective-Sharing-Inauguration-Ruven-S-Halder-Sr-Manager-Field-Operations-CACO-URC-scaled.jpg>
- **3. Sharing of Jamal Uddin during Nutrition Dialogue**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/3.-Sharing-of-Jamal-Uddin-during-Nutrition-Dialogue-scaled.jpg>
- **4. Sharing on Nutrition by Md. Ahsanul Haque, UPZ Agriculture Officer, Rowangchari Upazila**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/4.-Sharing-on-Nutrition-by-Md.-Ahsanul-Haque-UPZ-Agriculture-Officer-Rowangchari-Upazila-scaled.jpg>
- **5. Sharing from Ferdoushi Alam during Nutrition Dialogue**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/5.-Sharing-from-Ferdoushi-Alam-during-Nutrition-Dialogue-scaled.jpg>
- **6. Participants in Group Work-01**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/6.-Participants-in-Group-Work-01-scaled.jpg>
- **7. Participants in Group Work-03**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/7.-Participants-in-Group-Work-03-1-scaled.jpg>
- **8. Group Presentation-01**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/8.-Group-Presentation-01-scaled.jpg>
- **9. Group Presentation-02**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/9.-Group-Presentation-02-scaled.jpg>
- **Group Work-02**
<https://nutritiondialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Group-Work-02-scaled.jpg>