

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 16 June 2021 11:00 GMT +06:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	“Smart Snacks for Adolescents to Address Malnutrition” An Inclusive Business Model to Address Adolescents Nutrition in Bangladesh
CONVENED BY	Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID)/ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/46737/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	Bangladesh

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

71

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

30 0-18

17 19-30

20 31-50

4 51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

30 Male

41 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

4 Education

Communication

Food processing

35 Food retail, markets

2 Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

25 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

35 Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

1 Local Non-Governmental Organization

3 International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

1 Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

1 Consumer group

25 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Dialogue was organized to solicit inputs and insights for the Food Systems Summit through an understanding of the issues facing by the youth and mass population while it comes to the availability of healthy snacks, in terms of the pathway to sustainable food systems. Organized by BIID along with other co-organizers, the Dialogue brought a diversity of stakeholders from youth, adolescent, academia, government representatives, UN, development partners (I/NGOs), research organizations, civil society representatives working across the food chain from production to consumption.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

BIID Foundation, a social venture of Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development (BIID) and Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) organized the 2nd Independent Summit Dialogue. The dialogue was entitled as "Smart Snacks for Adolescents to Address Malnutrition: An Inclusive Business Model to Address Adolescent Nutrition in Bangladesh". Mr. Khaja Abdul Hannan, Convener of National Dialogue, UN FSS 2021 and Dr. Syed Mojibul Huq, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare were the Chief Guest. Each participant was asked to participate in a group discussion in three breakout groups and share their thoughts. Each group had a facilitator and a note taker, who together moderated the discussion. The key points made in each breakout group were presented by the respective facilitators at the closing plenary. Group 3- Regulatory and Administrative (focused at Policy Side)- suggested on "Supportive and Regulatory Measures to Promote Safe & Nutritious Food for Adolescents". The 2 hours' dialogue had 3 components, first 30 minutes was briefing and opening remarks, next 45 minutes were breakout session (3 Groups) with specific agenda and agenda led by Facilitators and final 45 minutes was group presentations, feedback and way forward. Around 70% of the adolescents from Dhaka, Narshingdi, Rangamati, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Pabna, and more, took part in the survey. Around 16 adolescents and youth, 20 food entrepreneurs, and 2 participants to discuss regulators' perspective, participated in the dialogue. Other than this, people from relevant work and industry were invited to join the dialogue as guests or as a participant.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

The importance of participatory approach in capturing the voice of a significant audience. It is also important to ensure that regional nuances and challenges faced by vulnerable groups are captured.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The dialogue started with the opening remarks by Dr. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director, GAIN. Mr. Mostafa Banna, Ministry of Food, shared his valuable remarks followed by Dr. Bulbul Islam, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. After the briefing and opening remarks, three categories of stakeholders were divided into three different breakout rooms as per below:

Adolescents & Youth Representatives: This group of participants represented the demand side of the smart snacks. In this room the overall discussion took place focusing on the experience and expectation of the adolescents. The adolescents talked about their daily snack intake practices, what is available out there, what they are attracted to, the amount they prefer to spend on snacks, etc. The discussion ended with individual description of their dream snack item.

Food Entrepreneurs: The group of the food entrepreneurs represented the supply side of the smart snacks. Present scenario of the healthy snacks' availability, demand of it from the adolescents have been discussed in detail in this room. Also, the challenges they are facing in order to produce it, and required necessary support needed for producing nutritious food for adolescents have been discussed thoroughly by them.

Regulatory and Administrative (Policy): The participants at the room of regulatory and administrative discussed on what supportive and regulatory measures are to be taken to promote safe and nutritious food for adolescents. Also, the different ways to engage government from local levels.

ACTION TRACKS

- Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
- Governance
- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

Primary objective of the dialogue was to build a strategic framework and hear from the key stakeholders to stimulate and support “Smart Snacks” as an inclusive business model. The secondary objective was to understand the adolescent perspectives (demand), also, challenges, scopes of regulatory support & incentivise, private sector engagement (supply) perspectives.

The adolescent population in Bangladesh is almost one third of total population which is around 33 million, and a large portion of these adolescents are school going who used to avail street foods on regular basis. In recent days, adolescents are tending to avail more street foods (Open and packaged) to meet their regular appetite when they need to eat something which are very much unhygienic, poor food quality (nutrition value) as well as unhealthy. These street foods are tasty and less expensive which lure adolescents to aim for those.

Adolescents nutrition status is very critical in Bangladesh and need proper attention from all relevant stakeholders. An inclusive and sustainable business model engaging private sector to invest in adolescent friendly snacks may be introduced to offer as a commercial product. The government can facilitate support in the value chain to ensure the product is cost affordable for all the adolescents through different incentives & supports. These snack items will be manufactured under a standard guideline, quality and nutrient enriched for adolescents. As commercial product, these also has to be tasty, attractive in package and most importantly extensive communication i.e. advertisements.

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KEYWORDS

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	Human rights	✓	Governance
✓	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
			Environment and Climate

OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

Adolescents & Youth Representatives:

The ideal snack item that came up after the group discussion of the adolescents was contained of these four must attributes – 1. Tasty 2. Eye-catchy 3. Affordable and 4. Nutritious. They also mentioned how the individual behavior change is needed to choose the nutritious snacks. They want more nutritious snacks options to be available in the market. Also, they think the traditional snacks like shingara, fuchka, can be made in a better and healthier way. For example, using good oil, maintaining hygiene, etc. Regarding this an adolescent named Meher Afroz Tisha from Vigarunnisa Noon School & College said, “For our dream snacks like Shingara, fuchka, if we can tell the shopkeepers or who are making these, to use good oil and vegetable in making these, then it should be healthier for us.”

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Food Entrepreneurs:

As per the summary of the entrepreneurs' discussion, a platform can be proposed where the nutritious snacks items can be listed ensuring good volume of customers, for better production and lesser cost. Ensuring good volume of customer of these smart snacks would lessen the cost and make it more affordable to everyone. One of the food entrepreneurs named Ms. Mehnaz Rahman Lira said, "Now all the parents and adolescents are very concerned about the nutritional value of the food." According to their discussion, delivery system and food nutrition value assessment organizations should be connected with the platform to solve the delivery and nutrition value measurement challenges.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Regulatory and Administrative (Policy):

Through the group discussion in the regulators group, the engagement of government has been identified in 4 specific areas – 1. Field level engagement of the government by involving the sanitary inspectors 2. If government can facilitate some investment on the infrastructure facilities 3. The school meals that are present in the government schools can include these smart snacks item in the existing menu 4. The traditional snacks can be prepared in a better, healthier way with local government support.

In the policy level, the regulations on the adolescent's snacks must ensure that those processed/unprocessed foods are with less sugar and less salt. Dr. Rudaba Khondker, Country Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), pointed out about "How can we bring this in the policy makers' platform to make sure that there is a standard solution to reduce the sugar and salt from the contents of the food that the adolescents are consuming, whereas they are processed or homemade." It is also mentioned that the target group should include adolescents from both urban and rural area of Bangladesh. The smart snacks examples can be set in the government school level, and then to spread in the private schools too. Not alone government, but together with adolescents themselves, parents, school management and private sector to work together and establish this smart snack program. On regard to this Ms. Saiqa Siraj, Country Director, Nutrition International summarized as, "In participation of parents, school management, government subsidies and private sector, it will be a sustainable program, otherwise only through government funding, providing midday meals to this huge number of schools will not be possible."

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

There were no major areas of divergence among participants.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

ATTACHMENTS

- **Report on “Smart Snacks for Adolescents to Address Malnutrition”- An Inclusive Business Model to Address Adolescents Nutrition in Bangladesh**
https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Report_2nd-Independent-Summit-Dialogue.docx.pdf