

# Key stakeholders and platforms/networks in food systems transformation in Bangladesh in 2022

Wajiha Khatun, Hager Fakhry, and Marion Herens



The CGIAR Research Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation (SHiFT) combines high-quality nutritional and social science research capacity with development partnerships to generate innovative, robust solutions that contribute to healthier, more sustainable dietary choices and consumption of sustainable healthy diets. We build on CGIAR's unparalleled track record of agricultural research for development, including ten years of work on food systems and nutrition under the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), particularly under the research flagship Food Systems for Healthier Diets.

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

A4NH	Agriculture for Nutrition and Health
BARC	Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council
BBF	Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation
BNNC	Bangladesh National Nutrition Council
CLMNCC	City Level Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination Committees
CWGs	City working groups
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
FPMC	Food Planning and Monitoring Committee
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
icddr, b	International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MLMNCC	Municipality-Level Multisectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MSP	Multi-sectoral platform
N4G	Nutrition for Growth
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NGO	Nongovernmental organization
NICE	Nutrition in City Ecosystems
PoA	Plan of Action
PP2041	Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041
SAPLING	South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHiFT	Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation
SUN	Scaling up Nutrition
TTs	Thematic Teams
UN	United Nations
UNCC	Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee
UNFSS	United Nations Food Systems Summit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

# 1 Introduction

Bangladesh attained remarkable progress in improving food and nutrition security in recent years. Commendable progress in economic growth and poverty reduction enabled Bangladesh to achieve the lower middle-income country in 2015. The Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041 (PP2041), a cross-sectoral and multi-dimensional policies and strategies, is a 20-year roadmap that envisioned to become a developed country by 2041.<sup>1</sup> The 8th Five Year Plan (8th FYP 2021-2025) is one of the four Five Year Plans to implement the PP2041 and attain the food and nutrition security relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets by 2030 in align with National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020 and its Plan of Action (NFNSP PoA 2021-2030).<sup>2</sup> NFNSP and its PoA focus on the need for food system transformation.<sup>3</sup> In alignment with all these national policies, the national pathway document for the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) towards sustainable food system in Bangladesh was prepared in 2021. The UNFSS national pathway recognized that accessibility of healthy diets for all is critical to achieve the 2030 SDG agenda in Bangladesh and increase the demand for healthy and sustainable diets are essential to attaining SDGs 2, 3, 12 and 13.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, in the UNFSS 2021, the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh in her statement suggested research as the priority and secondly, increased funding for achieving sustainable food system for developing countries.

In alignment with national priorities and policies, the CGIAR Research Initiative on Sustainable Healthy Diets through Food Systems Transformation (SHiFT) within the CGIAR's impact area on Nutrition, Health and Food Security seeks to generate new evidence on drivers of food consumption, identify and test innovations and policies to stimulate the consumption of sustainable healthy diets and strengthen stakeholders' capacity to guide decision-making toward food system transformations that support and enable the consumption of sustainable healthy diets for all, while improving livelihoods, income, gender equity, and social inclusiveness. Building on previous work done under the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH), the initiative will focus on Bangladesh, Vietnam and Ethiopia, and will expand its work to Honduras, Guatemala, Senegal, Benin and India.

The stakeholder identification is initiated under SHiFT to identify with whom the project needs to engage to achieve food system transformations. It brings together all the stakeholders working on food systems issues in a so-called 'living' database that can quickly identify potential stakeholders in each of the SHiFT focal countries. Understanding, engaging, and capacitating the different food system stakeholders will provide diverse perspectives to foster collaborations to leverage transformative actions across the system to improve outcomes. This stakeholder identification is a first step to building an understanding of who (people and institutions) is engaged with food system issues at different

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<sup>1</sup> General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Making Vision 2041 a Reality PERSPECTIVE PLAN OF BANGLADESH 2021-2041. Available at [https://plandiv.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plandiv.portal.gov.bd/files/79060938\\_fbce\\_4286\\_b787\\_e8f41edfc615/PERSPECTIVE%20PLAN%20of%20BD%202021-2041.pdf](https://plandiv.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plandiv.portal.gov.bd/files/79060938_fbce_4286_b787_e8f41edfc615/PERSPECTIVE%20PLAN%20of%20BD%202021-2041.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> General Economics Division (GED) Bangladesh Planning Commission Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Eighth Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025). Promoting Prosperity and Fostering Inclusiveness. Available at [http://plancomm.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal.gov.bd/files/68e32f08\\_13b8\\_4192\\_ab9b\\_abd5a0a62a33/2021-02-03-17-04-ec95e78e452a813808a483b3b22e14a1.pdf](http://plancomm.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal.gov.bd/files/68e32f08_13b8_4192_ab9b_abd5a0a62a33/2021-02-03-17-04-ec95e78e452a813808a483b3b22e14a1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 2021. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action (2021-2030).

<sup>4</sup> Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Towards Sustainable Food Systems in Bangladesh National Pathway Document for the UN Food Systems Summit. Available at [file:///F:/UNFSS%20pathway%20document%202021/UNFSSPathwayDocument\\_Bangladesh.pdf](file:///F:/UNFSS%20pathway%20document%202021/UNFSSPathwayDocument_Bangladesh.pdf).

governance levels, including public and private actors, and those working in formal and informal sectors at national, regional, and local government levels.

In addition, the SHiFT country engagement approach is looking to connect with and strengthen existing stakeholder (coordination) mechanisms or platforms in food system transformation rather than establish new collaborative structures. Applying a stakeholder platform mapping tool to detect (coordination) structures engaged around food system issues, existing platforms, and networks are identified.

## 2 Methods

For the 2022-2023 baseline stakeholder identification process a ‘living’ database of stakeholders was developed. The stakeholders who influence the food systems at different governance levels, including public and private actors, formal and informal sectors were identified and included in this database. In Bangladesh, data was collected building on:

- Existing participant lists from previous consultations under A4NH.
- Stakeholders participated in the SHiFT launching meeting and Work Package 4 consultation workshop organized in November.
- Stakeholders mentioned in the NFNSP PoA 2021-2030
- List of delegates/stakeholders and the government ministries/departments/agencies that participated in the UN Food Systems Dialogues organized by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of the Ministry of Food in Bangladesh ahead of the UNFSS in 2021 with the technical support from the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

## 3 Key stakeholders in food system transformation

Based on the collected data, the total number of stakeholders is 69 distributed over 9 categories. Table 1 shows different categories of stakeholders and the number of stakeholders per category. Governmental institutions have the highest share followed by research institutions.

**Table 1: Number of key stakeholders by category**

No.	Name of groups of stakeholders	Number
1	International institutions/Donor institutions	4
2	United Nations organizations	5
3	Government institutions	21
4	Research institutions	13
5	Academic institutions	4
6	International non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	6
7	Civil society organizations	6
8	Private sector	9
9	Regional intergovernmental organization	1
	Total	69

### 3.1 International Institutions/Donor Institutions

This category includes funding organizations. In the context of the project, four of them are identified. They are the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union (EU), and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The area of focus of the World Bank is economic growth, capacity building, and increasing resilience. USAID focuses on Agriculture and Food Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Governance, Environment, Energy and Climate Resilience, Health, Education, Disaster Response, and Community Resilience. Economic Development, human rights, good governance, and the environment are the areas of focus of the EU. While water, climate, energy sexual and reproductive health and rights, agriculture, and food are the focus areas of the Netherlands' development cooperation with Bangladesh. The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands developed a partnership and provided technical assistance with investment funds from international financial institutes in Bangladesh. The Embassy also focuses on agriculture, food, and climate.

### **3.2 United Nations Organizations**

Five UN bodies relevant to the project and Bangladesh context were identified. FAO, World Food Programme (WFP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Health Organization (WHO), and UNICEF. FAO has many focus areas in Bangladesh: knowledge-based agri-economic growth, healthy, safe, and nutritious food, Climate resilience and nature-based, low-carbon sustainable development, Gender equality, and youth development. WFP focuses on Humanitarian assistance, nutrition, resilience, and capacity building for emergency preparedness, logistics, and engineering common services. IFAD prioritizes climate issues, capacity development, and entrepreneurship. WHO focuses on health. Last but not least UNICEF, Health, Education, Nutrition, Child Protection, Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Social Policy are the focus areas within the Bangladesh context.

### **3.3 Government institutions**

This category covers all governmental institutions including ministries, departments within ministries, institutions, departments, divisions, wings, and councils. Over 20 Bangladeshi governmental institutions are considered stakeholders. Ministries include the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. The focus areas of the ministries are economic growth, policy, capacity development, food production, food processing, trade, policy, health, food environment, and the environment. The second cluster within the governmental institutions is the department. It includes the Department of Agricultural Marketing under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Directorate General of Food, the FPMU (Ministry of Food), the Department of Public Health Engineering, and the Department of Agricultural Extension, Ministry of Agriculture. The areas of focus within those departments are food processing, trade, food environment, policy, water, sanitation, and food production. The third cluster covers institutions and councils. They are the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (MoHFW), the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC), the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institutions, the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition, and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC). This cluster focuses on nutrition, food safety, capacity building, and agriculture. The last cluster contains wings, authorities, and divisions. They are the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Demography and Health wing; Bangladesh Food Safety Authority; Local Government Division; General Economics Division Planning Commission; and Small and Medium Enterprises Foundation. This cluster focuses on policy, economic growth, food environment, food safety, Information and data on food, nutrition, agriculture, gender, and socio-demography.

### **3.4 Research Institutions**

This category covers three clusters which are national government, national non-government, and international research institutions. All of them make up 13 stakeholders from the list. National government research institutes are the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, BARC, and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. The areas of focus within those institutions are food production, policy, and development. The second cluster (national not government institutions) includes the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF), International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr, b), International Centre for Climate Change and Development, and BIDREM general hospital. This cluster is concerned with nutrition, health, and the environment. The last cluster includes international research institutes such as the International Livestock Research Institute, Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Potato Center, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, and WorldFish. The focus areas of this cluster are health, food environment, environment, nutrition, agriculture, agri-economic growth, climate resilience and nature-based, low-carbon sustainable development, gender equality, and youth development.

### **3.5 Academic Institutions**

This section covers academic institutions with a role in knowledge production, teaching, and training. It includes public and private universities. Four academic institutes are included. Three of them belong to the public domain which is the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Dhaka, Department of Development and Poverty Studies, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, and Bangladesh Agriculture University. One private institute is the James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. They focus on nutrition, health, agriculture, food security, democracy, human rights, governance, environment, energy, climate resilience, education, disaster response, and community Resilience.

### **3.6 International non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

Under this category, there are around six international NGOs. They are SNV, GAIN, Nutrition International, Concern Worldwide, Save the Children, and ICCO Cooperation. The areas of focus are development, childcare, food, nutrition security, economic empowerment, and disaster management.

### **3.7 Civil Society Organizations**

This section covers local NGOs, farmer groups, rights groups/associations, etc. In total, this group contains six stakeholders, four of which are NGOs, The Bangladesh Environment and Development Society, the Eco-Social Development Organization, BSAFE Foundation, and BBF. The areas of focus within those groups are nutrition, development, and environment. The other two stakeholders are farmers' associations which are the Consumers Association Bangladesh and Bangladesh Dairy Farmers' Association. Those associations focus on consumer, trade, and food processing.

### **3.8 Private sector**

This section includes buyers, traders, aggregators, processors, vendors, retail, agribusinesses, consultancy, and freelancers. Consultancy includes Innovision Consulting Private Limited with an area of focus on development. Buyers and traders cluster include the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh,

the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries, and the National Association of Small Cottage Industries of Bangladesh. This cluster is involved in trade as an area of focus. There are two processors, Pran Group and Bengal Meat. They focus on food processing and trade. Vendors and retail include Agora Ltd. with areas of focus on the chemical industry, retail, and agribusiness. The agribusiness stakeholder category includes ACI Ltd. Advanced Possibilities with areas of focus on the chemical industry, retail, and agribusiness.

### 3.9 Regional intergovernmental organization

This is the last category, and it has only one stakeholder: the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation with an area of focus on development.

## 4 Overview of technical working groups, networks, and platforms

Technical working groups, networks, and platforms have the potential to drive food systems discussions at different governance levels and focus on the connectivity among food system stakeholders. This section is divided into two groups: platforms maintaining an active operational agenda, formal government (collaborative) structure, and platforms tied to specific projects/programs. Platforms that are no longer active, dormant, or otherwise inactive are not presented.

**Table 2: Number of technical working groups, networks, and platforms identified by the group**

No.	Name of groups of stakeholders	Number
1	Active platforms and networks	10
2	Formal Government Collaborative Structure	5
3	Platforms tied to specific projects/programs	6
4	Regional Platform	1

### 4.1 Active platforms and networks

There are several other platforms that are currently involved in food and nutrition security-related activities, consumer rights to food and creating awareness on nutrition and healthy diets such as Food Security Cluster, Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN), Facebook platform: Fit & Healthy Bangladesh, Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Food Security Network - KHANI, CitiZen Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh Nutrition Working Group, Nutrition Club (a platform of school and college going youth and adolescents ).

### 4.2 Government Structure

#### Committee to follow up UNFSS activities

This committee brings together around 25 officials from different ministries and representatives from development partners, UN organizations, academia, and the private sector to follow up the implementation of UNFSS commitments at the country level.

## **Thematic Teams for monitoring progress on the UNFSS National Pathways**

FPMU with the technical support of GAIN is working to formulate thematic teams (TTs) on five action areas of UNFSS 2021 national Pathway documents. TTs will work on the formulation of the Monitoring Framework and identify the indicators to monitor the draft UNFSS National Action Plan and prepare the progress report. A draft has been developed by FPMU with support from FAO and GAIN. The process will be finalized in mid-June 2023. The members of the TTs will be from different ministries, divisions, departments of the government, and development partners.

## **Committees for Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) Coordination**

- **The Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC)**

The Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) is the highest-level committee for the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) coordination mechanism supported by the FPMU, Ministry of Food (Figure 1). The composition of the FPMC includes 8 relevant key ministers such as Ministry of Food, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Developments and Cooperatives, MoHFW, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. Secretaries of those ministries are also the members of the committee along with Secretaries from other 10 ministries/divisions including the Cabinet Secretary. The Minister of Food acts as the Chair and DG FPMU as the Member Secretary. The FPMC provides strategic guidance, leadership and oversight in planning, coordination and monitoring in all aspects of FNS.<sup>5</sup> This committee regularly, at least two times yearly, oversees the overall food situation of the country and provides policy suggestions to the government analysing the statistics on food grain production, demand of food, stock of food grains, overall food management, and other relevant issues.

- **National Committee**

The National committee composed of stakeholder ministries, divisions, academia, development partners, and private sectors, also plays vital role to formulate and endorse food and nutrition related policies. Under the leadership of the Minister of Food, the chair of the National Committee of the National FNS Policy 2020, National FNS Policy PoA 2021-2030, Second Country Investment Plan on Nutrition-Sensitive Food System (2016-2020) and Bangladesh Third Country Investment Plan Sustainable, Nutrition-Sensitive and Resilient Food Systems (2021-2025) are formulated. The National Committee oversees the Country Investment Plan implementation and monitoring processes.<sup>5</sup>

- **Food Policy Working Group (FPWG)**

The Food Policy Working Group chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Food performs the task of coordination and collaboration at both technical and operational levels.<sup>5</sup>

- **Thematic Teams (TT)**

The five TTs which bring together representatives from FNS stakeholder ministries/government agencies which carry out the monitoring activities relating to the policy and associated plans of action

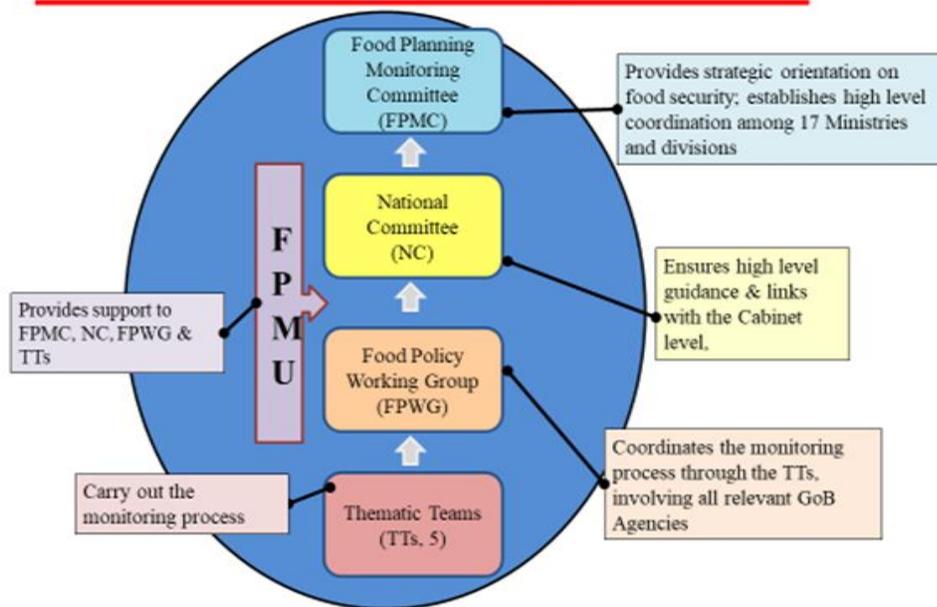
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<sup>5</sup> Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. 2021. National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action (2021-2030).

and investment plans under the technical, operational and secretarial support of the Directorates of the FPMU.<sup>5</sup> The five TTs correspond to the five Pillars of the NFNSP as follows:

1. TT-1 Diversified Production
2. TT-2 Market access and value addition
3. TT-3 Food consumption and utilization
4. TT-4 Nutrition-sensitive social protection
5. TT-5 Food safety, data, and governance (Cross-cutting)

## Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Mechanism in Bangladesh



**Figure 1: Food and Nutrition Security Coordination Mechanism in Bangladesh**

Source: FPMU, Ministry of Food

- **Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC)**

The BNNC is a government organization under the MoHFW with a Council headed by honourable Prime Minister. This council is the highest body of government in the field of policy review, strategy formulation, monitoring and evaluation of the program across the country nutrition along with the coordination and administrative management. The council is supported by the Executive Committee headed by the Minister for Health and Family Welfare and the Standing Technical Committee headed by the Additional Secretary. BNNC coordinates 22 ministries, departments, agencies, non-government, international and UN organizations, academia, and private sectors for policy dialogue, formulation, and



- **District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC)**

DNCC is a multi-sectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee focusing on the indicators and targets mentioned in the NPAN-2 for planning, implementing, and monitoring nutrition activities and enhancing nutrition knowledge at the District level. DNCC consists of 26 persons. Deputy Commissioner is the chairperson, the Chairman of the District Council/ Parishad is the advisor and Civil Surgeon is the member Secretary of the Committee. Others are the members from government departments, civil societies, journalists' schools, and colleges. The district nutrition coordination committee requires convene a meeting at least once every 2 months. The DNCC is responsible for prepare the annual nutrition action plan with a costed plan based on the National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2 and considering the Multi-sectoral Minimum Nutrition Package prepared considering the local context.

- **Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC)**

UNCC is a multi-sectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee focusing on the indicators and targets mentioned in the NPAN-2 for planning, implementing, and monitoring nutrition activities and enhancing nutrition knowledge at the Upazila level. There are a total of 18 members in a UNCC. On this committee, Upazila Nirbahi Officer is the Chairperson, the Chairman of the Upazila Parishad/ Council is the Advisor and Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer is the Member Secretary. Others are the members from government departments, UNCC, civil societies, journalists' schools, and colleges at the Upazila level. Responsibilities of UNCC bestowed by the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council. The Upazila nutrition coordination committee will convene in a meeting at least once every 2 months.

- **Scaling Up Nutrition Bangladesh (SUN Bangladesh)**

The Government of Bangladesh is highly committed to improving coordination among stakeholders working on nutrition. The country has a joint declaration under the SUN Secretariat, enabling all platforms to work towards the same target and achieve the same goals. Multi-sectoral coordination platforms and mechanisms of SUN MSP also exist under the BNCC. There is also an Executive Committee, headed by the MoHFW, of which relevant ministries and partners are members. SUN MSP coordinates among Government ministries, bilateral/multilateral Development Partners, civil society, UN, and business/private sectors. SUN networks in-country presence: SUN Civil Society Network, SUN Business Network, UN Nutrition, SUN Academia Network, SUN Donor Network, Others: e.g. youth, parliamentarian, media. SUN MSP contributed to the formulation of the SUN Annual Progress Report SUN 3.0 Strategic Objectives and prepared the country commitments for N4G 2021. 4.3 Platforms tied to specific projects/programs.

These platforms are specific for projects/programs with the aim of planning, multi-sector and inter-sector approaches, and resource mobilization for the implementation.

- The Steering Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Group of Bangladesh Food System Dashboard is currently active in contributing to achieving the Food Systems Dashboard for Bangladesh by identifying indicators & visuals, and co-draft the sustainability plan for the country dashboard. Bangladesh Food System Dashboard is led by the FPMU of the Ministry of Food with the technical support of GAIN in collaboration with John Hopkins University.
- The city working groups (CWGs) are the city-level governance platforms on the food system developed under the FAO-WUR Dhaka Food Systems project in the wider Dhaka metropolitan area that covers four different cities. These CWGs are MSPs that bring together actors from government, (i)NGOs, civil society and community-based organizations, knowledge institutes,

and others. These CWGs discuss and address key issues related to food systems in their respective cities.

- City Level Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee (CLMNCC) is a city-level MSP for food system governance supported by Nutrition for city Cooperation (NICE) and the UN Development Program in the Rangpur district of Bangladesh. CLMNCC aims to support better coordination of health and nutrition services and endorses City-led City Nutrition Action Plan in Rangpur.
- Municipality-Level Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Coordination Committee (MLMNCC) is a city-level MSP for food system governance supported by NICE in the Dinajpur district of Bangladesh. Taking the experiences from CLMNCC in Rangpur district, NICE supports the aim of MLMNCC to establish better coordination of health and nutrition services and endorse City-led City Nutrition Action Plan in Dinajpur.

#### **4.4. Regional Platform**

- **South Asian Policy Leadership for Improved Nutrition and Growth (SAPLING)**

SAPLING is a regional platform established at the Health, Nutrition and Population Programme at BRAC, Bangladesh in 2019. The aims this platform is to enable the adoption of a 'food systems' approach to address malnutrition in SAPLING priority countries. SAPLING is implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. SAPLING is working to complement government efforts in the five focus countries and catalyse specific actions for regional cooperation for cohesive outcomes in common interest sub-sectors such as climate resilient agriculture systems, well-managed post-harvest systems, and safe food.

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