

Delivering healthy diets: high-level event

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 21 November 2017

Summary

The Global Panel and BRAC, in partnership with IFPRI, GAIN and PHFI, convened a meeting of leading actors to explore how the Panel's evidence on safe, affordable and healthy diets could help policymakers seek more cost-effective pathways, and partnerships, to further accelerate the good progress being made on malnutrition now, and in the future. Using the SAPLING initiative as a vehicle to deliver this was also discussed at a dedicated session. The discussions were preceded with the launch of the Panel's brief *Healthy Diets for All: A Key to Meeting the SDGs*.

Participants and speakers

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Planning; **Dr. Kaosar Afsana**, Director of Health, Nutrition Population Programme, BRAC; **Dr. Akhter Ahmed**, Country Director, IFPRI; **Prof. M. A. Sattar Mandal**, Former Vice Chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh; **Emmy Simmons**, Global Panel Member; **Prof. Patrick Webb**, Technical Adviser, Global Panel.

Consensus statements

- **Bangladesh has the opportunity for regional leadership and innovation** in developing high-quality diets to help realise SDG 2 and many other SDGs.
- **Government and its civil society and private sector partners must co-ordinate** their interventions and investment to achieve sustainable approaches to food security and nutrition, and to meet the many diverse threads of Bangladesh's "nutrition transformation".
- **Government must ensure that sufficient time and resources are allocated** to the development of the knowledge base, policy frameworks, strategies and practical interventions to address these more testing goals.
- **Policies must go "further and faster" and be sustainable at all levels.** Risk management strategies and practices are essential to keep pace with the change of circumstances brought about by increasing pressures on the food system.
- **Increasing urbanisation, rapid population growth, income increases, the role of women and climate change** were identified as key drivers of both healthy and poor diets.

Actions to take forward

The Global Panel will continue to work with partners to explore:

- How the Government and the private sector can align profitability and sustainability, so the commercialisation of agriculture that has aided economic growth in rural communities can enhance the development of affordable and healthy food systems.
- Strengthening regulatory frameworks in markets, food safety and diet quality in light of developments in product formulation, processed foods and advances in bio-fortification.
- Making further investment in food and nutrition security research available, over and above that delivered by the CGIAR system and other bodies.
- Developing knowledge, data and consumption statistics to provide the granularity required to assess malnutrition and interventions at the local level.