



# NNS Newsletter

A Quarterly Bulletin of National Nutrition Services

Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh

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## First Round of National Vitamin A plus Campaign August, 2017



### Editorial

**Dr. A.B.M Muzharul Islam**

Director, Institute of Public Health Nutrition &  
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I am delighted to announce the publication of the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of quarterly Newsletter published by National Nutrition Services (NNS). This newsletter intends to share and document NNS performance in reaching the population of Bangladesh with critical, proven nutrition interventions as per the NNS Operational Plan.

The newsletter reports on the nutrition status based on latest report, progress and coverage of NNS supported services at facility levels and also on community-based nutrition activities, including the service status of IMCI & Nutrition corners and Community Clinics. The newsletter also covers the outcomes of the workshops, meetings and different initiatives on nutrition.

I express my sincere thanks to the entire team of NNS for their support and contribution to publishing this newsletter. I thank the Honorable Secretary, Health Service Division, MoHFW, and the Directors General of DGHS and DGFP for their continuous support to NNS and acknowledge the contribution of health managers and other service providers who collaborate with NNS.

Finally, I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and efforts of IPHN staffs and development partners in making this newsletter a successful monitoring, knowledge sharing and advocacy tool for improving nutrition in Bangladesh.

I am thankful to the officials of Nutrition Information and Planning Unit (NIPU) for their continuous hard work in the production of this valuable document.

I am hopeful that NNS will continue developing newsletter and share with all stakeholders.

**Dr. A.B.M Muzharul Islam**



Picture 1: Launching of National Vitamin-A plus Campaign 2017

The first round of National Vitamin-A plus Campaign 2017 was observed 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm throughout the country.

At least 120,000 permanent health outposts and 20,000 more mobile centres at different points remain operative to reach the target of 21 million children. Children between six months and 11 months received one blue color capsule 100,000 (I.U) while those between 12 months to 59 months will get one high-powered red colored dose night blindness 0.04 per cent in recent years from 3.76 per cent in 1982 through this campaign.

The Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) Mohammed Nasim, MP on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (Saturday) inaugurated the nationwide 'Vitamin A Plus' Campaign by feeding several 6-59 months children Vitamin A Capsules at Dhaka Shishu Hospital. The session attended by State Minister for Health Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Secretary, Ministry of Health; Mr. Serajul Huq Khan (Health Services Division), Additional Secretary; Roxana Quader, Dr. A.B.M. Muzharul Islam, Director, IPHN & I.D, NNS, Dr. S M Mustafizur Rahman, AD (DGHS) & PM1, NNS and Susmita Das, DR, Nutrition International (NI) among others.

Dr. A.B.M. Muzharul Islam, Director, IPHN and Line Director, NNS was also presented in the occasion. Earlier, several meetings were held there in union, upazila, district and division levels in this regard to make the campaign successful.

Honorable Health Minister, Mr. Mohammed Nasim, MP said Vitamin A-plus not only prevents night blindness, but also increases immunity and reduces child mortality. Due to funding gap between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> SWAp governments requested Nutrition International (NI) to donate 35.5 million VA capsules for two rounds NVACs of this year. Deputy Regional Director of NI Susmita Das mentioned that NI is also supporting 'the child-to-child' (c to c) search strategy.

The minister adding that the rate of children's night-blindness in the country has come down below one percent as a result of distribution of Vitamin A capsules regularly.

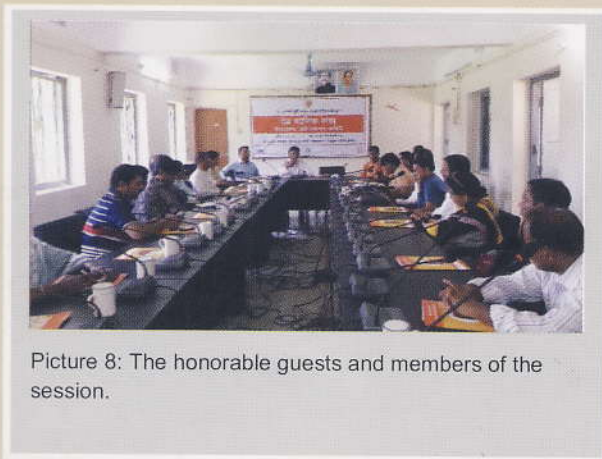
The administrative Coverage of 1st round's vitamin A supplementation of children of age 6-11 months was 99.2% (2,347,189) & 12-59 months was 99.3% (18,405,706). But in Pourashava the coverage is slightly lower (96.5% for 6-59 months children) than CC (99.5%), Rural (99.2) and National (99.3%) coverage.

## Facilitating Multi-sectoral engagement through UNCC for nutritional improvement

CARE Bangladesh has been implementing the “Nutrition at the Center” project at Derai and Biswambarpur sub districts of Sunamganj district in Sylhet division. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) and support from the Agriculture and the Local Government, Nutrition at the Center (N@C) project is working for improving essential nutritional services to mother and child. The Project is piloting an Uz level Nutrition Coordinating through a platform called Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC) with the combination of different GO sectors/department, NGO and local government.



Picture 7: Implementation of the “Nutrition at the Center” project at Derai and Biswambarpur

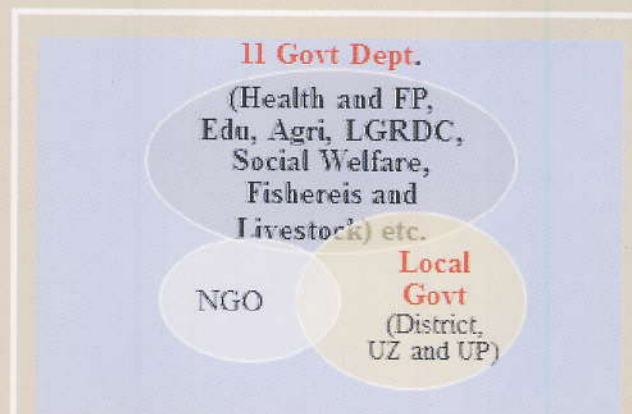


Picture 8: The honorable guests and members of the session.

This project brought them in one platform under UNCC. After two years of inception UNCC become vibrant rapidly. Committee members are realizing and convinced that there are linkage among nutrition and agriculture, livestock, fisheries, education and health sectors and responding accordingly.

Uz Chairman of respective sub district is the chairperson and UHFPO are the member secretary of this committee, representatives from 11 nutrition sensitive departments, UP Chairman, NGOs representatives and Community Support Group (CSG) representatives are the member of this forum.

The main objective of the forum is leading, mobilizing resources and monitoring the health and nutrition activities going on at sub district. An operational guideline has developed by project. Identifying gaps, avoid duplication of resources, reaching the hard to reach through enhancing collaboration, community mobilization through awareness creation, introducing innovation and increasing number of beneficiaries under ongoing social safety net packages. Regular monitoring of progress regarding service utilization and quality of care, promoting positive behavior e.g. consumption of Iron Folic Acid (IFA), Hand washing, prevent early marriage, homestead gardening, Exclusive breastfeeding and timely initiation of complementary feeding to child.



Picture 9: Conceptual diagram of the project

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