



Bangladesh Second Country Investment Plan Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems (CIP2 2016-2020)

Monitoring Report 2020: Summary

August 2020

Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)
Ministry of Food
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



**Bangladesh Second Country Investment Plan
Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems
(CIP2 2016-2020)**

Monitoring Report 2020: Summary

August 2020

**Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)
Ministry of Food
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

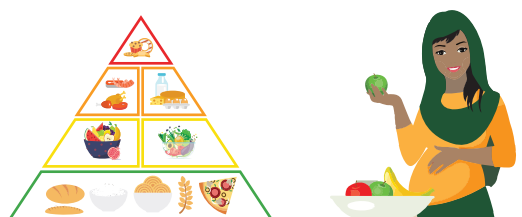
Key messages from the Monitoring Report 2020



Diversification and climate-smart investments in agriculture need to be intensified to accelerate agricultural growth, resilience and nutrition improvement.



Investments in nutrition-sensitive value chains are needed to reduce price volatility, nutrient loss and enhance value addition by improving post-harvest storage, transformation and distribution and food quality and safety certifications and measures. Financial inclusion to support the resilience of agro-food MSMEs in rural areas and improvements in access to services, information and markets across food chains must continue.



The consumption of nutrient-dense foods by poor households who tend to consume less diversified diets, and by adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women who have increased micronutrient needs, must be encouraged by promoting dietary diversity and by boosting the consumption of fortified foods.



A well-financed and well-implemented safety net and social protection system to shield people from food insecurity and malnutrition, support their efforts to work out of poverty,

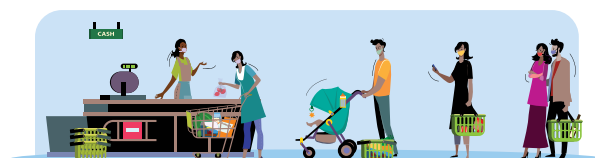
and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty is needed. Non-economic dimensions and the heterogeneity of poverty need to be factored into the design and targeting of safety nets and the social protection system.



Government and development partners' political commitment must be translated into concrete actions to contribute to the effective implementation of the CIP2. The role of non-state actors in FNS policy and strategy developed must be encouraged and the role of the private sector in achieving FNS enhanced.



Development partners' financial commitment needs to be translated into actual funding and faster delivery in investments is urgently needed for programmes that cut across the different areas of FNS, namely food safety, information and data for evidence-based monitoring for assessment of policies and programmes, strengthened FNS governance and especially, food waste and loss reduction issues.



The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have slowed down or regressed some of the FNS achievements. The food industry needs to be treated as a responsible and essential service provider to ensure continuity of operations along food value chains through the establishment of 'green channels' and providing both direct - through cash or in-kind transfers to sustain rural livelihood and indirect support through facilitated loan schemes and grants.

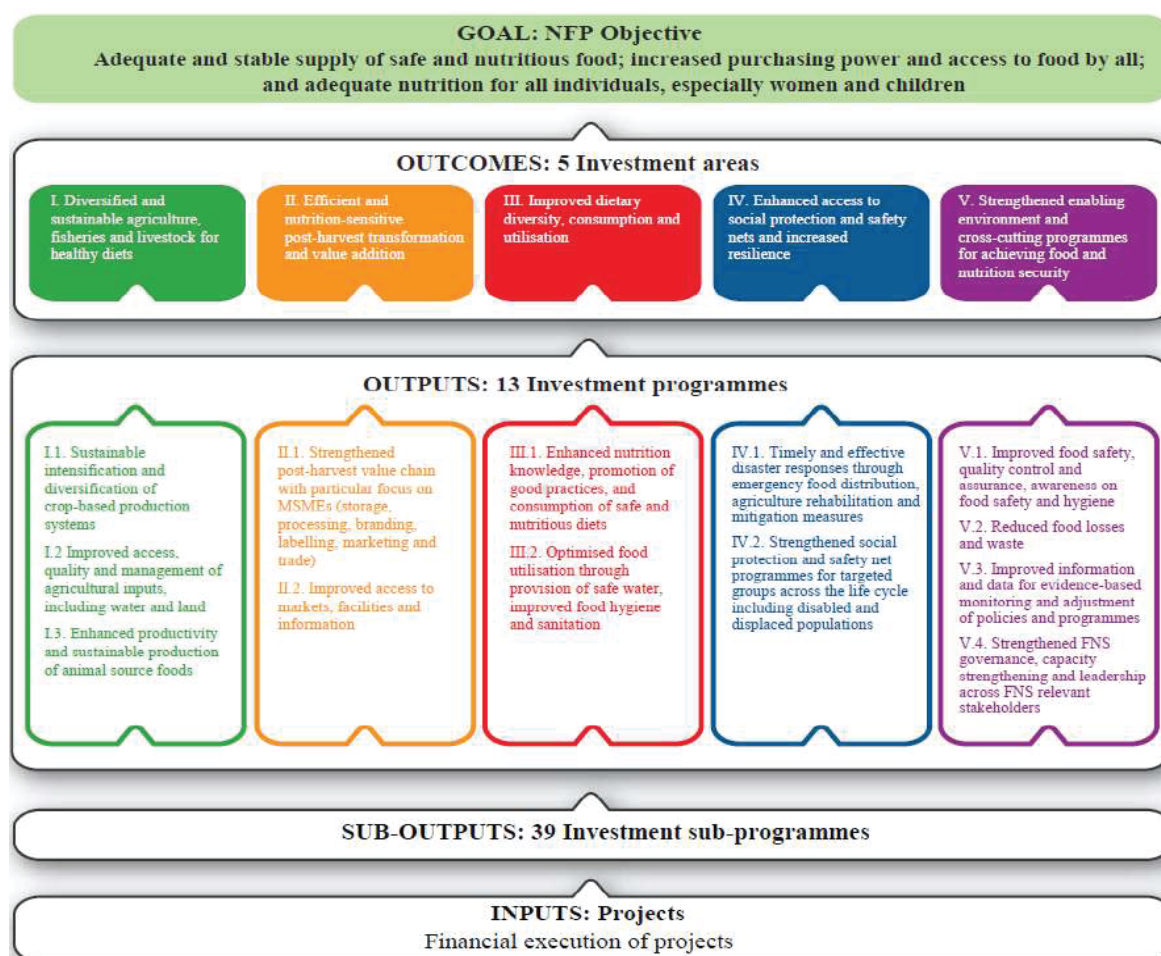
About the CIP2 Monitoring Report 2020

Bangladesh has achieved unprecedented economic growth, poverty reduction and food and nutrition security (FNS). However, its population size and density, land degradation, climate change, frequent natural disasters, rural-to-urban migration, and the triple burden of malnutrition, leave no room for complacency. It is against this backdrop that the Government of Bangladesh's Second Country Investment Plan – Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems (CIP2 2015-2021) was prepared. The goal of the CIP2 is 'to achieve improved food security and nutrition for all at all times by making food systems nutrition-sensitive and sustainable. The CIP2 is a flexible tool which can leverage financial resource allocation to fulfil the objectives of the Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP, 2016-2020) and SDGs while coping with unexpected exigencies such

as COVID-19. The CIP2 comprises 13 programmes and 39 sub-programmes articulated under the goal of the National Food Policy (NFP, 2006) and five investment areas -or outcomes (Figure 1).

The Monitoring Report 2020 (MR20) of the Second Country Investment Plan: Nutrition-Sensitive Food Systems (CIP2, 2016-2020) aims to track the FNS progress towards CIP2 and SDGs targets and related investments over the financial year 2018/19. It is a joint effort of 19 ministries/divisions' agencies led by the Ministry of Food's Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU). This monitoring report, to the extent possible, has considered the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CIP2 and SDG targets

Figure 1 - CIP2 Results Framework



Source: FPMU, Ministry of Food

Progress towards the CIP2 goal

Undernourishment is reducing slowly but steadily



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates suggest a slowly reducing trend in the prevalence of undernourishment in Bangladesh reaching 13.0% in 2017-2019. This reduction makes the General Economic Division (GED) target feasible although the COVID-19 crisis may dampen this progress. Indeed, it is expected that the crisis will reverse the gains made in nutrition improvement and impact the most vulnerable first and hardest.

Progress in reducing child undernutrition has continued but high child stunting persists in some regions



Child undernutrition has continued to reduce. Prevalence of stunting fell to 28% in 2019 which makes the 25% target by 2025 of the Seventh Five Year Plan reachable. While the national level trend is commendable, several regions lag behind, for instance, Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Barisal. Prevalence of wasting dropped to 8.4% in 2018 which is aligned with the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) 2025 target.

Access to food is improving but may worsen due to COVID-19



The prevalence of severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) improved, down to 10.6% in 2017-19 from 11.6% in 2016-18. For moderate food insecurity however, following a slight decline, the three-year average for 2016-18 and 2017-19 has stagnated at 31.5%. These figures are noticeably below the South Asia averages, which stand at 16.0% for severe food insecurity and 33.4% for moderate food insecurity over 2017-19, respectively. Given the potential impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security, it is advisable to conduct again the FIES survey which has now been adapted to capture such effects. Food insecurity is likely to have worsened for the poorest, those on the brink of poverty, those heavily dependent on remittances, and daily rural labourers.

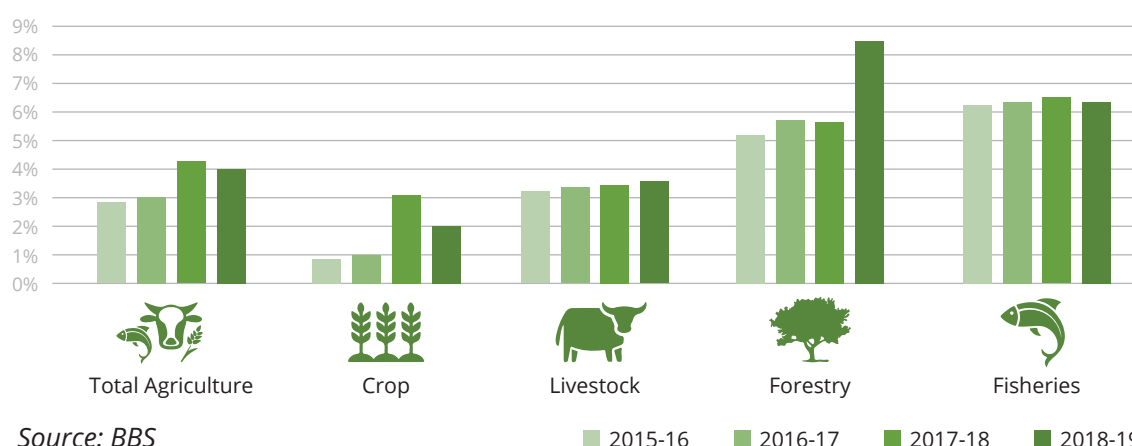
Agricultural value addition per worker is increasing, however, agricultural workers are becoming relatively poorer



Agricultural value addition per worker, a measure of agricultural productivity, increased over the period 2015-2018. The declining trend in the ratio between agricultural value-added per worker and per capita GDP taking place since 2006 suggests that agricultural workers have become relatively poorer compared to other sectors' workers. The positive trend in agricultural value-added per worker may be undermined by the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19. However, the real effect is still uncertain given that agricultural operations are essential, and all efforts will be made to allow them to continue amid the lockdown and prioritised afterward.

About the CIP2 Monitoring Report 2020

Figure 2 - GDP Sectoral growth in agriculture over the reference period (2015/16 - 2018/19)



Source: BBS

Outcome I. Efforts towards diversification in production and climate-smart investments in agriculture should be continued to counter the effects of the COVID-19 crisis

Agricultural GDP growth performed well in 2018/19. The most dynamic subsectors continued to be the fishery and forestry sectors (Figure 2). Their shares in agricultural GDP increased, which compensated for reduced shares of mainly crop and horticulture. The latter, although contracting relative to other sub-sectors, remain the largest agricultural subsectors by far, generating more than half of the value addition in agriculture and suggesting that diversification remains slow. The predominance of the crop sector is still largely due to rice production which still covers a third of the total food value-added. Meanwhile, rice import dependency slightly reduced due to improved domestic availability of rice.

- Efforts towards diversification and climate-smart investments in agriculture should be pursued. The Bangladesh Climate Smart Agriculture Investment Plan (CSAIP) represents an essential opportunity to reorient agricultural systems towards climate change resilience while maintaining a focus on productivity increases, and sustainable food and nutrition security.
- Support to producers to ensure that diversification in production is a viable and profitable choice needs to be rebalanced. Initiatives need to be incentivised and tailored to smallholders' profiles.
- It is essential to continue investing in indirect support to farmers with measures such as

the provision of access to market information, financial inclusion, data-driven analysis and technology which can help optimise agricultural practices.

- Accelerate diversified food production, with an emphasis on animal source foods and vegetables and fruits to enhance income, diets and strengthen immune systems.

Table 1 - Average crop production growth rates

Crops	2007/08-2014/15 (%)	2015/16-18/19 (%)
Rice	2.31*	2.14
Wheat	7.96*	-9.72*
Maize	10.69*	12.95*
Potato	6.37*	0.10
Pulses	8.53*	0.73
Brinjal	3.44*	3.56*
Pumpkin	4.20*	2.29*
Beans	4.81*	3.20*
Lal shak	2.02*	8.86*
Oilseeds	5.87*	-2.03
Banana	-1.78*	1.33*
Guava	4.50*	3.68
Mango	3.67*	0.50
Pineapple	-2.37*	2.59
Jackfruit	0.70	0.45

*Significant at 10% level

Programme I.1. Sustainable and diversified agriculture through integrated research & extension

Crop production showed mixed trends with a two-year consecutive growth for rice and a positive trend for maize which has been substituting wheat cultivation due to higher yields, adaptability and profitability. While the production of vegetables (particularly lal shak) and fruits (especially mango and pineapple) registered a positive trend, that of pulses and oilseeds registered a decline -albeit marginal for pulses, a worrying trend given that they constitute an inexpensive source of protein and micronutrients (Table 1). The release of new vegetables and oilseeds varieties and the production of stress-tolerant seeds accelerated, however, the share of agricultural budget allocated to research institutes dropped to just the 4.22% of the total agricultural budget, back to its CIP2 baseline level.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Exploit all-year-round production of fruits for nutritional improvement.
- Speed up the establishment of farmer service centres at union level.
- Promote and expand crop insurance programme.
- Involve the private sector to increase resilience to the effects of climate change.

Programme I.2. Improved access, quality and management of crop agricultural inputs, including water and land

The production of improved cereal seeds dropped by 1% after increases above 10% for two consecutive years. The supply of pulses, oilseeds and vegetable seeds declined substantially. The private sector concentrates on producing maize and vegetable seeds, the public sector on wheat seeds, while farmers continue to meet the largest share of their seed requirements for rice, pulses, oilseeds and potato. The supply of improved seeds to agronomic requirements dropped, except for wheat, potato and pulses.

The expansion of land under surface water irrigation slumped and is a worrying signal if irrigation is to meet future crop water requirements. Testing farm soil - essential to

assess soil nutrient content and pH which allows optimising the use of fertilisers – slightly intensified but is still slow. Urea and TSP supply was satisfactory and driven by a 53% yearly increase in fertilisers' subsidies, for urea, in particular. Agricultural credit disbursement rose by 10% in the year under review. Quality assurance for fish feed remains far behind the level witnessed at the beginning of the CIP2. The area under DAE organic farming doubled but is still marginal at 235 hectares only.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Promote on-farm production and preservation of quality seeds for pulses, oils and spices.
- Accelerate the use of organic fertiliser through better manure management.
- Expand the usage of bio-pesticides.
- Improve reservoir systems for rainwater harvesting.
- Promote mechanisation and innovation after COVID-19 through subsidies, sub-contracting agreements and low-interest loans, which will be particularly important to revive agriculture.

Programme I.3. Enhanced productivity and sustainable production of animal source foods

Fish production growth slowed down for two consecutive years to 2.4% in 2018/19. Increased feed prices, higher interest rates of institutional credit and low domestic market prices contributed to this slowdown. The share of fishery exports declined to 1.2% of total export although fisheries' contribution to agricultural GDP slightly increased. Livestock's contribution to agricultural GDP remained substantially unchanged, but the sectoral growth progressed gradually over the reference period. Egg, milk and meat production improved but the latter remains largely insufficient to meet domestic demand (Table 2 below). Livestock and poultry vaccine production and rate of artificial insemination both rebounded over the previous year. However, these encouraging trends are likely to have been stopped in their tracks by the COVID-19 pandemic with the demand and price for eggs and poultry plummeting.

Table 2 - Eggs, milk and meat production, demand and per capita availability, demand and supply coverage in 2018/19

Products	Production	Demand	Coverage (%)
Egg	17.11 billion (103.89/year/head)	17,33 billion (104/year/head)	98.8%
Milk	9.92 MMT (165.07 ml/day/head)	15.2 MMT (250 ml/day/head)	66.0%
Meat	7.51 MMT (124.99 gm/day/head)	7.297 MMT (120 gm/day/head)	104.2%

Source: DLS

*Estimated population: 166.6 million (30 June 2019)

Recommendations for further actions include:

Fisheries

- Strengthen the regulation of fish-farming.
- Promote intensive aquaculture production.
- Finalise the policy framework for cage culture.
- Bring nutrient-dense and indigenous fish species into the commercial culture.

- Harness opportunities associated with the Blue Economy.

Livestock

- Reduce feed and health management costs in intensive farming.
- Enable the cooperative and farmers' centre (or group) systems.
- Support the development of livestock sector value chain.

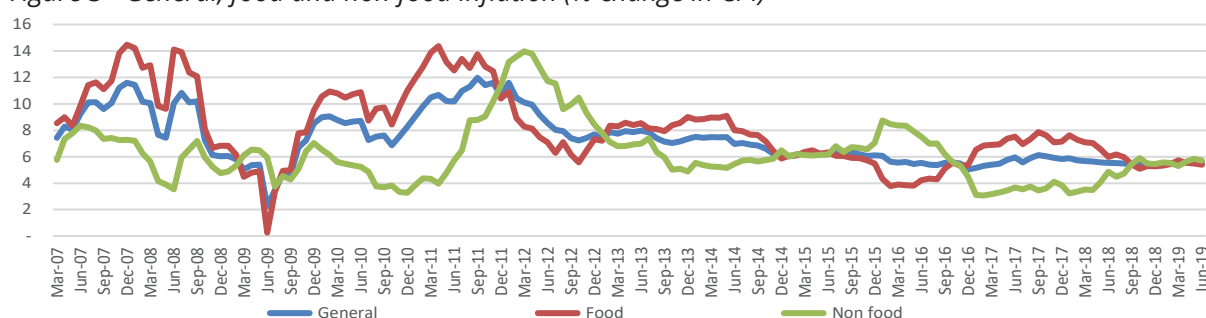
Outcome II. Real wages in agriculture only lightly improved and are still off target in a context of stable inflation

The annual price inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – the first proxy indicator under Pillar II – remained stable at 5.5% in 2018/19, a value aligned with the 2020 target (Figure 3). The Indicator Food Price Anomalies (IFPA, SDG 2.c.1) registered a low-price alert for rice, due to the significant drop in the price of rice in 2018/19 compared to the previous two years. The agricultural wage rate – measuring the purchasing power of agricultural labour force in rice terms – slightly improved year-on-year due to enhanced rice availability, reduced prices and waning import demand. However, it remains far off target. This is a concerning trend when associated with farmers extracting lower profits compared to other agents along the food value chains. Mainstreaming rural financial inclusion is essential for resilient rural

economies which are undermined by a structural lack of cash and liquidity which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, SME received an initial stimulus package from GoB of BDT 20,000 crore as a credit line facility at a subsidized interest rate of 2%, which was a timely response to the COVID-19 situation.

- Farmers' access to services, information and markets is essential. Various initiatives have been taking place to improve market linkages and bargaining power of farmers through both public – with the Second Phase of the National Agriculture Technology Programme (NATP II) project implemented by the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) – and private initiatives.

Figure 3 - General, food and non-food inflation (% change in CPI)



Source: BBS

- In order to preserve farmers' revenues and consumers' safety, it is essential to reduce price volatility and food and nutrient loss by investing in conservation of nutrients during post-harvest storage, transformation and distribution.
- Financial inclusion in rural areas continues to represent an important bottleneck for farmers and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). While initiatives to support rural financial access for priority sectors have been taking place, a key enabler for rural inclusion is achieving 'Digital Bangladesh' through mobile money and digital payments platforms in rural areas.
- Strengthen value chains across the food system focusing on value addition, gender considerations, increasing income and addressing consequences of COVID-19.

Programme II.1. Strengthened post-harvest value chain with a particular focus on MSMEs

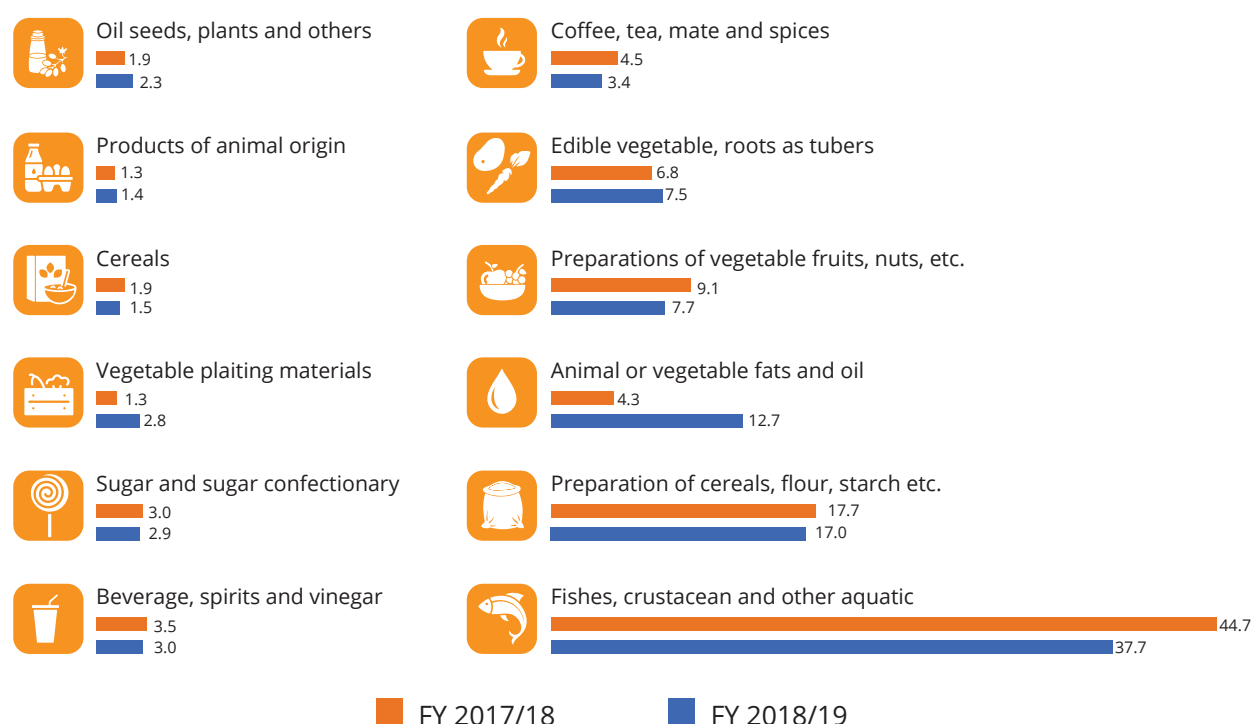
Production of medium and large food manufacturing industries continued to rise. Farmgate retail price differences widened robustly for onion, and mildly for rice, lentil

and potato, while they narrowed for brinjal and green chilli. Food and beverage exports increased by 62% over the reference period and diversified in composition (Figure 4): the contraction of the shares of fisheries exports (-7%) was been offset by the increased share of cereals (1.5%), animal and vegetable fats (13%) and sugar (3%).

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Prepare a post-harvest loss reduction strategy.
- Strengthen product certification for assuring quality and safety.
- Enhance institutional and individual capacity to support post-harvest systems.
- Strengthen partnership and collaboration to set up post-harvest facilities.
- Increase the competitive environment for agro-processing to boost exports.
- Explore blockchain as a mean of ensuring the traceability of nutrient-rich foods.
- Innovate in packaging and storage.

Figure 4 – Components of food and beverage exports in % of total value



Source: Data from BBS Foreign Trade Statistics

Programme II.2. Improved physical access to markets, facilities and information

The improvement of rural roads continued but is still off target at about half of the upazila and union roads in good and fair condition, an improvement of around 16 percentage points over the reference period. Cold storage capacity remained constant over the previous year. However, the number of Digital Centres increased from 5,286 in the baseline to 5,865 in 2018/19.

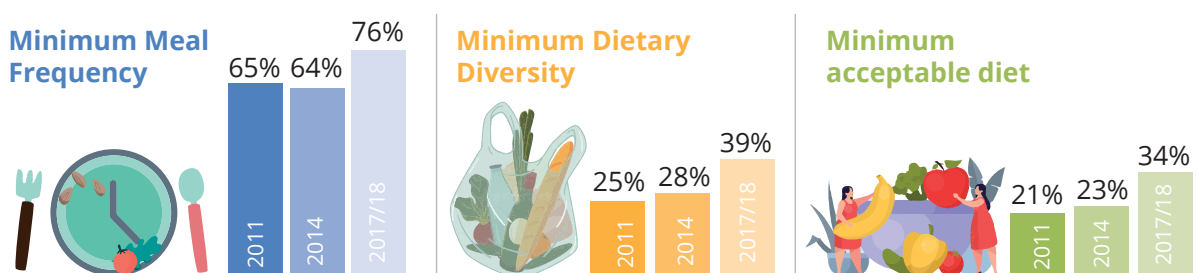
Recommendations for further actions include:

- Incentivise the private sector for high-value crop processing.

- Establish e-markets and secure payment systems.
- Facilitate the establishment of safe food through Internet of Things technologies by the private sector.
- Develop dynamic and machine learning-based early warning system.
- Encourage shorter value chains for perishable products.

Outcome III. Recent information on diversity, consumption and utilisation is scarce but there are indications of widespread micronutrient deficiencies especially among women and children

Figure 5 - Trend in minimum acceptable diet for children 6-23 months



Source: BDHS 2011, 2014 and 2017/18

Monitoring the progress of the diversity of diets, food consumption and utilisation is challenging due to lack of regular and recent data. Dietary Energy Intake from cereals was on track to achieve the recommended 60% target of dietary energy until 2016, but consumption of protein and micronutrient-rich foods, notably animal source foods, fruits and vegetables was far below the recommended intakes. The assumption that the improving, albeit slowly, trends observed until 2016 will have continued into the year under review, may have been set back, at least temporarily, by the COVID-19 crisis. The Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD), one of the eight core indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices for children aged 6-23 months recommended by WHO, showed good progress with Bangladesh on track to achieve the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) target of 40% by 2025 (Figure 5). Only half of the population consumed adequately iodised salt in 2015 and there is some evidence to suggest that Bangladesh is still far behind the

NPAN2 recommendation. There was limited progress in improving anaemia among women of reproductive age and achieving a Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) until 2016 after which data is not available.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Long term planning is needed to estimate the gaps in food availability, consumption and desirable intake, and to take remedial actions given how food systems, especially in urban areas, are evolving. Desirable dietary pattern and nutrient targets must be adopted for use in diversified food planning, creating demand for healthy food and enhancing food supply.
- Consumption of nutrient-dense foods needs to be encouraged and the intake of energy-dense and nutrient-poor foods must be reduced. Dietary diversity to enhance nutrient adequacy must continue to be promoted with specific emphasis on poorer households and among adolescent girls,

pregnant and lactating women who have increased micronutrient needs.

- Consumption of fortified foods such as rice, salt and edible oil needs to be enhanced and monitored specially to identify barriers to equitable access.
- National Nutrition Services delivery must be enhanced with strengthened linkages to nutrition-sensitive interventions under the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock.
- Scale up behaviour change communication to influence consumption of healthy diets across the lifespan, prioritising the vulnerable and at-risk groups, and to promote hygiene practices and hand washing to enhance nutrition and immunity.

Programme III.1 Enhanced nutrition knowledge, promotion of good practices, and consumption of safe and nutritious diets

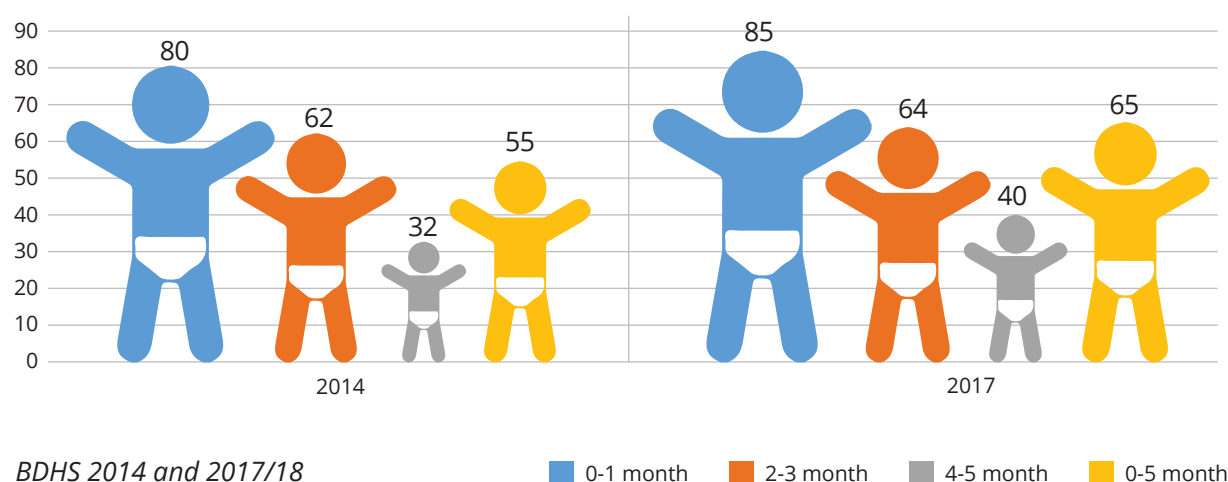
There was a remarkable increase in exclusive breastfeeding from 55.3% in 2014 to 65% in 2017, and it is likely that Bangladesh will reach the NPAN2 target of 70% by 2025. However, these numbers conceal the fact that while 80% of children aged 0-1 months were exclusively breastfed in 2017, this dropped to 40% of children aged 4-5 months (Figure 6). Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, 75% of the Dietary Energy Supply came from cereals, and although there are no data for 2018/19, lack of diversity in the Bangladeshi diet continues to be a problem, especially in poorer sections of the population. Efforts continue to promote home gardens and backyard poultry which can contribute to diversifying diets, although limited data are available for the entire

country. With regards to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Bangladesh is one of the countries with the highest burden of diabetes with cases steadily rising from 6.6 per thousand in 2010 to 9.2 in 2019. Mass media is increasingly being used to deliver messages aiming at improving nutrition behaviour. Also, the number of institutions promoting national dietary guidelines more than doubled in the year under review. Direct gender budgeting within the Ministry of Food has stalled in the year under review and needs attention given the key role women in ensuring nutrition to their children.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Revise and implement the National Strategy for IYCF.
- Promote healthy diets and lifestyles including physical activity, to tackle NCDs such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease, by introducing changes in policies related to food and improving health systems.
- Promote under-utilised foods and especially Neglected and Underutilized Species which offer superior nutritional qualities, require fewer inputs, can be grown on marginal lands, are easily intercropped or rotated with staple crops, and are likely to fit easily into integrated practices.
- Integrate Nutrition Behaviour Change Communication into nutrition-sensitive programming with nutrition-sensitive interventions such as homestead production of diverse, nutrient-rich foods and social protection programmes.

Figure 6 - Trend in exclusive breastfeeding (%) among infants, by age



Programme III.2 - Optimised food utilisation through the provision of safe water, improved food hygiene and sanitation

No progress has been registered in access to safe drinking water in the year under review. While the Department of Public Health Engineering reports that 93% of urban households and 90% of rural have access to safe drinking water, a substantial proportion is still having to drink water contaminated with E. coli and arsenic. Similarly, access to sanitary latrines remained static in 2018/19 despite significant progress at the onset of the CIP2 and a large proportion of the population thus remains at risk of faecal contamination. The number of under-five children admitted in

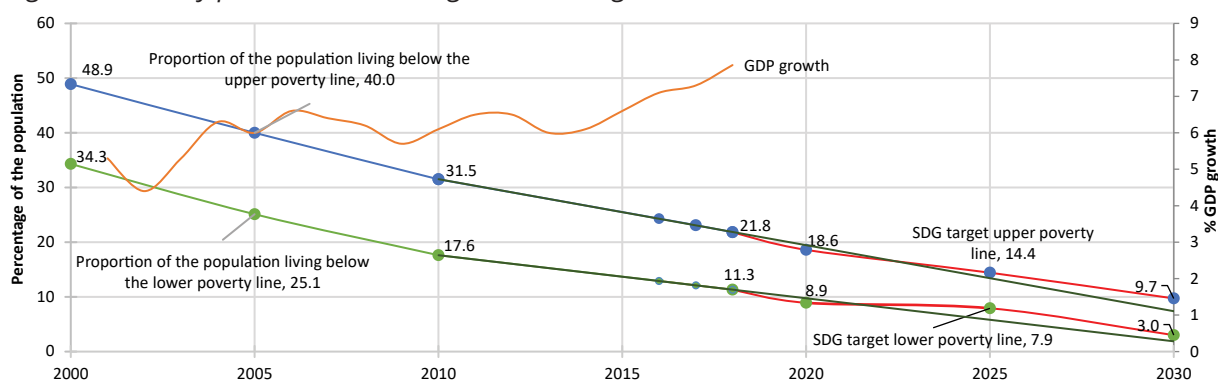
health facilities for diarrhoeal diseases rose which may be explained in part by a greater awareness by the public of the importance of seeking medical assistance in such circumstances.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Promote public and private sector partnerships for improved and innovative social and behaviour change communications.
- Integrate nutrition-sensitive WASH in policies and programmes which can help greatly reduce the level of stunting.

Outcome IV: Poverty reduction was on-track for the SDG 1 national target but will likely be slowed down by the COVID-19 crisis

Figure 7 - Poverty prevalence, SDG targets and GDP growth



Source: Data from BBS

Poverty in 2018/19 is estimated to have declined but one-in-five remains in poverty and one-in-ten lives in extreme poverty. Despite an auspicious economic situation however, poverty declined slower than the pre-2010 rate (Figure 7). The lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has led to sharp increases in poverty depth amongst the already poor, and in poverty prevalence when previously non-poor households fell into poverty.

- This situation calls for a well-financed and well-implemented safety net and social protection system to shield people from food and nutrition insecurity, support their efforts to work out of poverty, and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.
- Non-economic dimensions of poverty need to be considered in the way social protection is designed and targeted. 'Decent jobs' need to be created and marketable education and

skills provided to low-income groups to allow them to share the economic growth and prevent a further rise in inequality.

- While urban poverty needs to be tackled as it has been less responsive to anti-poverty programmes, rural industry and services need to be incentivised. The heterogeneity of poverty at national, regional but even household level must be considered to adapt programmes.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that escape from poverty is a fragile situation that can be reversed within weeks. Measures are needed to help people over the poverty line but also to ensure they are resilient to shocks. Particular attention needs to be paid to equity, to ensure that all forms of policy, action, and social protection support to cover the poorest and most vulnerable, leaving no one behind.

Programme IV.1. Timely and effective disaster preparedness and responses through emergency food distribution, agriculture rehabilitation and mitigation measures

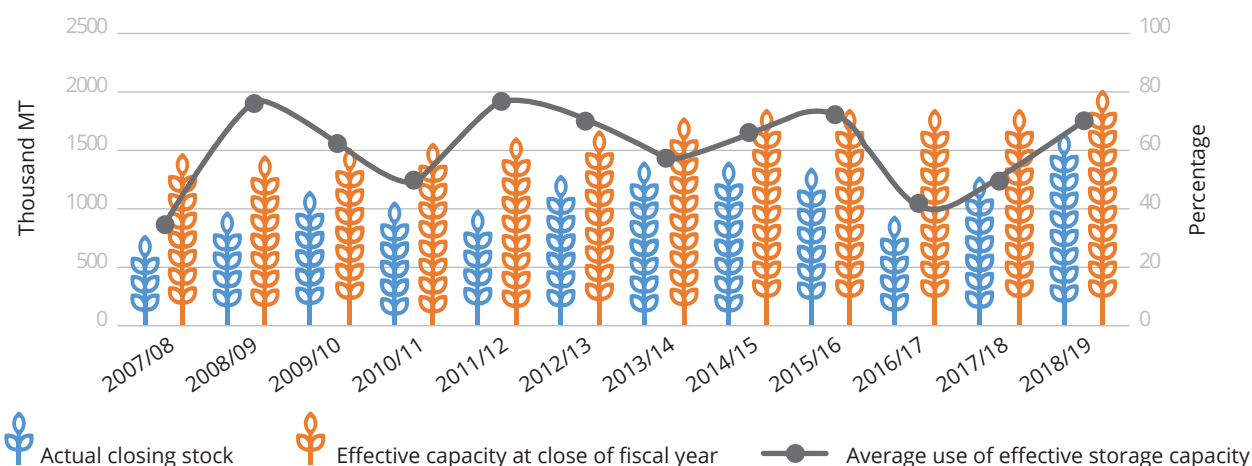
The number of usable cyclone shelters increased but it remains substantially short of the 7FYP target. The number of rural communities with disaster-resilient habitats and assets increased from 7,934 in 2017/18 to 11,604 in 2018/19. The total foodgrain distributed through the Public Food Distribution System (PFDS) increased marginally to 1,132 thousand MT in 2018/19, somewhat lower than at baseline. Grain storage capacity increased by 8% from the previous year after several years of stagnation. The average use of food grain storage capacity in 2018/19 was 73%, after two years of low utilisation (Figure 8): a 75% utilisation may be considered close to full capacity given the seasonality of procurement and the impossibility of attaining full capacity for more than a short time in traditional storage facilities. This improvement suggests a greater ability to respond to unexpected shocks using the PFDS. Actual closing stocks, compared to the budgeted target, sharply increased from 64% in 2017/18 to 129% in 2018/19.

in 2018/19. Five important initiatives aimed to enhance early warning information continue in place. Finally, direct gender budget in the total budget of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was 34.7 % in 2018/19, the same as the previous year, and a significant drop against the baseline figure.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Continue improving safe storage capacity, especially in remote areas and at the community level to ensure food security and safety during and after disasters.
- Ensure safe drinking water and sanitation for people affected by disasters.
- Scale-up forecast-based early action to reduce the impact of shocks on vulnerable people by improving the effectiveness of emergency preparedness and livelihoods, response and recovery efforts, and reducing the humanitarian burden.
- Pay greater attention to gender sensitivity in disaster preparedness and responses.

Figure 8 – GoB food grain closing stock, effective storage capacity and average use of storage capacity



Source: Ministry of Food

Programme IV.2. Strengthened social protection and safety net programmes for targeted groups across the life cycle, including disabled and displaced populations

The Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) coverage was static at 139.81 hundred thousand person months in 2018/19. The Investment Component for VGD (ICVGD) which adds a cash grant for investment, 30 kg of fortified rice, and training on livelihoods,

entrepreneurship, financial management and nutrition Behaviour Change and Communication, was to be upscaled and but implementation was delayed. The School Feeding Programme in Poverty Prone Areas continued to expand while the budget allocation for the Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest remained unchanged. Overall, the weight of safety net programmes in total GDP continued to rise, up to 2.54% of GDP in 2018/19, compared to 2.17% in the previous year.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Expedite the finalisation and operationalisation of the National Household Database to enhance the responsiveness and scalability of adaptive social protection to shocks and disasters, especially to include geographically remote areas, urban slums, haor and char regions.

- Fine tune the digitization of G2P social benefits' payments and expand it nationwide.
- Strengthen and upscale urban social protection systems.

Outcome V: The institutional setup to monitor FNS is well established and functional

Institutions and platforms to monitor FNS progress are working effectively. The CIP2 monitoring occurs yearly and the new National Food and Nutrition Security Policy has been drafted and is currently under Cabinet approval. However, the policy landscape in FNS is fast evolving and new challenges are emerging all the time, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- This calls for appropriate and versatile capacities to handle analyses of changes. The existence of analytical and monitoring capacities within the government in the context of an ever-changing FNS context needs to be institutionalised rather than rely on piecemeal capacity strengthening projects.
- Political commitment is required to ensure that FNS translates into concrete actions both for the government and for development partners so as to allow effective participation of all stakeholders in the processes in place and efficient processes. Achievement of the CIP2 goal and SDG 2 requires contributions from all the food system's stakeholders – from Civil Society Organisations to academia and the private sector.
- Strengthen and widen access to real time monitoring of FNS information, and mechanisms to inform and take remedial actions to protect the food system in national crises, such as COVID-19.

Programme V.1. Improved food safety, quality control and assurance, awareness on food safety and hygiene

An additional 440 thousand farmers have been trained on the use of organic fertiliser, green fertiliser and microbial fertiliser since 2015/16, and the number of Bangladesh

Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) food safety certificates of compliance almost doubled to 18 compared to just five in the baseline year. The number of processed foods standardized by BSTI under compulsory certification remained unchanged which is worrying given that the actual number of products covered is abysmally low compared to the number of food items on the market. The number of violations of food safety standards reported by the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA) picked up again. The number of HACCP/FSMS certified institutions continued to rise, albeit at a slower pace. On the one hand, more emphasis has been put on delivering training on GAP but on the other, GHP and GMP trainings have slowed down. These numbers remain too low to make a real impact at the national level. The National and World Food Safety Days continued to be observed.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Strengthen the capacities of the BFSA and testing laboratories not only in districts but also at upazila level.
- Continue educating and raising awareness on food safety through formal education to produce competent graduates working in the field of food inspection, control, audit and surveillance services.
- Continue promoting the demand for and supply of organic fertilisers and develop and apply standards for organic produce.
- Strictly implement and monitor existing laws.
- Develop certification to enable exports in the fisheries sector for example.
- Execute existing antibiotics poultry feed ban.

- Enhance results of waste management improvement efforts in Dhaka but also in other cities and towns, as well as in Cox's Bazar where the displaced Rohingya population crisis has resulted in the exponential increase in waste creation in an area with no infrastructure to handle the issue.
- Accelerate waste disaggregation and sensitise the general population to the 3R concept of reducing (consumption), recycling and reusing.
- Develop policy guidelines and seller's registration for safe and healthy street food vending.
- Build the capacity of educational and research institutions with modernized curricula for postharvest management and cutting-edge research facilities.
- Develop adequate postharvest systems through skilled human resources and equipped institution.
- Promote education and awareness of the numerous stakeholders of the food system including public sector agents, private sector industry fora/associations and households.
- Adopt and adapt practices and innovations from across the globe to reduce waste.

Programme V.2. Reduced food losses and waste

Recent information on food loss and waste (FLW) is not yet available in Bangladesh: although levels of postharvest losses of specific food commodities have been estimated over the years, there are no recent nationally representative data generated through an approved or widely recognized methodology on the magnitude of FLW in Bangladesh.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Develop a national strategy on the reduction of FLW involving both the public and private sectors in critical areas of the food supply chain such as storage, transportation, food processing and packaging industries. Adequately quantifying FLW across the food system is a prerequisite to the development of this strategy.
- Encourage adoption of good practices in on and off farm operations to reduce losses and maintain quality and safety.
- Create an enabling environment to promote the right technologies, systems and incentives that will encourage the adoption of favourable to FLW reduction measures.
- Develop, invest and apply appropriate technologies to reduce FLW.
- Increase food processing capacity.
- Encourage public and private sector initiatives as well as partnerships between them for the reduction of FLW.

Programme V.3. Improved information and data for evidence-based monitoring and adjustment of policies and programmes

A variety of Government and non-Government FNS data sources continue to inform policy analysts and policymakers. These are surveys and surveillance systems contributing to inform nutrition-sensitive policies and programmes and providing updates on coverage and effectiveness of nutrition-specific interventions. Since the finalisation of the Bangladesh FCTs in June 2013, their further update and translation into Bangla, their dissemination has been ongoing through various activities.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Continue efforts to produce SDG indicators' and other relevant FNS data: out of the 232 SDG indicators, data were only readily available for 70 indicators, with a lag of up to three years for some.
- Strengthen policy uptake of evidence by policymakers by reinforcing capacities to produce evidence but also to understand and use the evidence by policymakers and leaders.
- Improve knowledge and information on gender-related issues through sex-disaggregated data.

Programme V.4. Strengthened FNS governance, capacity strengthening and leadership across FNS

FPMU, along with 18 other Ministries and Government agencies, continues to lead and coordinate the annual production of the CIP monitoring reports. High-level FNS focal points across core ministries have been established and function efficiently (see Outcome) to supply information towards and contribute to the yearly CIP monitoring reporting cycle. The SUN index for 'Bringing people together into a shared space for action' which gauges the degree to which internal harmonisation and coordination have evolved, remains quite high at 75%, but unchanged from the previous year.

Finally, calls continue for the Right to Food to be enshrined in law since the Constitution guarantees the Right to Food but does not legally establish it.

Recommendations for further actions include:

- Ensure adequate capacities to ensure policy alignment and results monitoring.
- Adapt capacities to the changing FNS landscape.
- Consider the possibility of adopting a nutrition-sensitive budgeting and financing.

CIP2 financing

Table 3. Summary of the CIP2 2020 budget (as of 30th June 2019, in million USD)

Pillar	Total CIP2			Financed			Pipeline		
	Total	GoB	DP	Total	GoB	DP	Total	GoB	DP
I: Primary production	6,833	3,008	3,826	3,849	2,635	1,214	2,984	372	2,612
II: Market & value chain	6,931	5,786	1,144	6,699	5,746	952	232	40	192
III: Diversified consumption	1,422	1,121	299	1,228	979	249	194	142	51
IV: Social protection	3,567	2,255	1,311	3,492	2,181	1,311	75	75	0
V: Cross-cutting	472	227	245	436	208	228	36	19	17
Total	19,225	12,397	6,826	15,704	11,749	3,955	3,521	648	2,872

As of 30th June 2019, the CIP2 cumulative budget over the period 1st July 2016 – 30th June 2020 was 19.2 billion USD (Table 2). Weighting projects according to how nutrition-sensitive they are, reduces this total to 12.2 billion USD. Of the total budget, 15.7 billion USD (82%) was already financed in the form of ongoing projects or projects already completed since the beginning of the CIP2, mainly through government funding (75%). The remaining 18%, or 3.5 billion USD, represented the financial gap, i.e. pipeline projects which mainly consists of development partners' (DPs) financial commitments (82%). which needs to be translated into actual funding. DPs' financed resources have accelerated through the CIPs, from 13% in the first year of implementation (2016/17) to 39% in the third year (2018/19). This is an encouraging trend which would allow to translate the financial gap into actual resource mobilised. However, the cumulative delivery stood at 6 billion USD and represents only 38% of total financed budget as of 30th June 2019. Out of the total delivery, the GoB and DPs shares are 79% and 21%, respectively.

Development partners need to continue mobilising resources to ensure their commitments are translated into financed budget and faster delivery.

- While yearly delivery has improved compared to the previous implementation year - except for Pillar II Market & value chain- it still needs to speed up, especially for DP-supported projects. Investments in FNS are due to continue beyond the life of the CIP2 after 30th June 2020, and currently stand at 11.7 billion USD.
- Investments are urgently needed under the Cross-cutting Pillar V, especially in the programme aiming to reduce food waste and losses.
- Despite consisting of four programmes and ten subprogrammes, the Cross-cutting Pillar only represented 2.5% of the total CIP2 budget as of 30th June 2019. Given the importance of the issues covered under this area of intervention in creating an environment that can enable other

interventions to work towards achieving FNS, it is essential that the government and its private sector and development partners start channelling investments towards these programmes. In particular, the programme which aims to reduce food waste and losses, remains to be populated with projects.

- Delivery of the Market and value chains Pillar needs to improve.
- As of 30th June 2019, cumulative delivery – the actual expenditure over the three years of CIP2 implementation - stood at about 6

billion USD, 61% of which was nutrition-sensitive. Both total and nutrition-sensitive delivery represented the 38% of the cumulative total financed and nutrition-sensitive budget respectively. Cumulative delivery in the total CIP2 financed budget improved for all Pillars compared to a year earlier – except for Market & value chains. An acceleration in delivery is thus needed, especially if all the financed budget is to be delivered within the CIP2 period.

The Monitoring Report 2020 is the result of a joint effort by:

Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs; Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; Ministry of Environment; Forest and Climate change; Ministry of Finance (Finance Division and Economic Relations Division); Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; Ministry of Food; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Health Service Division); Ministry of Industries; Ministry of Local Government; Rural Development and Cooperatives (LG Division and RDC Division); Ministry of Planning (Planning Commission, Statistics and Informatics Division and IMED); Ministry of Primary and Mass Education; Ministry of Social Welfare; Ministry of Water Resources; and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.



Coordinated by the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), Ministry of Food, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, with the technical support of the Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge (MUCH) project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Contact details: FPMU, Ministry of Food, Khaddya Bhaban, 16 Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh;
dgfpmu@mofood.gov.bd



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations