Accelerating progress to end hunger and undernutrition

Shenggen Fan
Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Overview

• Progress to end hunger and undernutrition must be accelerated in the world and in Bangladesh

• Bangladesh faces challenges for sustainably ensuring food security and nutrition

• Compact2025 is designed to help accelerate progress in Bangladesh and beyond
Global hunger is on the rise

Number and prevalence of undernourishment in the world (%)

Source: FAO 2017

NOTE: Prevalence and number of undernourished people in the world, 2000–2016. Figures for 2016 are projected estimates. SOURCE: FAO.
Despite progress, child undernutrition persists around the world.

Prevalence of under-5 child stunting (%)

- Africa: 36.2% (2005), 31.2% (2016)
- Asia: 33.6% (2005), 29.5% (2016)
- LAC: 23.9% (2005), 22.9% (2016)
- Global: 15.7% (2005), 11% (2016)

Hidden Hunger Index (micronutrient deficiencies)

Source: UNICEF/WHO/WB 2017

Bangladesh: 44% women anemic
30% children VAD

Source: Muthayya et al. 2014
Progress must be accelerated to end hunger and undernutrition in Bangladesh by 2025

Prevalence of undernourishment in Bangladesh (%)

Prevalence of under-5 child stunting in Bangladesh (%)

Source: FAO 2017

Source: UNICEF/WHO/WB 2017
Unpacking undernutrition in Bangladesh
Linking child stunting to underlying factors

Contributions of underlying factors to changes in height-for-age

Source: Global Nutrition Report 2016
Accelerating progress to achieve multiple SDGs
Ending hunger and undernutrition will help to achieve many SDGs
Challenges for sustainably ensuring food security and nutrition
Key trends and challenges to sustainably ensuring food security and nutrition

- Rising middle class, urbanization, changing diets
- Climate change, extreme weather events
- Agriculture-related risks, food safety scandals
- Growing land, water constraints
- Persistent conflicts
- Increased inequality
Recommendations to end hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh

- Invest in agriculture R&D to produce more with less
- Fix the fundamentals: marketing, infrastructure, trade
- Empower women in agriculture
- Transform smallholder agriculture
- Support efficient, inclusive value chains
Compact2025: Helping accelerate progress in Bangladesh and beyond
It is possible to accelerate progress

- Global community has higher priority on ending hunger and undernutrition

- Successful countries have shortened the learning curve
  - Large successes in reducing hunger have been country-led, e.g. Green Revolution in Asia

- Greater awareness of cross-sectoral issues
  - Access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) linked to child stunting reduction
  - Women’s empowerment in agriculture → better productivity, agricultural and dietary diversity, food security, nutrition
Compact2025’s approaches for accelerating progress

Engaging countries

Stimulating knowledge and innovation

Supporting initiatives and partnerships

National initiatives, regional commitments (African Union), international partnerships (SUN), global goals (SDGs), and others

Compact2025: evidence-based support
Facilitating South-South learning workshop in Bangkok

• Shared lessons on Thailand’s success and experiences from other countries with over 50 stakeholders from Africa and Asia, including C2025 Focal Countries

• Key points from meeting include
  – Nutrition efforts must be country-driven
  – Research is critical for producing knowledge and policy advice for government
  – Community-led mobilization with M&E, supported by modern technologies, can improve tracking at all levels
  – The private sector can play a key role in supporting nutrition efforts given the right policy environment
  – Mutual learning by bringing together different countries, stakeholders is critical
High-level participation and multi-sectoral representation, including

- Economic Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh
- Government, development partners, NGOs, private sector, research institutes and others
- Agriculture, health, nutrition, social protection, education, gender and other sectors

Recommendations from Bangladesh Roundtable Discussion

- Make strategies, policies, and programs more nutrition-driven
- Empower women, smallholders, and consumers
- Fine-tune, consolidate, and operationalize policies
- Improve coordination and engage with non-traditional partners
- Fill data and knowledge gaps
Compact2025 in Bangladesh

Compact2025 - Bangladesh K&I Hub

- Establishing a **Compact2025 K&I Hub** with Bangladesh’s Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) in the Prime Minister’s Office acting as a platform

- Proposed functions include
  - Supporting Bangladesh’s food and nutrition security strategies
  - Developing research and analytical capacity
  - Conducting joint research on priority areas
  - Advocating for policies and programs
Compact2025 uses research, innovation, and partnerships to help sustainably eliminate hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh and beyond.