

Bangladesh District Nutrition Profile

Visualizing progress and accelerating efforts
to improve coverage and effectiveness of
nutrition services



Nutrition Profile:

Evidence-based planning and data-driven decision making is important to address bottlenecks and ensure effective coverage of nutrition services. In order to empower policy makers and districts government officials to assess and track the performance of nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions, the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNCC), in collaboration with nutrition stakeholders, has developed national-, division-, and district-level nutrition profiles. The profiles have thereby been designed to represent the multi-sectoral dependency of nutrition, and provide an integrative understanding of the nutritional status of women and children along key nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive indicators. The indicators have been linked with the SDGs, as well as World Health Assembly targets on nutrition and include indicators on the underlying determinants of undernutrition, such as food security, health services, WASH, education, and social protection services. To provide reference and comparison, the profiles include both data on the current, and last year's status of key nutrition-related services and indicators.

Besides presenting an integrative overview of nutrition-related indicators, the profiles are meant to serve as a visualization tool that can help facilitate evidence-based planning, conduct performance analysis and take correct measures to improve the coverage and responsiveness of nutrition services. As such, the tool will help enhance accountability at various levels and catalyze actions for programme improvements. Specifically, the profiles can help:

1. Assess the districts' nutrition status at a glance
2. Assess the districts' progress against national nutrition targets
3. Track coverage of key nutrition specific and -sensitive interventions
4. Review the current implementation, and plan and implement district actions to improve programme performance

Nutrition Profile development process:

The district scorecards have been developed by the BNCC with the technical support of the Nutrition Information Planning Unit (NIPU) and in collaboration with various nutrition stakeholders through an extensive consultative process.

During the first stage, various profiles and scorecards used in the country and around the world were compiled and studied for their objectives and functionality. Based on this review, an initial draft was designed, bearing in mind that the data used in the profile will have to be endorsed by the government, and need to be available at the district level on at least an annual basis.

On 12-13 May 2018, a stakeholder engagement workshop was organized to review the draft. This workshop further reinforced the notion that the profiles should capture multi-sectoral indicators and it serve as a tool to track progress against the second National Plan of Action on Nutrition (NPAN2).

Thereafter, NIPU, in the Institute of Public Health Nutrition, with engagement of technical experts from GAIN, HKI, NI and UNICEF refined and finalised the profile. Various line ministries were consulted regarding the relevance and acceptability of indicators. In February 2019, a stakeholder engagement survey was conducted among key partners to further define the objectives and use of the profiles, and seek feedback on the revised draft. The team also engaged with authorities of relevant ministries and with district administration.

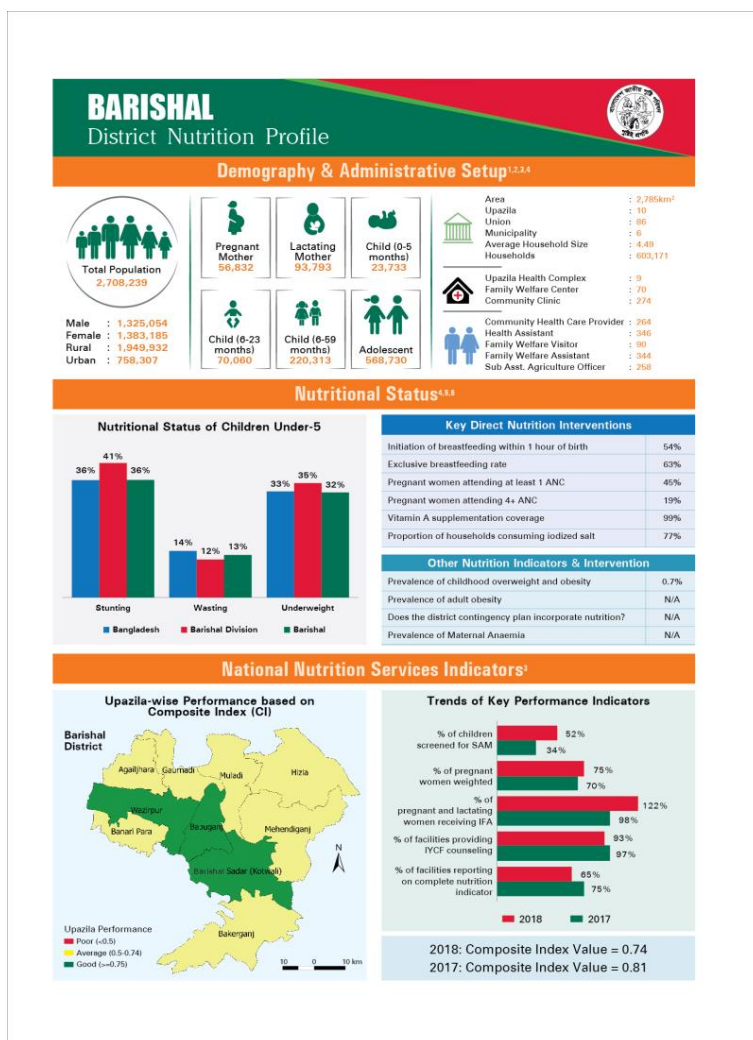
The references and data sources used are listed in the data and indicators table and also key contributors/ organisations have been also highlighted.

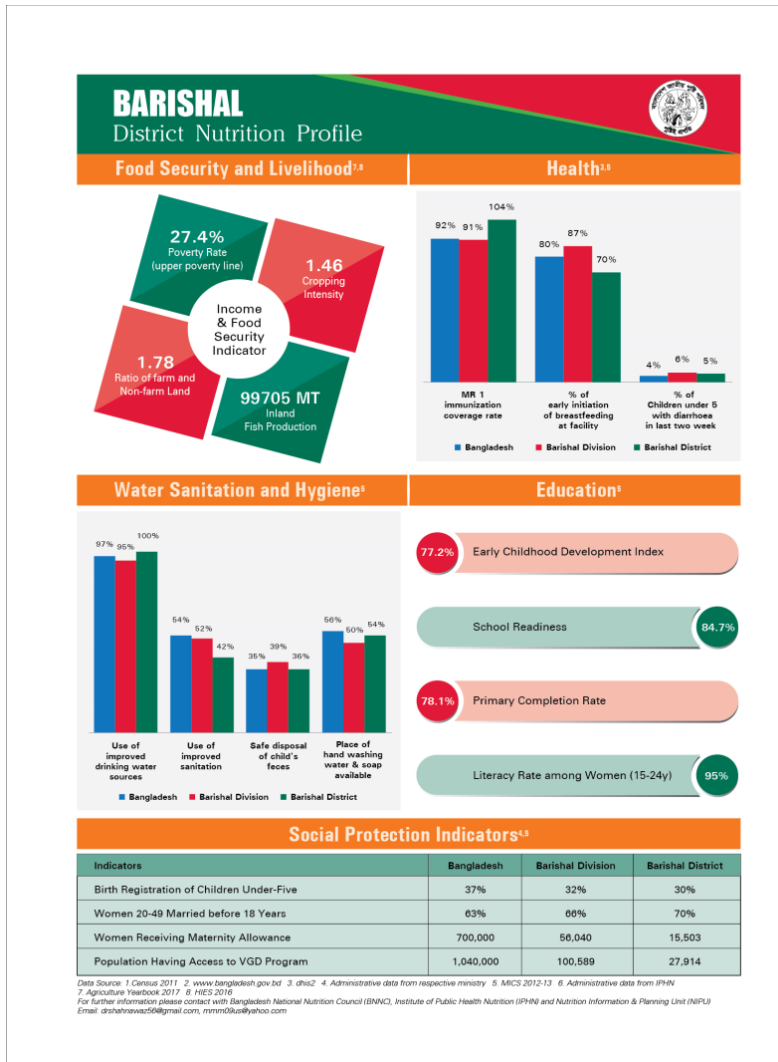
Guidelines:

The profile consists of eight sections.

1. Demography & Administrative Setup of the district.
2. Overall nutrition status, divided into two parts. The first part highlights the overall nutrition status of children: (the prevalence of stunting, wasting and underweight, which are impact level indicators and linked with SDGs and WHA targets). The second part includes key infant and young child feeding indicators such as the initiation of breastfeeding within one hour after birth and the exclusive breastfeeding rate. Here, coverage of ANC, vitamin A supplementation and iodized salt are also reported.
3. Output level indicators - status of key interventions of the National Nutrition Services with Upazila level status breakdown.

How each Upazila is performing in terms of provision of nutrition services is visualized in a map, color coded in different levels of performance. The performance level is defined based on a composite index of the key performance indicators. Upazila scoring <0.50 are categorized as having poor performance, between 0.5 to 0.74 as average and >=0.75 as good.





The second page starts with:

4. Food Security and Livelihood information. This section describes the level of poverty and food security level indicators for the district, which are key underlying factors and increase the risk of under nutrition.

5. Health section, the graphs display the health status of the district by immunization coverage of Measles and Rubella 1st dose, the promotion of early initiation of breastfeeding at facilities, and incidences of diarrhea reported in last two week.

6. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), which is an important determinant for undernutrition.

Adequate care and child stimulation are crucial from the conception and the first two years of life.

7. Education. This section also describes early childhood development indicators such as

the Early Childhood Development Index, which is a multi-dimensional approach to assessing child well-being.

8. The last section relates to social protection issues and initiatives that are aimed at reducing vulnerability to food and nutrition insecurity. Data on the Maternity allowance and Vulnerable Group Development Programmes give insights on important national initiatives to address undernutrition with equity.

Overall the nutrition profiles serve as a nutrition landscape data visualization,The district statuses can be compared to national and divisional performance.