



Field Visit
Report

August 2026

Pathways to Better Nutrition and Social Wellbeing

Observations on dietary practices, behaviour change and social protection in Gouripur



FIELD VISIT REPORT

Pathways to Better Nutrition and Social Wellbeing

Observations on dietary practices, behaviour change and social protection in Gouripur



Members of the SSPS delegation seated with participants at a courtyard session, Gouripur Union, 22 August 2026.

LOCATION	Gouripur Upazila, Mymensingh District
DATES	21 to 23 August 2026
THEME	Nutrition, behaviour change and social protection
DELEGATION MEMBERS	Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager; Mohammad Mahfuzul Bari, ICT Expert (MIS-GIS); Shantanu Chanda, National Consultant – Programme Support and Communication; Sadia Afrin Suvra, National Consultant – Social Protection Research and Policy Support; Sanjida Sultana, Research Associate Khondokar Mostan Hossain, Advisor, Strengthening Institutions, Policies and Services (SIPS) Programme of UNDP Bangladesh and three other members from GAIN in Bangladesh

Report prepared by:
Sanjida Sultana, Research Associate
 Social Security Policy Support Programme, UNDP Bangladesh

ABOUT THIS REPORT**Purpose and Partners**

This report has two purposes. First, it documents what the delegation from the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme observed during a three-day joint field mission with GAIN Bangladesh to Gouripur Upazila, Mymensingh District, between 21 and 23 August 2026: the meetings attended, the courtyard sessions observed, and the accounts given directly by officials, food dealers, youth volunteers and beneficiaries. Second, it sets out what those observations may indicate for the design of Bangladesh's next social security framework, specifically whether and how nutrition objectives can be built into a social protection instrument rather than pursued alongside it.

The report is an observation-based field mission record, not an evaluation. It does not measure or claim that any programme outcome has been achieved. Its conclusions are stated as what was observed, what that indicates, and what the potential implications may be, so that a reader can trace every claim back to its source in the field.

Contents

Contents.....	4
Evidence Sources Used in This Report	6
Context and problem.....	7
From mission to policy implications	8
What the mission observed.....	8
Evidence gaps remaining.....	9
2.1 A transition in the social protection system	10
2.2 The nutrition deficit behind the poverty numbers	10
2.3 The Food-Friendly Programme as a nutrition sensitive instrument.....	10
2.4 Behavioural and structural barriers.....	11
3.1 The first meeting, 6 August 2026	12
3.2 The proposal for a joint policy paper.....	12
3.3 What GAIN brings.....	13
The SUN Youth Network.....	13
4.1 The virtual planning meeting.....	14
4.2 Building the survey instrument	14
4.3 Evidence gaps identified before the mission	14
5.1 The model.....	15
5.2 The Uthan Boithok, or courtyard meeting.....	16
5.3 Why the youth mechanism matters institutionally.....	16
Day 1. Friday, 21 August. Dhaka to Mymensingh.....	19
Day 2. Saturday, 22 August. Gouripur Upazila.....	19
Arrival and the meeting of line agencies	19
To the field.....	22
Day 3. Sunday, 23 August. Return to Dhaka	22
8.1 Government officials.....	22
8.2 Food dealers	23
8.3 Youth volunteers	24
9.1 Purpose and method.....	24
9.2 What the survey indicated.....	25
9.3 Continuing the evidence.....	26
10.1 Setting and participation.....	26
10.2 The learning session.....	27
10.3 Knowledge, practice and what sits between them	27

10.4 What emerged in the discussion afterwards.....	28
11.1 Monoara.....	28
11.2 Selima Begum.....	29
11.3 What the two accounts have in common.....	29
Sequencing	34

Evidence Sources Used in This Report

Four kinds of evidence stand behind the statements in this report. Specific sources are named in the text, in footnotes, or in the references at Annex G.

Evidence type	What it covers
Field observation	What the delegation saw, heard and recorded: the line agency meeting, two courtyard sessions, interviews with beneficiaries, youth volunteers and food dealers, and the delegation's own planning sessions.
Programme information	Documentation of the SSPS Programme and of the activity observed, used for context and alignment.
Research evidence	The household survey presented by the Bangladesh Agricultural University team at Gouripur, together with published national surveys.
Published sources	Government announcements, national statistical surveys and organizational publications, cited at Annex G.

A note on numbers. *Figures spoken by participants are reported as stated and attributed to the speaker in the text. Every such figure is listed at Annex F with its verification status, and several require confirmation before use in a policy submission. No statistic appears in this report that does not come from the mission record or from a published source named in the references.*

01 Executive Summary

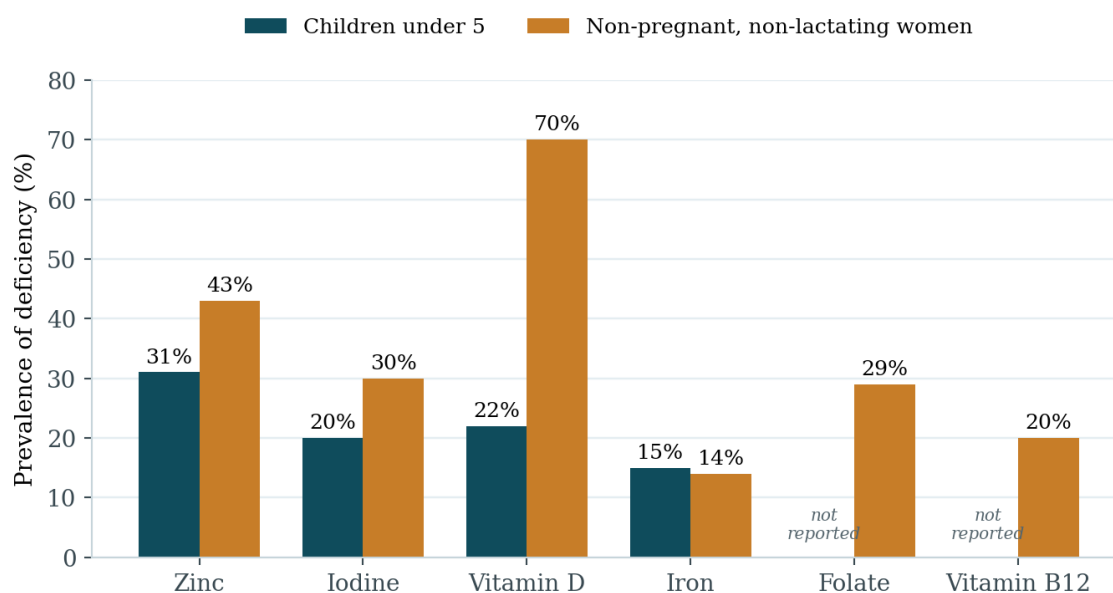
The problem addressed, the purpose of the mission, what was observed and what it may imply.

Context and problem

Bangladesh has reduced income poverty substantially, but nutritional deprivation has not fallen at the same rate. National survey evidence indicates roughly 31 per cent of children under five stunted, 22 per cent underweight and 8 per cent wasted (Khan *et al.*, 2024)¹, with around 19 per cent of the population experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity (Tariqujjaman *et al.*, 2023). Rice accounts for approximately 68 per cent of daily caloric intake (Saha *et al.*, 2021), so for the poorest households the nutritional quality of rice is very close to the nutritional quality of the diet.

The most recent National Micronutrients Survey shows two deficiencies worsening since the previous round: iron and folate. Both are addressed directly by rice fortification. Among non-pregnant, non-lactating women, iron deficiency rose by around seven percentage points and folate deficiency by around twenty (New Age, 2022).²

This creates a specific problem for social protection design. A commodity transfer can carry micronutrients to millions of households, and the Food-Friendly Programme already does so. A cash transfer raises purchasing power. Neither, on its own, changes what a household decides to cook and eat. Where the constraint is cost, habit and intra household decision making, an instrument delivering only a commodity or only cash may under deliver on nutrition outcomes while still performing well against consumption poverty indicators.



¹ Khan *et al.* (2024) analyse data from the 2017/18 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey. This is a different survey round from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022 cited elsewhere in this report for the national stunting comparator (24 per cent); the two figures are not directly interchangeable.

² The National Micronutrients Survey 2019 to 2020 was conducted by icddr,b with UNICEF Bangladesh, GAIN and the Institute of Public Health Nutrition. Comparisons are against the first National Micronutrient Survey of 2011 to 2012.

Figure 1. Prevalence of selected micronutrient deficiencies, National Micronutrients Survey 2019 to 2020. Source: New Age (2022).

From mission to policy implications

The SSPS Programme conducted this field visit while the current National Social Security Strategy action period draws to a close and a successor framework is under preparation, and while the Family Card is being introduced as a platform-based instrument issued in the name of the female head of household, with beneficiaries selected through Proxy Means Test scoring (The Daily Star, 2026a). The question carried into the field was whether nutrition objectives can be built into the design of a social security instrument rather than pursued alongside it.

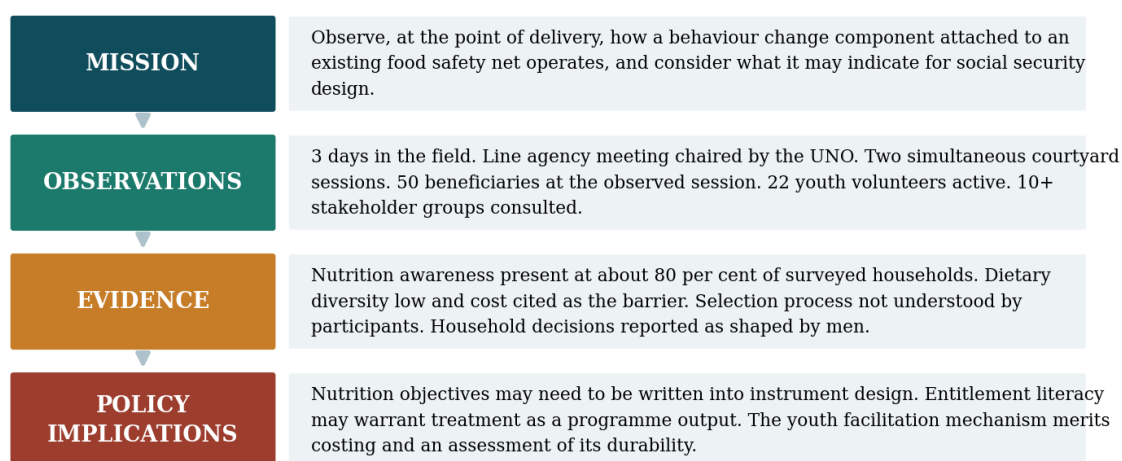


Figure 2. The mission in summary: purpose, what was observed, what the evidence indicated, and the implications that follow.

What the mission observed

ACTIVITIES OBSERVED	BENEFICIARY CONDITIONS	OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHTED
▶ Line agency meeting chaired by the UNO ▶ Government stakeholder discussion ▶ Two simultaneous courtyard sessions ▶ Beneficiary discussions after sessions ▶ Youth volunteer interviews ▶ Food dealer interactions	▶ Nutrition knowledge present ▶ Selection process not understood ▶ Rice reported insufficient in quantity ▶ Household decisions shaped by men ▶ Limited household assets observed ▶ Mobile financial access uneven	▶ Coordination across agencies limited ▶ Nutrition monitoring not routine ▶ Targeting accuracy a concern ▶ Dealers request training and information ▶ Statistics require formal validation ▶ Interest in replication elsewhere

Figure 3. Observations across three dimensions: the activities attended, the household conditions recorded, and the concerns raised by Government officials.

Three observations stood out. The session model functioned as designed: two trained young facilitators held the attention of fifty adults for approximately two hours using flip charts, plain language and questions rather than lecture. Nutrition awareness was not the binding constraint

the delegation had anticipated. And what participants did not understand was how the system serving them works: both beneficiaries interviewed had heard of the Family Card, and neither could describe how a household is enrolled or selected.

Evidence gaps remaining

For instrument design	For future collaboration	Questions still open
▶ Nutrition objectives may need to be written into design rather than added later. ▶ A commodity or cash transfer appears insufficient on its own to shift dietary practice. ▶ Entitlement literacy may deserve treatment as a programme output in its own right.	▶ A joint policy paper for government advocacy was proposed during the partnership discussions. ▶ An upazila level coordination point could bring food, health, youth and statistics officers together. ▶ The youth facilitation mechanism merits costing and an assessment of its durability.	▶ Comparison of nutrition outcomes between fortified and non-fortified rice recipients. ▶ Whether child growth measurement occurs at existing health contact points. ▶ Whether session level information reaches any national system in usable form.

Section 12 sets out six findings. Section 13 translates them into seven directions for follow up, each stated with the observation it rests on.

02 Why This Mission Mattered

The policy transition under way, and the nutrition problem sitting inside it.

2.1 A transition in the social protection system

The National Social Security Strategy of 2015 and its action period committed the Government to consolidating a fragmented portfolio of schemes into a coherent, lifecycle-based system. That period is closing and a successor framework is being prepared (General Economics Division, 2015; Cabinet Division, 2021). At present, 95 social safety net programmes are administered by 23 ministries, with an allocation equivalent to about 1.87 per cent of gross domestic product (The Daily Star, 2026b).³

The Family Card, launched on 10 March 2026 under the Ministry of Social Welfare, issues cards in the name of the female head of household, delivers a monthly transfer of Tk 2,500 through government to person channels, and selects beneficiaries through Proxy Means Test scoring (The Daily Star, 2026a). The published implementation guideline envisages the card evolving into a universal social identity instrument by 2030, and raising the social security budget to 3 per cent of gross domestic product by 2028 (The Daily Star, 2026a; The Daily Star, 2026b). The Card is therefore less a new scheme than a delivery platform, which makes the substantive question what should be delivered through it.

2.2 The nutrition deficit behind the poverty numbers

Income poverty and nutritional deprivation have decoupled. A household can cross an income threshold and remain nutritionally deprived because the composition of what it eats has not changed (Ruel and Alderman, 2013). Undernutrition clusters geographically in marginalized districts (Tariqujjaman *et al.*, 2023), and poor maternal education, weak sanitation and limited access to health services compound the risk (Khan *et al.*, 2024). Households without savings or credit cannot absorb an income shock or a price rise, which is what turns a difficult season into cyclical hunger.

The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022 records national stunting among children under five at 24 per cent and underweight at 22 per cent (The Business Standard, 2024). A Ministry of Food field officer at the Gouripur meeting gave local figures of 24 per cent stunting and 14 per cent wasting.⁴

2.3 The Food-Friendly Programme as a nutrition sensitive instrument

The Food-Friendly Programme, administered by the Ministry of Food through the Directorate General of Food, reaches 55 lakh card holding families across 495 upazilas, providing 30 kilograms of rice per family per month at Tk 15 per kilogram for six months of the year (BSS, 2026). The cycle observed by the mission began on 1 August 2026. Fortified rice reaches approximately 25.29 lakh beneficiaries in 248 upazilas, while plain rice is distributed to

³ Lifecycle based social protection organizes support around the risks people face at different stages of life, such as early childhood, working age and old age, rather than around separate categorical schemes.

⁴ The stunting figure quoted locally corresponds to the national rate in the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022. Whether it derives from that survey or from a separate district assessment was not established during the mission. It is listed for verification at Annex F.

approximately 29.71 lakh beneficiaries in the remaining 247 (BSS, 2026). The rice is enriched with vitamin A, vitamin B1, vitamin B12, folic acid, iron and zinc (Daily Sun, 2026), which maps onto the deficiencies recorded nationally, including the two that have worsened.⁵

This makes the programme the clearest existing example in Bangladesh of nutrition carried inside a social security instrument at national scale, and raises the question the mission was formed to explore: whether the commodity alone is sufficient, or whether the accompanying behaviour change component makes the difference, and if so whether that component could be institutionalized.

2.4 Behavioural and structural barriers

Nutritional deprivation is tempting to treat as a problem of information. The evidence gathered during this mission does not support that assumption. What was reported instead were constraints sitting downstream of knowledge: the cost of a diverse diet, established habit, the limited range of what is affordable locally, and who within a household decides what is bought and cooked.

The gender dimension is not peripheral. The research team reported male dominance in household decision making, and noted that women's decision-making autonomy tends to contract after marriage. Since the Family Card is issued in the name of the female head of household, whether the design intent is realized depends on household bargaining power, mobility and financial agency. These are delivery relevant indicators, not background context.⁶

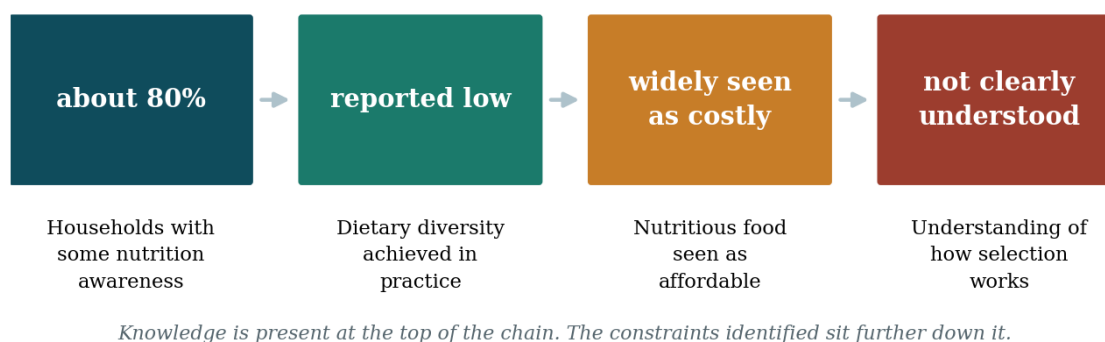


Figure 4. From awareness towards practice. Awareness was quantified in the household survey presented at Gouripur; the constraints beyond it were described qualitatively rather than measured.

⁵ An upazila is a sub district administrative unit. Bangladesh has approximately 495 upazilas.

⁶ Financial agency here refers to whether a woman holds and operates an account in her own name, whether she goes to the market herself, and whether she can make or authorize a transaction without seeking permission.

03 The SSPS and GAIN Collaboration Journey

How a meeting in Dhaka in early August led to a courtyard in Mymensingh three weeks later.

The mission originated in discussions between the two organizations in Dhaka, which defined its objectives and its evidence questions.



Figure 5. The collaboration sequence, from the first meeting to the field mission and the policy work proposed to follow it.

3.1 The first meeting, 6 August 2026

On 6 August 2026 a delegation from GAIN Bangladesh visited the SSPS office to explore a possible partnership. Both organizations were working on the same class of instrument, card mediated support to poor households, from different ends: GAIN from nutrition, through fortification and community communication; SSPS from social protection systems, through registries, payment channels, targeting and coordination. Three areas of alignment were identified.

Nutrition sensitive social protection	Behaviour change communication	Evidence generation
▶ Both were working on how nutrition objectives sit inside safety net delivery. ▶ The Food-Friendly Programme offered a live example already at national scale. ▶ The successor framework was in preparation, leaving design questions open.	▶ GAIN was implementing community sessions attached to an existing transfer. ▶ SSPS was examining whether such functions could be carried by national systems. ▶ Neither had established what such a component costs to sustain.	▶ GAIN had commissioned a baseline household survey with an academic partner. ▶ SSPS works on monitoring and the use of evidence in policy decisions. ▶ Both faced the same question of how field data reaches policy processes.

3.2 The proposal for a joint policy paper

Dr Rudaba Khondker, Country Director of GAIN Bangladesh, proposed that the two organizations develop a joint policy paper to present to the Government of Bangladesh and to representatives, as a shared advocacy effort. The proposal reframed what a field visit would be for. A joint paper requires a shared evidence base, which requires that both organizations examine the same

activity at the same time. The visit was designed on that basis: joint observation intended to produce material both could stand behind.

“We should develop a joint policy paper and present it to the Government and relevant stakeholders, as a shared advocacy effort.”

Dr Rudaba Khondker, Country Director, GAIN Bangladesh, 6 August 2026

3.3 What GAIN brings

GAIN is an international foundation established in 2002 to address malnutrition through food systems. In Bangladesh it has worked since 2011 through alliances with government, the private sector, civil society and academia, integrating Social and Behaviour Change Communication across nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions. Its portfolio spans large scale fortification of oil, rice and salt; nutrient enriched crops; adolescent and youth nutrition; workforce nutrition; food safety; nutrition governance; maternal nutrition; private sector engagement; and youth led agricultural service provision (GAIN).⁷

GAIN's fortification work is organized around the supply chain rather than a single distribution event, combining quality assurance with business support to producers, on the reasoning that fortified food only reaches people at scale if the commercial chain carrying it is functioning (GAIN). This framing was echoed at the Gouripur meeting by GAIN's Advisor, who described the intervention in terms of two parties whose behaviour has to be addressed together: the dealer on the supply side and the beneficiary on the demand side. That is the reasoning behind attaching a courtyard session to a rice distribution.

The SUN Youth Network

One element of GAIN's work bears directly on what the mission observed. The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Youth Network Bangladesh was launched in Dhaka in December 2024. GAIN serves as its secretariat, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The network aims to equip young people and adolescents with knowledge and skills on food systems and nutrition across 40 districts, with trained members going on to educate other young people and to implement community level action. Dr Rudaba Khondker spoke at the launch alongside the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, who urged that youth innovation be used to encourage healthier eating habits (The Business Standard, 2024).⁸

The network matters here because it establishes that the use of trained young people as nutrition communicators is not improvised for one project in one upazila. It is a documented national approach with a secretariat, a ministerial home and a stated geographic ambition. The volunteers the delegation met at Chander Shatiya work within that model.

⁷ Social and Behaviour Change Communication, abbreviated SBCC, refers to structured communication activity intended to shift knowledge, attitudes and practices, rather than simply to distribute information.

⁸ Scaling Up Nutrition, abbreviated SUN, is a global movement of governments, civil society, businesses and United Nations agencies working to improve nutrition. Country level SUN networks bring these constituencies together nationally.

04 Planning the Field Mission

A virtual meeting, an instrument argued over line by line, and the gaps the delegation set out to explore.

4.1 The virtual planning meeting

A virtual meeting between SSPS and GAIN team members fixed the shape of the visit. The GAIN team shared a draft itinerary covering travel from Dhaka, a meeting with Government line agencies at the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, and courtyard sessions in Gouripur and Ramgopalpur unions. Four things were settled: the objectives, the activities to be observed, the learning questions, and the outputs expected. One decision shaped what the delegation could see. The two courtyard sessions were scheduled to run simultaneously in different unions so the delegation could split and compare facilitation across two sites. That was a design choice, not a logistical accident.

4.2 Building the survey instrument

In an extended working session, the delegation constructed a qualitative instrument block by block, arguing over sequence as much as content. The session lead was insistent that the order of questions determines whether a household answers honestly: moving abruptly from questions about shocks to questions about violence breaks the conversation. The instrument moves from the observable and neutral, through demographics and household economics, into gender, mobility, violence and shocks, before arriving at health, nutrition, social protection and migration. Two questionnaires developed to observe the condition of the people in Gouripur are at Annex A and Annex B.

"To identify household condition, we need to find out what water, sanitation and hygiene facilities are available? Where are the wash area and the kitchen? What is the floor made of, and the roof? Are there tables and chairs, or do they sit on the ground?"

4.3 Evidence gaps identified before the mission

The delegation set out the areas where its own understanding was incomplete. These were framed as gaps to explore rather than questions to put to any one party, and were expected to be answered through briefing, observation and interview across the whole mission.

Area of uncertainty	What the delegation wanted to understand
Targeting and enrolment	How beneficiaries are identified and selected; what inclusion and exclusion criteria apply; how these compare with the Government's standard targeting mechanisms; and how a household actually registers.
Card to card comparison	Whether the Food-Friendly Programme card and the Family Card identify the same households, given that both are card mediated instruments serving overlapping populations through separate registries.

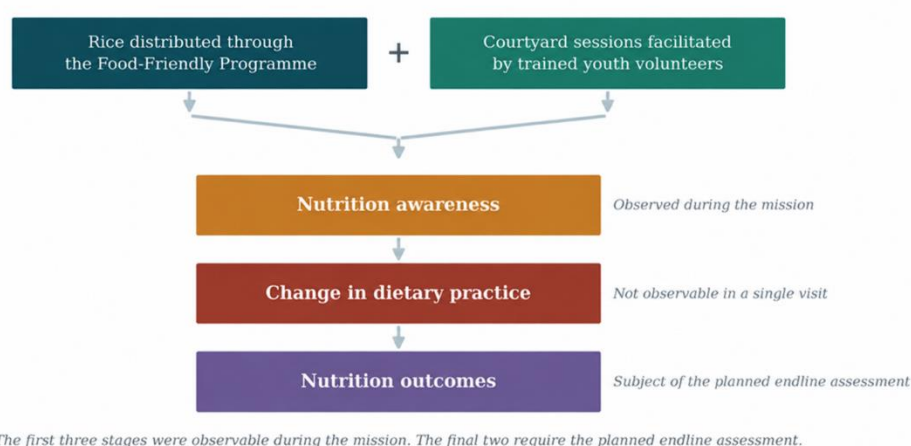
Area of uncertainty	What the delegation wanted to understand
Last mile delivery	Whether the entitlement arrives whole: full quantity at the stated price, collected by the registered cardholder, at what cost in time and travel, and how a grievance is raised when a distribution fails.
Fortification awareness	Whether beneficiaries know they receive a fortified product and understand why it matters. Fortified rice is visually indistinguishable from ordinary rice, which removes any demand side check on the supply chain.
The behaviour change component	How sessions are facilitated and by whom; whether content reaches participants with limited literacy; what the model costs per session; and how far it depends on external support rather than existing Government capacity.
Evidence flow	What information the sessions generate, whether it is systematically captured, and whether any route exists by which it reaches national monitoring or policy systems.
Youth aspiration	What the volunteers themselves want. Facilitators were treated as key informants, since a person who spends sustained time in a community can provide reliable insight on demographics, health seeking, mobility, safety and the division of labour by gender.

05 Understanding the GAIN Intervention

What a courtyard meeting is, who facilitates it, and why it is attached to a rice distribution.

5.1 The model

The initiative has two observable components. 30 kilograms of rice is distributed per month to card holding beneficiaries through the Programme. Alongside that distribution, registered young people mobilized through the Ministry of Youth and Sports conduct structured community sessions that discuss nutrition and record information on beneficiary wellbeing and livelihoods. Access is mediated entirely by the card: it establishes eligibility, governs the quantity released, and constitutes the beneficiary's only documentary claim on the entitlement.⁹



The first three stages were observable during the mission. The final two require the planned endline assessment.

Figure 6. *The intervention model. The first three stages were observable during the mission; the final two require the planned endline assessment.*

⁹ A registry, in this context, is the database of enrolled households held by the ministry administering a programme. Separate registries mean the same household may appear in several, with no automatic link between the entries.

5.2 The Uthan Boithok, or courtyard meeting

The behaviour change component is delivered through Uthan Boithok or courtyard meetings, under an initiative titled **Strengthening SBCC in Nutrition Sensitive Social Protection**. These are deliberately informal gatherings, convened on a school field or in a homestead courtyard, on mats rather than in a hall. The informality lowers the threshold for attendance by women who would not travel to a formal venue, and places the facilitator at eye level with participants.

Element	How it works in practice
Facilitation	Volunteers drawn from a pool maintained by the Department of Youth Development, prepared through a training of trainers process, which allows the model to expand without a proportional increase in professional staff.
Scale and duration	Approximately two hours, convening 50 to 60 beneficiaries. Distribution across the upazila is handled through 36 Food-Friendly Programme dealers.
Content	Nutrition and healthy lifestyle practice, benefits of fortified rice, adolescent nutrition and maternal health, delivered through printed flip charts and hand drawn posters with strong reliance on images.
Narrative material	Narrative and audio-based material is used alongside the visual aids, giving participants more than one route into the content.
Site and participant selection	Both the areas covered and the beneficiaries convened were identified through a baseline study, anchoring sessions in a defined evidence base.



Figure 7. Trained youth volunteers facilitating the session at Chander Shatiya, working from the Government issued flip chart on vitamins and micronutrients.

5.3 Why the youth mechanism matters institutionally

The most significant feature of the model from a systems perspective is not the content of the sessions but who delivers them. Volunteers are drawn from the registered youth base of the Department of Youth Development, under an agreement with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, rather than from a parallel cadre of project staff. As Section 3 noted, this sits within a wider national approach to youth engagement in nutrition.

This indicates a possible route by which behaviour change and monitoring functions could be attached to national safety net programmes at low marginal cost, using capacity the Government

already maintains. It also raises a dependency question, examined in Section 12: whether the arrangement is a replicable template, or one that would not survive the end of external support.

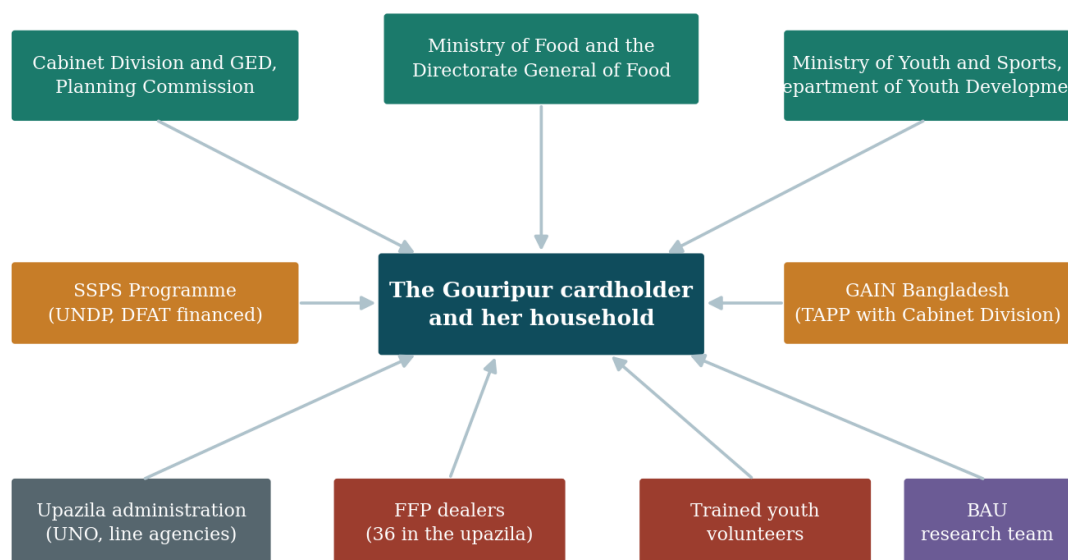


Figure 8. Stakeholder relationships in the Gouripur delivery chain. Three ministries, two development partners, one upazila administration, thirty-six dealers, a volunteer cohort and an academic team converge on a single household.

06 The SSPS Programme Context

What the Programme does, and why this activity falls within its mandate.

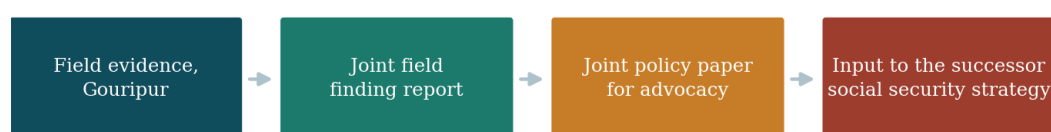
The Social Security Policy Support Programme provides technical assistance for the rollout and reform of the National Social Security Strategy. Its work spans governance and coordination, including support to the Central Management Committee and to consolidation along lifecycle risks; and delivery systems, including the single registry management information system, government to person payments, grievance redress, and results-based monitoring and evaluation (Government of Bangladesh, 2026). This section identifies where those objectives and the activity observed intersect.

Programme outcome	What it addresses	Where the mission connects
Strengthened national systems and cross ministerial coordination	Fragmentation across ministries and resistance to consolidation, so that reforms can be sequenced, prioritized and realistically costed.	The Food-Friendly card and the Family Card sit in different ministries and separate registries. Gouripur is where that separation becomes visible at household level.
Improved monitoring, accountability and evidence-based decision making	The disconnection between policy decisions and delivery realities, including beneficiary lists that fall out of date and monitoring data not fed back into decisions.	The baseline survey, the planned endline and the routine session records are the kind of delivery level evidence this outcome is designed to route upward.

Programme outcome	What it addresses	Where the mission connects
Cross cutting: gender equality, disability inclusion and climate resilience	Ensures equity and resilience are integrated at every stage rather than treated as additions.	Household decision making patterns, women's financial agency and the shock histories recorded in the survey all bear on this.

The nutrition linkage is not an addition to the Programme's agenda. Its own analysis records that social protection systems must integrate both acute and structural responses to food insecurity, that dietary diversity and nutrition education should be linked with cash benefits, and that stronger coordination between health, nutrition and social protection delivery channels is required. The same analysis identifies GAIN, among development partners, as contributing to nutrition sensitive social protection by linking fortification and dietary diversification with safety net delivery. The mission was therefore not an opportunistic field trip but the Programme examining, at the point of delivery, a proposition its own analysis had already advanced.

What the two organizations most obviously share is a method. The activity in Gouripur is structured around a baseline survey, a planned endline and routine session level collection with an academic partner. The opportunity, named during the collaboration discussions, is to connect field evidence generated at the point of delivery to a policy programme housed in the Cabinet Division and the Planning Commission, producing a documented line from field observation to policy text.



The pathway proposed during the collaboration discussions, from observation at the point of delivery towards national policy input.

Figure 9. The pathway discussed during the collaboration meetings, from observation at the point of delivery towards a joint input to national policy.

07 The Field Visit Journey

Three days in Mymensingh: a briefing over dinner, a meeting of line agencies, and two courtyards.

Day 1. Friday, 21 August. Dhaka to Mymensingh

The delegation reached Mymensingh in the early evening and based itself at the BRAC Learning Centre for all three days. The substantive work began at dinner, where the delegation met the GAIN Bangladesh team and worked through the areas of uncertainty prepared in advance. The team learned how the courtyard meetings are conducted and why, what outcomes are anticipated, what feedback has been received, who conducts the sessions and how those facilitators were trained. The SSPS team set out its own activities and began to explore where the two programmes might overlap. The briefing was informal enough that people spoke candidly about what was not yet working, and it took place before any field observation, so the delegation entered the next morning's meeting knowing which questions remained open.

ESTABLISHED AT THE DAY 1 BRIEFING

- ▶ How Uthan Boithok sessions are conducted, and the reasoning behind the model.
- ▶ The outcomes anticipated, and the feedback received from communities to date.
- ▶ Who facilitates the sessions, and how those facilitators were selected and trained.
- ▶ Areas where the SSPS Programme and GAIN might work together, explored in outline.

Day 2. Saturday, 22 August. Gouripur Upazila

Arrival and the meeting of line agencies

Reception at the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's compound was warm and formal: flowers exchanged at the steps of the Food and Public Nutrition Directorate office and then a short preliminary discussion. Officials spoke frankly about the obstacles they encounter in delivering programmes at this level. The SSPS Social Protection Adviser, a retired Additional Secretary who has sat on the other side of exactly this conversation, moved the discussion from description of problems towards possible remedies.



Figure 10. The delegation received at Gouripur. Left: Mohammad Mahfuzul Bari, Social Protection Adviser, SSPS Programme. Right: Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager, SSPS Programme.

The formal meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Ms. Afia Amin Pappa. Around the table were officials from the Department of Food, Agriculture, Health and the Department of Youth Development; union representatives; Food-Friendly Programme dealers; the SSPS delegation; the GAIN project team; and the academic team from Bangladesh Agricultural University. However, due to some urgent matters, the Directorate General was not present.



Figure 11. *The meeting of Government line agencies at the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, Gouripur.*

A field officer of the Ministry of Food opened, describing the role the behaviour change work has played in the pilot phase and giving local figures of 24 per cent stunting and 14 per cent wasting. Awareness has increased, he said, and the effort now is to convert it into the habit of consuming nutritious food. He noted that non communicable disease affects approximately 70 per cent of the district population, which is why food access, dietary diversity, availability and forward policy belong in the same conversation.

The discussion turned to research. A study by a GAIN colleague was reviewed, covering the relationship between behavioural change and nutrition, the dialogue begun with the Cabinet Division, and the research sequence of inception, baseline, analysis, development and policy implication. The role of youth agency in conducting the meetings was discussed, with both registered and non-registered young people participating through the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Department of Youth Development.

The advisor of GAIN made the case for replication, arguing the Gouripur model could extend to other poverty pockets. He set the argument in fiscal terms, describing a substantial share of the budget as already allocated to social protection and a further share to nutrition, and suggested

aligning nutrition interventions with existing schemes rather than building new ones. Discussing cash transfers and market dynamics, he suggested a cash plus voucher approach can be effective in many contexts although in some it produces results similar to cash alone. As one possible intervention he raised cash support of Tk 5,000 per household aligned with the Family Card.

HOUSEHOLD AND PROGRAMME EVIDENCE DASHBOARD

Figures as recorded during the mission or from published national data. Field figures require confirmation before policy use.

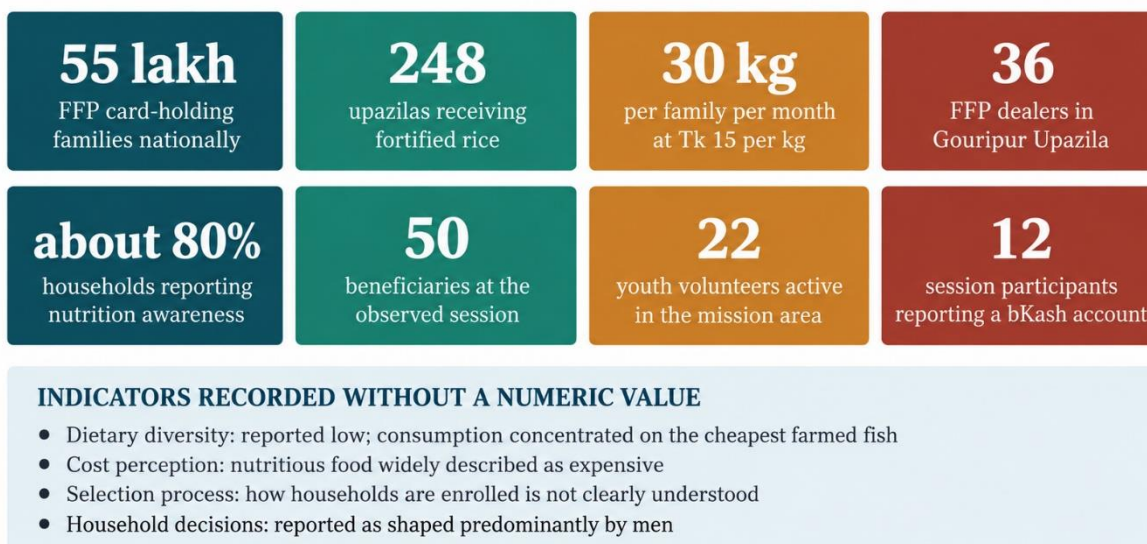


Figure 12. Household and programme evidence dashboard, consolidating the numeric and qualitative indicators recorded during the mission alongside published national figures.

A faculty member from Bangladesh Agricultural University then presented the household survey conducted in Gouripur, treated separately at Section 09. What followed was the most valuable hour of the mission: the room spoke. Officials described the problems they encounter, dealers described their difficulties, a doctor representing the Civil Surgeon's office spoke on health and nutrition, a card distributor spoke about who actually receives cards, and officials from the Department of Youth Development described their training and livelihood work. These contributions are set out in Section 08. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer closed with a vote of thanks.

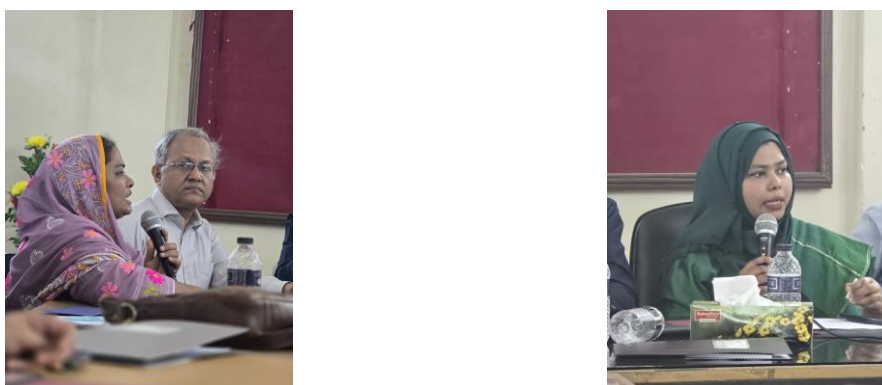


Figure 13. Left: the Bangladesh Agricultural University faculty member presenting the household survey findings. Right: Ms. Afia Amin Pappa, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, chairing the meeting.

To the field

After lunch the delegation travelled to the unions. Two courtyard sessions were held simultaneously, at Chander Shatiya in Gouripur Union and at Bhabanipur in Ramgopalpur Union, allowing the delegation to split and observe both. The sessions took place on open ground beside a primary school, under trees, on plastic mats, with a banner strung between two trunks. The delegation observed the session and then stayed behind. The conversations that followed identified the obstacles of daily life more clearly than any part of the formal programme, and it is from these that the accounts in Section 11 are drawn.



Figure 14. Left: The Uthan Boithok banner carrying the emblems of the Directorate General of Food, the Government of Bangladesh and GAIN. Right: the SSPS team observing the session at Chander Shatiya, seated on the mats with participants.

Day 3. Sunday, 23 August. Return to Dhaka

The final morning was given to an internal synthesis session at the BRAC Learning Centre: consolidation of field notes against the areas of uncertainty identified before departure, and identification of enablers, barriers and possible entry points.

08 Stakeholder Voices

Officials, dealers and volunteers described the same system from four positions inside it.

Speakers are identified by role rather than by name where the record did not permit confident attribution. Figures are reported as stated and are listed for verification at Annex F.

8.1 Government officials

Speaker	What they raised
Ministry of Food field officer	Child stunting in the area at 24 per cent and wasting at 14 per cent. Awareness among people has risen; the task now is converting it into consumption habits. Non communicable disease affects approximately 70 per cent of the district population.

Speaker	What they raised
Civil Surgeon's representative	Health and nutrition are strongly interrelated. Emphasized family planning orientation, community level health awareness and nutrition counselling. Proposed regular orientation sessions at community clinics with strengthened follow up monitoring, noting that observing a change in nutritional status within a year requires regular monitoring rather than a single measurement.
Officials from the Department of Youth Development, Ministry of Youth and Sports	Described existing departmental activity: training for young people, opportunities in non-stem farming, links to handicraft related activities, and youth engagement schemes. The courtyard facilitators are drawn from this constituency, so the department already holds the institutional relationship on which the model depends.
Senior participant, on statistics	Continuation of the project requires Government endorsement, and the statistical information generated must be properly checked. Statistical data must be validated and vetted through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Placed emphasis throughout on evidence-based policy formulation.

8.2 Food dealers

The dealers occupy the point where programme design meets a queue of people. Thirty-six handle distribution across the upazila. The first to speak made the point that food distribution should not be regarded solely as a commercial activity: transportation takes time and labour, the distribution process brings a range of challenges, and beneficiary awareness matters greatly to how smoothly it goes. During the roughly fifteen-day peak period the workload is heavy. A second dealer said there is scope to run the initiative more effectively in future, and that beneficiary selection could be made more effective.

The most pointed contribution came from a card distributor, who said plainly what the delegation heard confirmed later that afternoon from beneficiaries. It is often difficult to ensure the card reaches the genuinely needy; cards do not always go to the poorest households; inclusion and exclusion error both need reduction; and the current benefit amount is not sufficient. He then made a nutrition argument from the delivery end: rice alone is not enough, and what is needed is rice, vegetables and fortified items together. He specifically emphasized the importance of fortified rice, a notable position given that he is the person who hands it over.



Figure 15. *Left: Food-Friendly Programme dealers sharing their views. Right: Government officials sharing observations during the open discussion.*

WHAT THE DEALERS ASKED FOR

- ▶ Training for dealers on the programme they administer, and on how to explain it to cardholders.
- ▶ Proper dissemination so that cardholders arrive understanding their entitlement.
- ▶ A more effective selection process that reduces both inclusion and exclusion error.
- ▶ Recognition that the fifteen-day peak distribution period imposes a real operational burden.
- ▶ A benefit basket extending beyond rice, to include vegetables and fortified items.

8.3 Youth volunteers

The two volunteers facilitating the session at Chander Shatiya were interviewed after it closed. They came to the work through a local organization, Progoti, linked to the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which works with roughly two hundred volunteers and has conducted courtyard meeting activity since approximately 2014. The mechanism therefore predates this initiative and was adopted by it rather than created for it. Volunteers reported receiving approximately Tk 800 per person per session. They also described two rounds of organizational funding of markedly different magnitude; those figures require verification and are not reproduced here. Their role, as they described it, is community mobilization and conducting the learning session rather than reading out content. Approximately twenty-two volunteers are connected to courtyard activity in the area.

Asked about their futures, the first said he hopes to enter Government service and would like to migrate to Dhaka; the second said he wants to become an entrepreneur and to work for people who are helpless and disadvantaged. Two observations follow. The model converts a government registered youth base into community facilitation capacity at a marginal cost of a few hundred taka per session, which is the strongest argument for examining whether it can be institutionalized. And both described trajectories leading away from the village, so anything built on this mechanism would need to assume turnover and design the training system accordingly.

"I want to become an entrepreneur, and I want to work for people who are helpless and disadvantaged."

Youth volunteer, Chander Shatiya courtyard session, Gouripur Union

09 Research Findings and Evidence

What a forty-day household survey in Gouripur found, and how it reframed the mission's assumptions.

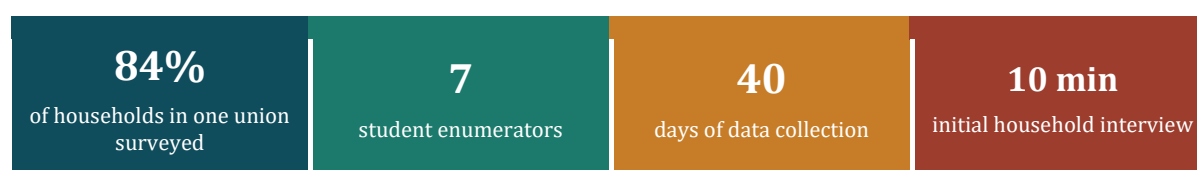
The Bangladesh Agricultural University presentation was the most substantial single body of evidence the mission encountered. Findings are summarized as presented; they had not, at the time of the mission, been independently verified by the delegation, and the published baseline study is awaited.

9.1 Purpose and method

Gouripur was selected because it falls within the operational area of the Food-Friendly Programme, making it a place where food security and nutrition questions can be observed

against an active safety net. The presenter was candid about the impetus: there had been a good deal of negative discussion about the programme, and a need to understand the actual situation on the ground. The study asked five questions: whether the household has food at all; what its buying capacity actually is; what social protection benefits it receives; what effect cash transfer programmes have had; and what its nutrition demand and awareness are.¹⁰

The method combined discussion with identified persons, collection of information on Government programmes, and household data through a structured questionnaire, with attention to nutrition demand and awareness, adolescent nutrition, cooking behaviour, a twenty-four-hour meal recall and household food stress. The first stage of discussion was conducted with female beneficiaries while household conditions were observed.



9.2 What the survey indicated

Domain	Finding as presented
Nutrition awareness	Approximately 80 per cent of people surveyed had some understanding of nutrition and knew that vegetables and fish should be eaten. Basic awareness was present.
Dietary practice	Dietary diversity was low. Consumption concentrated on tilapia and pangas, the cheapest farmed fish available, rather than a varied basket. Many households considered nutritious food to be expensive.
Gender and decision making	Male domination was present in many households. Men's influence over important household decisions was greater, and decision making occurred either unilaterally or jointly.
Social findings	Early marriage was occurring, in some cases before the age of fifteen. Women's capacity to make their own decisions declined after marriage. Problems were identified in child care, child nutrition and education. The school dropout rate found was approximately 4.3 per cent. ¹¹
Household conditions	Food access, sanitation and drinking water availability were observed, alongside chronic illness among household members, health problems affecting children, and how households behave when illness occurs.
Health seeking behaviour	Many households do not clearly distinguish between a doctor and a pharmacy or drug seller. Obtaining medicine from a pharmacy is frequently treated as having received treatment.

¹⁰ A twenty-four-hour meal recall asks a respondent to list everything eaten in the preceding day. It is a standard method for assessing dietary diversity without requiring the household to keep records.

¹¹ This figure is drawn from the Bangladesh Agricultural University field presentation, which had not been published at the time of the mission. See Annex F for its verification status.

The last of these carries particular policy significance and could easily be missed. If health seeking terminates at the pharmacy counter, the contact points at which a child would be weighed, measured and assessed are not being reached. Nutritional status is therefore not being observed for precisely the households whose nutritional status is most at risk.¹²

“They know that vegetables and fish should be eaten. Dietary diversity is still low, and many households consider nutritious food to be expensive.”

Ms. Sadeka, Faculty, Bangladesh Agricultural University

9.3 Continuing the evidence

Research activity in Gouripur should continue, and courtyard sessions need to be assessed through longer term observation rather than snapshot assessment. The endline survey is intended to determine which model is most effective for behaviour change communication, and its findings are expected to inform the design of future programmes.

10 Courtyard Meeting Observation

Fifty adults, eight children, two facilitators, two hours on a mat under the trees.

10.1 Setting and participation

The session at Chander Shatiya was held on open ground beside the Gouripur Kishor Kishori Club primary school building. A row of tables and chairs was set out for officials, some participants sat on the ground and some on the chair, and by the second half so did most of the visiting delegation. The second session, at Bhabanipur, was held under a decorated canopy in a homestead courtyard with participants seated in chairs. The two settings differed markedly in atmosphere, which was itself instructive: the model adapts to what the location allows.

The observed session convened 50 beneficiaries. Eight children were present, a straightforward feature of a session held where people live. Attendance skewed heavily female among working age adults, with a substantial group of elderly men seated together at one side. The composition matters: content on adolescent nutrition and maternal health lands differently in a group that includes the adolescents themselves, the grandmothers who often control the cooking pot, and the elderly men who may hold the card. The audience is, in effect, the household decision making structure reassembled in one place, which is an argument for the courtyard format over a clinic based one.

¹² A community clinic is the lowest tier of the public health system in rural Bangladesh. A satellite clinic is a periodic outreach service. Both are points at which a child would ordinarily be weighed and measured.



Figure 16. Left: the session at Chander Shatiya in progress, with the raised table used only for opening remarks. Right: participants responding to a facilitator's question with raised hands.

10.2 The learning session

Two volunteers, one female and one male, shared the facilitation. They worked from a printed Government issued flip chart, the Uthan Boithok Bishoyok Nirdeshika, setting out vitamins A, B, C, D, K and E with photographs of the foods that supply each, and a section on mineral salts. Hand drawn posters supplemented it: a food pyramid, a diagram of balanced meals, an illustration of the harmful effects of unhealthy food, and one stating that eight glasses of water must be drunk every day.

Delivery was conversational rather than declarative. Facilitators asked questions and waited for answers. When they asked who did not have a refrigerator at home, roughly six people raised their hands, a small moment but a revealing one, both about living standards and about willingness to answer candidly in front of officials. Narrative and audio-based material was used alongside the visual aids.



Figure 17. Left: the simultaneous session in Ramgopalpur Union, observed by the GAIN team. Right: an elderly participant at Chander Shatiya. The age profile has direct implications for how content is framed and who acts on it.

10.3 Knowledge, practice and what sits between them

What people know

That vegetables and fish matter, and that children need to eat well. Session content largely reinforced knowledge already presents rather than introducing it.

What people practice

A diet concentrated on rice with limited diversity, the cheapest available farmed fish, three meals where possible. Rice received under the programme lasted, in one seven-member household, approximately ten days.

What sits between them

Cost, first and most of all. Then intra household decision making, which determines who converts income into food. Then the absence of clear information about entitlement: how a household is selected, what it is owed, and what to do when it does not arrive.

10.4 What emerged in the discussion afterwards

Several things surfaced after the formal session that had not been raised during it. Dowry practice was present in the area. Gender based violence was acknowledged as an issue. Women's decision-making capacity was described as limited. Approximately twelve of those present reported holding a bKash account. On the entitlement itself the picture was consistent: rice is provided at defined intervals, many beneficiaries consider the quantity insufficient, and on selection, many had heard of the Family Card or of social protection programmes but how to be enrolled, who is selected, and how selection works were not clearly understood.

Observed strengths

- ▶ The informal setting draws attendance from women who would not travel to a formal venue.
- ▶ Peer facilitation by local young people is received without the distance an external trainer would create.
- ▶ Visual and narrative material makes content accessible irrespective of literacy.
- ▶ The mixed audience reassembles the household decision unit in one place.
- ▶ Participants answered candidly in front of officials.

Observed limitations

- ▶ Content addresses knowledge, while the binding constraint reported is cost.
- ▶ Entitlement and selection are not part of the session curriculum.
- ▶ Whether session information is systematically captured could not be established from a single visit.
- ▶ Change in practice cannot be observed in one afternoon; it depends on the planned endline assessment.

11 Beneficiary Stories

Two women, two households, and the same gap between hearing about a programme and understanding it.

Both women consented to speak and are identified by the names they gave. Nothing has been added to what they said, and nothing has been dramatized.

11.1 Monoara

Monoara has three children, two sons and a daughter, all now living in Dhaka. Her husband died some years ago and she lives alone. Her house is pucca, with a tin roof and an earth floor, on homestead land of her own. That places her in a category the poverty headcount handles poorly: a woman who owns the ground she stands on and is nonetheless financially insecure and physically frail, living by herself in a village her children have left. Asked about disasters, she said severe storms, cyclones and floods are not frequent in the area, but that during the flood two years ago they received no assistance of any kind.

On social protection her answer was the one the mission heard most often. She has heard of the Family Card. She has no clear understanding of how a household is enrolled on it. Her account of who is involved in such matters came down to a single word: the local Member. Her family has a bKash account, and her daughter sends a little money for personal expenses each month.

"I have heard of the Family Card. I do not know how a person's name gets onto the list."

Monoara, courtyard session participant, Gouripur Upazila, as recorded in field notes

Monoara's situation indicates a design gap rather than an implementation failure by any individual. She is precisely the profile a lifecycle-based system is intended to reach: elderly, widowed, living alone, without earned income, with adult children who have migrated. She lives inside the coverage area of a national safety net and does not know the route into it. Between her and the entitlement stands not a form she cannot complete, but the absence of any accessible account of how the process works.

11.2 Selima Begum

Selima Begum's household is in a different position. Her husband drives an auto rickshaw and the family income is comparatively good. Her daughters were present during the conversation; one is studying at secondary level, and Selima Begum wants her to continue further. Her house, like Monohara's, is pucca with a tin roof and an earth floor on its own homestead land. She too has heard of the Family Card, and she too has no clear understanding of how enrolment or selection works. Both women married at what the delegation assessed as relatively ordinary ages for the area, but educational opportunity had been limited for each, so her ambition for her daughter represents a generational shift that a social protection system can either support or fail to notice.



Figure 18. Left: Participants describing their circumstances to team member of SSPS Programme (Sanjida Sultana), after the formal session closed. Right: the SSPS team with participants and youth volunteers at the close of the session.

11.3 What the two accounts have in common

	Monoara	Selima Begum
Household	Lives alone, widowed. Three adult children, all in Dhaka.	Husband drives an auto rickshaw. Daughters at home, one in secondary school.
Income position	No earned income. Small remittances from her daughter.	Comparatively good household income from her husband's work.
Housing	Pucca house, tin roof, earth floor. Own homestead land.	Pucca house, tin roof, earth floor. Own homestead land.

	Monoara	Selima Begum
Family Card	Has heard of it. Does not know how enrolment works.	Has heard of it. Does not know how enrolment works.
Financial access	Household has a bKash account.	Not recorded.
Shock experience	No assistance received during the flood two years ago.	Not recorded.
Aspiration	Not recorded as a stated aspiration.	Wants her daughter to continue her education.

Two households at opposite ends of the local income distribution gave the same answer about the Family Card. That convergence is the observation worth carrying forward. Where information about entitlement circulates informally, through the local Member, through neighbours, through whoever happens to know, it reaches people unevenly and cannot be audited. A programme whose selection process is not understood by the people it selects from is unlikely to generate the perception of fairness on which public confidence in social protection depends.

12 Key Findings

Six observations from the mission, and what each may indicate for the successor framework.

The findings below are stated as observations rather than as conclusions about programme effect. The mission was three days long and observed two sessions. It does not establish that the intervention improves nutrition, and nothing here should be read as claiming that it does.



Figure 19. The six findings in summary, set out in full in the dashboard below.

Observation	Evidence	What it may indicate
01 Nutrition awareness is present, while gaps in practice remain.	Approximately 80 per cent of households surveyed reported some understanding of nutrition and knew that vegetables and fish matter. Dietary diversity was nonetheless low, consumption concentrated on the cheapest farmed fish, and nutritious food was widely regarded as expensive.	A communication approach designed principally to raise awareness may produce diminishing returns in this population. Content could usefully shift towards what makes better practice affordable and achievable, which includes the entitlement itself.
02 Beneficiary understanding of the selection process is limited.	Both beneficiaries interviewed had heard of the Family Card, and neither could describe how a household is enrolled or selected. A card distributor independently described the consequence from the delivery side: cards do not always reach the poorest households, and both inclusion and exclusion error require reduction.	A communication gap with potential consequences for perceived fairness, for grievance redress, and for confidence in a Proxy Means Test based selection system whose workings are not visible to those it assesses.
03 Gender norms shape what a transfer becomes in the household.	Male decision-making dominance was reported by the research team and observed by the delegation. Women's autonomy was described as declining after marriage. Early marriage, dowry practice and gender-based violence were reported as present. Roughly twelve of fifty participants reported holding a bKash account.	Since the Family Card is issued in the name of the female head of household, the design intent depends on whether she holds practical agency over the resource. Financial agency indicators may warrant treatment as delivery indicators.

Observation	Evidence	What it may indicate
04 Youth volunteers create community level engagement.	Approximately twenty-two volunteers are active in the mission area, through an organization registered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports that has run courtyard activity since around 2014 and maintains roughly two hundred volunteers. Facilitation is compensated at approximately Tk 800 per person per session. Observed facilitation was competent and conversational across a mixed age, mixed literacy audience.	The most institutionally significant observation of the mission. The model draws on existing Government registered youth capacity at low marginal cost, within a wider national approach to youth engagement in nutrition. It also depends on individuals whose stated aspirations point away from the village, so any scaled design would need to assume turnover.
05 Coordination among stakeholders is a recurring constraint.	Every institutional actor at the line agency meeting described a version of the same problem from a different position: food officials on distribution and targeting, health officials on the absence of routine nutrition monitoring, youth officials on parallel training structures, dealers on information not reaching cardholders.	A coordinated mechanism bringing the partners and other stakeholders together may be required, and an upazila level coordination point would be a reasonable place to test one.
06 Evidence is being generated; the feedback loop is not established.	A baseline survey has been conducted and an endline is planned with an academic partner. The sessions themselves generate routine household information. No established route was identified by which any of it reaches national policy systems, and the recommendation was made that statistical information be validated through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics before use.	The constraint identified is not scarcity of data but interoperability and validation, which falls within the SSPS Programme's monitoring and evidence mandate.

THE OBSERVATION BENEATH THE FINDINGS

- ▶ The Food-Friendly Programme demonstrates that a commodity transfer can carry micronutrients to millions of households at national scale.
- ▶ The courtyard meeting demonstrates that a behaviour change component can be attached to that transfer using capacity the Government already maintains.
- ▶ What neither yet demonstrates is that the household understands the system it is inside. That gap appears addressable at low cost within the existing session format.

13 Recommendations

Seven practical directions, each stated with the observation it rests on.

The directions below follow from field evidence rather than from general good practice. Each is stated with the observation supporting it, so that it can be tested against the record and set aside if the evidence does not hold. Responsible actors are indicated as suggestions for discussion between the partners, not as assigned responsibilities. These are offered as suggestions for follow up work, not as findings about programme performance.

Direction	Suggested lead	Expected benefit
1. Add entitlement literacy to the session curriculum; Add a defined module covering how a household is selected for the Family Card and the Food-Friendly Programme, what the entitlement consists of, what to do if it does not arrive in full, and how to raise a grievance.	GAIN implementation team with the Directorate General of Food	Closes the gap identified in Finding 02 at low cost, using a format that already convenes the right people. Strengthens perceived fairness and use of grievance channels.
2. Move nutrition measurement from awareness towards outcome; Establish whether children's weight and growth are measured at existing contact points, including immunization sessions, satellite and community clinics, and consider linking that measurement to the session cohort.	Civil Surgeon's office with the research partner	Allows change in nutritional status to be observed rather than inferred, and addresses the health seeking gap identified in Section 09.
3. Extend beneficiary communication beyond the session; Provide dealers with training and materials so the person handing over the rice can explain the entitlement, and use mass media, social media and information materials to reach those who do not attend a session.	Directorate General of Food with FFP dealers	Reaches beneficiaries outside the session cohort and responds directly to the dealers' own request for training and dissemination.
4. Commission a fortified against non-fortified comparison; Analyze nutrition outcomes between beneficiaries receiving fortified rice and those receiving plain rice, and establish which groups benefit most.	Research partner with GAIN	Fortified rice is visually indistinguishable from ordinary rice, so neither household nor monitoring system holds a demand side check. A comparison would allow fortification's contribution to be stated rather than assumed.

Direction	Suggested lead	Expected benefit
5. Cost the youth engagement model and assess its durability; Establish cost per session and per beneficiary; assess dependence on external involvement against the institutional capacity of the Department of Youth Development; and, if it performs, consider a standing role with a costed training and quality assurance framework.	Department of Youth Development with the SSPS Programme	Tests whether behaviour change and monitoring functions can be attached to national safety net programmes at low marginal cost using capacity the Government already holds.
6. Establish an upazila level coordination point; Bring food, health, youth, statistics and social welfare officers around a single nutrition dataset on a standing rather than ad hoc basis.	Upazila administration, convened by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer	The line agency meeting demonstrated the convening authority exists. A recurring reason to convene would address the coordination constraint in Finding 05.
7. Build the follow up and validation mechanism now; Schedule a follow up visit to track change in practice; establish whether a comparison group exists; route baseline, endline and session data towards Government systems in usable format; and validate statistics through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.	SSPS Programme with GAIN and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	Creates the feedback loop absent in Finding 06 and ensures figures entering a policy document carry official validation, as recommended during the meeting itself.

Sequencing

Directions 1 and 3 could be acted on within the current session cycle at modest cost, and would produce a measurable change in beneficiary understanding before the endline assessment. Directions 2, 4 and 7 depend on the endline design and would need to be settled before it is finalized. Directions 5 and 6 are institutional and belong in the joint policy work proposed during the collaboration discussions.

ANTICIPATED OUTPUTS FROM THIS MISSION

- A joint policy paper on nutrition sensitive social protection, addressing behaviour change and youth engagement, prepared for government advocacy as proposed on 6 August 2026.
- An input on nutrition to the successor national social security framework, submitted through the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division.



Figure 20. The delegation with participants at the close of the Chander Shatiya session. The mission ends where the policy question begins, with the households whose diets the successor framework is intended to reach.

ANNEX A

Questionnaire for Beneficiaries, Cardholders and Courtyard Participants

This instrument was developed by the delegation during the pre-visit planning session and is reproduced here in structured form. It is organized around indicators rather than around conversation, so that responses can be compared across households. It is intended for use with Food-Friendly Programme cardholders and with participants attending an Uthan Boithok session.

A. Household observation checklist

Completed by observation. Approximately ten items, allowing a comparable household condition score to be constructed.

- A1** Water, sanitation and hygiene facilities available to the household.
- A2** Location of the wash area and the kitchen: inside the sleeping room, adjacent to it, or elsewhere.
- A3** Material of the floor.
- A4** Material of the roof or ceiling.
- A5** Condition of the toilet and the kitchen.
- A6** Furniture present: tables and chairs, a raised platform, or seating on the ground.
- A7** Utensils in use, including whether glassware is present.
- A8** Assets present: wardrobe (alna), refrigerator, other.
- A9** Condition of the approach road: paved, in good repair, muddy or narrow.
- A10** Any rooms, structures or productive assets not initially declared, including a rickshaw or similar.

B. Household demographics

Establishes household composition, which frames every subsequent answer.

- B1** Name, address and age of the respondent.
- B2** Total number of household members.
- B3** Number of children, and their gender distribution.
- B4** Number of elderly dependents.
- B5** Who does what in the household: who earns, who cares, who studies.
- B6** Has any member died or left the household, and when?

B7 Has any member migrated into or out of this area, and to where? Record movement to Dhaka specifically.

C. Housing and living conditions

Asked rather than observed. Complements Section A.

C1 Is the dwelling owned or rented? If rented, how much is the rent?

C2 Does the household own homestead land? Does it own cultivable land?

C3 Why were this housing chosen?

C4 How long has the household lived here?

D. Income and expenditure

Groups all financial indicators together rather than returning to money repeatedly.

D1 What is the main source of household income?

D2 How many days per month does the principal earner work?

D3 What is the approximate total household income per month?

D4 Does any other member earn? What do they contribute?

D5 What is the approximate daily household expenditure?

D6 What is spent on food, on education and on health?

D7 Does the household save? If so, how and how much?

D8 Is there an outstanding loan? From whom, and for what purpose?

E. Food consumption and nutrition practices

Covers what is eaten, how often, and what is fed to children.

E1 How many meals does the household eat in a day? Are three meals usual?

E2 What is eaten at breakfast?

E3 Twenty-four-hour recall: what did the household eat yesterday, meal by meal?

E4 How often are fish, eggs, milk, pulses, vegetables and fruit eaten in a normal week?

E5 Which fish are usually bought, and why those?

E6 What is fed to children, and how does it differ from adult food?

E7 Observation: the apparent nutritional status of children present.

E8 Is nutritious food considered affordable? If not, what prevents it?

E9 Who decides what is cooked on a given day?

E10 How is food stored? Is there refrigeration?

F. Social protection access

Records what is received, how it was obtained, and what was required to obtain it.

F1 Does the household receive any government assistance? If not, does any relative?

F2 Which programmes: Food-Friendly Programme, VGD, VGF, Open Market Sales, TCB card, Old Age Allowance, other?

F3 For the Food-Friendly Programme: how much rice is received, at what price, and how often?

F4 How long does the rice received last the household?

F5 Who collects it, and how far must they travel?

F6 Are payments or distributions received on schedule? If not, why not?

F7 If benefits were formerly received and have stopped, what was the reason and for how long?

F8 How were the services obtained: approached directly, through lobbying, or was any fee or payment involved?

F9 Which programme has benefited the household most, and why?

F10 Has the household received anything from the nutrition activity in this union, and how is it regarded?

F11 Is the household aware that the rice received may be fortified? What is understood by that?

F12 If a distribution is short or does not arrive, to whom would the household complain?

G. Family Card understanding

Treated as a distinct domain because understanding of selection emerged as a central gap.

G1 Has the respondent heard of the Family Card?

G2 From whom or from where did they hear about it?

G3 Can they describe how a household is enrolled?

G4 Do they know who selects beneficiaries, and on what basis?

G5 Do they believe the selection process is fair? Why or why not?

G6 Has the household applied or been surveyed? What happened?

G7 In whose name would a card be issued in this household?

G8 What would the household expect to receive, and how?

H. Gender roles and decision making

Maps intra household agency, which determines what a transfer becomes in practice.

H1 How are household chores divided between men and women?

H2 Who goes to the market, and who decides what is bought?

H3 Does the respondent hold a bKash or other mobile financial services account in her own name?

H4 Who receives money sent to the household, and who manages it?

H5 Is the respondent a member of an NGO group or savings society? Does she manage any loan herself?

H6 Does she need permission to visit relatives, to travel, or to visit neighbours?

H7 Who decides where children study?

H8 If a child falls ill, who decides whether to seek treatment, and who takes the child?

H9 If a daughter has been married, at what age and for what reason?

H10 Community safety: are there concerns the respondent would raise about safety or violence in the area?

I. Health access

Establishes where treatment is sought, from whom, and at what cost.

I1 Has any household member been ill recently? With what?

I2 Where was treatment sought, and from whom?

I3 Is the provider a qualified doctor, a community clinic, or a pharmacy or drug seller?

I4 How much was spent on that episode of illness?

I5 Does any member have a long-term illness?

I6 Are children taken for immunization? Where?

I7 Has any child been weighed or measured in the past year? Where and by whom?

J. Shocks and climate exposure

Placed after gender, following the sequence agreed during the planning session.

J1 Has the household experienced a shock causing major financial distress: fire, flood, loss of assets, displacement?

J2 When did it occur, and what was lost?

J3 Did the household receive any assistance at that time? From whom?

J4 How did the household recover: savings, loan, sale of assets, migration?

J5 Are there environmental conditions in the area that affect health?

K. Perceptions of the courtyard session

Asked only of participants who attended a session.

K1 Is this the first session attended, or has the respondent attended before?

K2 How did the respondent hear about it, and who invited them?

K3 What was discussed today, in the respondent's own words?

K4 Was anything discussed that the respondent had not heard before?

K5 Were the language and the material easy to follow?

K6 Is there anything the respondent intends to do differently as a result?

K7 What would the respondent like discussed at a future session?

K8 Does attending cost the respondent anything, in time or in lost earnings?

ANNEX B

Questionnaire for Youth Volunteers

A separate instrument was prepared for the volunteers who facilitate the courtyard sessions. No household observation checklist is required for them, so the instrument concentrates on their background, their preparation, how sessions run in practice, what they hear from the community, and whether the role is sustainable.

WHY VOLUNTEERS ARE INTERVIEWED AS KEY INFORMANTS

- ▶ Where a community cannot be interviewed exhaustively, a person who spends sustained time within it can provide reliable insight on demographics, health seeking practices, mobility, community safety and the division of labour by gender.
- ▶ Volunteers are also the delivery mechanism. Their view of what works in a session is direct operational evidence.
- ▶ Female volunteers are frequently better placed to comment on community safety and on issues affecting women.
- ▶ Educational indicators are not reliably captured this way and require direct household enquiry.

A. Background

Establishes who the volunteer is and how they came to the role.

A1 Age and gender.

A2 Level of education completed, and current study if any.

A3 Place of residence, and distance from the sessions facilitated.

A4 Through which organization did the volunteer join this work?

A5 Is the volunteer registered with the Department of Youth Development?

A6 How long have they been volunteering?

A7 How did they hear about the opportunity, and why did they take it up?

A8 Do they have other sources of income? What are they?

B. Training received

Establishes what preparation was provided and whether it was adequate.

- B1** What training was received before facilitating a session?
- B2** Who delivered the training, and over how many days?
- B3** Which modules or topics were covered?
- B4** Which parts of the training proved most useful in practice?
- B5** Which topics does the volunteer feel least confident explaining?
- B6** Has any refresher training been provided since?
- B7** What materials were supplied: flip charts, posters, audio material, a facilitation guide?
- B8** Is any supervision or observation of sessions provided?

C. Session implementation

Records how sessions actually run, as against how they are designed to run.

- C1** How many sessions has the volunteer facilitated in total?
- C2** How many are facilitated in a typical month?
- C3** How are the session locations being chosen, and who convenes the participants?
- C4** What is typical attendance, and how does it vary?
- C5** How long does a session run?
- C6** How is facilitation shared when two volunteers work together?
- C7** Which materials are used most, and which least?
- C8** Is any information recorded during or after the session? On what form, and to whom is it given?
- C9** What allowance is received per session, and when is it paid?
- C10** What costs does the volunteer meet themselves, such as travel?

D. Community response

Captures what the volunteer hears back, which is not otherwise recorded anywhere.

- D1** What questions do participants most often ask?
- D2** Which topics generate the most discussion?
- D3** Which messages do participants find hardest to accept or act on?
- D4** Has the volunteer observed any change in what participants say between sessions?
- D5** Do participants raise issues outside the session content, such as entitlements or complaints?
- D6** Do men and women respond differently? In what way?
- D7** Do participants ever bring questions about the Family Card or other programmes?

E. Challenges

Identifies what constrains delivery at the point of facilitation.

- E1** What is the most difficult part of facilitating a session?
- E2** Is attendance difficult to secure? Why?
- E3** Do participants face costs in attending, such as lost daily wages?
- E4** Are there topics the volunteer avoids, and why?
- E5** Have there been difficulties with logistics, venue, weather or timing?
- E6** For female volunteers: are there constraints on mobility or safety in reaching sessions?
- E7** Are there community safety or violence issues the volunteer would raise?

F. Support required

Establishes what would improve delivery, from the perspective of the person delivering it.

- F1** What additional training would help?
- F2** What additional materials would help?
- F3** Would supervision or peer exchange be useful? In what form?
- F4** Is the current allowance adequate for the work involved?
- F5** What single change would most improve a session?

G. Sustainability and aspiration

Bears directly on whether the model can be institutionalized.

- G1** How long does the volunteer expect to continue in this role?
- G2** What does the volunteer want to do professionally in the future?
- G3** Does the volunteer intend to remain in the area, or to migrate?
- G4** How does the allowance contribute to the household, and how is it spent?
- G5** Has the volunteering led to any other opportunity, training or employment?
- G6** Would the volunteer continue if external project support ended?
- G7** What would make the role more attractive to other young people locally?
- G8** Is the volunteer aware of wider youth nutrition networks, and does that connection matter to them?

ANNEX C

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full form
BAU	Bangladesh Agricultural University
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BLC	BRAC Learning Centre
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia
DYD	Department of Youth Development
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
FFP	Food-Friendly Programme (Khaddo Bandhab Karmasuchi)
G2P	Government to Person (payment channel)
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GED	General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission
IEC	Information, Education and Communication (materials)
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
OMS	Open Market Sales

Abbreviation	Full form
PMT	Proxy Means Test
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SSPS	Social Security Policy Support Programme
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TCB	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

ANNEX D

Glossary

Terms used in this report that may not be familiar to every reader.

Term	Meaning
Social and Behaviour Change Communication	Structured communication activity intended to shift knowledge, attitudes and everyday practices, rather than simply to distribute information. It typically combines interpersonal contact, community dialogue and media, and is designed around the specific barriers that stop people acting on what they already know.
Proxy Means Test	A method of estimating a household's living standard without measuring its income directly. Observable characteristics such as housing materials, assets and household composition are scored, and the resulting score is compared against a threshold to determine eligibility. It is used because reliable income data is difficult to collect where most work is informal.
Social registry	A database of households, holding the information used to determine eligibility for one or more social protection programmes. A single or unified registry allows several programmes to draw on the same records; separate registries mean the same household may be recorded several times over, with no automatic link between the entries.
Entitlement literacy	A household's practical understanding of what it is entitled to receive, how it was selected, what quantity and price apply, and what to do when something does not arrive. It is distinct from awareness that a programme exists.
Feedback loop	An arrangement by which information generated at the point of delivery travels back to those who design the programme, and influences subsequent decisions. Without one, monitoring data is collected but does not change anything.

Term	Meaning
Nutrition sensitive social protection	Social protection designed so that it contributes to nutrition outcomes as well as to income or consumption. This may mean fortifying a commodity that is already being transferred, attaching nutrition communication to an existing contact point, or linking a transfer to health services.
Uthan Boithok	Literally a courtyard meeting. An informal community gathering held in a homestead courtyard or open ground, used in Bangladesh as a format for community discussion because it lowers the threshold for attendance, particularly for women.
Upazila	A sub district administrative unit. The Upazila Nirbahi Officer is the senior civil servant heading the upazila administration.
Fortification	The addition of vitamins and minerals to a commonly eaten food during processing. Fortified rice kernels look, taste and cook like ordinary rice, which supports acceptance but also means neither the household nor an inspector can identify the product by sight.
Baseline and endline study	A baseline study records conditions before or at the start of an activity. An endline study repeats the measurement afterwards, so that change over the period can be described.

ANNEX E

Photographic Log

All photographs in this report were taken during the mission on 21 to 23 August 2026. The table records the subject and location of each image for archival purposes.

Figure	Subject	Location
Cover, 16, 17	Courtyard meeting in progress: participants, facilitation and interaction	Chander Shatiya, Gouripur Union
10	Reception of the SSPS delegation, flowers exchanged at the Upazila Food Office and the Upazila Social Services Office	Upazila compound, Gouripur
11, 15	Meeting of Government line agencies, and officials sharing observations	Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, Gouripur
13	Ms. Afia Amin Pappa, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, chairing the meeting, and the BAU faculty member presenting research findings	Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, Gouripur
15	Food-Friendly Programme dealers sharing their views	Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, Gouripur
7	Designated and trained youth volunteers conducting the session with the Government flip chart	Chander Shatiya, Gouripur Union
14	Uthan Boithok banner, and the SSPS team observing the courtyard meeting among villagers	Gouripur Upazila and Chander Shatiya
17	Simultaneous courtyard session in the second union, observed by the GAIN team	Bhabanipur, Ramgopalpur Union

Figure	Subject	Location
18, 20	Group photographs of the SSPS team with courtyard participants and youth volunteers	Chander Shatiya, Gouripur Union
18	Participant describing her circumstances to an SSPS Research Associate	Chander Shatiya, Gouripur Union

ANNEX F

Verification Status of Field Figures

The figures below were stated during the mission and are reported in this document as stated. They should be verified before use in any policy submission, in line with the recommendation made during the line agency meeting that statistical information be validated through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Figure as stated	Source	Status
Child stunting 24 per cent and wasting 14 per cent in Gouripur	Ministry of Food field officer, line agency meeting	The stunting figure matches the national rate in the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2022. Whether the local figure derives from that survey or from a separate district assessment requires confirmation.
Non communicable disease burden approximately 70 per cent in the district¹³	Ministry of Food field officer, line agency meeting	Requires confirmation. The denominator and the definition used were not stated.
Social protection allocation approximately 41 per cent, nutrition approximately 24 per cent	GAIN Advisor, line agency meeting	Requires confirmation against budget documents. The basis of the denominator was not stated and these proportions are not reproduced as figures in the body of this report.
National poverty approximately 18 per cent, poverty intensity up to 45 per cent¹⁴	Open discussion, line agency meeting	Broadly consistent with published estimates. The exact basis requires confirmation.
Approximately 80 per cent of households with nutrition awareness; school dropout 4.3 per cent; 84 per cent of one union surveyed	Bangladesh Agricultural University research presentation	Awaiting the published baseline study. Reported here as presented.

¹³ Bangladesh's non communicable disease burden is put at approximately 67 per cent of annual deaths at national level (The Daily Star, 2022). This confirms the general order of magnitude of the figure stated for the district but does not itself verify a district-specific rate.

¹⁴ The national poverty headcount rate was 18.7 per cent in the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022 (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2023), consistent with the figure stated here. No published measure of poverty intensity or depth corresponding to "up to 45 per cent" could be identified; that part of the figure remains unverified.

Figure as stated	Source	Status
Youth organization funding rounds	Youth volunteers, Chander Shatiya	Not reproduced in this report. The two figures given differ by an implausible order of magnitude and require verification.
Approximately Tk 800 per volunteer per session	Youth volunteers, Chander Shatiya	Requires confirmation with GAIN and with the implementing organisation.
Approximately 22 youth volunteers active in the area; 50 beneficiaries and 8 children at the observed session; 12 participants reporting a bKash account; 6 raising hands for no refrigerator	Direct observation and post session discussion	Recorded directly by the delegation. Reliable for the session observed; not representative of the upazila.
Rice received lasting approximately 10 days in a seven-member household	Beneficiary account, post session discussion	A single household account. Indicative only.

ANNEX G

References

- Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2023) Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022: Key Findings. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Planning.
- BSS (2026) Rice distribution begins among 55 lakh beneficiaries under Food-Friendly Programme. Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, 3 August. Available at: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/411192> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- Cabinet Division (2021) Action Plan (Phase II, 2021–2026) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh. Dhaka: Cabinet Division, Government of Bangladesh.
- Daily Sun (2026) Minister lays out govt initiatives to ensure food security for extreme poor in Parliament. Daily Sun, 5 April. Available at: <https://www.daily-sun.com/bangladesh/867000> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- GAIN (no date a) GAIN in Bangladesh. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Available at: <https://www.gainhealth.org/countries/bangladesh> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- GAIN (no date b) Large-Scale Food Fortification. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Available at: <https://www.gainhealth.org/programmes/food-fortification/large-scale-food-fortification> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- GAIN (2025) Harnessing youth potential for transforming food systems in Bangladesh. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition. Available at: <https://www.gainhealth.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/enabling-youth-bangladesh-brief-6th-23oct25.pdf> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- General Economics Division (2015) National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh. Dhaka: General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission. Available at: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/bgd167449.pdf> (Accessed: 8 September 2026).
- Government of Bangladesh (no date) About SSPS Programme. Social Security Policy Support Programme, Cabinet Division and General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission. Available at: <https://socialprotection.gov.bd/about-ssps/> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).

- Government of Bangladesh (2026) Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme Overview. Social Security Policy Support Programme, January. Available at: <https://socialprotection.gov.bd/2026/01/social-security-policy-support-ssps-programme-overview/> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- Khan, M.M.A., Billah, M.A., Fatima, K., Islam, M.M., Sarker, B.K., Khanam, S.J., Banke-Thomas, A. and Khan, M.N. (2024) 'Child undernutrition and its association with household environmental conditions in Bangladesh', *Public Health Nutrition*, 28(1), e3.
- New Age (2022) Women, children suffer micronutrient deficiencies in Bangladesh. New Age, 31 October. Available at: <https://newagebd.net/article/185140/women-children-suffer-micronutrient-deficiencies-in-bangladesh> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- Ruel, M.T. and Alderman, H. (2013) 'Nutrition-sensitive interventions and programmes: how can they help to accelerate progress in improving maternal and child nutrition?', *The Lancet*, 382(9891), pp. 536–551.
- Saha, I., Durand-Morat, A., Nalley, L.L., Alam, M.J. and Nayga, R. (2021) 'Rice quality and its impacts on food security and sustainability in Bangladesh', *PLOS One*, 16(12), e0261118.
- Tariqujjaman, M., Rahman, M., Wangdi, K., Karmakar, G., Ahmed, T. and Sarma, H. (2023) 'Geographical variations of food insecurity and its associated factors in Bangladesh: evidence from pooled data of seven cross-sectional surveys', *PLOS One*, 18(1), e0280157.
- The Business Standard (2024) GAIN launches SUN Youth Network to tackle malnutrition in Bangladesh. The Business Standard, 9 December. Available at: <https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/gain-launches-sun-youth-network-tackle-malnutrition-bangladesh-1014286> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- The Daily Star (2022) Rising health risk: NCDs now cause 67% of deaths in Bangladesh. The Daily Star, 27 January. Available at: <https://www.thedailystar.net/health/disease/news/rising-health-risk-2948321> (Accessed: 8 September 2026).
- The Daily Star (2026a) Family Card pilot to cover 40,000 households. The Daily Star. Available at: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/governance/news/family-card-pilot-cover-40000-households-4123341> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- The Daily Star (2026b) Govt aims to gradually issue 2cr family cards. The Daily Star, 25 February. Available at: <https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/govt-aims-gradually-issue-2cr-family-cards-4114296> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- UNDP Bangladesh (no date) Social Protection Policy Support. United Nations Development Programme. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/bangladesh/projects/social-protection-policy-support> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- WFP (2020) Fortified rice to be available in open market sale in Dhaka North and Dhaka South city corporations. World Food Programme, 11 August. Available at: <https://www.wfp.org/news/fortified-rice-be-available-open-market-sale-dhaka-north-and-dhaka-south-city-corporations> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).
- WFP (2023) WFP Bangladesh: Rice Fortification. World Food Programme. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/wfp-bangladesh-rice-fortification> (Accessed: 6 September 2026).

END OF REPORT

*Prepared by Sanjida Sultana, Research Associate, Social Security Policy Support Programme, UNDP Bangladesh.
An initiative of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission, with technical assistance from UNDP Bangladesh and support from the Australian Government.*