



মধ্য আয়ের দেশে  
অতি দরিদ্রসহ ৪ কোটি দরিদ্রের  
খাদ্য ও পুষ্টির নিশ্চয়তা চাই  
খাদ্য অধিকার গ্রহণ করি

খাদ্য অধিকার বাংলাদেশ  
RIGHT TO FOOD BANGLADESH

## Right to Food & Nutrition Campaign

25 July 2018, National Museum Auditorium, Shahbagh, Dhaka



### **Introduction**

Right to Food Bangladesh (RtF BD) Network organized the inauguration of 'Right to Food & Nutrition Campaign' on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at National Museum Auditorium, Shahbagh, Dhaka. The inauguration shared detailed on the campaign for July-December 2018 centering upcoming national parliamentary election. A total of 648 representatives from 523 NGOs, networks, educational institutions, youth, women and farmers' organizations, trade unions, indigenous and different professionals' organizations and local government institutions participated from Dhaka city and 50 districts. The occasion was moderated by Mr. Ataur Rahman Miton, Secretary, RtF BD and Country Director, Hunger Free World and Ms. Kaniz Fatima, Coordinator, RtF BD Secretariat. An exhibition displayed colorful presentation of RtF BD's initiatives so far that was organized in the inauguration premises.

### **Welcome Address**

Mr. Anowarul Haq, Treasurer, RtF BD and Director, CARE Bangladesh greeted all participants and focused on the major campaign initiatives. He emphasized on collecting signatures from 2.5 million people in favor of enacting right to food act and commitment of all political parties to incorporate and implement the right to food act in election manifestoes centering upcoming national election. He called for wider participation in achieving the campaign goal.

### **Discussion on Context and Programs of the Campaign**

Sharing the progress of the country made so far, Mr. Mohsin Ali, General Secretary, RtF BD and Executive Director, WAVE Foundation stressed on the role of relevant stakeholders in implementing 'Right to Food' to achieve respective goals country has set yet. 'Right to Food Act' is fundamental to ensure right to adequate food and nutrition for the 40 million poor people of Bangladesh. He shared major activities and appealed for active participation of all stakeholders to succeed the campaign. The major activities are: 1. Submission of Memorandum to the Prime Minister, with signatures of 2.5 million citizens and initiate Policy Advocacy in taking specific steps towards formulating the 'Right to Food Act', 2. Dialogue with the leadership of political parties for incorporating the issues of formulation and implementation of the 'Right to Food Act' in their Election Manifesto and 3. Organize more than 1000 'Food and Nutrition Rights Campaign Team' across the country for implementing the campaign initiatives.

### **Speech from the Honorable Guests**

Mr. Qazi Riazul Haque, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Ms. Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education and Former Advisor of Last Caretaker Government, Mr. Khondokar Ibrahim Khaled, Co-Chair, RtF BD, Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, Palli Karma-Shahayak Foundation (PKSF), Ms. Tasmima Hossain, Editor, the Daily Ittefaq and the fortnightly Ananya, Ms. Farah Kabir, Country Director, ActionAid Bangladesh, Ms. Tessa Schmelzer, Country Representative, ICCO International, Mr. Nowazesh Ali Khan, Advisor (Program), ATN Bangla, Ms. Helen Ware, Program Director, Concern Worldwide, Ms. Ellie Valentine, Chief of Party, Promoting Advocacy & Rights, Counterpart International were present as guest of honor and delivered their valuable speech. The distinguished guests expressed their solidarity with the campaign and underlined different strategies to reach the campaign goal. The process should be participatory and inclusive. The issue of potential engagements of media and other stakeholders are also highlighted in their speech. They looked forward to extend necessary cooperation from their end to make this campaign a success.

### **Commitment from the Participants**

Participants and representatives from different districts and Dhaka expressed their solidarity and commitment to implement set activities under the campaign. Mr. Shoeb Sazzad Khan, Program Coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation and Mr. Adbur Rahman, Regional Project Coordinator, DanCharch Aid Bangladesh delivered solidarity speech as well.

### **Declaration of Campaign Inauguration**

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairperson, RtF BD and PKSF presided over the program and led the declaration of the inauguration. He reemphasized on the demand for enacting Right to Food Act to ensure the right of underprivileged people and referred to the message from Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh on the occasion of 'South Asia Right to Food Conference 2015'. The PM expressed her government's commitment to formulating and enforcing necessary laws to enhance food and agriculture production and ensure food and nutritional security for all. Dr. Ahmad stressed that the demand for right to food act is not a new issue rather it is the demand for turning government's commitment into action. He expressed hope for a people friendly act and effective role of all stakeholders for its proper implementation.

The Inauguration concluded with a joint vow. The declaration recited the inauguration of campaign demanding the +Right to Food Act to ensure right to food and nutrition for the 40 million extreme poor and poor to achieve the prime goals of the country eventually.



#### **যোগাযোগ**

সচিবালয়: গুয়েভ ফাউন্ডেশন, ৩/১১, ব্লক-ডি, লালমাটিয়া, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোন: ৮১৪৩২৪৫, ৫৮১৫১৬২০  
ফ্যাক্স: ৮১৪৩২৪৫, ৫৮১৫১৬২০ এক্স. ১২৩, মোবাইল: ০১৭৫৫৬৫৫৪৩০, ০১৭০৭০০১৪১৫, ০১৭১৯২৬৮৬৯৬, ০১৭১৭৮০০৭৭৯  
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