Urbanization, Food Security
and Sustainable Development:
A Challenge for Bangladesh

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Abstract: The thesis aimed to investigate the current situation of food security and initiatives by main actors in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with urban poor in focus. A qualitative study with the actors of food security and the urban poor is the basis of this research’s result complementing with previous studies on this topic.

Income of the urban poor in Bangladesh is very low compared to the food price which is one of the main reasons why urban poor are not food secure in Dhaka city. There are many organizations working on income generating approaches in urban Dhaka but the work is too small to have an impact on the current situation of food security. Lack of social safety net is another reason identified for food insecurity in urban Dhaka. The government is provided low priced rice and wheat to the urban poor yet again this only covers 1 percent of the urban slums. Due to lack of resource sustainable development is not included in the process of ensuring food security in urban Dhaka.

Keywords: Food Security, Sustainable Food Security, Food Sovereignty, Urban Poor, Sustainable Development, Bangladesh

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**Summary:** This study focuses on urban poor in Dhaka, Bangladesh and the situation of their food security and identifying of food security initiatives. Food security can be defined as when people have all the time enough, appropriate and safe food to live a healthy life. Bangladesh has a population of 160 million and nearly 50 percent of them are living under poverty. Under-nutrition is a big problem for this country. As rest of the world urbanization on rise in Bangladesh as well and poverty in urban areas is increasing. Urban poor in Bangladesh suffers most of comparing urban and rural poverty that why urban poverty needs to address in policy making.

The main objective of this research is to look at the current situation for food security among the urban poor and to find out if there are sustainable food security initiatives in Dhaka city and who the main actors of food security initiatives are and this is a qualitative research. Though interviewing the main actors of food security which are several Governmental and Non-Governmental organizations representative and interviews with urban poor this research tries to answer the research questions.

The government is the main actor for food security in Dhaka. Urban food security is an issue that Bangladesh government needs yet to address seriously. Lack of government focus on the topic is the main reason why other actors working on food security in general is not working with urban food security or sustainable food security.

**Keywords:** Food Security, Sustainable Food Security, Food Sovereignty, Urban Poor, Sustainable Development, Bangladesh

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1. **Introduction**

Bangladesh is one of the Least Developed Country (LDC) in the world. There are about 50% of the population lives under poverty line in this country. The total population of Bangladesh is around 160 million and annual population growth rate is estimated 1.6% in year 2012 (CIA-The World Fact Book, 2013). The main occupation of this country’s inhabitants are agriculture, about 54% of the population is directly or indirectly involved with agriculture (The World Bank, 2011). According to the government of Bangladesh, about 85% of the population lives in rural settlement (NFPCSP, 2008) but other source say that in 2005, 25% of the population lived in urban areas and the urban population growth was around 3.5% annually (Banks, Roy, & Hulme, 2011) which is greater than the national population growth rate.

As urbanization is a global phenomenon today and Bangladesh is experiencing a rapid urbanization. Currently around 30% of the population lives in urban settlement and the trend show that it has increased steadily by 3.5% annually. This rate might increase rapidly due to the climate change and related hazards. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecasting says that about 30% of the land mass of Bangladesh can go under water if sea level rises. The major reason for urbanization today in Bangladesh is because of climate related hazards like floods, land looses caused by floods, land erosion etc. If the effect of climate change worsens the country will face an extreme urbanization of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP).

Bangladesh is a developing country and one of the most densely populated country in the world. Half of the population lives under poverty level and 30% of the population suffers from chronic malnutrition where children and women are the most affected (Eminence, 2013). The government of Bangladesh is working towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and their priority is to eradicating hunger and make Bangladesh food secure. According to the “National Food Policy Plan of Action 2008-2015” Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in combating food insecurity since 1990. Since then till 2004 the undernourished proportion of the population has gone down from 40% to 30% but due to population growth the actual number of people has increased from 39 million to 44 million (NFPCSP, 2008). The poverty rate in rural areas is higher compared with the urban areas; it is 28% in urban and 36% in the rural. Bangladesh produces self-sufficient staple food mainly rice which is 94% of all food grain production rest of the food items are being mainly imported and cultivation of rice occupies 71% of the production area (NFPCSP, 2008). The challenge for Bangladesh is that it has used high yield variety of rice, increased irrigation and agricultural inputs which is now reached to its potential limit. This production system is not sustainable because this production system is based on the using of high yield crops and heavy use of chemicals as fertilizers. Increased production furthermore is very unlikely if there is no new technological breakthrough (NFPCSP, 2008). Another problem identified is that due to rapid urbanization, cultivated lands are being filled with housing settlement, infrastructure and other related services to meet the demand of urban population. The future of food security in Bangladesh is facing challenges and the success of the government is limited in this regard.

The food policy of Bangladesh is mainly focusing on rural poverty reduction and malnutrition because majority of the population still lives in rural settlement and urban population is being neglected. This is due to the idea that urban areas generally has better access to services such as healthcare, education, jobs etc and urban poor is viewed as a small proportion of the total population. Another reason for urban poor has been neglected in government policies, because this is a way to discourage people to move in to the cities (Banks, Roy, & Hulme, 2011).

People move to urban areas seeking alternative livelihood. The daily expenditure for food in urban areas are much higher than in rural areas which have been ignored is all the national surveys measuring food security, poverty level and vulnerable situations (Banks, Roy, & Hulme, 2011). In 2013 several studies have been conducted and disseminated regarding monitoring food security, nutrition assessment, and food accessibility in Bangladesh and in all these studies the urban poor have been ignored. Urban poor are those, who move from rural areas because they lacked job, land or any other earning options. This makes them poor of the poor, yet they are being neglected by the governments as well as the international organizations and NGOs (Banks, Roy, & Hulme, 2011).
1.1 Problem Formulation

Food Security is when all the people have safe, nutritious and enough food all the time to be able to live a healthy life. Food is a basic human need, yet millions of people in the world are going to bed hungry every day. Women and children are the biggest groups that that lack food security. There is enough food in the world to feed us all (Sen, 1983) then why do so many people lack food security? Bangladesh is a small country yet it is one of the most densely populate countries in the world. There are about 80 million people live in poverty in Bangladesh today and around 50 million people are suffering from chronic malnutrition directly caused by food insecurity. Malnutrition causes cognitive and learning disabilities and as shown to a leading cause for maternal death and child mortality (IFAD, WFP, FAO, 2013). There are many programmes designed for poverty reduction because poverty and food security are very much interlinked, but in Bangladesh most of these programs are focused in rural areas. There is a big group of people living in poverty in urban cities as well in Bangladesh and these groups are deprived from the picture of eradicating hunger in Bangladesh. There is no plan in the Food Policy for tackling urban food insecurity in Bangladesh. Urbanization will increase rapidly in Bangladesh in near future (Anon., 2012) and there is no plan for tackling food insecurity. This problem will be difficult to manage in future due to urbanization, climate related hazards, decreased land for agriculture, limited water resources etc. Growing food (Yue, 2008) in Bangladesh could be more challenging in future than now if this issue is not handled today.

1.2 Research Questions

- How is the present situation of Food Security in urban slums in Dhaka?
- What are the initiatives for food security in Dhaka city and what is the view on food security within key actors working with food security in Dhaka?
- Are there sustainable initiatives for Food Security in Dhaka city?

1.3 Objective

1.3.1 General Objective

The general objective of this study is to analyze the present scenario and initiatives as well as scope of sustainable food security of Urban Slums in Dhaka.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- To describe the current status of food security in Urban Dhaka.
- To identify the initiatives for food security in Dhaka city
- To investigate if initiatives for food security in Urban Dhaka are sustainable.

1.4 Limitations

Food Security is complex, so is Sustainable Development because both of the topics has more than one component to complete the topics as whole. This study will not cover all the aspect of these topics due to time constrain and lack of other resources such as human resource and economic resources. There are two sides of food security one is people that not have enough to eat and another is people who have wrong types of food to eat. This study only focuses on the aspect of the people who do not have enough to eat. The urban poor of Dhaka city is the focus of this study and not the entire country. Availability and access of food security is the main focus of this study. This study is also focusing only on institutional activities and its’ outcome and not on individuals measures. Regarding sustainable development they study mostly focus on current situation in urban poor in Dhaka.
2. **Background**

2.1 **Conceptual Framework**

It is important to define the key concepts of this thesis which will give a clear understanding of the essence of this research. There can be several definitions for same concept that is why it is significant to choose and define which definition is being used in this study. The key concepts of this research are concerning Food Security, Sustainable Food Security, Food Sovereignty, Sustainable Development, and Urbanization. These concepts will be defined briefly in this following section.

2.1.1 **Food Security**

It has been stated many a times that there are enough food for all in the world yet 800 millions of people are going to bed hungry every day (International Food Policy Research Institute, 2001). The Majority of this group is consisting of people who have less accessibility to food, especially women, children and elderly (International Development Research Centre, 1999). The poorest people in the world often live in very remote areas where they have limited access to national as well as world food market, which makes food availability difficult for them. Other poor people who are urbanized suffer from another problem which is high food price which makes it difficult for them to purchase enough food or nutritional food to consume. Both urban and rural poor are often lacking food security (Godfray, H., 2010).

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has defined food security in World Food Summit in year 1996; "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life" (An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008). This definition has been widely accepted in all over the Globe.

FAO has defined four dimensions of Food security which are:

- **Availability:** Food is available for all in sufficient quantities and of appropriate quality, the production of food can be domestic or can be imported.
- **Access:** Food is accessible by all individuals by means of having adequate resources (including inherited resources, earned resources, common resources etc.) for purchasing satisfying and nutritious food.
- **Utilization:** Non-food inputs in food security are important which brings physiological satisfaction and provides nutrition wellbeing. Through clean water and sanitation, proper health care along with adequate diet is important in terms of utilization of food.
- **Stability:** This means that an individual should have access to enough food at all the time even in sudden shock and in seasonal food insecurity season.

Food insecurity is just the opposite of food security and there are two main types of food insecurity which are: “chronic food insecurity” and “transitory food insecurity” (An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008). Chronic food insecurity means persistent food...
insecurity that exists over a long time when people do not have enough food to meet their regular need. Chronic food insecurity is often caused by not having assets or not having enough production or not having the right resource to purchase food (An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008). To be able to solve long-term food insecurity require a long term action plan which should include planning for combating poverty, educate people, improve access of food etc. The Transitory food insecurity means temporary, short-term food insecurity caused by sudden shocks. This state can be difficult to address because of its nature but to handle this situation by strengthening social safety net and capacity building (An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008).

Food insecurity is intertwined with malnutrition and poverty. Chronic food insecurity leads to malnutrition. Malnutrition leads to poverty because malnutrition affects a persons’ health, physical and mental development, learning’s ability which leads to limited options in live which leads to poverty and again poverty leads to food insecurity (An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security, 2008). The picture in Fig 1 shows clearly the complexity and interrelations between food security, poverty and effect on people.

Food security includes growing of food which leads to land availability and management, water resources, soil quality and also weather condition to grow food. Population growth puts a pressure on food production, land availability, water use, soil quality etc. (Godfray, et al., 2010). By 2050 the world will need around 100% more food than today (Godfray, et al., 2010). The challenge gets more difficult considering that landmass will not increase much and rather as a result of urbanization and other human activities, desertification, land erosion, salinization is likely to accure, will reduce more land to use for agriculture (Godfray, et al., 2010).

2.1.2 Sustainable Food Security

Food Security is a very complex topic in itself and Sustainable Food Security (SFS) is even more complex when economic, environmental and social aspects of food security are included. Sustainable Food Security can be explained as feeding all people at present without compromising the need of the future generation and that is why leaving a health ecological footprint is essential (International Development Research Centre, 1999). When food security remains a challenge, especially for the developing countries, sustainable food security involves other issues like conserving land, water management and also economic growths through food production (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, u.d.).

The book “Sustainable Food Security” has broadly discussed the challenges in SFD and also what could be the solution to achieve SFD. The main challenges are increased population, decreased nutritional security, economic inaccessibility to food, agricultural land reduced, natural resource constrain such as water scarcity, soil pollution, climate change etc., and human/animal/plants health (Jain, Hansra, Chakrapory, & Kurup, 2010).

FAOs sustainable development department has divided into four different pillars to achieve global SFS which are “People, Institutions, Knowledge and Environment” (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, u.d.). In the document “Sustainable Food Security” FAO has described the pillars in the following way:

People: Majority of the developing countries population still lives in the rural areas and are dependent on agriculture which does not generate a steady income. Including these group of people and enhance their economic situation will play an important role in end poverty. Women are the most vulnerable group that suffers from food insecurity, a special attention needs toward this group to improve their rights such as education, health, ownership of land and etc.

Institutions: By institution FAO means that a bottom up structure is needed to minimize the gap between rural development and national development. Policy, laws and regulation should reflect the rural perspective and not the centralized view of the situation. Governmental, public sector and civil society should be integrated for rural development.
Knowledge: Sharing of knowledge and technology is important to achieve Food Security globally. Technology for improved food production and high-yield crops is the key for sustainable food security but currently many small scale farmers and poor can not access these technologies because it is very expensive for them. The knowledge about how to treat the land and environment and omit environmental pollution due to agriculture, this needs to be shared and learned. Another important matter is the knowledge about biodiversity and ecosystem and its function to be able to preserve it. Through new types of global commitment to ensuring transfer of knowledge and technology is a must and only by that global food security can be achieved.

Environment: Due to agriculture and food production soil pollution, water pollution, loss of biodiversity is a common phenomenon today. Feeding the world population in future will increase these entire environmental problems and to mitigate it there are already many tools can be used to protect the environment, such as ecologically sound technologies are already being used in many areas and needs to be used and develop these types of technologies. Resource constrain is going to be a challenge but sustainable food security also needs to provide economic development that is why dialog with the farmers are viable on resource management such as land use, water management, soil management etc. and also provide other services to the farmers like education, access to cash, increase budget in agriculture sector, monitoring of environmental issues are also necessary.

2.1.3 Food Sovereignty

Food sovereignty is another term that comes up while discussing food security. In 2007, 500 repetitives from 80 countries around the world formed a declaration called “Declaration of Nyéléni” by the Forum for Food Sovereignty in Nyéléni, Mali. The participants in the forum were farmer, fishermen, youth, women, indigenous people, consumers, environmentalists, urban activist and many more. The declaration explains food sovereignty by the following way:

“Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations. It defends the interests and inclusion of the next generation. It offers a strategy to resist and dismantle the current corporate trade and food regime, and directions for food, farming, pastoral and fisheries systems determined by local producers. Food sovereignty prioritises local and national economies and markets and empowers peasant and family farmer-driven agriculture, artisanal fishing, pastoralist-led grazing, and food production, distribution and consumption based on environmental, social and economic sustainability. Food sovereignty promotes transparent trade that guarantees just income to all peoples and the rights of consumers to control their food and nutrition. It ensures that the rights to use and manage our lands, territories, waters, seeds, livestock and biodiversity are in the hands of those of us who produce food. Food sovereignty implies new social relations free of oppression and inequality between men and women, peoples, racial groups, social classes and generations.” (Forum for Food Sovereignty, 2007)

There are few issues that Forum for Food Sovereignty finds challenging for achieving food sovereignty, one of those is the free trade agreement and also all the institutions and world system that promote this. Other challenges are food dumping in the global market, food corporations that only care about profits and not about the environment or people and their health. Technologies and practices like Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) in food production, monoculture of plants, industrial farming of food and animals. Commodification and privatization of food and basic services as health and education is also another challenge. Globalizations that cause marginalization of people, culture, agriculture etc. are also challenges for food sovereignty has to deal with (Forum for Food Sovereignty, 2007).

The current food security system has failed is to eradicate hunger and poverty. High technology use, adopting GMO for higher yield, more liberalization of agriculture were advocated by organizations like World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO) is not working that is why food sovereignty suggest an different approach to solve world hunger situation (Wittman, et al., 2010). Food sovereignty is more focused in community level and its agenda is important to incorporate in national and international level of food system according to Wittman, 2010. There are a few fundamental differences
between food sovereignty and today’s common open market system also called corporate and neoliberal food regime (Wittman, 2011).

The main differences between these two regimes are showed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food Sovereignty Regime</th>
<th>Corporate and Neoliberal Food Regime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food security through local agricultural production in focus and by hindering dumping of subsidized food imports on local markets.</td>
<td>Food security through intensifying production and rely on market distribution system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National development can be accomplished by sustainable agriculture which will lead to diversified economy. This will improve food security and also a healthy environment. Fair trade system will also generate economic growth.</td>
<td>For national development increased exports of agricultural commodities will increase positive trade balances. Communities that are economically successful will invest in education, healthcare, etc. for communities’ wellbeing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversification in production and use of alternative technologies considering minimum use of output to make farmers effective. Problems like soil fertility, pest and disease infestation should solve through holistic approach and ecofriendly technologies.</td>
<td>Through technology and innovation productivity incensement. Approach problems like soil fertility, pest and disease infestation through compartmentalized approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection of ecosystem and environment and sustainable agriculture are intertwined and that is why should not be apart from each other in policy making.</td>
<td>Only as long as there are sufficient land for agriculture, protection of national parks and environment is in operation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The differences that Wittman (2010), discuses in his article about how to imply different approaches to current food security. The neoliberal food regime is suggesting a standardize approach to meet global need and the food sovereignty suggests a grassroots approach. Neoliberal food regime relies mostly on the market to solve food security issues and development this approach do not prioritize sustainability in agriculture or importance of preserving and protecting the environment. In this view neoliberal food regime does not have a sustainable food security approach.

2.1.4 Sustainable Development

The most common definition of Sustainable Development (SD) is used is “Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations, 1987). This concept has been further developed with time. In 1992 on UN conference on Environment and Development in Rio, the concept Sustainable Development interpreted the word Sustainable which focused on environmental issue and represents future generation and Development was focus on economic and poverty reduction which is the present issue that needed to address immediately (Schirnding, 2005).

The concept of SD have been broaden since the Rio Conference and today SD stand on three strong pillars which is Environment, Social and Economic. Economic growth have been driving power for development in many years and in man of development natural resources have been exploited which lead to environmental pollution (Dasgupta, 2007). Economic growth affects social wellbeing of humans as well and access to this economic growth is viable for it (Dasgupta, 2007). Economic growth leads to increased income for many but todat rise of income does not reach to many that is why there are around 842 million people around the world are lacking etiquet food to have food security (IFAD, WFP, FAO, 2013). Sustainable development includes econmic, social and environment wellbeings, unless the entire world population are food secure sustainable development will not be achived.
This idea of Sustainable Development has been criticized as well for its fundamental difference between the ideas of economic growth for the developing countries at the same time preserving the nature (Sneddona, Richard, & Richard, 2006). After thirty years the critics are still valid for the interpretation of SD and still a challenge that the global leaders stragglers to solve (Sneddona, Richard, & Richard, 2006). Eradicating poverty is the part where development is core focus and for that economic development is needed. Current economic growth is based on natural resources and paradox is that it needs to preserve these natural resources for the future generation meaning with the aim of they have right to access same quantity of resources that we access today (Burgess & Barbier, 2001). Human consumption pattern needs to change because the population of this planet is growing constantly but we have the same planet to share to coming generations as well. To meet the need of the growing population the way we are spending our natural resource is not sustainable. The Stockholm Resilience Centre have produced a research on the planetary boundary which clearly shows that the since the industrial revolution the thresholds many of the boundaries have been crossed way far more than the threshold (Rockström, et al., 2009). Boundaries that Rockström and his coelevages has identified are shown in Figure 2. The figure clearly shows that the biodiversity loss is much more higher then the threshold, climate change has also passed the critical boundary. One of the major cause for biodiversity loss is agricultural activity, due to population growth and pressure on food production and intensification of agriculture using highyielded crops, mono culture, high use of fertiliser and pesticides (Matson, et al., 1997). Intensifying of agriculture is also putting pressure on soil and water health and also a leading cause of soil and water pollution. One of the man maid affect on Increase of nitrogen in atmosphere is extensive use of fertiliser in agriculture (Fields, 2004)

Climate change will have a big impact on food production and this might be one of the biggest challenges for food security future (Lal, 2011). Climate change will cause more frequent rain, storm, flood even drought and will directly affect local food security system (Busscher, 2012). This might cause scarcity of food locally which then will affect sustainable food security negatively. This might even cause more intensification of agriculture and increase loss of bio diversity even more through using of reserved land.

2.1.5 Urbanization

People moving from rural settlement to a city or to a densely populated area calls urbanization (Yue, 2008). People move to cities for various reasons, city provides different services available in the cities. Job, education, health care, transportation, entertainment etc. are the pull for urbanization (Commission on Growth and Development, 2009).

Urbanization is not a new phenomenon; in 1900 the global urban population was around 13% which increased to 49% in 2005 (United Nation, 2006) and today there are more than half of the world population lives in urban areas and the trend shows that, it will only increase. In Asia it is predicted that in 2020, 50% of the population will
live in urban areas (World Urbanization Prospects The 2011 Revision, 2012). It is estimated that in 2050 total world population will increase to 9.2 billion people and 6.3 billion of them will live in urban area where today the urban population is 3.6 billion of the total world population of 7.4 billion (World Urbanization Prospects The 2011 Revision, 2012). Even though urbanization is increasing but it varies from region to region, it have been found that in developed countries the urban population is more than 77.7% where as in developing countries it is 46.5% according to the same report. Urban growth is both result of the natural population growth and also the migration of rural to urban (Baker, 2008).

Poverty was for a long time viewed as a rural issue but due to urbanization, large numbers of the poor people from the rural areas are moving to cities (International Development Research Centre, 1999). This large amount of people will cause stress on the resources and services in the cities especially in the developing countries where resources are already very limited (Baker, 2008). It is estimated that one third of urban population is living in poverty right now and this group of population are tend to increase in future. The report from World Bank has identified six key issues linked with urbanization. The title of the issues are self-explanatory and these are the followings: “i) limited access to income and employment, ii) inadequate and insecure living conditions, iii) poor infrastructure and services; iv) vulnerability to risks such as natural disasters, environmental hazards and health risks particularly associated with living in slums, v) spatial issues which inhibit mobility and transport; and vi) inequality closely linked to problems of exclusion” (Baker, 2008). In Fig 3 the trend of global and regional urbanization are shown. Urbanization is on rise, more people is moving to cities and in about 15 years more than 50% of the Asian people will live in the cities. This will put more stress on urban food security in countries where food security is already a big issue.
3. Theory

Food security is a multi-dimensional issue and to understand the food security’s complexity it is important to understand, what are the deciding factors that affect one’s food security. The theory that has been used in this study is Entitlement Approach. Entitlement Approach explains the relation between access to food and a person’s ownership to it, this theory focus on what causes starvation among big group of people and that is why this theory will be used to analyze the result of this study.

3.1 The Entitlement Approach

In the book “Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation” Amartya Sen has described how and why entitlement effects famine which he calls Food Availability Decline, FDA. The main argument of this book is famine is not caused by lack of food rather because of how it is distributed. Sen (Sen, 1983) has explained entitlement approach in his book as following:

“The entitlement approach to starvation and famines concentrates on the ability of people to command food through the legal means available in the society, including the use of production possibilities, trade opportunities, entitlements vis-à-vis the state, and other methods of acquiring food. A person starves either because he does not have the ability to command enough food, or because he does not use this ability to avoid starvation. The entitlement approach concentrates on the former, ignoring the latter possibility. Furthermore, it concentrates on those means of commanding food that are legitimised by the legal system in operation in that society. While it is an approach of some generality, it makes no attempt to include all possible influences that can in principle cause starvation, for example illegal transfers (e.g. looting), and choice failures (e.g. owing to inflexible food habits).”

Sen explains in his book the complexity of why people can not access food even there is enough food in the market. Food is seen as a commodity and not a as a basic human right and that is why this matter is totally dependent on a person’s relation to food and its distribution system (Sen, 1983). Sen has focused on four different types of entitlements that are accepted in private owned market-based economy, which are the followings (Sen, 1983, p 2):

“(1) trade-based entitlement: one is entitled to own what one obtains by trading something one owns with a willing party (or, multilaterally, with a willing set of parties);

(2) production-based entitlement: one is entitled to own what one gets by arranging production using one's owned resources, or resources hired from willing parties meeting the agreed conditions of trade;

(3) own-labour entitlement: one is entitled to one's own labour power, and thus to the trade-based and production-based entitlements related to one's labour power;

(4) inheritance and transfer entitlement: one is entitled to own what is willingly given to one by another who legitimately owns it, possibly to take affect after the latter's death (if so specified by him).”

These different entitlements have different factor connected to each other and enhance a person’s ability to access food. All the different types of entitlements are interrelated and not always separable. Entitlement is ownership, trade-base entitlement is when a person owns something and can trade it to get what he needs such as food but if the person do not own the right thing to trade or equal valuable to get the food product he needs, that person is likely to starve (Sen, 1983). Money is the most common trade-base entitlement in market economy (Sen, 1983), most people in the world trade money for getting something that he needs or want. A person’s chance for not to stave varies on the price of the food in relation with what he owns or earns. If the price increase suddenly for different reasons but not his income does not increase the possibility for that person to starves increases.
Production-based entitlement is what a person can produce using its own resources and can trade it to acquire food. This entitlement differs from person to person; depending on in which economic class he belongs to or what types of prospects he has in the economic market according to Sen (1983). The examples that Sen gave in his book explains the vulnerability of different types of people. A person own a small firm and needs a labor to help him in the field, they might have an agreement of sharing the crop, the labor is do not own the land but by working he becomes the owner of the crop he produces. He can directly consume the product if it is food crop or he can sell it or trade it for the food he needs. Even though if the production might not get high or the food that he needs increases in price, yet he will have something to trade or consume. On the other hand another man who produce nonfood products such as handicraft are more exposed to rise of food price because he will not have any direct product to consume and entirely dependent on what and how much he can sell.

Someone’s own labor can be both trade-based and production-based entitlements. A person can trade its labor for wages and also trade labor for production. Own-labor entitlement gives freedom to a person where and how a person wants to use his labor for trade. And finally the inheritance and transfer entitlement gives a person possibility to own something and then trade or use it in need, an example can be land that is inherited by a person and that is the asset a person owns and has sovereignty to use it in various ways to acquire food.

In the book Sen has discussed four different famines took place around the globe. Drought and Famine in the Sahel (drought in 1968–73 and famine in 1970), The Ethiopian Famine 1972-1974, Great Bengal Famine of 1943 and 1974 famine in Bangladesh are cases Sen discussed in his book. He looked at the factors that caused starvation among these areas. Factors that Sen Identified is that starvation did not caused by reduction of food production rater other factors like price hick of food, unemployment, lack of social safety nets and etc.

Social safety nets are very important, especially for the poor people to evade starvation. If someone is unemployed then that person lack income and that affects a person’s ability to buy food but if there were a safety net as an unemployed person can get relief similarly the elderly person can get pension who is not able to work. That could secure food access to these people (Sen, 1983). Sen writes “These social security provisions are essentially supplementations of the processes of market exchange and production, and the two types of opportunities together determine a person's exchange entitlements in a private ownership market economy with social security provisions.” (Sen, 1983, p5).

Another important factor for starvation is the food supply system. Sen has repeatedly mentioned in his book that dysfunctional distribution system of food is also responsible for causing starvation. In the study areas, Sen has found that food production was not responsible for starvation because production of did not decline most of the cases rater it did increase but other factors like food price increase did cause starvation. Increased food price made it difficult for poor people to access to available food in the market because the earning of the people could not cope with it. Sen emphasize on poverty that is causing deprivation of food security and policy making can have a big role in it. The poor groups of the people are least focused in many policies because they are the discriminated group of the population according to Sen and that is why their needs are not focused in the policies. To reduce poverty different policy needs to form in such a way that highlight the need of the poor people and enhance their entitlement.

The objective of this research is to analyze the present scenario and initiatives as well as scope of sustainable food security of Urban Slums in Dhaka. To analyze food security scenario and the initiatives entitlement approach and the conceptual framework is used. To understand sustainable food security a clear view of what food security is and what sustainable development means needs to be understood. The conceptual frame work provides the clear view on the topic. Food sovereignty is another concept that has been described under the conceptual frame work. This concept has a different approach to food security then the common concept of food security and closely related to sustainable food security. This research focus on urban food security and that is why having a clear view on what urbanization means, what causes urbanization and the negative and positive aspects of urbanization is needed to understand the current situation of food security in urban Dhaka.

Entitlement approach links the relation between food security and the poverty. This research focuses on urban poor and their food security situation that is why this theory is used for the situation analysis and also finding out if food security initiatives are sustainable in urban Dhaka.
4. Methods

The research method that has been used for the study is a qualitative method. This is because in social science qualitative method can give a deeper understanding of a complex subject (Trost, 2002) such as food security. The authors of the book “A Companion to Qualitative Research” has described qualitative research in the following way; “Qualitative research claims to describe life-worlds ‘from the inside out’, from the point of view of the people who participate.” (Flick, et al., 2004, p. 3). Under the method section different types of qualitative methods that have been used for the study will be defined thoroughly. It will explain what methods have been used to designing the research, methods of collecting data and method use for analyzing the data. Even though qualitative methods have been criticized many a times for its nature yet this method is now broadly accepted in every discipline and considered as scientific (Flick, et al., 2004).

4.1 Research Design

The participants of this research are two different groups; the first group includes the main actors working on food security in Bangladesh and the second group formed by urban poor’s. Both groups have been chosen because of their relevance for providing essential data regarding food security in urban Dhaka. Both of the groups are the main stakeholders of food security.

4.2 Methods of Data Collection

For collection of data three different types methods have been used which are two different types of interviews and relevant literature reviews. Semi Standardized Interviews and Focused Interview technics have been chosen for this study.

4.2.1 Semi Standardized Interviews

This technic is widely used in qualitative data collection because this gives a chance to the participant to incorporate his expert knowledge on the topic alongside with the questions (Flick, et al., 2004). Semi standardized interview technic leaves opportunity for both the participant and the researcher to steer the interview in the direction is necessary for data collection. This interview technic is used for collection relevant data from the expert group who are currently working on food security in Bangladesh. In this group Government officials, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) officials and United Nations Development Programme personal who are positioned in Bangladesh. In total six interviews have been conducted with these experts from different organizations who are the main actor of food security in Bangladesh. The participants and the researcher both tried to stay focused on the premade questions by their order but if there were other interesting idea or topic related to the thesis topic appeared in the discursion it have been addressed and discussed as the questions of the interviews are designed to leave room for sub questions and open discussion. The interviews were conducted in Bangla originally and then translated in English by the researcher. The interview transcripts are recorded as written. The full interview transcripts can be found in the appendix A.

The interviews were conducted with an expert from The Ministry of Food, The City Corporation, UNDP, Care International, Concern Worldwide and Helen Keller International. The participants of semi standardized interview were chosen partially through internet research by looking for who are working on food security in Bangladesh but also of personal knowledge of the people working in this sector.


4.2.2 Focused Interview

This focused interview technique is used for a predetermine topic for a conversation (Flick, et al., 2004). This technique is originally designed for group interviews but does not limit itself to that and that is why can be used in for interviewing individuals (Flick, et al., 2004). This is a special form of semi standardized interviews because of its characteristics; the topic is predetermine but has freer form of string the discussion then other technics like Semi standardized interviews (Flick, et al., 2004). This brings the unique insight of each individual’s situation, which is why these interviews are used as case studies. The information collected from this group is on their food intake habits and consumption patterns together with their biographical information.

In total seven focused interviews have been conducted with urban poor and slum dwellers. The interviews were conducted individually. All of the participants are engaged in different occupation. Four of the participants earns less than two dollar per day three of them earns slightly above two dollars per day. For this interview method these persons are chosen randomly at first but as a group they ate chosen selectively because they represent the urban poor which are the main focus group of this study. The selection process is being relied on the researchers own social mapping skills. This selection process was solely relayed on previous experiences of the researcher as a native. The full transcripts of the interviews are attached in the Appendix B.

4.3 Data Analyzing

All analysis is somehow qualitative because long before a research is conducted there is an idea about what are the answers the research wants and why (Bernard, 2006). Qualitative methods for data analyzing can be done using different steps according to Norman Blaikie which are the followings: “Descriptive and Theory Generation” (Blaikie, 2009). This research has been mostly focused on the descriptive to analyze the data and did not actually generated a new theory rather than using a well establish theory for analyze.

Interview transcriptions are one of the main sources of data collection in this research. Transcription is converting the verbal conversation to written in text form (Flick, et al., 2004). The authors Sabine Kowal and Daniel C. O’Connell explains transcription in the following way “Transcripts are actually characterized by a considerable reduction of the almost infinitely rich primary and secondary data (Cook 1990) as well as by the fact that time-restricted conversational behaviour is transformed into a time-free visual product. Transcripts, therefore, are always selective constructions, and this selectivity has an impact on the analysis and interpretation of transcripts (Ochs 1979).” (Flick, et al., 2004, p. 249).

Analysis of food security, sustainable food security and sustainable development are made from the results. There are no well established indicators for measuring these concepts that is why these concepts are analized by looking in to all the component of these concepts were in concern or includer in the process of developing the programmes and also observing the knowledge of the participants of both groups of the interviews.
5. Results

5.1 Summary of Semi Standardized Interviews

In total six different Interviews with Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are conducted who are currently working with food security in Bangladesh and all of the organizations have their hear office in Dhaka. Ministry of Food, The City Corporation and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are the representatives of the Government of Bangladesh. Concern Worldwide Bangladesh, Helen Keller International and Care International are the Non-Governmental organizations participants of the interviews.

The current National Food Policy focuses on rural development, urban food security have not been in focused much. Mostafa Faruq Al Banna, Associate Research Director from the Food Ministry says “We have recently completed a survey on national micronutrient status and for the first time we have divided urban population and urban slum and the result speaks for itself because it shows that the slum population has the worst of all Previous surveys did not make any distinction between urban slum and general urban population. This time there have been added new components and indicators to the survey. This survey shows that children, women and also the general population in slums are sufferer.” Currently there is no government project that is focusing on urban food security how even there is a small scale programme called Open Market Sell (OMS) in Bangladesh which focuses on food availability and access for urban population. Under this programme mostly low priced rice and occasionally wheat is provided targeting the poor and ultra-poor in slum areas in Dhaka city. There are 70 trucks around Dhaka city targeting around 4,500slums selling low priced rice and wheat to the slum population. Urban food security should be on priority list but currently is has no focus but after seeing the data from the national micronutrient status survey data they government will certainly incorporate urban food security in next food policy according to Mostafa Faruq Al Banna. He also says that social safety net is very important for food security but due to resource constrain the government have not been able to provide social safety net for the urban poor. Another important factor of food security is the monitoring and regulating the market according to him. He believes in food availability in market, production of food may not be the main problem here but if people have enough money they can but the food from the market.

Together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Government is running Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPRP) and the City Corporation is also working with the same programme. Target population for this programme is young girls and women. One part of this programme is directly working with food security as the organizations identified by themselves. A big part of UPPRP is developing infrastructure is slum areas in Dhaka City. This part is constantly working for betterment of water supply, sanitary settlement, drain management, street light, solid waste management etc. in slum areas of Dhaka city. This programme is also providing the ultra-poor women different types of grants and loans for study and small scale business, they also provide trainings for skill development and also on how to grow food on the spare land these households has. Growing seasonal vegetables as well as small scale fish culture is introduced by this programme. Growing food on the side walk and beside the highways is also a part of this programme. Md. Abul Hossain, Urban Agriculture Coordinator from UPPRP says that “The government does not have any strong planning for urban food security currently. Some work have been done through advocacy for roof gardening for urban food production and also new technology have been introduced to the slum area such as vertical plantation, multi-layer plantation, high yelled seeds have been distributed to the urban and sub urban areas. Brochures about crop calendar, mushroom cultivation, raring goats and cows etc. have been introduced to the community.”

Both city development authorities and rural government bodies need to be involved in urban food security issue believes Md. Abul Hossain. According to him city development authorities should incorporate roof gardening in their planning and imply this as a law for privet buildings as well. He also thinks that it needs to create jobs that generate income in rural areas by the rural government. Most people in rural area works with agriculture and majority of them works in the fields as day labors because most of them are land less or have very small piece of land, the income they from this is hardly enough for half of the year and that is one cause for migration to the cities according to him.
Concern Worldwide, is currently working on a project called Integrated Urban Nutrition Project. This project focuses on nutrition and not directly on food security. But we believe that food security can not be achieved without nutrition and food security is a part of nutrition. Asfia Azim, Project Coordinator for Urban Nutrition Programme says "...we believe that food security can not be achieved without nutrition and food security is a part of nutrition." This project is integrates nutritional services such as advocacy and awareness building for exclusive breast feeding and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practice through governments existing healthcare services. She also says that "Urbanization is increasing rapidly and needs to address. The NGOs that are working with urban food security only can assist the government with information and their result of survey of intervention but the government needs to take the lead to tackle this problem."

Helen Keller International (HKI) does not have any current food security programme in Dhaka. Shirin Afroz, Program Coordinator of HKI says "We do not have any plans for the near future to work in urban food security. Our expertise is in rural areas. Also we find it challenging to work in urban areas due to the migration patterns in rural areas especially in slum areas. Eviction of the slum dwellers is the main reason for this migration. When people tend to move around limited resources is the vital factor."

Care International does not have any urban food security project right now. Care International has a food security project named SOUHARDO which previously implemented in urban Dhaka and two years ago that project ended. The next phase of the same project started as well but this time the project focus on rural areas only. "It is difficult to work in urban areas due to migration. Slum dwellers tend to move around and also the slums are evicted every now and then that is why any sustainable project for longer period is nearly impossible. Another problem is that there is not enough land or space to directly grow food." Explains Md. Abusufian, Head of Technical Support, Food Security for the Ultra Poor in the Haor region; why Care is not working on urban food security any more. He also says that Care does not have any plan for food security program in slum areas. Even though it is needed, not many NGOs and INGOs are not working with this issue generally because the Government is not focusing on this issue. "This is the brutal truth of the situation." he concludes.

All three NGOs has says that the government is the main actor of food security in urban and has responsibility of bring urban food security in focus and only then other actors like NGOs will also focus on this issue. Both the governmental organizations and the NGOs consider their work as small scale and are aware that to achieve a change of situation much bigger project and planning is needed.

A summary of the interview results are shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most of the NGOs and INGOs do not have food security related projects in Dhaka city.</td>
<td>Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPRP) only has food security related project and working directly with this topic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs and INGOs are interested in IGA related programmes</td>
<td>Ministry of food also have limiter food accessibility programme for poor in urban Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs and INGOs agrees that Government is the key actor</td>
<td>Different donor has different priority area of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misconceptions about food security is among the NGOs and INGOs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening social safety net is part of the solution suggesting everyone.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NGOs and INGOs focus areas of work according to government priority and all of them feel that government is not prioritizing urban food security

**Everyone** agrees the that urban food security needs more attention

No one actually knows why this issue has not been in focus

Proper mapping of the slum dwellers are needed

### 5.2 Summary of the Focused Interview

This interview group consists of seven people who are urban poor. Two female and five male participated in the interviews. Participants of the interviews are poor and ultra-poor and are slum residents. The interviews reveal their income and also food consumption habits. Three of the participants earn less than 2 USD per day; two of them are women. Meaning both the female participants are ultra-poor.

A summary of the focused interviews is presented in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Similarities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Differences</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ultra-poor</td>
<td>Daily labor income is not enough for a moderate living standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would like to educate their children for a better future</td>
<td>Even a small business generates more income than daily labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has other plans for future for them selves</td>
<td>Men eats more times than women ex. street snacks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of proper living condition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of job opportunities are the reason of migration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most of them want to go back to their home places if there were job opportunity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO safety net protection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Needs more than one person’s income to have a meal consist with proper nutritional value</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supports more than one family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The interviews show that:

1) One of the female participants is a 82 years old women who is a beggar since she cannot work anymore due to her age and she does not have any family. She begs on weekends and spends what she has earns during rest of the week. Her earning is between quarters of a dollar to one dollar per week. With this earning she can effort to eat one meal per day which mostly consists with rice and salt and sometimes onion and green chili. She lives in an abandon place outskirt of the city. She has no family or relatives who can take care of her and solely hinge on her earning from begging.

2) The second female participant is a housemaid in different households and earns 1.8 dollar per day. Her family consists with her husband and two sons. Her husband is a rikswa puller and both of the suns go to school. She usually eats 3 meals and most of the day it consist with rice and lentils and sometimes green leafy vegetable or other vegetables. Fish and meat consumption is rare due to high price but her family consumes egg once in a week even then this woman does not consumes that egg because she saves her portion for her younger son for next day. Her husband earns equal amount of money as she does but he spends his money mostly for himself. He sometimes helps to pay rent for their home. In the future she wants to move back to her village and hope to start a small business and have her own land where she can build a house, grow vegetable and want to raise chicken and goats.

3) The third participant of this group who earns less than two dollar is a young man in age of 19. He works as a caretaker and gourd in a house in Dhaka city and earns around 1.6 USD per day. He has the same job for last five years. He lives in that house and the employer also providing him with food, clothes and other relevant items for free. He eats the same food the family eats and has more than three meals a day. His Daily meals consist with rice, bread, vegetable, lentils, fish, meat, sweets, snacks etc. He saves his salary for future, but he sends money to his family when he gets bonus. He has also learned to drive and planning to get a job as a private car driver in near future. He also someday wants to return bank to his village and live with his family and make a living by staring a small business.

4) Other four participants are male and earning around 3-6 USD per day. One of them is a rikswa puller and he earns around 3-4 dollar per day. He is 40 years old and lives alone in Dhaka. His family consists of his parents, wife and three children who live in the village. He has to send money to his family every month. He eats 3 meals a day which consist with rice, vegetables but occasionally eggs or small fish. Sometimes he has snacks such as tea and biscuits, banana, singara etc. Food price is too high in Dhaka he thinks. He plans to save enough money someday to return back to his village and be able to buy a piece of land and cultivate and live with his family.

5) Another male participant is also a rikswa puller who comes to Dhaka in every 4-5 months and stays around 3-4 months. The reason he comes to Dhaka is to earn cash money. He needs cash to invest in his land that is why after every harvesting season he comes to Dhaka and works hard and saves money to bring back home. While staying in Dhaka he cooks for himself. The meals often consist with rice and vegetable. He sometimes eats out then the meal is limited to the snacks but he avoids eating out as much as possible because it is very expensive to eat in Dhaka he feels. He can save around 300 to 400 dollar per time he is in Dhaka.

6) One fruit vendor who participated in the interview is from Dhaka and has lived in Dhaka as long as he can remember. He has a slightly higher income them the above mention participants. He earns around 3-4 dollars per day but this can vary depending on sessional fruit availability and price. He lives with his parents and a younger brother. His father is also a fruit vendor and together their earning gives them a slightly better food consumption possibility then the above mentioned participants. He eats breakfast and dinner at home which consist with rice, vegetable, egg and fish and occasionally meat. He often buys his lunch or skips it. In future he wants to develop his business by renting a place in a market so that he doesn’t have to move around with his heavy basket of fruits every day.

7) The last participant of this interview group is a mechanic of home electronics. He moved to Dhaka because there were no job opportunities in his village. He earns around 140 dollar per month which is the highest
amount of earning among all the interview participants. He lives alone in Dhaka and does not need to send
money to his family. He eats 3 times a day meals consist with rice, bread, eggs, fish, lentils, vegetables etc. he
also sometimes eats out but only snacks. He likes to live and work in Dhaka because it is honorable to have a
job in Dhaka and not just another farmer in the city. People in his village respect him for that. But he would
like to move back to his village if he knew that were employment opportunities there.

8) Finally, none of the participants have any interaction with any governmental or non-governmental
organizations that are working in slum areas to improving food insecurity. None of these participants are
under any social safety net that government provides either.
5.3 Answer to Research Questions

5.3.1 How is the present situation of Food Security in urban slums in Dhaka?

The three out of six organizations have projects that they could clearly state as directly related food security who are working with slum population in Dhaka city. All three organizations are supporting organization of the government of Bangladesh. The food ministry is providing low priced rice, wheat targeting the poor and ultra-poor in slum areas in Dhaka city. Other two organizations are running the same project name Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPRP). Target population for this programme is young girls and women. One part of this programme is directly working with food security as the organizations identified by themselves. A big part of UPPRP is developing infrastructure is slum areas in Dhaka City. This part is constantly working for betterment of water supply, sanitary settlement, drain management, street light, solid waste management etc. in slum areas of Dhaka city.

Together with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the Government is running UPPRP and another organization working with the same programme is the City Corporation. This programme in providing the ultra-poor women different types of grants and loans for study and small scale business, they also provide trainings for skill development and also on how to grow food on the spare land these households has. Growing seasonal vegetables as well as small scale fish culture is introduced by this programme. Growing food on the side walk and beside the highways is also a part of this programme.

The other remaining three organizations are the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). All three organizations working on Food security but none of the organization has any running project in urban slums in Dhaka city that they could verify. These organizations has explained why they do not have any project in slum areas are similar to each other. The common reasons they have identified are that there are none governmental directives that indicates that urban food security needs attention. There is nothing on food policy that highlights this issue and that is why most NGOs are not looking in to this topic. Another common problem identified is that due to the nature of slums is it difficult to work in that area, meaning that the population and some time the whole area migrates from one place to another that is why working with any specific individual or household is highly inefficient for investment. Third problem for NGOs are that most of them are donor driven, they need to design their project according to donors quest.

From open discussion with individuals who are poor and ultra-poor, are slum residents except one participant. This open discussion reveals their income and also food consumption habits. Three of the participants earn less than 2 USD per day; these participants are female except one young boy. One of female participant is 82 years old women, she is a beggar because she can not work anymore due to her age and she does not have any family. She begs only on weekends and rest of the week she lives on what she has earned which is around a quarter of a dollar. With this little amount of money she can eat once per day and the meal mostly consists with rice and salt and occasional addition can be a green chili and onion. Another female participant works as a housemaid in different households; she has a daily income of around 1.8 USD. She has a family consisting her husband her two sons. This family consumes mostly rice and green leafy vegetables and lentils. Fish and meat consumption is rare but they consume egg once in a week even then this woman dose not even consumes that egg because she saves her portion for her son for next day. Third participant of this group is a young man in age of 19. He is a caretaker and gourd in a house in Dhaka city. He has been working there for five years. He earns around 1.6 USD per day. He lives in that house and the house is also providing with food, cloths and other relevant items that he needs are for free. He eats whatever the family eats, he eats more than three times a day and his daily meals consist with rice, bread, vegetable, lentils, fish, meat, sweets, snacks etc. He saves his salary for future, but he sends money to his family when he gets bonus.

Rest of the participants are earning around 4-6 USD per day. The occupation of them varies; there are rikshaw-pullers, fruit vendor and electrician. Except one all three of them lives in Dhaka only one participants comes to Dhaka for few months a year and then goes back to his village. All of them eat at least three times a day, rice and vegetable and often egg is the common in meals, occasionally they consume fish and rarely meat, they also often
has snacks during day. Even though some of them earn 4-6 USD per day they often divide this money among their family members. Most of these participants send money to their family who lives in village so end of the day they also are left with around 2 USD per day. This two dollar covers the daily expenditure of these persons and can be categorize as extreme poor and this explains why even if someone earns more than 2 dollars and even double this person still have similar food consumption pattern as the extreme poor and suffers from food insecurity. Answers to the question How is the present situation of Food Security in urban slums in Dhaka? are:

1) Urban poor are not food secure.
2) They have very low income and the food price is very high for them in Dhaka
3) Most urban poor consumes only rice vegetable and lentils, and rarely egg and small fish. Their diet is not diversified and do not meet the nutritional need.
4) Urban poor do not have any safety net that ensures food security

5.3.2 What are the initiatives for food security in Dhaka city and what is the view on food security within key actors working with food security in Dhaka?

The government is the key actor in urban food security in Dhaka. The city corporation together with UNDP is running the programme UPPR is working directly with food security by initiative to producing food and IGA through grants and training. There are other organizations also working in different slum areas with various kinds of IGAs. Food ministry is running another programme to provide substitute rate staple food for the poor which is basically selling rice. This service is limited to 70 trucks where slums in Dhaka city are about 4,500 (according to Dhaka City Corporation). Even though many organizations do not consider their projects in slums are directly linked to food security because it is not about food production or food supply yet unknowingly they are working for food security because their work is directly linked to increasing households’ incomes. These organizations are lending capital to the household, providing different types of skills though trainings and education. Till now the projects has been small and needs to expand for a quick improvement of the situation. Urban slum problems have not been a priority to the NGOs due to the Government have not prioritized it yet, says the NGOs.

Current initiatives are from the government to make food available for the poor and the ultra-poor in slum areas trough food trucks and encouraging growing food near where they live. These initiatives are still on small-scale and far from reaching the entire slum population of Dhaka city. There is a plan to develop a system where food card will be distributed to the ultra-poor population which will increase their opportunity to access food for cheaper price all time.

A recent survey has been done initiated by the Food ministry to the current food security situation in slums and the result of this survey shows that the food insecurity is severe among slum population in urban areas along with health, education, hygiene and etc. According to the Associate Research Director from Ministry of food the result of this study will be reflecting on next food policy and perhaps this will encourage more organizations to work with more urban development projects including improving food security in slum areas.

Participants of the open discussion have no interaction with any governmental or non-governmental organizations that are working in slum areas improving food insecurity. None of these participants are under any social safety net that government provides for its’ inhabitants.

5.3.3 Are there sustainable initiatives for Food Security in Dhaka city?

The food security initiatives for Dhaka city are not sustainable. The reason is the food security for Dhaka city in not stable and not complete. People are constantly moving in to the city, there are already a grate share of the population is ultra-poor in the city and additional population, migration is the burden for the city along with
natural population growth in Dhaka. Food availability, accessibility, utility or stability is far from achieved on top of the ignorance of Government to address this issue.

Many of the open discussion participants wish to return back to their home but they have not been able to mostly because in villages there is lack of cash earning and also lack of job opportunities. Many residents of the slums are living in Dhaka and working here just to save enough cash so that they can return back and invest in something that will generate a earning that will feed them and their family.

Sustainable food security is about feeding the current population and also leaving enough resources for the future generation to meet their need. As Dhaka city is failing to feed its current population the planning for future generation does not exist. The government and the NGOs are working towards strengthening food security through income generating approaches, especially for women and girls yet a holistic approach for achieving food security is missing such as price control is markets, availability of food for this group and also create jobs outside of big cities.

5.3.4 Recommendations for sustainable food security in Dhaka City

Through interviews with the actors of food security in Bangladesh and the participant’s different recommendations are suggested about how to achieve food security and sustainable food security for Dhaka city. Because both the interview technics left room for free discussions these recommendations were imbedded discussing the current situation of food security in Dhaka city. It is important to notice that most of these recommendations are personal recommendations of the individuals and dose not represents the organizations.

There are few recommendations that came up repeatedly from the interview. The most important recommendation is that the government of Bangladesh has to acknowledge urban food insecurity, most importantly urbanization as an issue that needs attention. Another recommendation that also is stated by manne is that there needs to a big scale survey and mapping of the slum people to provide adequate and propped solution and services to address to this problem. Strengthening the existing social safety net would help to reduce food insecurity of the poor population. Food availability in the market through price regulations could also be a solution to food insecurity. Right not due to high food price most of the food products are unreachable for the poor population. The government is currently capable of providing subsidized rice and wheat for the poor but other essential food products remain high priced and unavailable for the poor population.

Increasing food production in the city through city planning is another recommendation. The idea is to incorporate food production in city planning and in new housing buildings, business centers, and residential areas, also on the roof tops on high-rise buildings to grow food for the city.

Another recommendation is decentralization and creates job opportunities outside of the city and around the country to mitigate the migration flow. Many participants said actually they moved to Dhaka because they did not have job opportunity in their villages and also if there were job there were not much of cash earning. Related to this there is another recommendation which is promoting agricultural jobs as honorable jobs because this is another reason that many people move to city because they do not see this job as a respectable occupation. This can minimize urbanization flow according to many NGO personnel.
6. Discussions and Analysis

Food is a basic human need yet there are over 800 million people in the world are still suffering from food insecurity which is one in seven human is suffering from hunger. There is enough food in the world today to feed us all yet achieving food security for all remains a big challenge for many countries. As a developing country Bangladesh has limited resources, over population and a large number of poor population and combating food insecurity. This study has been focusing on the current situation of food security in urban poor population in Dhaka city through looking closely at the institutional frame work of the Government and also International Non-Governmental Organizations and incorporating the view of living situations of the urban poor. General objective of this study is to analyze the present scenario and initiatives as well as scope of sustainable food security of Urban Slums in Dhaka. Together with the background study, results of from study and putting it against the theoretical frame work which includes: i) Food Security, ii) Sustainable Development, iii) Sustainable Food Security, iv) Food Sovereignty, v) Urbanization and vi) Entitlement Approach, an analysis is presented in this section. The analysis will be presented step by step analyzing the specific objectives of the study which are the followings:

1. To describe the current status of food security in Urban Dhaka
2. To identify the initiatives for food security in Dhaka city
3. To investigate if initiatives for food security in Urban Dhaka are sustainable

6.1 Current Status of Food Security in Urban Dhaka

Food security situation of urban Dhaka for poor and ultra-poor currently is alarming, who are the target population for this study. Due to the absence of government initiative and acknowledgement this topic is merely focused by any other actors and stakeholders development work in urban slum. Lack of knowledge about what food security actually is the work for food security is nearly undetectable. Most organization has the idea that food security is mainly about growing food which is a misconception because food security consists with food availability, accessibility, utility and stability. Many organization claiming about working on food security or have worked on food security actually works partially with food security meaning working on one or two component of food security but not as a whole. Such as the poverty reduction programme, which works with income generating mostly and partially with urban food production but regulating price in food market is totally absent. High food price is one of me major causes identified among the urban poor participants of this research. The urban poor of Dhaka are suffering from chronic food insecurity which will have a long term effect on the national development of Bangladesh both from the social, economic and environmental perspective. Undernourishment hampers a person’s cognitive and learning abilities which hinders the person from its full potential and push the person towards poverty. A person living in poverty will not prioritize the protection of environment; rather, the focus will be how to survive using the nature. This is major cause to intensifying agriculture in many part of the world. The critic of sustainable development is valid in the context of Bangladesh because the country still has not been able to eradicate hunger and poverty and it has a long way to go. Bangladesh yet has not been able to effort to reserve its resources for the future generation when it is not able to feed its present population. Global trend is that the percentage of the total hungry population is decreasing but number of the population suffering from hunger is still on rise and that is a big challenge Bangladesh has ahead. The urbanization is increasing and tends to increase rapidly discloses many studies especially for countries like Bangladesh. Bangladesh is already a densely populated country and commonly agricultural land is decreasing due to population growth. The population growth is higher in urban areas in Bangladesh then the rural areas and currently Dhaka city is not planned for any large scale food production on top of that increased urbanization will leave the city with fewer places for agricultural activities unless a new planning is made focusing urban issues and urban poverty. From a sustainable food security perspective Dhaka has all the challenges that lay ahead in this issue. The FAOs’ sustainable food security perspective is focused entirely on rural development and also mainly on food production. Putting this perspective directly on urban sustainable food security does not improve much of
the situation but strengthening the rural economy and creating steady jobs in rural area can certainly reduce urbanization and consequently urban poverty.

The government and the NGOs are working to improve the urban poor’s food security through low priced food, income generating activities, education, grants and etc. with a focus on women and children. Even though many organizations do not call it food security projects rather poverty reduction projects. As discussed earlier that poverty and food security and poverty is interrelated that is why combating one problem will lead to improved situation of the other. The problem is that these projects are implemented in very small scales. To achieve food security, a holistic approach is needed as food sovereignty approach suggests. Small scale agriculture and diversified economy can solve food insecurity. Urban poverty is not an isolated issue, the way the model of Food Security, Food Sovereignty, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Food Security models has suggested the rural development will increase national level food security. Yet it seems that none of the models have been giving urban poverty any special thoughts. Rural poverty may cause urban poverty but there is an entire group of urban poor that do not have a tie to the rural part of the country. To tackle urban food insecurity this issue needs to be highlighted through policies and plan of actions.

The income of the urban poor is very low and the food price is very high in Dhaka. Urban poor simply don’t have the entitlement to food in Dhaka. Even though government and NGOs are working towards income generating approaches, the projects are too small to make a noticeable impact on urban food security. As discussed earlier that population growth leads to number of poor people is increasing and then government of Bangladesh have not yet stated focusing on urban food security is very alarming.

6.2 Identifying the initiatives for food security in Dhaka city

Bangladesh is like many other developing countries, is dependent on its agriculture and majority of the population is working in this sector but on the other hand farmers are the poor group of the society. Strengthening of agriculture sector should be a key priority according to many concepts that have been discussed in the conceptual framework in this research. Main actor of food security in Dhaka city is the Government. To achieving food security others actor like NGOs, community leaders, civil society activist, environmentalist, global leaders and etc. needs to get involve because they play a vital role for poverty reduction and food security and also can the voice of the people. A country’s food insecurity is not only limited to the country’s achievements or failures, due to globalization and interconnectedness between the world markets which plays a big role for food security as entitlement approach also discusses. Dumping of food in local market hampers local farmers and its economy.

Lack of social safety net is another problem for achieving food security in Dhaka. As entitlement approach explains that strong social safety net can reduce the risk for the poor to starve in case of loss or income or increase of food price. The government has a small project which provides low priced rice and occasionally wheat targeting the slum population of Dhaka city, this programme only covers about 1.5 percent of the total slums of Dhaka city. The international organizations like World Bank, IMF, and WTO are still making international laws that focus on economic growth but only focusing on economic growth have not been a successful model for food security that is why new law and regulation for agriculture trade needs to stated where social aspects and environment aspect need to have equal focus as economic growth.

Both government and the NGOs are working on different kinds of income generating approaches but the target population is very small. This might be the reason why urban food security situation is poor. Food sovereignty approach suggests that grassroots level involvement for developing strategy is necessary for achieving food security. This approach also suggested small scale farming; a government official working with poverty reduction program in urban Bangladesh also suggested that small scale farming is still possible in Dhaka if city planning constitution incorporated small scale food production in the city on roof tops, vertical farming or street side plantation. Neoliberal food regime in contra food sovereignty and suggest that market will solve food insecurity which have been proven wrong for a long time.

Even though urban food production in Dhaka city will not make the city entirely food secure yet it would generate some jobs and generate income if the urban poor could access these areas. This also could give urban poor
entitlement to produce and also consume the food they grow. On the other hand due to population growth the land in the city for growing food will decrease but using new technology and knowledge might solve that problem. Urban slums are made of people from all over the country, some have lived in the area for a long time some have just moved in and some people just move around, it is also very common that an entire slum population gets evicted over a night that is it is quite difficult to create a strong sense of community belonging among the residents and create and drive a local solution for food security as Food Sovereignty approach suggest.

6.3 Identifying if the Food Security initiatives in Dhaka city are sustainable?

The issues of food security can be view from individual level to community level, national level to regional or international levels. Every aspects of food security are interlinked. Food security is not only about producing enough food for the people but as well as about making sure that it is distributed too and that food is nutritious and safe to consume. Food security includes the right food to the right people, meaning that food are culturally accepted and brings pleasure while eating it. Food security is also about not only having food today but also securing enough food for crisis like any natural or manmade disaster that can accrue any time.

The initiatives of food security for Dhaka city do not cover any aspect of food security. There is a large group of people that are food insecure today, this population not only lacks food but they lack all the other services that accompany food security like health care, education, safe water etc. Poverty and food security are interlaced, lack of one leads to the other. Starvation is caused by people’s inaccessibility to food. Even though Bangladesh in almost self-sufficient on producing the required amount of rice feed the whole country yet around 50 percent of the population is undernourished. As entitlement approach explains that starvation is not caused by not having enough food produced but the lack of distribution system and also dysfunctional market. Food sovereignty also has a similar view on dysfunctionality of the traditional open market that has failed to achieve world food security. Another major problem for urban poor is that they can not access adequate food to be food secure due to high price of food and also because of their low income. Entitlement approach suggest that understand starvation only looking at the food production is not enough there are other factors involve causing food deprivation for starving population. A person’s ability to aces food is more dependent on what entitlement the person has, what kind of exchange possibility a person has, what he owns, what kind of services he is offered to and what he can offer back.

The government is trying to provide low priced rice and wheat to some areas but this is a very small scale project. Currently there around 5000 or more slums in Dhaka and slum population is over 3.5 million (Angeles, et al., 2009) and there are only 70 trucks that sales rice and wheat daily in highest 70 areas. Another initiatives that the government has is the Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Programme, as broad the program is, compare to the slum population it is a very small project. NGOs are also working in the slum areas with income generating programmes. Yet none of the projects are holistic. There are very little or nothing have been done on market level for food accessibility and controlling the price of food. Because both entitlement approach and food sovereignty strongly suggest a different approach then current market system could have a positive impact on food security. To tackle food insecurity all the aspects of food security and related issues need to be processed simultaneously. Slum population is a special group with special circumstances that makes it difficult for the institutions to work with food security issue in slums with the regular manner and idea of food security.

As discussed earlier that sustainable food security is very complex, which involves ensuring the future generation share on food security along with feeding the present population and also alongside of guaranteeing food security for all. Sustainable food security includes the issues of environment protection, economic development and social aspects which are related to food security. Currently the government of Bangladesh is struggling with the high rate of malnutrition of the country; the focus is on the women and children. From the result of this research it is identified that currently there are no initiative of sustainable food security in Dhaka as no program of government or NGOs have any focus of environmental aspects of food security.
7. Conclusion

The urban poor in Dhaka city moved from rural settlement because city provides employment and income. Most of the urban poor would not come to city if they could find work in their villages. Most of the urban poor have a desire to move back to their villages if they can save enough money to start a small business or other activity that will generate income.

The objectives of this research have been to investigate the current situation of food security in urban Dhaka for the poor population and identify the initiatives of food security. It also looks into the main actors of food security initiatives in urban Dhaka and their efforts of achieving food security in urban Dhaka.

The results from the research are that the government of Bangladesh is the main actor of urban food security yet there are many supporting organization who are working for poverty reduction is Dhaka. There are a few food security initiatives from the government exist in Dhaka focusing on urban poor, mainly on women and children. One of the projects is to make low priced rice and wheat available for the urban poor yet the project only coves 1.5% of the total slum areas in Dhaka. Another project is the urban poverty reduction project, based on income generating approaches through skill development training, grants and loans. This project is also limited.

Poverty reduction is important to ensuring food security yet most of the organizations do not consider themselves as the actor of food security because they do not work directly with food or provide food to the urban poor. Urban food security is not a part of the governmental plan of action of food policy in Bangladesh and that is one of the reasons identified in this research why non-governmental organization has no projects on food security in Urban Dhaka. Even though other organizations do not consider their projects are related to food security they are still working on improving the urban poor’s income through loans, grants, and trainings. There is no emphasis of the environment in any of the programmes related to food security and that is why it can be stated that sustainable food security is excluded in the process of making urban Dhaka food secure.
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10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix A

Interview # 1:

Mostafa Faruq Al Banna
Associate Research Director
Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
Ministry of food

1. Do you have any current project related to food security in urban Dhaka?

The current National Food Policy have focus on rural development, the focus have not been on food security in urban areas much. The national food policy will be updated in 2014 again and urban food security should be included then because we have recently completed a survey on national micronutrient status and for the first time we have divided urban population and urban slum and the result speaks for itself because it shows that the slum population has the worst of all. Previous surveys did not make any distinction between urban slum and general urban population. This time there have been added new components and indicators to the survey. This survey shows that children, women and also the general population in slums are sufferer. However as I said earlier, there is no current project specially designed for urban food security.

2. What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Particularly in slum areas.

As told there in no planning yet focusing urban food security in Dhaka however there is a program called Open Market Sell (OMS) in Bangladesh which focuses on food availability and access for urban population and this program focuses on the slum population and the poor population in the country. In Dhaka OMS is active and it truly focuses on slum population.

OMS provides slum population mainly with low price rice and wheat. There are around 70 trucks around the city; it is located near different slums in the city so that poor population has priority access to this service. This is a subsidized program that Food Ministry of Bangladesh government runs. There are other products like oil, lentils, sugar are also under OMS but unlike rice and wheat these products are not sold every day often only twice a week.

2a. Was there any corruption involve in this programme?

We have good governance for this programme. This is monitored in many ways and many levels. High officials visit the field everyday and several times a day. The Food Minister himself has visited the spots to monitor the progress of this program meaning that the minister wants to make sure that this program is running as it should be. There are other ways to monitor the program such as check the daily register both in the beginning of the day till end of it. In field the officials also check the selling register, they analyze the selling time and quantity and usually it is easy to identify if there is any mischief because one person can only buy up to five kilogram of rice per day.

3. Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?

Urban food security should be on high priority however currently this is not on any priority list yet but hopefully it will get the attention that it needs in next revision of the national food policy.

4. Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?
The government is the main actor of food security and it should be the same for urban food security. The small scale project that is addressing urban food security, local government like city corporations and wards are the main actor. They are choosing the spots for the food trucks and also choosing the targeted population for this project. Dhaka City Corporation and local government is also in charge to monitoring of this project.

5. **How do you plan to tackle urban food insecurity in Dhaka city?**

   We simply don’t actually, yet.

6. **If you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc.? (Choose topic according to your expertise).**

   Social safety net is very important for food security so if there were no resource constrain I would like to strengthening the various components of social safety net already existing such as different kinds of allowance for different group of people. Another important thing is that people need to have access to food and I would ensure food availability in the market. Actually I believe if one do not produce enough food yet have enough money can access food if it is available in the market.
Interview # 2:

Asfia Azim
Project Coordinator- Urban Nutrition Programme
Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh

1. Do you have any current project related to food security in urban Dhaka?

Currently we are working on a project called Integrated Urban Nutrition Project. Which focus on nutrition and not directly on food security but we believe that food security can not be achieved without nutrition and food security is a part of nutrition.

What we are doing with our project is that we are integrating nutritional services through governments existing healthcare services such as community clinics. It is more of advocacy and awareness building for exclusive breast feeding, meaning a child should be breast feed only breast milk till six months and nothing else, also within one hour or birth the child should be given colostrums. This service also includes Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practice meaning the child up to age two years the child should be breast feed and also given complimentary food as household food.

Currently this project is implemented in two major cities which are Dhaka and Chittagong and focuses are on slum areas and poor people.

While integrating nutritional services through community clinic we discover that only advocacy is not changing the nutritional status for that these people need to have money and that is why we expanded our service by adding small loans or micro credits to the people. They need to submit a business plan and if we find this is feasible then we grant them the loan. We have linked in some microcredit organizations in to our programme. By microcredit program we want to increase household income so that food consumption pattern can change in households.

2. What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Especially in slum areas.

As told earlier our project focuses only on Income Generating Approach. We believe that is the way to ensure urban food security for the poor people. We do not plan to introduce agriculture or food production in our planning yet. The reason is that the land is scares in slum areas and also planting or poultry is prohibited most of the slum areas.

3. Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?

Urban food security is a very important subject, it gets high priority on our list of development work. Unfortunately the Government of Bangladesh is not putting this issue on to their priority list. There is no structure for urban health under food ministry and we believe food security is very much related to health problems. The focus has been on rural issues for a long time and it still is. Urbanization is increasing rapidly and needs to address. The NGOs that are working with urban food security only can assist the government with information and their result of survey of intervention but the government needs to take the lead to tackle this problem.

4. Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?

The government is the main actor surely and also UN bodies like FAO has a great influence to making of the food policy. FAO and the Food Ministry are working on National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening
Programme (NFPCSP). There are other organizations working on urban food security in Dhaka are Plan and Helen Keller International (HKI).

I should add one important aspect here about NGOs that most of them are donor oriented and that is why they can not work freely. Many NGOs are only working on issues that are based on donors’ priorities. As this NGO Concern Worldwide is also dependent on its donors and we also have to attune ourselves for our survival. Due to economic crisis the donations are getting reduced so it is really a challenging time for the NGOs to work freely.

5. How do you plan to tackle urban food insecurity in Dhaka city?

There is lot of work to do but for that change of government policy and donors interest is very important. We are also thinking that if our current project brings successful result then we will continue with our program and if there is scope of work maybe implement this in larger scale and with larger geographical areas.

6. If you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc.? (choose topic according to your expertise)

If there were no resource constrains I would like to continue with the programme Integrated Urban Nutrition Project in larger scale and I would add research components to the programme to get the highest output of it.
Interview # 3:

Shirin Afroz  
Program Coordinator  
Helen Keller International

1. **Do you have any current project related to food security in urban Dhaka?**

   We have done assessment work in urban areas in Dhaka but do not have any programme implementations in Dhaka and currently do not have any food security project currently in any urban areas in Bangladesh.

2. **What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Especially in slum areas.**

   We do not have any plans for the near future to work in urban food security. Our expertise is in rural areas. Also we find it challenging to work in urban areas due to the migration patterns in rural areas especially in slum areas. Eviction of the slum dwellers is the main reason for this migration. When people tend to move around limited resources is the vital factor.

3. **Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?**

   Right now it is not on our list.

4. **Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?**

   The government is the main actor in Food security. There is UPPRP (Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction Programme working on urban food security as far I know. Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) is another organization working with food security issue in Dhaka.

5. **How do you plan to tackle urban food insecurity in Dhaka city?**

   There is no planning for this issue yet in our organization yet.

6. **If you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc.? (choose topic according to your expertise)**

   Urbanizations, Climate Change, safety nets or other above mentioned topics are not our focus of work neither our expertise that is why we leave it up to expert people who can deal with this with their knowledge and experiences.
Interview # 4:

Md. Abul Hossain  
Urban Agriculture Coordinator  
Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPRP)  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

1. Do you have any current project related to food security in urban Dhaka?

The Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Programme (UPPRP) is working to improve the live conditions and livelihoods of the urban poor people. The programme itself has described about it on a poster “To Improve the livelihoods and living conditions of 3 million urban poor and extreme poor people, especially women and girls”.

UPPRP is mainly working on infrastructure such as water supply, sanitary settlement, drain management, street light, solid waste management etc. Another part of this programme is Socio Economic Fund (SEF) where educational grants for girls, enterprises development grants, grants for petty business etc. are allocated. Currently UPPRP is running in 24 different cities and 6 more cities will be included shortly.

The budget for UPPRP is 120 million dollars and is coming from The UK governments Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP, UN-HABITAT. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of Local Government Division (LGD) of Bangladesh is implementing this programme. 35% of the budget is allocated for SEF, where women and girls are the main focus. Different kinds of grants are allocated differently also the grant amount varies from city to city depending on the living expenses. Especially Dhaka city has very high living expenses from rest of the country that is why the grants are bigger here in most cases.

As basic the educational grants is 4500 taka minimum (more for bigger cities) and this is a yearly grants to buy dress and books. There is 5000 taka block grant for enterprise development where technical and vocational training is included and the participants will receive 1500 taka monthly for 6 month during their training. For starting a petty business 5000 taka per household is allocated and only women get this grant. The ultra poor households are selected by the community. There are community facilitators in every community and they together identify the household together with the community through meeting and mapping of households in the area. These facilitators receive 4000 taka monthly for its job. The facilitators gets a basic training on skill development and then doing advocacy work in the community on child nutrition, violence against women, hygiene etc.

2. What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Especially in slum areas.

The government does not have any strong planning for urban food security currently. Some work have been done through advocacy for roof gardening for urban food production and also new technology have been introduced to the slum area such as vertical plantation, multi layer plantation, high yielded seeds have been distributed to the urban and sub urban areas. Brochures about crop calendar, mushroom cultivation, raring goats and cows etc. have been introduced to the community.

3. Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?

Dhaka is on high priority list because around 3 million poor and extreme poor people are living in Dhaka and it is increasing every day. There a lot to do in Dhaka, actually all major cities are capacitating lost of poor people. Percentages of poor people may decrease over time but the actual number of poor people is increasing due to the high population rate. Urbanization is unstoppable and we need to address this issue. The poor people in slum areas are the worse of even compare to rural poor. Urban poor have worse type of food
insecurity, higher malnutrition status, hazardous environment, worse health status of all. That is why this problem needs acute attention.

4. **Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?**

Other then the ministry of food, RAJUK (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha means, City Development Authorities) needs to put some new regulation on new buildings. RAJUK needs to incorporate roof gardening in their planning and imply this as a law for privet buildings too. The rural government needs to create jobs that generate money in rural areas because most people in rural area works with agriculture and most of them are land less or have very small piece of land and they work on big fields as day labors. So they have very limited period of time to earn money and the money they earn hardly enough for half of a year.

If everyone in city grew their own food still it would not be enough we would still have to rely on our rural production and at the same time we need to import food from other countries. The problem that farmers are facing today in Bangladesh is that the food items they are producing, not generating any profit if not loss. The retailers are paying them very little and then selling those goods in cities in high price. This is a problem that the Agricultural and Fisheries Ministry of Bangladesh needs to tackle this issue. They are working on it yet a lot more needs to do in this area.

Another issue is that farmers are not having profits from foods crops and that is why cash crops are getting popular like tobacco, seasonal fruits and berries, jute, tea etc. This means food production is declining, also decreasing of aggregate land and farm land is being divided and becoming smaller and smaller in every generation land is a big factor for food production is at risk. Bangladesh is on its peak of producing food crops but the land is to a greater extent exhausted because the production is intense and addition to that use of excessive fertilizer and pesticides is just damaging for the land.

5. **How do you plan to tackle urban food insecurity in Dhaka city?**

We promote urban gardening and plan to increase it. There is a programme that the government wants to start for ultra poor and homeless, who receive a special ID card. We plan to implement food supply programme for those soon. For income generating we are giving them training and grants and we want to make this programme for more cities and extent it to more areas and include more households. In short we will make our programme greater.

6. **If you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc.? (choose topic according to your expertise)**

Social safety nets are important so is food availability and affordability. The market regulation is a necessity because due to food price increase many poor people have suffered severely. We need to change people’s mind about farming and agriculture because this is not an honorable job to many in rural areas and that is one of the reason they tend to more to big cities also. More effort is needed for tackling this topic.
Interview # 5

Md. Abusufian  
Head of Technical Support  
Food Security for the Ultra Poor in the Haor region (FSUP-H)  
Care International

1. Do you have any current project related to food security in urban Dhaka?

A five years project named SHOUARDO, called SHOUHARDO 1 which ended two years ago. It was a project implemented in urban Dhaka and part of it covered urban food security. Now SHOUDHARDO 2 has started but this time it is only implemented in rural areas of Bangladesh. Currently Care does not have any project on Urban Food Security.

The urban part of first phase of the programme focused on empowering women, even a nutritional component were added to this where limited work for food security have been achieved. Cash transfer was the mean of our work.

As ensuring livelihood for women, Care also provided the selected members with different types of training as tailoring, small business, baking, handicraft, rearing goats, poultry, fishing in small water basins etc. The trainings were linked to income generating activities. Grants and loans were allocated to the women. 5000 taka grants for one time were provided to someone who had a workable business proposal. The loans were generated within the group. All members of the group saved small amount of money every week and someone had to borrow money they did it within the group with a moderate interest rate.

Food distribution to pregnant and lactating women for two years was another component of this project called Nutrition Component. These women received rice, flour, pulses, cooking oil, sugar and micro nutrient package. Another food related activity were roof gardening and fish case culture in small ring slabs. Growing vegetable side of highway was also part of this project.

SHOUARDO 1 also included roof gardening and plantation of fruits and vegetable along the highway and roadside.

2. What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Especially in slum areas.

Right now we are not planning anything for urban food security. It is difficult to work in urban areas due to migration. Slum dwellers tend to move around and also the slums are evicted every now and then that is why any sustainable project for longer period is nearly impossible. Another problem is that there is not enough land or space to directly grow food.

Care has no plan for any food security program in slum areas. Even though it is needed badly NGOs and INGOs are not working with it mainly because the Government of Bangladesh is ignoring this issue. This is the brutal truth of the situation.

3. Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?

If we talk about Cares plan right now we are not planning anything for food security in urban areas. As mentioned earlier that due constant migration in and out of the area, ensuring food security or working with urban food security is challenging but I personally feel that urban disaster is also a topic should be lighten up because it is increasing, especially slum areas. Fire, floods, evictions are some of the disaster affecting the urban poor mostly. Slums are built mostly outskirt of the city lacking natural protection like forest or green belt. Often the areas are naturally exposed to cyclone and floods. Slums are densely build and building materials are often dried hay, leaf, plastics and sometimes tin plates and a small fire spreads very fast and can destroy a whole community within a few hours. Slum dwellers are also vulnerable because most slums are
built on abandon land or on unauthorized land so eviction is the ultimate fate for slums. All these above mention reasons are having major impact on urban slum population and the poor.

Job opportunities are the reason for attracting the large population to the city, decentralization of industry would be a good solution to stop migration which would lead to less slum dwellers in the big cities.

4. **Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?**

Local government is the main actor in urban development and also many NGOs and INGOs are working in urban development. Unfortunately none of them are working with urban food security directly.

5. **How do you plan to tackle urban food insecurity in Dhaka city?**

Care does not have any plans yet. I personally would suggest that the social safety net program of the government which has 14 components should be strengthening further for the urban poor. These plans should not be ad hoc based rather a good mapping of the situation should be developed. Services specially targeted for the ultra-poor should be developed by the city corporations. Safe sanitation and pure drinking water should be also focused. Government could use both knowledge and manpower of the NGOs and INGOs already working in slum areas.

6. **If you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc.? (choose topic according to your expertise)**

First thing is to do is to reduce the population migration to Dhaka and create jobs and works elsewhere. Private sectors involvement in this process is necessary. Urban areas need to put under disaster risk zone to and plan accordingly and in that case proper mapping is crucial. Food availability for poor in urban areas is very limited today that needs to improve. An alternative market for poor can be a solution. Skill development and income generating activities for poor population in cities can improve food insecurity scenario in urban areas.
Interview # 6

Md. Nazrul Islam  
Socio Economic Expert  
UPPRP, UNDP  
Dhaka City Corporation

1. Do you have any current project related to food security Urban Dhaka (Cultivation, Roof garden, Slum, food grow)?

Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction Project is implementing urban food production activities in Slum area under Dhaka North and South City Corporation. Under this project people in slums are growing vegetable on Bags, bucket, roof, veranda etc. considering space availability for them.

2. What kind of planning do you have for urban food security? Especially in slum areas?

Nutrition demand is increasing in Bangladesh but the scope is limited particularly in urban area. Through awareness and campaigning, people will be encouraged and aware to produce or culture food with their own arrangement. By providing new technologies and information among the slum dwellers may increase food security.

3. Where in priority list do you put urban food security in Dhaka?

Currently we are planning to encourage food production in residential area of Dhaka to ensure food and nutrition in slum area as well as for floating people.

4. Who are the main actors of urban food security in Dhaka?

Department of Agricultural, livestock’s, fisheries, food traders, City Corporation, NGO, Housing society are the main actors for food security in cities. Never the less press, media, food and agriculture ministry has a big role in this.

5. How do you plan to tackle urban food in security in Dhaka city?

We plan this in following the five steps which are the followings:

- Resource Mapping
- Stake holder identification
- Context analyze
- SWOT analyze
- Joint action plan prepare

6. if you could plan without any resource constrain what would be your suggestion considering urban population increase, climate change, food market, social safety net etc. (choose topic according to your expertise)

Improvement in few areas would be needed such as:

- Strengthening the Social safety net.
- A large scale Survey with community people to identify the actual beneficiaries
• A holistic mapping for all service providers in the area and use this mapping to integrate the services to each other
• Establish a platform for communication with the service providers
• A complete priority list for vulnerability
• Opportunity search for IG/skill training
• Develop Community Based Organizations (CBO) or mechanism for a sustainable solution.
10.2 Appendix B

Participant 1.

Sonavan is 34 years old women, lives in Rayer Bazar slum in Dhaka city. She lives there with her family in a very small room made of mud floor and tin. Sonavan, her husband and two children shares the room. She moved to the city for 15 years ago searching for her husband, who left her with her newborn child for three years in the village and she had been almost starving those years. Today Sonavan works as a house maid in 3 different households. She earns about 56 dollars a month which is about 1.8 dollar a day. Her husband is a rickshaw puller who earns about 2.5 dollar every other day means he earns 1.25 dollar a day. He works every other day because rickshaw pulling is very physical demanding job. Their income divided in 4 persons becomes less than a dollar (0.93 dollar). With this amount of money they have to pay the rent, electricity, pay for their children education, buy food and other basic needs. They also some time need to send some money to their parents because both of them do not have father and their mothers are old and alone now is the village.

Rice is the main staple food in her family like most of the family in Bangladesh. She is the only one cooks for the family and she cooks twice a day, once in the morning when everyone leaves for work or school and again in the evening. Their menu in often vegetarian, often it is rice with fried potato, or green leafy vegetables. As protein they consume lentils mostly but sometimes buy four eggs for the family but often she does not consume the egg because she serves three eggs to her husband and children and she saves one for her son’s lunch box for next day. But Sonavan sometimes gets some foods from the households she works in.

Sonavan has no access to land where she could grow some food in Dhaka. She ones tried to plant some vegetable plans around her house but the land lord did not allowed it and forbid her or any other household so grow anything around the house. Her son tried to rearing chicken but that was forbidden too.

Sonavan left the village and don’t plan to return there for settling unless she can buy a piece of land there where she could build a house, grow vegetables, rear chickens and ducks, rising livestock. These will be her some opportunities for her to earn money because in villages it is difficult to earn cash money only by working and there are not much job opportunities either there, she explained.
**Participant 2.**

Jahangir is a 19 years old young man, lives’ in Dhaka city for about six years. He came to Dhaka when he was 14 years old. He has left his family alone because of poverty. He has his both parents and four siblings in his village. Jahangir works as a caretaker for a big household in the city and he lives with the house hold. He has a small room their which he shares with another young boy who is also care taker. Jahangir has learned to drive and got a driving license last year and he hopes to be a driver in future. The owner he works for taught him how to drive and helped him with the license and he now sometimes also drives the owner’s car.

Jahangir gets food from the family and he eats what the family eats. The main staple food is rice and with it is vegetables, meat, fish, eggs etc. He also gets meals that are not the main course, such as sweets, fruits, beverage etc. He never has to pay for anything here and he gets salary every month which is about 50 dollar a month (1.6 dollar a day). He sends this money to his family, but the owner has opened an account for him and saves some extra money for him every month but he does not know what the amount is. Jahangir is very lucky to have this job. He works very hard but he is happy.

Jahangir wants to work as a driver in future and till now with his help his father has been able to buy some land and a cow. Jahangir wants to buy more land in the village so that when he moves back to his village he can have a house on his own land and also can do farming.
Participant 3.

Sufia Begum is 82 years old lady who is a slum dweller in the Dhaka city. She lives alone and that is why she needs to provide her own food and shelter. For her age it is difficult to find a job and also difficult to perform a physically demanding job. She is a beggar now. She used to have a family of a husband and two children but her husband and children died of accident few years back. Anyhow, due to her old age she cannot move much so she only goes out two days a week to collect some money, food and any other useful things that people are willing to offer her. Most of the week her earning is very low, it can be some times less than a quarter of a dollar. Good thing is that she does not have to pay rent because she lives in an abandon place outskirt of the city. Most of the days she eats only once a day and the meal is often watery rice and chili.

She was married off in very young age. She was only three years old, she doesn’t remember much of her home and she moved to Dhaka when she was 13 with her husband. Due to her age she can’t remember where she is originally from.
Participant 4.

Zafor is 32 years old and is a mechanic of home electronics like refrigerator, TV, AC etc. He is employee in a workshop in Dhaka. He came to Dhaka for 15 years ago from a village of Bogra. He moved to Dhaka due to lack of employment opportunity in his home district. His family has some land back at home and they can aggregate that land but he did not want to be just a farmer. He earns around 10,000 taka monthly which is just above 100 dollar. He does not need to send money back home and he is single so he can consume all the money by himself. He lives in a mess and eats collectively with some other men who live there too. He pays 3500 taka for his food monthly and gets to eat 3 meals. In the morning it is often bread and vegetables, in lunch rice, daal (lentils), vegetables or small fish curry and dinner is often rice, daal and eggs. He usually takes snacks outside of these meals like tea and Singara, puri, muri etc.

Zafor is saving money every month so he keeps his expenditure in minimum. He would like re return home one day and hope to build a house for him and wants to open a workshop of his own if his village gets develop and most people of his community can effort home electronics, so when it is broken he can fix them and can get a secure income.

The reason Zafor left his district is that there in not much cash earnings opportunities were there and without cash money there is any respect or power. Even though he has a hard life in Dhaka but when she visits his village people looks up to him because people do not care how he lives here or what he does, they see him as a successful man who lives in a big city has a job and has cash money.
Participant 5.

Mohammad Shujon is a Rikswa puller, he have been working with this for few years now. He is from Satkhira. He moved to Dhaka for 4 years ago. He had loans in his country and that is why he had to come to Dhaka to earn money to pay back. He is around 40 years old and lives alone here. His parents, wife, and three children live in Satkhira. He visits them whenever he can. He earns about 400 taka (5 USD) per day. Rikswa pulling is a demanding job and that is why he can not do it every day and also not for full day. He often works 5 days a week. Which gives a income of 8000 taka. It is around 100 dollar a month. For food and accommodation he spends around 4000 taka and he tries to send rest of the money to his family.

He eats three main meal in a day consist with rice and vegetable most of the day but occasionally eggs and small fishes. He also has snacks some times as tea, biscuit, banana, bun, singara etc. Due to the high food price it is very difficult to survive in Dhaka he thinks.

Shujon is hoping to save enough money someday to return back home and be able to live with his family, buy a piece of land and cultivate there.
Participant 6.

Rikswa puller Zakir is in Dhaka occasionally. He is 35 years old and comes to Dhaka when there is not much works in the fields in his district Rangpur. Usually he is a farmer but after harvesting the crops there is not much to do around there so he comes to Dhaka and earns some money which he use to buy seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural related stuffs.

He earns around 400 to 500 taka (5-6 USD) a day and works almost every day. He is often in Dhaka for 3 to 4 months and then he reruns back home. Twice in a year he comes to Dhaka, he has relative here with whom he shares a room and also the kitchen. He cooks by himself and often eats rice and vegetable. Sometimes he eats out, then the food varies from bun, bread, vegetable or daal, banana, rice with meat etc. but eating out is very rare and he tries to keep the cost in minimum.

Every time he is in Dhaka he can save around 20-25 thousand taka to bring back home this cash money helps him to invest in his field.
Participant 7.

Fruit vendor Kamal is 26 years old. He lives in Dhaka and as long as he remembered he has always lived in Dhaka. He lives with his family in the slum. He has mother, father and a younger brother home. His father is a vendor too. In his family his father and he earns money. His brother goes to school and he would like to send his brother to higher education as he did not have the opportunity. He wants his brother to have a better occupation then him and his father.

He earns around 300-400 taka (3-4 USD) a day. But the business varies seasonally depending on the fruit availability and price. Few months in the year this business is not profitable that time he looks for alternative jobs around the city. His income can also vary then. Mostly he eats breakfast and dinner home and lunch he eats out or skips. He often eats rice and smashed vegetables in the morning with fried egg some times. For dinned his mother often tries to prepare a nicer meal consist with fish curry, vegetable, daal. Once or twice a month they have meat. When he eats out it is mostly snacks like bun, singara, puri, khichri he consumes.

He wants to have a bigger business in future maybe can rent a place in the market so he doesn’t have to move around with this heavy basket or fruits every day.