Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
Cordination-7 Branch
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Inter-Ministerial Debriefing Meeting Minutes.

Chairperson	:	Ms Farida Nasreen (Additional Secretary and Wing Chief), Coordination and Nordic Wing, Economic Relations Division ERD, Ministry of Finance
Vennue	:	Conference Hall Room, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Agargoan, Dhaka.
Date	:	06 December, 2018

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) jointly facilitated an inter-ministerial visit to observe the school meal programme (SMP) in Bamna, Barguna on November 18-20, 2018. The visit involved Government officials from key lead ministries (a list of the 19 officials can be found in Annex-I). Government ownership of the school meal programme was the key focus of the visit as well as how lead ministries can contribute toward expanding the SMP in Bangladesh.

Following the inter-ministerial joint visit, an inter-ministerial debriefing meeting was convened on December 06, 2018 at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dhaka. A full list of 35 participants can be found in Annex-II.

Ms Farida Nasreen, the Chairperson of the meeting, welcomed all participants and emphasised the importance of nutrition for all human beings. She stated that nutritious school meals for the schoolchildren should combat the widespread forms of malnutrition in Bangladesh. She suggested the inter-agency team members to translate the learnings into action and include them in the plans of the concerned ministries' portfolios.

Dipayan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Country Director (Strategy and Programme), World Food Programme highlighted the global experience of school meal initiatives reveals that it is one of the best human development investments a country can make for its future generations. Furthermore, he added that home-grown school meal initiatives serve as an economic investment as they significantly benefit local farmers and enrich the local economy.

Rezaul Karim, Head, Social Safety Net Polices and Programme, World Food Programme stated that in developing countries, school meals are an incentive to send children to school, to continue their education and they provide food security. WFP is working with Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) & Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHWF) to set the minimum nutritional requirements for school meals in Bangladesh and developing different menus. Apart from the stable funding from government, community contribution should be enhanced. School meals should include special roles for different ministries. Bangladesh's economy has grown at an astounding pace and we can afford a SMP in Bangladesh. Ruhul Amin Khan, Project Director (Joint Secretary), School Feeding Programme, Directorate of Primary Education said that considering the