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JANO

JOINT ACTION FOR NUTRITION OUTCOME

Malnutrition in Bangladesh is among the highest in the world. About **36%** children under 5 years are suffering from chronic malnutrition (Ref: NIPO-2016) and **24%** adolescents are malnourished due to an imbalance diet (WorldBank). Malnutrition among women is also extremely prevalent in Bangladesh. More than **50** percent of women suffer from chronic energy deficiency. (FAO)



Photo credit: Akramy/CARE, Bangladesh

JANO (Joint Action for Nutrition Outcomes) is a five-year project, funded by the European Union (EU), with co-funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation, which started its operations from September 2018. **JANO will replicate proven best practices, and take to scale innovative local governance models for better nutrition.** The project will work with the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) at the national, regional and local levels, to support the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition 2 (NPAN2), which provides the strategic vision for Bangladesh to achieve nutritional security.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Assist in the implementation and monitoring of multi-level Nutrition Action Plans
- Assist in the activation, and capacity building, of Nutrition Coordination Committees, at the District and Upazila levels
- Capacitate Community Support Groups to effectively engage with local level Nutrition Action Plans
- Train teachers across 330 primary and secondary schools to teach topics on gender, health and nutrition and to implement school gardens
- Inform the public about gender, health, nutrition issues through street theatres and other communication activities
- Facilitate skill building of public and private extension workers on nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture
- Facilitate Private Sector Engagement to produce nutrition focused and climate-smart products and to recalibrate last mile distribution
- Strengthen existing government MIS, to ensure effective vertical and horizontal information flow
- Digitalize all records and incorporate automated alerts into the system
- Develop easy-to-use mobile phone based ICT tools enabling communities to access nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific information on demand

KEY FACTS

Budget: 11,627,608 Euro

Project Duration: 2018-2023

Working areas: Rangpur and Nilphamari

Funded by: European Union

Co-funded by: Austrian Development Cooperation

Technical Partner: Plan International

Implementing partner: Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Overall Objective: Contribute in ending malnutrition of children under five years of age, together with addressing the nutritional needs of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and adolescent girls

Strategic Objective: Improve maternal and child nutrition through implementation of multi-sectoral approaches and strengthened nutritional governance in Nilphamari and Rangpur districts of Northwest Bangladesh

EXPECTED RESULTS













ER 1: Women and adolescent girls in communities are empowered to demand and utilise both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific services

ER 2: Coordinated and resourced sub-national and local government structures recognise, respond and are accountable to demands of poor and marginalised communities

ER 3: Production and access to high value nutritious commodities and services are increased

ER 4: Information and communication technology (ICT) platform is established at local level to connect relevant govt. departments and increase awareness of community people on nutrition interventions

TARGET GROUPS

 275415 Pregnant & Lactating Women and Married Adolescent Girls	 190322 Children Under Five	 421425 Adolescents	 10761 Community Members	 624 Community Support Groups	 330 Schools
 73 Government Nutritional Coordination Committees	 208 Community Health Care Providers	 237 Family Welfare Assistants	 196 Health Assistants	 178 Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officers	 84 Livestock Extension Workers

ICT INITIATIVE

The Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) leads national policy making and governance processes aimed at improving the nutritional status for the people of Bangladesh. The BNNC is working with a total of 22 ministries, each assigned with specific targets and responsibilities to achieve the national nutrition goals of the National Plan for Action on Nutrition (NPAN)-2. According to the NPAN2 operation guideline, all districts and upazilas have to establish Nutrition Coordination Committees (UNCC and DNCC) to foster and coordinate nutrition initiatives at local level. The DNCCs and UNCCs involve representatives of all concerned ministries and are being operationalized to be the platforms to support and deliver nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific services to communities. These Committees will formulate Upazila and District level multi-sectoral nutrition action plans, implement them, and monitor the progress in improving nutrition services. JANO is facilitating the process of the Committees' operationalization and action planning in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts (ER2).

In order for the Committees to effectively and efficiently support and deliver nutrition related services, coordination among all the respective departments/ministries is key. However, until now there is no unified, systematic and centralized information flow, which would enable the DNCCs and UNCCs to implement, monitor and review progress of their nutrition action plans, and the BNNC to conduct its regular monitoring over the Committees' performances.

At the same time, there is no easily accessible way for frontline workers and service providers working in the field of nutrition and health to enhance their nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive knowledge in order to improve their service delivery in the communities. Rural community people also have no or very limited access to such knowledge, which is particularly important for pregnant and lactating women, adolescents and children, JANO's key beneficiaries.

ICT Initiative Objective:

The web-based Nutrition Information Platform aims to:

- a) enable a unified, systematic and centralized information flow on nutrition between all relevant ministries and nutrition committees under the BNNC to implement, monitor and review progress of their annual nutrition plans, contributing to the realization of NPAN-2;
- b) enhance nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive knowledge and awareness among frontline workers and community people by providing relevant and easily accessible eLearning tools.

For an animated video on the value proposition of the JANO project, Click [here](#)

