



**Joint Action for Nutrition Outcomes (JANO) Programme
INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT**

ACA/018/397-245
(1.09.2020-31.08.2021)

**ANNUAL REPORT
ON
YEAR THREE**



**SUBMITTED ON
11th February 2022 (final submission)**



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Acronyms

ANC	Antenatal Care
BIRTAN	Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition
BNNC	Bangladesh National Nutrition Council
CC	Community Clinic
CG	Community Group
CHCP	Community Health Care Provider
CSC	Community Score Card
CSF	Civil Society Forum
CSG	Community Support Group
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DESE	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
ER	Expected Result
ESDO	Eco Social Development Organization
FWA	Family Welfare Assistant
GEMS	Gender Equity Movement in Schools
HA	Health Assistant
HI	Health Inspector
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPHN	Institute of Public Health Nutrition



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JANO	Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
NCTB	National Curriculum and Textbook Board
NPAN	National Plan of Action for Nutrition
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PNC	Postnatal Care
RtF	Right to Food Bangladesh
SA	Social Audit
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change and Communication
SMC	School Management Committee
TfD	Theatre for Development
ToT	Training of Trainers
UAT	User Acceptance Test
UDCC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UH&FPO	Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
UNCC	Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation



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1. *Description*

- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: **CARE Austria**
- 1.2. Name and title of the contact person: **Morgan Siegel, Program Officer for Asia**
- 1.3. Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action:
CARE Austria, CARE Bangladesh, Plan International, ESDO
- 1.4. Title of the Action: **Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO)**
- 1.5. Contract number: **ACA/2018/397-245**
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: **01.09.2020 – 31.08.2021**
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):
Bangladesh (Districts: Nilphamari and Rangpur; Covering 65 Unions in 7 Upazilas: Gangachara, Kaunia, Taraganj, Domar, Jaldhaka, Kishorgonj, and Nilphamari Sadar)
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different):
Final Beneficiaries of JANO
 - 275,415 (250,000 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) pregnant and lactating women and married adolescent girls aged 15 to 49 years old
 - 190,322 (215,000 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) children under fiveyearsold
 - 421,425 (510,620 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) unmarried adolescent girls and boys aged 10 to 19 years
 - 9,907 (10,557 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) community members**The target group of JANO:**
 - 330 Primary and secondary school and School Management Committee (SMC)
 - 633 Community Support Groups
 - 74 Government Nutrition Coordination Committees at District, Upazila, and Union Parishad levels
 - 211 Community Health Care Providers
 - 242 Family Welfare Assistants
 - 190 Health Assistants
 - 92 Government proposed multi-purpose health volunteers
 - 11 Agriculture Extension Officers
 - 10 Livestock Officers
 - 7 Public Health and Engineering Officers
 - 10 multi-national, national and local private sector companies

¹ “Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.



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2. *Assessment of implementation of Action activities*

2.1. *Executive Summary of the Action*

It is noteworthy to mention that despite the pandemic, the project tried to cope with the situation to stay on track, while following the strict countrywide lockdown imposed by the Government. The lockdown interfered with regular project activities such as organizing awareness programs, meetings, and trainings with Government officials and communities. The school intervention was interrupted because of school closure. Different modalities have been adopted to continue the activities, such as organizing discussions in smaller groups, moving the community-level GEM sessions online, etc. Although the alternative modalities helped to cover a good portion of the project participants, some are still beyond current reach.

Under Expected Result 1, the performance is lower than annual targets due to restricted movement in the communities and the ban of mass gatherings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the MTE results reported that access to agriculture extension services has increased by 4% compared to the baseline. **In response to COVID-19**, Facebook classes ensured students have alternative access to education and continuous learning. JANO reached 13,024 students through GEMS sessions, 1,175 teachers received training on GEMS by the Master Trainers, and 328 SMCs completed their Annual Nutrition Plans 2021-2022.

Under Result Area 2, 78% of annual planned activities have been implemented. The performance is lower than planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and because it proved to be challenging to bring all stakeholders together. Still, **355** regular bi-monthly Union UDCC and **29** UNCC meetings as well as **64** annual review and reflection meetings on the progress of the Nutrition Action Plan at UDCC and CSG levels took place.

**WOMEN'S DECISION MAKING
ABILITY INCREASED BY 11.4 %**

**SAFETY NET COVERAGE FOR
PREGNANT AND LACTATING
WOMEN INCREASED BY 15%**

Under Result Area 3, in the reporting year (Year 3), JANO worked closely with DAE and the private sector to promote knowledge on homestead vegetable production and fodder cultivation following climate-smart agricultural techniques by setting up **448** vegetable garden demonstrations.

Under Expected Result 4, the project has made 71% progress out of the targeted annual activities, with some remarkable progress including the completion of a web-based M&E system for the DNCC, UNCC and the national launch by the BNCC, the completion of four e-learning apps, and deployment of 215 talking books. Moreover, DNCC and UNCC members received training on the web-based M&E system. A SMS/IVR System was developed and 40 government-accredited messages related to maternal and child nutrition reached 1.7 million beneficiaries.

During COVID-19, JANO has continued to support the program beneficiaries, especially 24,630 pregnant women, 60,840 lactating mothers, and 125,793 school students, through physical and telephone counseling. A total of 14 handwashing devices were established at CC premises. Moreover, JANO supported the Government Health Department by engaging the project volunteers and frontline staff to mobilize the community for vaccination.

During Year 3 of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic worsened, and the second wave expanded all over the country. Despite the challenges, the project achieved 76% of the yearly targeted activities. Some of the activities have been postponed and shifted to the next year. For Year 3, the expenditure rate was 67%. We have shifted the rest of the budget to Year 4 (30% consolidated) and Year 5 (28.61% consolidated) to accommodate the rest of the activities. Overall project expenditure reached 41.39% with 50% of project time spent.



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3. *Results and Activities*

OVERALL RESULTS ACHIEVED:

The JANO project has created a number of visible impacts in the community and the system for improving the nutrition situation of the targeted group. The following are the major and visible results the project observed and identified from its implementation as well as different internal and external assessments:

- ✚ The project has reached and or engaged the following stakeholders through numerous activities:
 - **967,864** people (54% women) directly reached through different events. So far, the project has reached **46%** of its overall final beneficiary target (see details in table 1)
 - **16,713** pregnant and 75,202 lactating mothers directly received motivation support on health, hygiene, and nutritional messages
 - **125,752** adolescents (56% girls) are aware of nutrition-related messages.
 - **9,095** farmers (70% women) trained on homestead gardening, dairy management practices, and climate-smart agricultural techniques.
 - **7,484** Community Support Groups (CSG) members (55% women) capacitated on the roles and responsibilities for better functioning of groups.
 - A total of **742** frontline officials (211 Community Health Care Providers, 242 Family Welfare Assistants, 190 Health Assistants, 92 Government proposed multi-purpose health volunteers, and 7 Public Health and Engineering Officers) engaged with project activities.
 - Two private sector partners have been involved (ACI seeds and ACI animal health) to ensure better access to quality inputs and extension services, and to promote knowledge on climate-smart agricultural practices for homestead vegetable cultivation, and dairy management practices.
 - A web portal system on the nutrition action plan for tracking, monitoring, and sharing nutritional activities of District and sub-District levels was developed. The system will help the different ministries as well as the local administration to monitor nutrition-related work progress.

- ✚ The system-level changes are visible within the project areas
 - The project has reactivated 60% CSGs and revitalized 40% CSGs in the target areas. About 73% of targeted CSGs reached five out of seven performance indicators (Government defined indicators) whereas none of the CSGs qualified at baseline.
 - The nutrition coordination committees now proactively supported, developed, and implemented nutrition-sensitive multi-sectoral action plans in the targeted areas.
 - 80 Nutrition Coordination Committees (2 DNCCs, 14 UNCCs, and 64 UDCCs) facilitated better implementation of the NPAN 2. Multi-sectoral platforms like DNCC, UNCC, UDCC, at the Union, sub-District, and District level are now functional and prepare nutrition-sensitive plans in line with NPAN 2. The different levels of nutrition plans for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 are developed with the active involvement of the



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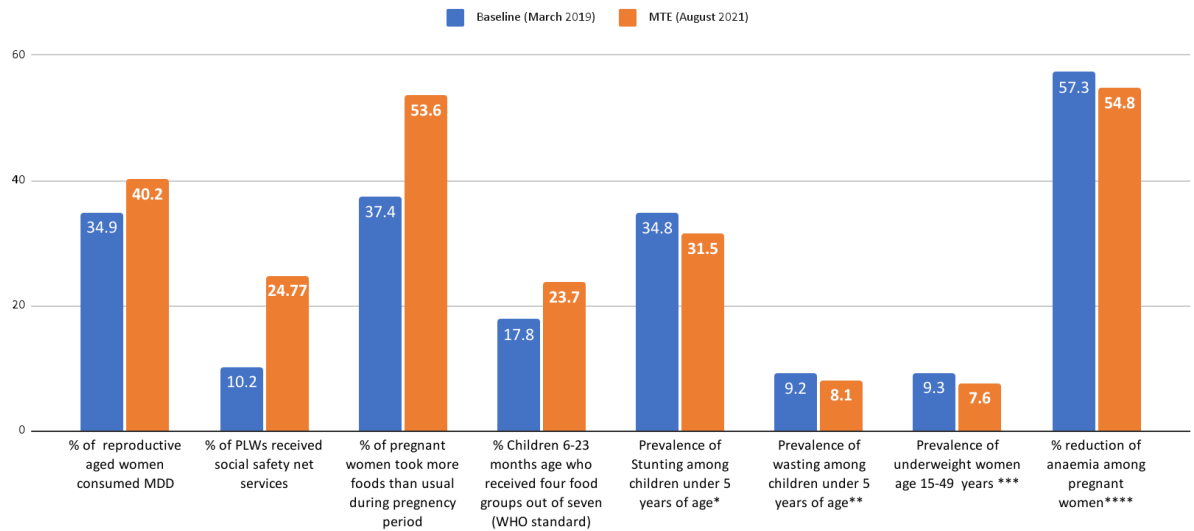
aforementioned nutrition coordination committees. The committees regularly monitor their planned activities and update their plan.

- Pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls are more aware of maternal health care, ANC, PNC, nutritional food intake, and homestead gardening techniques than previously. The perception of mother in-laws regarding mobility has been changed within the project areas.
 - Method to measure this: 1) This is based on the qualitative assessment of MTE. 2) These results are normally captured through Annual Assessments. Also these issues are regularly discussed in the bi-monthly meetings with CSG members to understand the community perception of the service delivery mechanism of CC services and the community awareness by CSG members. Similarly, health seeking behaviours and satisfaction with service issues are asked regularly during households' visits.
 - The Government officials, including the Deputy Director of BNNC, Deputy Commissioner, and multi-sectoral stakeholders, have made the JANO project one of their personal priorities in order to strengthen nutrition governance. The service providers, including the front-line extension service providers, believe that JANO has been successful in playing the role of co-facilitator/ facilitator.
 - The practice of social accountability tools named Social Audit changed the realization and mindset of UDCC members and caused a comprehensive allocation of budget to different sectors. For example, before UP had to allocate budget against 3-4 sectors such as transport and communication, and water and sanitation. Now however, they prepare their budget considering 10 sectors: agriculture and irrigation, fisheries and animal resources, small and cottage industries, transport and communication, housing and material planning, public health, development of education, health and social welfare, sports and culture, and miscellaneous.
 - The practice of Community Score Cards builds a bridge between community members, service providers, and local Government to identify service utilization and challenges, mutually generate solutions, and work in partnership to implement and track the effectiveness of those solutions in an ongoing process of improvement.
- ✚ The project created an impact on the lives and livelihood of the targeted groups with respect to nutritional status. The status of some nutrition-specific indicators has already improved compared to the situation at baseline stage.

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Selected Nutritional Indicators status



- The analysis of the project LFA indicators (see in *Annex I*) showed the improved status of almost all of the specified indicators, however the degree of improvement is slower than originally planned. This is due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. It is now challenging to achieve the target, particularly for the impact and outcome level indicators at the expected level. Considering the present situation and improvement trend, the target values of the logical framework at impact and outcome level may need to be reviewed further and revised accordingly.

Table 1: Final beneficiaries reached against project targets at the end of the 3rd year

Beneficiary Category	Target	Achievement	% of Achievement
Pregnant women	64,459	16,149	25.1
Lactating mothers	189,333	68,929	36.4
Children under 5 (Caregiver & Lactating)	190,322	186,597	98.0
Married adolescents	21,623	10,282	47.6
Unmarried adolescent girls	210,713	76,972	36.5
Unmarried adolescent boy	210,712	51,315	24.4
Total	887,162	410,244	46.2

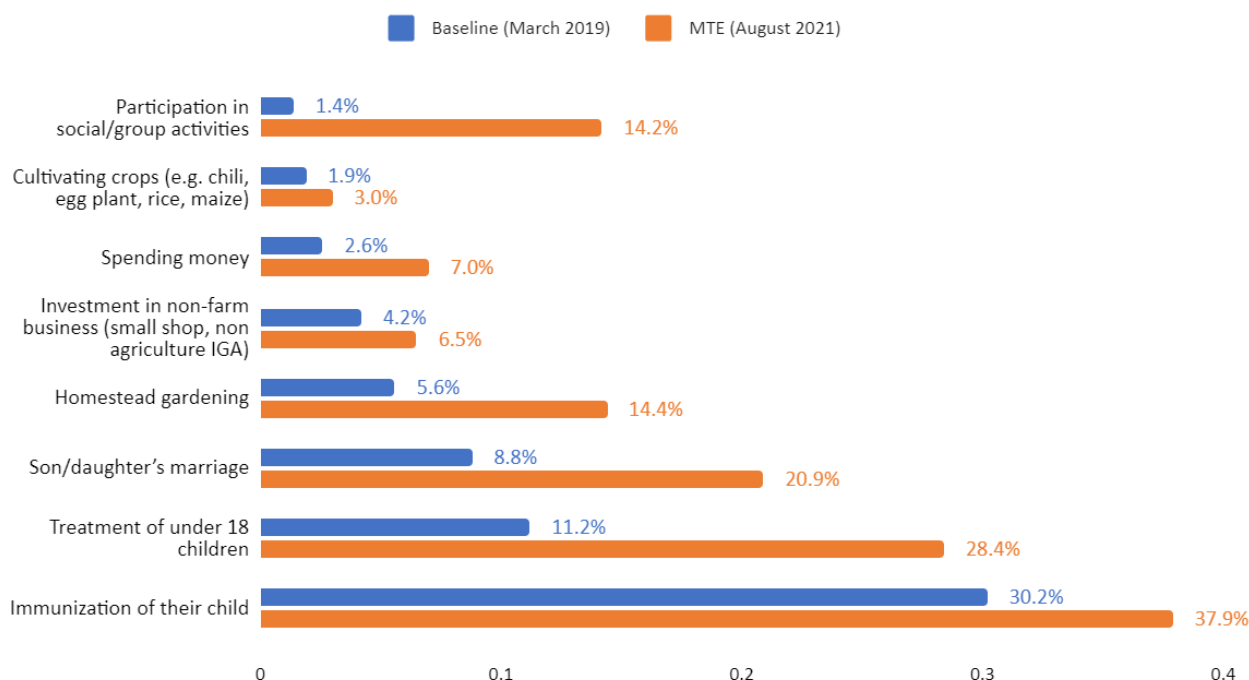
- Women’s leadership, as well as women’s participation in the decision-making process, has been increased as compared to the baseline. It is found that about 41.4% of women meaningfully participated in the decision-making process, whereas the baseline figure was 4.6%. The baseline and mid-term evaluation also showed that women's household and financial decision-making abilities increased in different aspects of the household. The

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following figure represents the comparison of baseline and mid-term status of some selected decision-making issues at household level.

Comparison of baseline and mid term status of some selected issues of decision making at household



Outcome/Specific objective: Improved maternal and child nutrition in Nilphamari and Rangpur Districts

OUTCOME LEVEL RESULTS ACHIEVED:

Table 2: Performance of outcome indicators and project targets

Description of indicators	Baseline (Mar 19)	MTE (Aug.21)	% Change	Project target
% of women of reproductive age in the targeted districts who are consuming a minimum dietary diversity (MDD)	34.9	40.2	15.19	46.9
% reduction of anaemia among pregnant women in Nilphamari and Rangpur districts	57.3	54.8	-4.36	45.3
% of children aged 6–23 months who receive foods from 4 or more food groups (based on the MDD-C methodology)	17.8	23.7	33.15	37.8
# of DNCC, UNCC and UDCC that spent budget effectively on nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive actions	0	80	-	74



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% of increased participation of community people, particularly women, in formal (Government-led) and/ or informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces	1.79	10.3	475.42	11.79
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A larger proportion of children compared to baseline were consuming a diverse diet. About 40% of women's reproductive age group were consuming a diverse diet, whereas the baseline data shows 34.9 %. There has been a substantial increase in the proportion of households employing climate-smart technologies to grow produce – from 36% at baseline to 49% at midterm. There was a significant association between production and consumption patterns, as women in households, who reported their participation in farming activities also reported higher produce consumption. A quarter of women have benefited from social safety net schemes. This contributed to the improvement of the indicator of women’s empowerment and their participation in governance spaces. According to MTE, it also found that there has been an increase in women accessing antenatal and postnatal care compared to the baseline as reported by PLWs and health service providers. The project implementation also found that about 80 Nutritional coordination committees developed and implemented the annual nutrition action plan. The UDCC annual plan of action analysis showed that they implemented 78% of the overall planned activities they planned last year. The MTE finding also revealed increased participation of community people, particularly women, in the formal (Government-led) and informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces. Merely 5% reported participation in decision-making spaces at baseline. There has been a significant increase to 40% at midterm (for details see Table 2 above and the MTE report in *Annex 5*).

Background information related to DNCC, UNCC, UDCC and budget utilization for nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive actions: There is no separate budgetary allocation for NPAN2 activity implementation. The Government has a recent circular to include NPAN2 activities on a priority basis in each departmental plan. The department is yet to receive extra allocation to implement sectoral activities but JANO is facilitating to include and or focus the nutrition related activities within their existing budget from the central government.

Output 1 (Expected Result 1): Women and adolescent girls in communities are empowered to demand and utilize both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific services

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ER 1:

The project JANO performed 76% of the annual work plan milestones under results one during the reporting period. The performance is lower than annual targets due to restricted movement in the community and mass gatherings caused by the COVID19 pandemic. This adds up to 56% of overall project targets under the expected result one. Though the implementation performance showed lower, the project is well on track to achieving activity targets considering the current situation.



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The performance of logframe indicators showed progress. Women and adolescent girls in communities are empowered to demand and utilize both nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific services. The results revealed that the participation of women in decision-making spaces in social and group activities increased from 1.4% to 12.8%. The proportion of women and adolescents accessing and receiving nutrition-specific and sensitive services from relevant service providers is also increasing in trend. The MTE results reported that access to health services has made modest progress (35.5% in baseline and 53.5% in MTE). The access to agriculture extension services has increased compared to the baseline status (3.98% in baseline 7.2% in MTE). On the other hand, the percentage of students disaggregated by sex who apply key learning points regarding nutrition, health, and hygiene at home has made limited progress possibly because schools were closed due to the pandemic. The study also reported that nearly three-fourths of the community support groups are active. All 330 targeted schools have active school management committees, which exceeds the targeted levels.

Table 3: Performance of output indicators under expected result one and project targets

Description of indicators	Baseline (Mar 19)	MTE (Aug.21)	% Change	Project target
% of students who apply key learning points regarding nutrition, health and hygiene at home	0.15	7.7	5033.33	20.15
% of women and adolescent have claimed nutrition specific and sensitive services from relevant service providers	35.6	40.1	12.64	53.5
% of CSGs in targeted communities are functional	0	73	-	60
# of School Management Committees set agenda for nutrition specific and sensitive services for adolescents in the SMC meeting	7	330	4614.29	330

This year, the majority of activities under the school component were delivered as planned, with some done through alternative modalities due to restrictions brought about by COVID-19. Due to COVID-19, schools remained closed during the entire project year (they have subsequently re-opened from September 2021), but tremendous efforts from the project team, together with Government stakeholders, led to speedy re-planning and notable achievements.

The team reached 13,024 students through GEMS sessions at the community level through the alternative modality of smaller courtyard sessions, representing almost 25% of the targeted participants. The assessment of the effectiveness of the GEMS sessions showed that 35% of students had positively changed their attitudes and behaviors on gender and SRHR issues. 89 % of students were confident about their knowledge of changes adolescents face during puberty. Around 54% of students said they had overcome their previous misconceptions related to SRHR.

The annual campaigns were another success area. The JANO team initiated the annual campaign through an alternative modality via online platforms. The campaigns consisted of art competitions, good handwriting competitions, and quiz competitions. A total of 17,795 students (girls – 11,80) from all 330 schools under JANO areas participants. This was the evidence of a huge number of students' engagement with alternate modalities. Students reported that they enjoyed the events and teachers, parents, and Government officials also appreciated this initiative.



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Virtual annual sports days also had a new and innovative approach under COVID-19. A total of 10,141 students (girls 7,515) participated virtually. The events were designed with cooking competitions, 'dress as you like', and quiz competitions. These events were good initiatives to create a happy learning environment at the household level and improve psychological wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The cooking competitions were very successful and contributed to enhancing the nutritious food preparation with available low-cost home ingredients and knowing the dishes' nutritional values.

The JANO Facebook classes, designed under COVID-19 to ensure students had alternative access to education while schools were closed, allowed them to continue learning about health, hygiene, and nutrition. A total of 79% of students who participated in the effectiveness survey afterward reported that they had visited the JANO Facebook page and viewed the content. Around 72% of respondents had watched JANO Facebook classes.

The project also worked extensively with Government stakeholders to contribute to and inform the safe school re-opening process and procedures. It was an excellent example of how the project effectively engaged in advocacy with a strong focus on distributing hygiene and disinfectant materials to 330 schools. The Government authorities from the division and district levels expressed their appreciation for the contribution. JANO's contribution was visible and meaningful during the reporting period.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Activity 1.2: Re-activate, build capacity and facilitate Community Support Groups of Government Community Clinics, to effectively engage with local level Nutrition Action Plans, using gender and diversity approaches

The project has facilitated 208 community clinics in the project areas to create better access to primary health care services, functionalize Community Support Groups to communities aware of demanding and receiving nutritional messages, etc. In this regard, the following initiatives were accomplished during this reporting period and cumulatively.

1.2.1 Organized consultation meetings with local level authority/stakeholders to re-activate or reform Community Support Groups (CSGs)

Aiming to re-activate and revitalize the Community Support Group, the project consulted with the Civil Surgeon of Rangpur and Nilphamari, UH&FPO, CHCP, and local Union Parishad and discussed the importance of re-formation of CSGs. The Civil Surgeon and UH&FPO realized the importance of reformation and they issued a formal official letter to respective CHCP to reform the present CSG's through organizing an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in each CG and in the presence of other community members.

Later the project organized 194 consultation meetings with local level authority/ stakeholders on CSGs re-formation in Rangpur and Nilphamari District where 3,434 members (1,326 women and 198 adolescents) were present. Through the process, the project builds a good relationship with



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the different institutions, i.e., CC, CG, CSG, Union Parishad, Civil Surgeon Office, and observed visible coordination among the institutions. As a result, 461 Government officials-i.e. HI, AHI, FWA, FWV, UH&FPO, etc., were present at the consultation meetings and motivated the community to ensure all village/para representatives within the reformed group and to fix the CSG reformation date in consultation with CSG and CG group members.

Because of the consultation meetings, it was found that each CSG organized an Annual General Meeting with the support of CG, CC, and the project, discussing their annual success, failure, shortcomings, group dynamics, and strength in front of the Government officials and community. During this reformation, women were given priority to be involved in the new committees. As the whole process was done within a global pandemic, the project facilitated CG and CSG to limit the mass gathering and encourage the community to maintain health and safety protocol.

Hence, the project found that all 624 CSGs reformed in the project areas during this reporting period, and active membership status increased by 123% compared to the base situation. It is noted that 1,007 women are found in leadership positions. In contrast, the figure was 571 before the project started i.e., about 76% of women leadership increased as compared to the baseline:

Table 4: Comparison of base and current CSG functional and reformation status

Issues/sub-issues	Before project	Current status	% Changes
# of CSG active	218	624	186.24
# of CSG members active			
Men	3,036	4,568	50.48
Women	1,707	6,040	253.74
Total	4,743	10,608	123.66
Women in leadership positions at CSG			
Convener	22	218	890.91
Joint convener	434	664	53.00
Member Secretary	115	125	8.70
Total	571	1007	76.36

1.2.2 Organize refresher for CSG members/ group on CSG activities and nutrition issues

The project organized a two-day non-residential field-based refresher training for CSG and CG members on CSG's roles and responsibilities, functions, and nutrition issues by trained staff of JANO. All of the targeted refreshers were committed. Interactive and hands-on sessions were facilitated to engage the participants.

A total of 208 refresher trainings have been conducted (Rangpur-66 and Nilphamari-142) where 3,740 CSG members (women 2,338) and 415 CG members (171 women) participated in the training during this reporting period. The training was organized at the community clinic level and from each CSG 6 members and 2 CG members participated in the training. Selected members of each CSG and CG received two days of non-residential field-based training by trained staff in the JANO project. The refresher helped them understand and review their roles and

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responsibilities, as well as the nutrition-sensitive services and to incorporate them into the annual nutrition plan.

1.2.3 Facilitate CSG to conduct gender analysis with community

The project JANO facilitated CSGs to conduct participatory gender analysis with their respective community. This activity aims to understand the current scenario of gender norms, constraints of receiving nutrition services and barriers in the community, to create self-realization among CSG members, and to identify the issues which need to include the CSG and or UDCC annual nutrition action plan for improving gender equality and the nutrition of girls and women.

All the 624 CSGs exercised three participatory gender analysis tools² at community level engaging



both men and women and identified the way forward to overcome gender-based discrimination situations. In each CSG, all three tools have been used in three different communities. Altogether, the tools have been applied in a total of 1,872 communities (each tool in each 624) under seven Upazilas of Nilphamari and Rangpur District. The gender analysis field exercise was started in January 2021 and completed in March 2021. On average, 17-18 participants participated in each session, and a total

of more than 30 thousand men and women participated in these sessions.

The session facilitation not only helped the CSG members to understand and identify the gender and nutrition issues of their community, but they also realized how the discrimination in household works such as women being overloaded in their daily chores. Furthermore, in many cases, the spouse is unaware of ANC and PNC services, adolescent girls are criticized for going to a community clinic, early marriage is imposed by the family and is detrimental for the adolescent's future, pregnant and lactating mothers don't know about a balanced diet, and women and girls have to deal with taboos and social stigma during menstruation, etc.

The exercise also helped the community to understand the progress they made through the JANO facilitation. The consolidated analysis showed that:

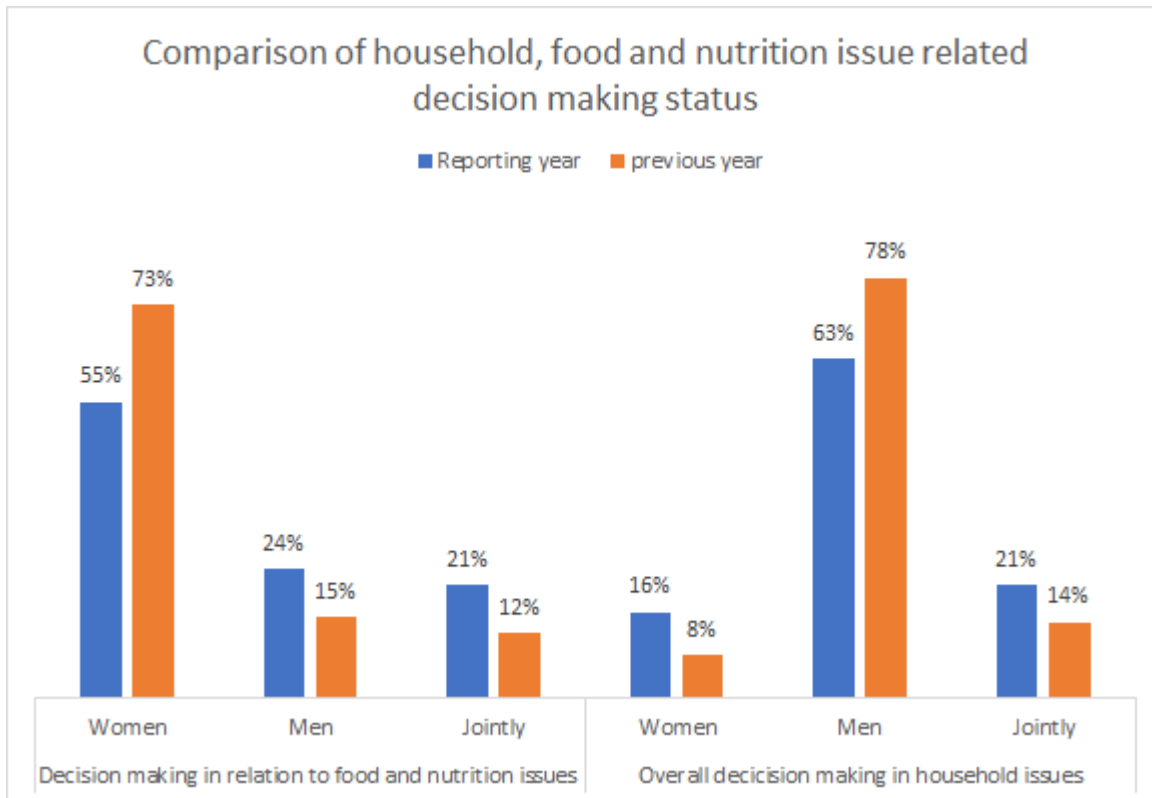
- Women's daily workload situation improved as compared to before. 11 types of household work were done in a day. 70% of the work was done by women and 30% by men whereas it was 80% and 20% respectively in the previous year.
- The household-level decision-making ability of women also increased. It was found that on average overall decision-making ability increased 15% as compared to the previous year.

² Daily time use in household chores, constraint and barrier analysis on nutrition services, and household level decision making process in nutrition and health.

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The exercise also revealed that women's decision-making in food and nutrition also increased compared to the previous year; see the figure below.



At the end of the exercise, the project analyzed all of the information, helped CSGs to prioritize issues that they need to include in their annual nutritional plans, and produced an analytical report highlighting the current gender scenario for future use and further project planning (see *Annex 6*).

1.2.4 Facilitate CSG bi-monthly meetings for action plan development, review, and services updates

The project provided a foundation training and a refresher to the CSG members to understand, and functionalize the CSG activities. It also facilitated their bi-monthly discussion as part of regular mentoring. The project strengthened their capacity to perform the group activities and to provide better support to the community clinic and Union Parishad for the service access.

In the reporting period, a total of 3,947 bi-monthly meetings (Rangpur-198 and Nilphamary-426) have been facilitated to follow up the annual nutrition action plan 2020-21 following the Government health protocol in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. On average, 14-15 members were present in each meeting. They mostly discussed the progress of the previous month's plan, raised emergency funds for the CSG to support sending emergency patients where necessary, and discussed the benefits of a model village, COVID-19 awareness raising, and the vaccine. In addition, they updated their service recipients.



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The CSG also organized planning meetings to review the existing plan and the development of the **2021-2022 plan of action involving community and Government officials**. In the reporting period, **624 CSG** planning meetings were conducted following the Government health hygiene protocols where the Government officials, School Management Committees (SMC), Union Parishad representatives, and local elites participated and developed 624 CSG plans considering the following major issues:

- Encourage men to cooperate with women in family affairs
- Encourage adolescents to eat nutritious supplements
- Eliminate gender inequality of food and nutrition in the family
- Support local Union Parishad to better target safety-net entitlements
- Encourage the community to prepare nutrition-sensitive homestead gardening
- Provide awareness of COVID-19 and vaccination information
- Incorporate issues coming from School Management Committees, etc.

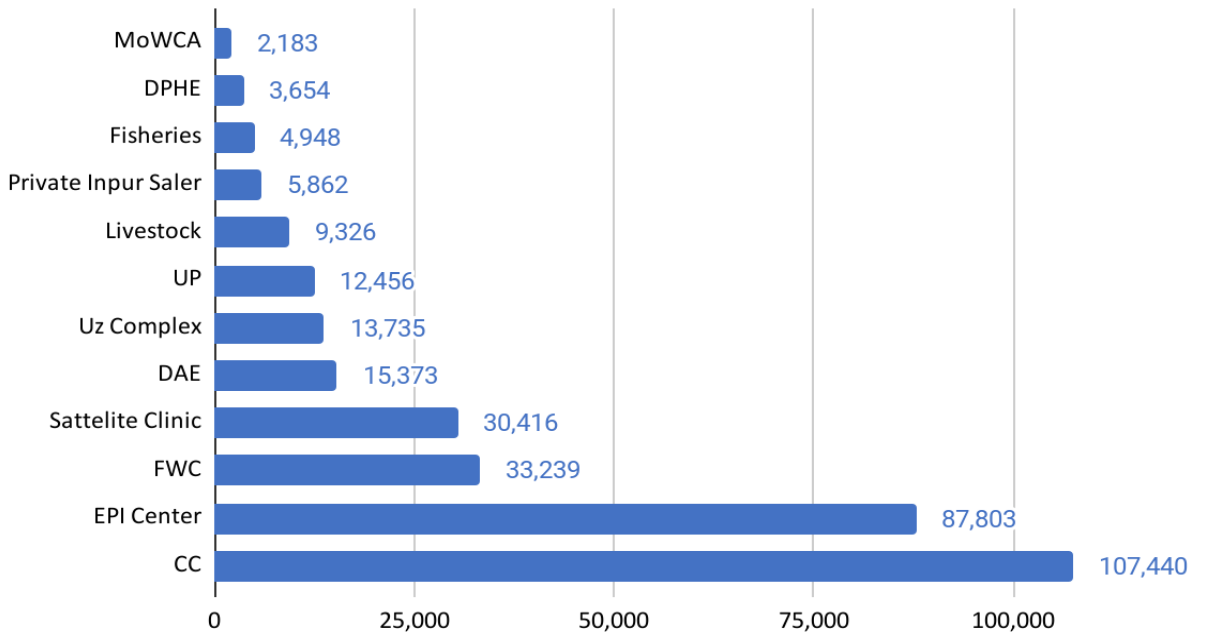
On average, 22-29 activities took place in different CSGs depending on the present COVID-19 situation. Later on, three CSG plans were compiled at the CC level, where the activities have been integrated in the CG annual action plan. Some of the identified issues beyond their capacity were shared with UDCC, including their yearly action plan. The following are the major results by the initiatives:

- 624 CSGs completed the Annual Nutrition Plan 2021-2022. Community members, along with Government officials, reform the CSGs according to Government guidelines.
- Analysis of last year CSG plans revealed that on average, they implemented about 98% of their planned activities.
- About 4,892 women (46.12% of total participants) participated in the action plan development processes.
- The following figure shows the overall number of cases referred by CSG to different service institutions in the last year:

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Number of people referred by CSG members to referral institutions



1.2.5 Evaluate CSG group performance and conduct capacity assessment of CSG

The overall objective is to facilitate the CSG performance assessment tool³ in each CSG to explore and understand the situation of the Community Support Groups and create self-awareness among CSG members in the JANO target districts after two years of project implementation. The specific objective is to identify the strengths, opportunities, and challenges that CSGs are faced with to fulfill their duties and potential areas of improvement in terms of functionality and coordination within the group and among different stakeholders.

The assessment has been conducted in all 624 groups under 208 Community Clinics in 64 Unions under 7 Upazilas in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. The field facilitators facilitated a structured questionnaire in each CSG involving all members of that CSG and discussed each of the key issues, where the group falls in and why. The CSG members were provided scores against each key capacity issue.

The analysis revealed that, out of 624 CSGs, about 77% of CSGs are doing well and the remaining groups require further follow-up to do better (see details in the below table 5). Considering the geographical disaggregation of the group performance, it was found that CSGs of Nilphamari Sadar, Jhaldhaka, and Domar were better performing than other Upazilas.

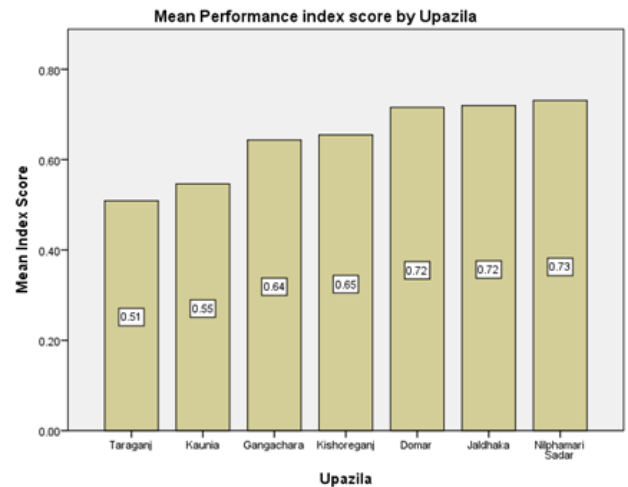
³ A grading tool has been developed considering a) internal governance, b) formation & membership, c) interaction with community and d) networking & collaboration with 22 indicators.

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Table 5: Categorization of CSGs based on the performance score

Performance category	Number	Percent
Poor (Below 0.50)	18	2.9
Moderate (0.50-0.59)	123	19.7
Well (0.60-0.79)	455	72.9
Excellent (0.80-1.0)	28	4.5
Total	624	100



Follow-up mechanism of under-performed CSG: The project frontline staff and community volunteers are regularly attending the CSG’s bi-monthly meetings, reviewing the progress of action plans and providing feedback in case of slower progress. Besides, the project facilitates a participatory performance measurement tool in each CSG annually. The tool allows CSGs to see where they are based on their action plan and helps them to identify next year’s priorities and where they need to focus on to improve their capacity. At the end of this exercise, they do the improvement plan by themselves. The project is planning to facilitate this tools again in coming April 2022.

1.2.6 Community awareness through CG, CSG, and volunteers

- **Conducted community meetings to increase male engagement at HH and community level**

During this reporting period, a total of 223 community meetings to increase male engagement in the HH (Rangpur-80, Nilphamari-143) were arranged, which is 97% of the annual target.. The two major discussion points were i) engagement of female household members in decision-making processes and ii) workload relief during pregnancy and assistance in getting medical and other services. A total of 3,360 participants were present, among them the husbands of 472 pregnant women, the husbands of 1,269 lactating women, the husbands of 275 married adolescent girls, and 1,344 other male participants. In these community meetings, Government frontline health officials participated and provided valuable suggestions. Through the meetings, it was found that men came to realize the importance of women's participation in decision-making in their family. As a consequence, the number of ANCs/PNCs has increased.

- **Courtyard sessions conducted by CSGs/volunteers**

The purpose of the courtyard meetings is to encourage pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescents, and caregivers to take various steps to improve their health and nutrition behaviour;



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and to provide ideas on the availability of nutrition services so that women and adolescents are empowered to receive nutrition services and increase their capacities in different ways.

Considering COVID-19 protocol and precautions the courtyard sessions were arranged in 2 shifts for a group on the same day. CSGs conducted a total of 20,564 (Rangpur-6,591, Nilphamari-13,973) sessions with the support of community volunteers on “Service and care for pregnant and lactating mothers”, where a total of 83,200 PLW, married adolescent girls, and child caregivers participated and received information on the following six topics- (i) Food and nutrition for PLW (ii) ANC and PNC services (iii) Symptoms of child malnutrition and infant vaccination, IYCF, (iv) Malnutrition prevention (v) Climate-smart homestead vegetable gardening (vi) Safe water, sanitation, and waste management. A maximum of 10 participants participated in each slot. In these sessions, Government officials also participated. Participants felt particularly encouraged to make small homestead gardens at their household level so that they can support their nutritional demand.

▪ **HH visits by CSG members/volunteers**

The CSG members along with community volunteers, conducted household visits and provided counseling services to community people, especially PLW and adolescent girls. The purpose of household visits is to make them aware of health and nutritional aspects that matter for PLWs, adolescent girls, and caregivers to children under-five. The major counseling issues were as follows: i) mobilize PLWs to receive ANC & PNC, (ii) motivate households to establish vegetable gardens in the homesteads and diversify their food intake, (iii) the importance of continued breastfeeding and complementary feeding, (iv) sensitization on the importance of safe motherhood, (v) the food situation to be considered during the pandemic and (vi) the COVID-19 vaccine.

During the reporting period, the project team conducted a total of **332,522** (Rangpur-1,00,387, Nilphamari-232,135) visits, and counselled **85,470** (pregnant 24,630 and lactating 60,840) PLWs with necessary health messages. Consequently, it was found that **32,772** pregnant women received ANC services, **13,550** mothers received PNC services, **38,164** boys & **51,502** girls received SRHR services, **67,896** children aged 0-2 years and **27,383** children aged 2-5 years received immunization from 208 community clinics in the project areas this year.

▪ **Facilitated CG to conduct bi-monthly meeting to review plan and progress**

CG bi-monthly meetings are a continuous activity to follow up with the community clinics’ annual action plan. The project facilitated the meetings with selected 14 model community clinics. During the reporting period, 58 out of 70 meetings were held with the participation of community group members, community leaders, and Government officials. In the meetings, the participants mainly discussed the follow-up of the nutrition action plan, how to accelerate the activities of community clinics and to strengthen the CCs to ensure services to people, follow-up plans for model clinics and CSG reformation plans according to the advice of the respective

Arajiniamat CC member, Gangachara Mosha Mahbuba Khatun said, *"We will work to further improve the quality of services for children, adolescents and pregnant women in our area."*

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UH&FPO. In the meetings they decided to work on the following issues to develop the clinics as model clinics and paras:

- Fundraising for community clinics for better services to the poor and vulnerable groups;
 - Seating arrangements and breastfeeding corners;
 - Awareness sessions to increase ANC and PNC services through CSG.
 - Establishment of a functional Complaint Response Mechanism for improved service delivery;
 - Criteria for measuring model clinics.
- **Training for CG members on nutrition services, roles, and responsibilities to create model community clinic**

The project has taken a pilot initiative to establish a model clinic to provide quality nutrition



services and strengthen the governance system of community clinics, which will be replicated to other community clinics. In consultation with UH&FPOs, 14 CCs (2 clinics/Upazila) have been selected as model clinics. As the CGs is the main driving force of a Community Clinic, JANO has organized 14 trainings (Rangpur-6, Nilphamari-8) for CG members during the reporting period. A total of 217 CSG members (women-79 and adolescents-8) participated in the trainings. The CHCP Md. Zillur Rahman of South Panapukur

CC, Gangachara said that *“what we have learned in the training will ensure the health care of the common people”*.

▪ **Facilitated community to establish model para.**

The project selected 236 paras to build model paras and work on the development of the nutritional status of the selected paras. CSG and JANO staff are working together to develop the selected paras in the Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. With the assistance of community volunteers, CSG members extended support to the selected paras to ensure at least 3 fruit/vegetable/ tree plantations at the homesteads, i.e., moringa/papaya/guava/lemon. Some of the paras have already completed their tree plantations as targets. In the reporting year, CSG members along with community volunteers and the community, planted 9,270 papayas, 5,747 moringas, 633 guavas, 89 lemon plants in the selected villages. A total of 1,960 PLWs and 1,963 children under-five of the selected paras are subject to regular follow-up to ensure that they have access to service from the community clinics in the model paras.

Criteria for declaration of model para

- 100% immunization coverage for all children
- 4 times ANC for all pregnant women
- 4 times PNC check-up for all lactating mothers

Each HH will have at least 3 moringa/papaya/guava/lemon tree



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Note: The community is investing on their own for planting these trees which is a result of awareness raising activities. CSG members distributed seeds among villagers. In addition, villagers have planted different nutritious fruits/vegetables by themselves.

1.2.7 Days of Observance

a) Observance of International Women's Day 2021: In this year, the theme for International Women's Day (8 March 2021), "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world," celebrated the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic - and highlighted the gaps that remain.

International Women's Day was celebrated in country-wide events and in different ways, and different organizations have participated in the various programs on this occasion in different areas of Rangpur. Like the Government, the JANO project also observed this day in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts in 7 Upazilas (Kaunia, Gangachara, Taraganj, Sadar, Domar, Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj) and 64 Unions. At the Upazila level, rallies and discussion sessions were held in collaboration with the Upazila administration and with the participation of the Upazila Woman and Child Affairs officers of each Upazila and the UNO respectives of each Upazila.

The JANO team also joined the Upazila level meetings/events, and organized rallies in two Unions of an Upazila as well as discussion sessions in 64 Unions of 7 Upazilas. At the community level school volunteers facilitated short sessions with the community members.

b) Observance of World Health Day 2021: Due to COVID-19 the day was observed in a straightforward way. Only small rallies (involving mask distributions) were organized in the marketplaces to create awareness on the practice of wearing a mask. The day was shortly celebrated in Taraganj in Rangpur District and Kishoreganj, Nilphamari Sadar, Jaldhaka Upazila in Nilphamari District. The theme of the year was "Building a fairer, healthier world".

c) Observance of National Nutrition Week 2021: The Government also observed the National Nutrition Week from 23-29 April 2021 like every year. This year the theme was "Think about nutrition if you think about food". However, due to the COVID-19 situation, celebrations from the Government and the JANO project were limited. JANO supported BNNC, NNS, and IPHN to print **2,208** posters on awareness messages and distributed them at CC, FWC, UP, Uz Complex, Uz Parishad, CS Office and DC Office. JANO also arranged awareness sessions at the community level, and supported the Health Department to organise two district level online discussion sessions among CHCP on the BMS act and breast feeding, in which 7 UH&FPO, and 208 CHCP virtually participated. The JANO project staff also supported the Government with the distribution of supplementary food for the vulnerable people in the project area. Moreover, JANO coordinated and collaborated with the SONGO project to organize a national level webinar on "Nutrition Governance Initiatives" and 99 government officials and other key nutrition practitioners joined the webinar.

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d) Observance of Safe Motherhood Day 2021: JANO has been supporting the Government to observe “Safe Motherhood Day” this year. The theme of this year’s celebrations was “Stay at home during Coronavirus, keep mother and newborn safe from Coronavirus”. Considering the benefits of breastfeeding to newborns, mothers have continued breastfeeding while applying all the necessary precautions considering COVID-19. On that day, a short rally was organized at Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, and Jaldhaka Upazila, and in the other Upazilas discussions were organized in collaboration with the UH&FPO office to convey the messages in regards to safe motherhood and safety measures.



At the community level, field officers arranged awareness sessions with community adolescents to convey messages on safe motherhood and menstrual hygiene management. 15 sessions were held in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts where 306 adolescents were present, of which 13 were boys and 293 were girls. At the community clinic level JANO Community volunteers and CSGs organized 70 sessions at 70 Community Clinics in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. The CHCPs of the Community Clinics conducted the sessions to inform community members about the need for timely check-ups of pregnant mothers to ensure safe motherhood. A total of 1,578 people participated in the sessions. There were 65 adolescent boys and 219 adolescent girls, 266 pregnant women, 566 lactating mothers, 102 males, and 360 women.

e) Observance of World Breastfeeding Week 2021: The JANO project celebrated the week on a limited scale at the Upazila level in Community Clinics due to COVID-19. The objective was to create awareness especially among pregnant and lactating mothers on breastfeeding, the problems with powdered milk, as well as the importance of complementary feeding and food diversification for children under-five, and of nutritious food consumption also in COVID-19 pandemic times.

Activity 1.3: Train teachers across 330 primary and secondary schools, to effectively teach topics on gender equitable and resilient health, hygiene and nutrition, as part of the school curriculum; and implement 330 school gardens growing nutritious crops through climate-smart-agriculture techniques

1.3.1 Capacity building sessions (refreshers) on nutrition for school volunteers

During the reporting period, 58 Female school volunteers (all female) and 15 Field Officers (school) (7 female, 8 male) received one-day training on Climate-Smart School Gardening through two batches. One was held in Rangpur District and another in Nilphamari District. The training was held physically in the presence of volunteers and FOs. As a result, all of the volunteers and FOs came to know about climate-smart school gardening. The first training batch

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was held at the ESDO Office in Rangpur on 11 August 2021 and the second batch was held at the DBLM Training Center in Nilphamari on 12 August 2021. Topics covered in the refresher training include the benefits of and approaches to school gardening, climate-smart school gardening, vegetable selection and school maintenance, cooking demonstration, and nutritional value of selected vegetables.

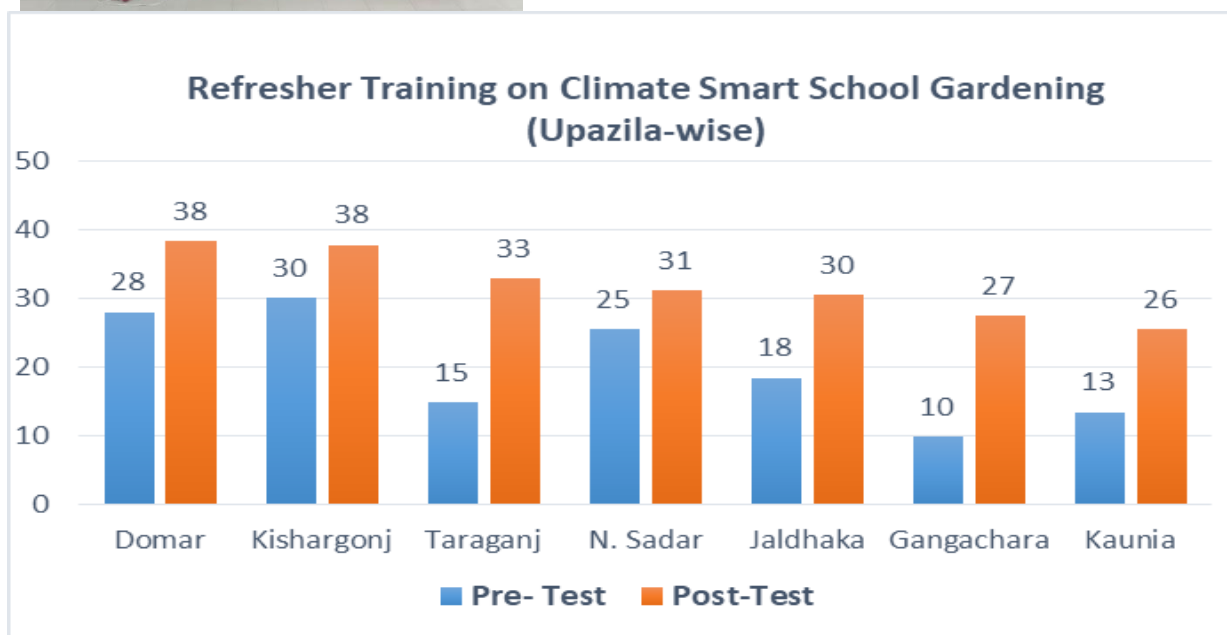
1.3.2 Volunteers' refresher training on nutrition

All 58 school volunteers (all female) received refresher training on adolescent health, hygiene, and nutrition during this reporting period. This was delivered across the 58 school volunteers through two batches of training (as below). The objective of the training was to refresh school volunteers on JANO interventions and update them on the changed modalities in the context of COVID-19. The specific objectives and topics covered by the training were:

- To update school volunteers on school interventions.
- To update school volunteers on updated child protection and youth safeguarding issues.
- To update school volunteers on the GEMS component and rollout plan.



Plan International Bangladesh and ESDO organized refresher trainings for school volunteers on the project objectives, child protection, gender, and the Teachers Module (GEMS) at the BRAC Learning Center in Rangpur. The pre-training test scores averaged a mark of 41.8% (23 out of 55 total marks) while post-training scores increased to 76.2% (42 out of 55 total marks).



1.3.3 Organization of bi-monthly reviews and sharing meetings of School Volunteers

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- Despite COVID-19 limiting the possibility of face-to-face meetings, a total of 30 bi-monthly review meetings took place this year with school volunteers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the modality of the bi-monthly meeting was changed, and 30 meetings/events were conducted reaching all 42 targeted Upazilas. As a result of the meetings, 58 school volunteers were able to check in with each other and the project team, share experiences and learnings and challenges, and discuss possible resolutions. This has continued to be an effective way of improving joint capacities across the group.

1.3.4 Organization of workshops to formulate teaching aid and teacher training manuals on Gender, Health, Nutrition, Hygiene

This year, two workshops were completed under this activity – one to finalize the school cabinet, school captain, and school council manuals and one to finalize the GEMS training materials. The workshop was held in March 2021 to finalize the training manual for Rangpur class captains and student cabinet members. The training module consisted of three modules developed by the project team following a review of foundational documents from the Government on similar topics. The purpose of the meeting was for experts and core stakeholders to review the documents before agreeing on their finalization. A total of 38 people (26 M, 12 F) participated in the workshop. There was direct engagement of primary and secondary education officials from Divisional, District, and Upazila levels. Master trainers of GEMS and experts of the JANO team from CARE, PLAN, and ESDO also engaged in the finalization process.



Technical experts from Plan International Bangladesh developed the draft modules and integrated Government guidelines on the student cabinet of primary level students. The JANO team also collected secondary sources of related documents for review. A total of seven groups reviewed the draft modules, secondary documents and recommended final versions of the three separate training modules.

As a result of the workshop, the training modules were finalized and ready to use with students once schools re-open. Positive feedback from the sessions was received:

“If we complete the training before school re-opening, the trained students can contribute to the school re-opening process and support other students. We also feel confident to complete these training before school re-open.” -Md. Akteruzzaman – Deputy Director of Secondary and Higher Education, Rangpur region.

Another separate workshop was completed to develop the online (video) version of the GEMS manual for first year students in secondary school. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a virtual workshop was conducted that also included Government stakeholders such as Education Officers from district and Upazila levels, and experts from the National Curriculum Textbook Board (NCTB).

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The JANO team deployed a consultant from Plan International Bangladesh to develop the GEMS Primary level manual with the support of the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and National Curriculum of Textbook Board (NCTB) of Primary Education. The consultant conducted 03 separate virtual meetings with technical experts of Plan International Bangladesh and reviewed secondary documents. A GEMS content outline for grade V students is being developed focusing on health hygiene and nutrition issues that the technical experts have validated. The following steps will require approval from the Government on the contents. This is likely to be a lengthy process due to COVID -19 situation, especially in securing their time which remains a big challenge for the JANO team. The activity is in progress and will be completed in year 4.

NOTE: The project will cover physical and mental changes during puberty, good and bad touch, gender, menstrual health and hygiene management, prevention of sexual and gender based violence, etc. This is not overlapping with the MUCH project. PLAN will only work for grade V. However, the issues will be further coordinated and checked with MUCH.

1.3.5 Distribution of teaching aid and teacher training manuals on gender, health, nutrition, hygiene

During this period, the Student Cabinet, Class Captain, and Student Council manuals were printed and distributed at the Upazila level. Experts from CARE Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, and ESDO also reviewed the documents differently.



The module was finalized through the direct engagement of local primary and secondary education authorities from Divisional level District-level officials. 3 types of manuals were also printed for use in the training of class captain and student cabinet council at the school level. The communications teams of

CARE Bangladesh and Plan International Bangladesh also engaged in the process of developing the material. The significant output is as follows:

- Developed Student cabinet, Student council members, and Class Captains manuals for students under the JANO project.
- Printed a total of 6,950 copies of manuals which will guide Student cabinet, Student council members, and Class Captains to continue their responsibility at the school level.

1.3.6 Printing and distribution of students' diaries on gender, health, hygiene, and nutrition

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During this period, the distribution of student diaries was a challenge due to school closure during COVID-19. Schools were closed in March 2020 and had not reopened for the duration of this project year. As a result, it was impossible to distribute the diaries already printed to students themselves. In the reporting year a total of 239 student diaries were printed.

However, the diaries were delivered to 302 of the 330 schools in anticipation of school re-opening. The plan is to provide 74,201 GEMS student diaries to the target secondary schools and madrasas. Particularly grade 6 and grade 7 classes will be done as soon as possible after schools re-open (the Government of Bangladesh announced the re-opening of schools in September 2021).

Considering COVID-19 and school closure, the JANO project undertook two interventions by creating learning opportunities through GEMS courtyard sessions run by volunteers at the community level and JANO Facebook Classes. The team collected data through an online questionnaire to assess their quality to measure the effectiveness of these GEMS sessions now delivered through these alternative methods.

1.3.7 Organize training for 1,320 school teachers on gender, health, hygiene, and nutrition module

This year a total of 39 batches of GEMS teacher training for the secondary school students have been completed, reaching a total of 1,200 participants (856 M, 344 F). On 18 October 2020 the Directorate of Secondary Higher Education (DSHE) gave permission to organize the training while maintaining Government health protocols during COVID-19. Following this, on 28 October 2020, the Deputy Director, Department of Secondary Education, Rangpur issued a letter to support the JANO project in organizing the training.



Training of schoolteachers on Gender, Health, Hygiene, and Nutrition Module took place from November-December 2020. During this year, a total of 38 batches of face-to-face non-residential training (4 days) were held across both Districts (13 batches in Rangpur and 25 in Nilphamari). A total of 1,175 teachers (women-331) participated in the training from all 38 batches combined. An additional batch of trainings was completed for video recording with 25 participants (female-13 and male-12).

To measure the impact of the training, trainees were given pre-training and post-training tests. The average score for pre-training tests was 47% (or 8/17 marks) across all batches; however, this increased to 76% (or 13/17) by the end of the training.

The major Outputs are as follows:

- 1,200 teachers trained on GEMS curriculum with evidence of increased knowledge on the subject matter.
- Schoolteachers equipped to roll out GEMS sessions in their classes.
- In addition, in June 2021, as schools had been closed for more than a year, the project team decided to deliver the next batch with a smaller group so that it could be video-



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taped and used for video training where face-to-face sessions would not be possible in future.

1.3.8 Roll-out of GEMS modules to students through courtyard sessions at community level

From December 2020, the team conducted GEMS sessions for school students from grades VI through VII. The sessions took place in public community spaces as an alternative modality whilst maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, and washing hands with soap, following the Government's health and safety protocol.

School volunteers delivered GEMS modules to 22 groups of around 8-12 participants each month through this modality. Sessions covered the following GEMS modules over the course of the year:

Session-1: Gender and Sex

Session-2: Gender Discrimination, Equity, and Equality

Session-3: Division of Labour

Session-4: Changes in Puberty

Session-5: Menstrual Management and Personal Hygiene

Session 6- Wet Dream and Personal Hygiene

Session-7: Perception of Emotions

Session-8: Emotion Management

Session-9: Stress management and Psychosocial Support

During this reporting year all 60 school volunteers conducted GEMS sessions. Each volunteer delivered 22 batches of sessions. The total number of batches was 1,320 (resulting in 15,510 sessions). And a total of 13,071 students participated in GEMS sessions through the alternative modality (some students are double-counted here as they participated in both modalities). Positive feedback was provided by participants, as seen by quotes below:

“I used to be ashamed but now I can see that the GEMS session is very appropriate for adolescents, every teenager needs to know it”. - 7th grade female student from Mahipur village in Laxitari Union, Gangachara

“Before I did not know that mental change would happen during the adolescent period but now I came to know from the GEMS session.” - Student from Fazilpur BL High School, Alampur Union, Taraganj

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1.3.9 Half-day orientation for 330 Head Teachers on JANO school intervention

This year a total of 7 sessions were completed. The first 3 orientation sessions for this year were completed in January 2021 (2 in Rangpur and 1 Nilphamari) and reached 166 Head Teachers (158 M, and 8 F) out of 170 at target schools. The remaining four sessions were completed in February 2021 (1 in Rangpur and 3 in Nilphamari) with another 158 Head Teachers (151 M, 7 F). The sessions aimed to re-orient teachers on the JANO project since schools have been closed for a long time and introduce and discuss any changes to the project plan. It was also a good opportunity to discuss safe-school re-opening plans with teachers.



Government officials (District Education Officer, District Primary Officer, Deputy Directors (DD) of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education, Rangpur Division) participated in the sessions. Government officials expressed their appreciation for the JANO-supported GEMS Curriculum, adolescent corners, and school gardens.

The topic of safe-school re-opening was a major point of discussion. The Ministry of Education circulated three different sets of instructions from their line departments (Directorate offices) – one each from/for primary schools, secondary schools, and Madrasas. The instructions focus on school preparedness when it comes to cleanliness and disinfection of schools, with specific guidelines for schools and madrasas.

Comments demonstrated participants' views on the importance of the process:

“JANO is providing support to the Government on school readiness through cleaning schools and maintaining school disinfectant at the right time, we should follow the instructions of the Government on this issue with a high level of importance.” - Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) – Nilphamari Sadar, Nilphamari

“It is the time to ensure first that the environment is safe for students, and then we will go for school re-opening. We are just waiting for the instructions from the Government to re-open the schools.” - Md. Shofiquel Islam – District Education Officer, Nilphamari District

1.3.10 Facilitation of School Management Committee Members to develop Annual Nutrition Action Plans

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This year, a total of 328 schools developed Annual Nutrition Action Plans and all received follow-up support from the project. Quarter 2-3 of the project year focused on meetings with school SMCs to develop their Annual Nutrition Action plans. The 328 schools were able to have face-to-face meetings to do so. 2,387 SMC members attended. Examples of key actions in the action plans are listed below:



- SMC members will take the initiative to maintain vegetable gardens and adolescent corners of respective schools.
- SMC members will cultivate vegetables in their own homes as per school gardens.
- A de-worming campaign will be conducted every 6 months.
- Sanitary napkins will be distributed through the campaign to the school students.
- Vegetable gardens will be established at the household level through the engagement of students.
- Awareness campaign sessions will be organized at the community level on violence against women and children.

Josna Rani, SMC member of Kolkanda Abdus Samad High School, Gangachara said “the students would have benefited a lot if the plan I had made in 2020-21 was fully implemented. We will work on the implementation of all the unfinished works of the previous plan”.

1.3.11 Set up 330 Adolescent Corners at schools

During this period, the materials needed for adolescent corners were procured and distributed to schools. Although schools have been closed since March 2020, the team worked with Head Teachers and School Volunteers to ensure the materials were distributed and adolescent corners set up in 330 schools (248 Secondary, 49 Madrasha, and 33 primaries). These are now ready for student use once schools re-open.

The adolescent corners will be treated as learning hubs for each school. Through them, students will receive the opportunity to learn about SRHR and gender issues by using the play and print materials provided.

1.3.12 Establish and maintain 330 school gardens

Last year, a total of 317 school gardens were established. During this period, the remaining 13 were established plus another 5 school gardens in alternative locations for schools in which the previously established gardens became inaccessible due to COVID-19 (making a total of 18 gardens established this year). The gardens were established with School Management Committees (SMC), teachers, and JANO School Volunteers in the pandemic situation.

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Maintaining the gardens established has been challenging during COVID-19, as schools have been closed since March 2020. Therefore, access to the gardens by students and school staff was limited. The major question for the team was how to ensure the school gardens established would survive during the school closure period. The team undertook direct discussions with SMC members in the 330 schools to explore alternative ways of maintaining the gardens. Consequently, the vegetable gardens were maintained regularly by SMCs who led the school garden maintenance with local resources and their own capacity in collaboration with schoolteachers and JANO volunteers. Some students who lived near the schools also helped with maintenance. Students used their learnings and established gardens at home (based on observations of School Volunteers during their household visits).



During the reporting period JANO project supported a total of 330 school garden maintenance support (114 in Rangpur and 216 in Nilphamari) to cultivate seasonal vegetables.

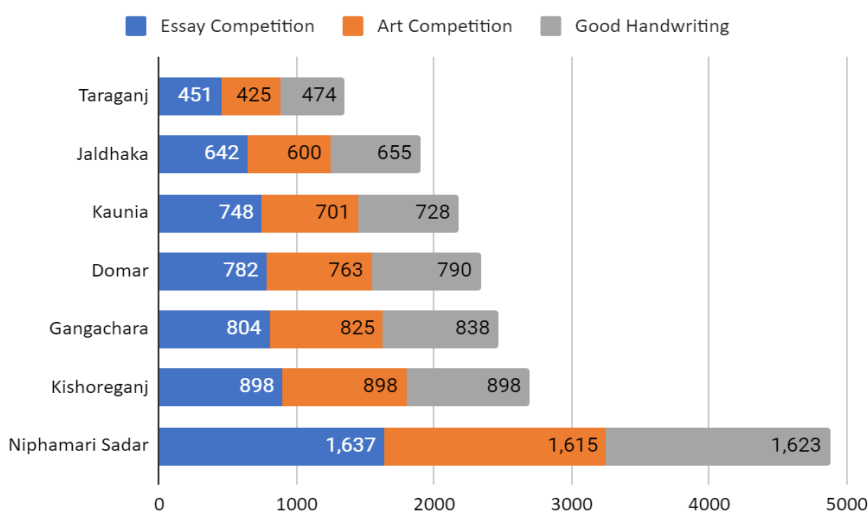
1.3.13 Annual campaign in schools (debate, quiz, essay competition, day celebration) on Health, Hygiene & Nutrition

As schools have been closed in Bangladesh for more than a year, this activity was previously put on hold. However, the prolonged nature of the pandemic led the team to reconsider how this activity could be delivered during this period. Annual campaigning was carried out through an alternative modality – using online platforms and reaching 17,795 students (11,801 F, 5,994 M). The campaign activities focused on running competitions that students could participate in from their homes. Headteachers from the participating schools agreed to review the entries of students in their areas and to participate on the judging panels to help select winners. Three types of competitions were held: 1) art competition, 2) essay writing competition, and 3) good handwriting competition. In April 2021, the first campaign was held. Each school declared 3 winners (winner, runner up, and first runner up) for each competition in their school. Each winner received a creative book as a prize. A total of 2,970 students won prizes. The Government education department was directly involved in the campaign. The Deputy Director of Secondary and Primary Education of the Rangpur division was given official instructions to promote the activity. In addition, the District Education Officer, District Primary Education Officer, Rangpur & Nilphamari issued a letter to support the annual campaign, and the Deputy Director of Secondary and Higher Education, said *“the activity is an excellent idea to engage students; differently, it will be very helpful to involve them with creativity and support to their mental health”*. The competition was held in two age groups with three topics on: (i) Essay competition (Ways to prevent COVID-19.), (ii) Art Competition (Our liberation war) and (iii) Handwriting Competition. Upazila wise participants were as follows:

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Number of Participants by Upazila and events type



1.3.14 Annual Sports days in schools with special gender blended & nutrition games



As schools were closed in Bangladesh for more than one year, school-going adolescents have passed through difficult times with different challenges, including psychological stress. In this situation, the JANO team supported the SMCs to conduct virtual annual sports days for children and adolescents to help relieve stress under the 330 school areas. The virtual annual sports days were designed with three events for 2021: (i) Quiz competition,

(ii) Dress as you like (Jemon Khushi Temon Sajo), and (ii) Cooking competition.

Table 6: Number of participants and winners by event types and sex

Event types	Participants number			winners		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Quiz Competition	1,053	2,374	3,427	293	697	1,346
Costume Competition	963	2,313	3,276	270	720	1,233
Cooking Competition	600	2,838	3,438	130	860	730
Total	2,616	7,525	10,141	693	2,277	3,309

1.3.16 Refresher training for project staff on Adolescent Health, Hygiene and Nutrition

This year, Plan International Bangladesh (PIB) organized one batch of refresher training for the project team. The training took place from 22-24 February 2021 at the BRAC Learning Center in Sylhet. It covered the following topics: (i) adolescent health, hygiene, and nutrition; (ii) refresher of the Plan International Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, (iii) refresher on gender, (iv) purpose and maintenance of the adolescent corners, (v) purpose and maintenance of

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the school gardens, (vi) GEMS sessions roll out once schools re-open and (vii) functioning of Tfd shows.

Project staff who participated were the key members responsible for the successful implementation of each project activity. A total of 31 team members were trained (11 F, 20 M)

The average pre-test of the participants was 28 out of 50 marks (56%), and the average post-test score showed a notable increase to 40 out of 50 marks (80%). The detailed



analysis will be available in the final training report. The major outputs are as follows:

Household visits by school volunteers helped to reach adolescent students and to increase the awareness of communities on COVID-19:



- Hand washing practices.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 and how it is spread.
- Preventive measures such as maintaining social distancing practices, wearing masks, washing hands, etc.
- How to access hotline numbers in case of emergency or when need for information; and
- Sharing information with primary and secondary school students about the available study/education sessions aired on national television.

During this year, the school volunteers conducted 140,974 household visits (Rangpur-53,189 Nilphamari-87,785) reaching 125,793 adolescents aged 10-19 (65,004 girls).

1.3.17 Distance Learning Initiative and Follow-up

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Due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic the school remained closed. JANO provided support to continue the students' learning, The **Government of Bangladesh A2i Program** initiated distance learning through YouTube and web (link: <https://eduhub.gov.bd/>). This way the JANO team reached a total of **103,988** (Rangpur-28,980, Nilphamari-75,008) **students**, among them 51,733 are boys & 52,255 are girls.



1.3.18 WASH Committee Meetings at Upazila level

This year the project team completed all planned activities with WASH committees at the Upazila level. A total of 11 WASH committee meetings were held, reaching all 7 Upazilas in the project area. A total of 212 participants participated (53 from Rangpur and 159 from Nilphamari). Among them 174 were male and 38 female participants.

The major decisions agreed were:

- To clean the schools well before and during re-opening, through materials provided by JANO.
- To establish running water systems for handwashing on school premises.
- To coordinate with GO and NGO levels effectively in preparation of safe school re-opening.
- To perform the meetings effectively.

Amit Chakrabarti, UNO, Kishoregonj, Nilphamari says, *“We should establish adequate handwashing devices during the Covid-19 pandemic situation at school premises”*.

Activity 1.4: Inform the public about nutrition issues through street theatres and other communication activities

1.4.1 Theatre for Development (TfD) group formation

In the previous periods, the JANO project formed 30 Theatre for Development (TfD) groups in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. To cover the entire geographic location of the JANO project area, the team helped establish another 35 groups this year.

34 sets of TfD materials were purchased during the reporting period, including 19 different kinds of musical instruments (Harmonium, *Tabla*, Flute, and back banner). The materials are reserved for the selected schools. Each group will use the materials for their rehearsals, and TfD shows at the community level. Groups will start shows in the communities from September 2021 after receiving the training.

1.3.19 Training for TfD groups on drama

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During this reporting year, another 20 of the 65 TfD groups were trained through 17 batches of training delivered through a two-step process. A total of 300 TfD group members were trained (172 M, 128 F). While it was planned that 43 TfD groups would be trained this year, due to COVID-19 the training had to be delivered at a slower pace with a small number of participants. The training of 23 groups shifted to the next year. In total, 20 groups and 300 students were trained. Among them 172 were male and 128 female participants.



1.3.20 TfD Show

The TfD show is an interactive approach to reach these groups. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation and lockdowns across the project area, the movement was restricted making it unsafe and impossible to hold TfD shows at the community level. Instead, it was agreed by the team to procure 63 pico-projectors so that TfD shows could be recorded and screened safely to smaller groups of community members. The project team video-taped four TfD shows – each of the 4 scripted dramas. The shows can be seen via this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjzLYZQdz5gMKeLyowhgmPneb48-PIJu>

Activity 1.5. COVID-19 Response Activities

1.5.1 COVID 19 vaccination

This year the Government of Bangladesh began administering the COVID-19 vaccination to communities and prioritized people based on a set of criteria according to vulnerability level. The vaccination campaign started with the collaboration of the health department. The JANO project front-line staff and volunteers contributed to these efforts in Rangpur and Nilphamari regions. At the Upazila level, selected field officers were members of the vaccination committee. Under the direction of the Government, JANO volunteers supported community members to register for the vaccine and provided information on where to go to get vaccinated. Overall, the project supported 71,531 people (women 33, 175) registering for the vaccine. The project observed increased awareness of the community on the COVID-19 vaccination.



1.5.2 JANO Facebook Activity

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As part of the COVID-19 response activities, the project began using Facebook as an alternate modality to deliver classes to primary and secondary school students. The JANO Facebook activity helped reach students at home with little to no access to education while schools were closed. The team established a much-needed Facebook page on which the classes were launched; the Facebook page is named 'JANO' (link: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=jano%20-%20%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A8%E0%A7%8B>). During the reporting period, a total of 102 pieces of content were developed for the JANO Facebook page, and a total of 82 pieces of content (43 Facebook classes and 39 other posts) have been uploaded to date. A total of **138,295** users were reached through this platform, total views of content being **200,804**. Of the 82 pieces of content, 50 were classes (developed by August 2021) on Mathematics, English, Science, Bangla, Bangladesh, world identity, Social Science, Nutrition, and other relevant academic subjects.

“This chance to communicate and interact with students made us proud, where most of the teachers missed this opportunity. Though virtually, we at least can conduct classes for students. Thanks to JANO for creating this amazing platform and giving us a chance to stay connected.”
Mst. Shegufta Nasreen, Assistant Teacher, Rangpur. Through the initiatives, students had the opportunity to continue and learn from Facebook classes during school closure.

1.5.3 Support to Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) for capacity building of frontline health workers



The project supported an orientation program for Government staff frontline health workers (SACMO/FWV/AHI) to facilitate school health campaigns and counselling on Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS) and to assist them in preparing personal/individual action plans and sharing those plans.

1.5.4 Needs-based support to SMCs on school re-opening

To support the School Management Committees with school reopening, the project has planned to distribute COVID-19 preventive health and hygiene materials for disinfecting school premises and ensure the safety and security of the students and teachers. The materials listed below were procured for each of the 330 target schools this period, following the Government finalizing their school-reopening guidelines:

- 1) Three water buckets
- 2) Three mugs
- 3) Three floor cleaners





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- 4) Three packets of detergent powder
- 5) Five spray bottles
- 6) Three mops
- 7) Ten packets of sanitary napkins
- 8) School Reopening Guidelines
- 9) Leaflets for safe water, chlorine solution preparation, and COVID-19 awareness
- 10) Posters on COVID-19 awareness, and where/ how to use a mask
- 11) One thermal scanner
- 12) Surgical mask

The JANO team started the distribution with an event at the District level with support from the respective District Education Officer. The School Management Committees were equipped to disinfect the school premises and ensure the safety and security of the students and teachers from COVID-19.

1.5.5 Distribution of thermal scanners to community clinics

Considering the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the recommendations of the member secretary of DNCC the project procured and distributed 219 thermal scanners to the CC & Upazila Health Complex and Civil Surgeon Office of both Districts.

1.5.6 Awareness campaign on COVID-19

JANO and the Civil Surgeon Office jointly organized a COVID-19 awareness campaign and disseminated awareness messages through miking in the project areas, provided 50 posters and 200 leaflets to the Government office, and distributed 66,000 masks among vulnerable people. Further, 8 street awareness sessions were organized at the Upazilla level.

1.5.7 Supported creation of successful Vitamin A-plus campaign

A Vitamin A-plus Campaign was held from 5-19 June 2021. During the campaign, each child aged 6–11 months was given a blue capsule of 100,000 IU, and each child aged 12–59 months was given a red capsule of 200,000 IU (according to a Government announcement). In the reporting period, all JANO project volunteers supported the Community Clinics, CHCPs, HAs, and HIs to cover the target of the Government. With the support of the JANO volunteers, CSGs reached children who need Vitamin A-plus. Through this campaign, 250,349 children (133,180 girls) were covered (Rangpur-78,052 and Nilphamari-172,297).

Output 2 (Expected Result 2): Coordinated and resourced sub-national and local Government structures recognize, respond, and are accountable to demands of poor and marginalized communities

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ER 2:

Table 7: Performance of output indicators under expected result two and project targets



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Description of indicators	Baseline (Mar 19)	MTE (Aug.21)	% Change	Project target
# of multi-sectoral plans at district, Upazila and union level that have allocated budget to support nutrition interventions in the two target districts	0	80	-	74
% of increase of PLW from the target population, who received nutrition specific safety net support	8.4	12.4	47.62	18.4
% of women and adolescent girls of target population in Government forums (UDCC, CG, CSG) who meaningfully participated in the nutrition action plan development and implementation process	0.02	41.2	-	60
# of platforms in the target districts which allow effective feedback mechanisms for service receivers	0	272	-	281

The Analysis of the project work plan showed that the project has implemented 78% of annual planned activities under Expected Result 2 which results in a 44% implementation rate against overall project targets under this result. The performance is a bit lower due to the COVID19 pandemic restrictions and less meetings scheduled; however, the project made a remarkable change within different platforms and ensured the implementation of annual nutritional plans at different levels. The 80 Nutrition Coordination Committees (2 DNCC, 14 UNCCs, and 64 UDCC) proactively supported, developed, and implemented nutrition-sensitive multi-sectoral action plans in the targeted areas. Coordinated and resourced sub-national and local Government structures recognize, respond to, and are accountable to the demands of the poor and marginalized communities. The project has excelled in all the indicators related to governance for nutrition and has exceeded the targets or nearly achieved them. There are 73 multi-sectoral plans with allocated budgets (64 Union level, 7 Upazila level, and 2 district-level plans). In addition, the project has facilitated the development of plans in 7 non-project Upazilas. The project has built the capacity of identified structures in developing and delivering responsive and informed multi-sectoral plans at all levels. The project is on track to achieve increased meaningful participation of women and adolescents in Government forums. From a mere 0.2% at baseline, participation has increased to an astounding 41.2% at midterm evaluation. Accountability mechanisms have been fostered through community scorecards, social audits, and feedback from the communities, which are now incorporated into the Union, sub-, and district-level nutrition plans and budgetary allocations. The participation in action plan development meetings in the third year has dropped substantially owing to the pandemic. The CSG members use the platform of Ward Shobha (pre-budget consultation meeting) conducted by members of the respective UP to advocate for allocations of nutrition-specific budgets for the PLWs, children under 5, and adolescents. The target for increasing access to safety net schemes also increased. The percentage of PLWs who received social safety net support increased from 10.2% at baseline to 24.77% in the midterm.

Note: As a result of above-mentioned advocacy activities, some UPs allocated nutrition sensitive budget e. g. agricultural inputs, sanitary napkins, initiative to stop early marriage, wash facility at school, etc. The detailed results will be reflected in the next report.



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ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Activity 2.2: Assist in the development of multi-level Nutrition Action Plans

2.2.1 Facilitated UDCC to develop/review multi-sector annual nutrition action plan at the Union level

Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) is a coordinating body at the Union level to follow up on all activities of the concerned Union. The platform is a critical forum for implementing NPAN-2 at the root level.

In the reporting year, the project facilitated all planned bi-monthly meetings of UDCC following COVID-19 health protocol in both Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. In those meetings, the main discussion agenda was on the annual progress as per nutrition action plan 2020-21. The activities that have not been completed in the last year were listed, such as stopping child marriage, renovating a Community Clinic, and sitting arrangements for Satellite Clinics. UDCC members also decided to follow up on the participation of the concerned departments. The Community Score Card (CSC) and Social Audit (SA) team placed their agenda at the UDCC meetings and shared findings and progress made prior to the planning meetings. The respective departments/UDCCs shared the information and sought support from other departments reflected in the UDCC plan.

On the other hand, UDCCs prioritized activities which come from Community Clinics during the preparation of the Annual Action Plans for the year 2021-2022. In the reporting year, 64 UDCCs (Rangpur-20 and Nilphamary-44) prepared their annual nutrition action plan 2021-2022 at their bi-monthly meeting. A total of 1,438 UDCC members (366 women) were present in those meetings. On average, 20 to 22 members were present in each meeting. The members of UDCC along with Government officials, local Government representatives, and community leaders actively participated in the planning and review meeting.

The analysis of major activities of UDCC annual plans of action (September 2020-August 2021) revealed that overall 78% of last year's planned activities were accomplished and UDCCs of Rangpur Districts performed better compared to Nilphamary District. UDCCs of Rangpur and Nilphamary District successfully implemented on an average 86% and 75% of last year's planned activities, respectively. Moreover, it was found that they equipped/ renovated 84 community clinics for better service. About 2,073 poor pregnant and lactating mothers were provided with supplementary food and safety-net services through 45 breastfeeding corners established at community clinics and through targeted action.

Md. Ilyas Ali, UP Member, Nohali Union, Gangachara, Rangpur said, ***“We have to implement the 2021-22 plan of UDCC by maintaining good coordination and cooperation of all departments and we have to cooperate with all to ensure that the Government departments implement the activities in the field as per their plan. We all need to work together to stop child marriage.”***



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Amdadul, Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), Shahidbag, Kaunia, Rangpur said *“UDCC action plan is very important for a Union development. All departments have the opportunity to work in a coordinated way through this process”*.

2.2.2 Developed and put up the UDCC Nutrition action plan in the UP

To make the plan visible to everyone and to have the opportunity to discuss the progress of implementation in each UDCC bi-monthly meeting, the project supports the printing of annual action plans for all UP premises. In the reporting year, all the 64 targeted Union’s plans were published and hung at the Union Parishad. The project printed two copies for each Union Parishad. One in the UP-chairman room and one in the meeting room of the respective Union. The visibility of the annual nutrition action also generates some pressure on those responsible for implementing regular targets of the plan within the stipulated time and helps to ensure the accountability mechanism in each Union Parishad.

The JANO project introduced social accountability tools like the Social Audit (SA) (to understand the comprehensive budget allocation) and the Community Score Card (CSC) (to understand people’s satisfaction with different Gov departmental services against UP’s nutrition action plan).

2.2.3 Supported the UNCC to develop/ review multi-sector annual nutrition action plan at Upazila level in non-project Upazilas

One of the project's major activities is to support UNCCs in preparing their annual nutrition action plans every year. There are 14 Upazilas in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts, but the project operated in 7 targeted Upazilas of Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. The Upazila plan is required to complete the district annual nutrition action plan. Therefore, the District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) sought support for the remaining Upazilas to develop a yearly nutrition action plan from the project. The project agreed to facilitate the remaining UNCC meetings to prepare an annual nutrition action plan.

In this reporting year, the project did not facilitate any of the targeted meetings due to strict lockdown and restriction movement and ban of mass gatherings. However, the project facilitated 6 UNCC planning meetings (2020-2021) in the non-project Upazilas following social distancing and health & safety protective measures of the Government. At the meeting, UNCC members were presented with their departmental action plan progress against the target. At the end of the meeting, they had realized the importance of the Annual Nutrition Action Plan (2020-21) and prepared the plan for the year 2020-21. The process has created ownership among different departments of 6 UNCCs of non-project areas and established good inter-departmental coordination. Note that the UNCC plans for the FY 2021-22 of 14 Upazilas (7 project and 7 non-project Upazilas) have been shifted to year 4 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2.4 Facilitated DNCC to develop/review multi-sector nutrition annual action plan at the district level



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JANO is facilitating DNCCs to organize regular meetings and prepare annual nutrition action plans since its inception. The DNCC is a Government forum consisting of 22 Government departments, and is the key committee that runs the UNCCs and plays an active role in implementing the NPAN2 on the ground.

In the reporting period, the project has facilitated both the DNCC of Rangpur and Nilphamary Districts to organize a workshop for finalizing their annual nutrition plans of action (2020-21). Both DNCCs organized the workshops and finalized their action plans for the year 2020-21. The DNCC of Rangpur finalized their plan in December 2020, and Nilphamary DNCC finalized it in March 2021 and both plans were published in March 2021. The original target of publishing the plans in August-September 2020 was delayed due to the nation-wide lockdown. To ensure every department was able to be present at the workshop despite the ongoing pandemic, the project was in close contact with each department. This process also had the effect that it created a sense of ownership of each department to follow up on the plan in subsequent periods. Md. Hafizur Rahman Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner and President of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee in Nilphamari said that *“let each department think it is their plan, not the work of the JANO project”*.

Activity 2.3. Assist in the implementation and monitoring of multi-level Nutrition Action Plans

2.3.1 Facilitated UDCCs to organize bi-monthly meetings to review the progress and discuss steering measures on nutrition action plans at the Union level

To review the progress and discuss steering measures on the nutrition action plan at the Union level, the project has facilitated UDCCs to organize regular meetings at the Union Parishad. In the reporting year, UDCCs conducted 355 out of 384 targeted UDCC bi-monthly meetings (Rangpur- 108 & Nilphamari- 247) where 8,497 participants (2,182 women) participated. Not all the members could attend the meeting due to COVID-19. However, each meeting was conducted with the minimum number of participants as prescribed by the Government. The meetings were attended by Government officials, community leaders, representative of SMC of those Unions, along with the UDCC members. The meeting discussed the progress of the annual nutrition action plan to make decisions for follow-up activities beyond the targets. The participants were enthusiastic about discussing the better functioning of the institution, at the Union level, and discussed issues like how they bring better services from different private and public sectors from the Upazila level. For example:

- In Khutamara Union of Jaldhaka under Nilphamari, a decision was taken to complete the boundary wall in Harish Chandra pat CC.
- In Kaxmitari Union under Gangachara Upazila of Rangpur District, a decision was made to arrange vaccination camps and collect vaccines from the Livestock Department.
- Kursha Union Parishad, Kaunia established handwashing devices at 4 CCs (Shibu Chowrapara, Ramnath, Chandipur, and Bahagili) and 1 UH&FWC as per the UDCC plan.



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2.3.2 Facilitated UNCCs to organize bi-monthly meetings to review progress and discuss steering measures on nutrition action plans at Upazilla Level (both project and non-project areas)

To review the progress and discuss UNCC's annual action plan and steering on the plan, UNCC conducted 27 out of 42 annual targeted meetings at the project targeted areas. The meeting found that members proactively shared their views and willingly attended the meeting. Due to area-specific COVID-19 restrictions, 15 UNCCs were not held. However, some of the meetings were held online i.e., virtually. Besides the project's targeted areas, 2 out of 4 meetings were also facilitated by the project in non-project areas, one in Pirgacha Upazila, Rangpur District and another in Saidpur Upazila, Nilphamari District following social distancing and health & safety protective measures of the Government. In these meetings, most of the UNCC members delivered speeches, and discussed uploading the department's progress data in the BNCC web portal, the UNCC training on multi-sectoral nutrition issues, etc.

2.3.3 Facilitated DNCCs to organize bi-monthly meetings to review progress and discuss steering measures on nutrition action plans at the District level

The aim to facilitate District-level coordination sessions is to review the implementation strategy, facilitate linkages between UNCCs and their respective DNCC, ensure the active participation of UNCC members at regular meetings, etc. In the reporting period, five bi-monthly DNCCs meetings were facilitated by the project. Among those meetings three were held at Rangpur and two at Nilphamari District. All the meetings were presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of the respective District. Dr. Akhter Imam, Deputy Director, and Dr. Zehan Akhter Rana, Assistant Director of BNCC were also present as guests at the meeting, which was held in December 2020 at Rangpur District.

In the meeting, the following major decisions were taken in both DNCCs: -

- a. The District Nutrition Committee will issue a letter to provide a list of District and Upazila focal persons to provide information on their respective departments' activities in the online monitoring system.
- b. At the District level, two-day non-residential trainings will be organized for the Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee members. The members of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee will be the facilitators in that training.
- c. At the Upazila level, day-long trainings will be provided to the nominated representatives of their respective departments on online monitoring systems with the help of the JANO project.
- d. 2 hours of training for field-level staff of the family planning department will be organized in their monthly coordination meeting.
- e. Each Upazila will complete the Upazila Nutrition Action Plan (2021-22) by September 2021.
- f. The following comments were made during the meeting:



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- Merina Lovely, Senior Reporter Channel I and member of DNCC, says, *“Need to promote nutritional messages through short video clips at the grassroots level to improve the nutrition status of Rangpur”*.
- Dr. Sheikh Md. Sheikh Saidul Islam, Deputy Director, Family Planning, Rangpur said that *“focal point selection is also required for online monitoring system at District level”*.
- Syed Farhad Hossain, Deputy Director, Local Government, said that *“the UP secretaries should be given separate IDs for posting the progress of nutrition plans of the Union in the online monitoring system”*.
- Through the meeting, they also reached a consensus to enroll in the District Nutrition Action Plan in the online monitoring system.

2.3.4 Facilitated Community Score Card for the UDCC nutrition action plans

Aiming to strengthen the nutrition governance, JANO encourages the wider community to play an active role in establishing functional social accountability mechanisms at Union level institutions, particularly at a community clinic and Union Parishad, the project has practiced the Community Score Card (CSC) tool to assess the satisfaction of citizens with the UDCC nutrition action plan at Union level. The CSC is a tool that brings together community members, service providers, and local Governments to identify service utilization, satisfaction, and challenges in service provision and to jointly generate solutions. First the CSC Team was formed and trained and then the CSC tool was used in 96 communities, to find the nutrition service satisfaction at community level. The CSC team then analyzed the information and summarized the major satisfaction and dissatisfaction areas. Afterwards, the CSC team shared the community satisfaction score with the communities and they jointly prepared an action plan to improve the service quality and increase satisfaction. In Year 3, 50% of targeted Unions practiced the process and consequently, revised the plan for better service and better access to service.

2.3.5 Facilitated Social Audit by CSG members

The purpose of the Social Audit was to ensure comprehensive sectoral budget allocations and improve the implementation of schemes. The process becomes more effective, efficient, and transparent and in this way more beneficial for project beneficiaries as well as the larger community. A Social Audit is more comprehensive than a traditional financial audit, and focuses on the community impact and usage of the project, and the way the budget was used.

UPs usually allocated their budgets for road construction and infrastructure building. They are sometimes not even aware of other options for budget allocation. The government regulation for UP foresees to allocate budget also in other sectors in a comprehensive way including health, agriculture, education, public health, etc. Through the SA tool JANO facilitates UPs to shift their focus and allocate budgets to sectors that are contributing to improving nutrition in one way or another.

In the reporting period, the project has facilitated Social Audits at 64 Unions through the following process:



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- 1) Formation of Social Audit teams: in consultation with the respective Union Parishad, the project formed a social audit team consisting of 12 members from the CSG, who were very prompt and advanced.
- 2) Provided capacity building training: 64 batches of training on the social audit team have been conducted (Rangpur-20 and Nilphamari-44). A total of 764 CSG members (333 women) participated. Through the training, the SA team has been gaining knowledge and skill on SA and field exercise.
- 3) Scheme selection: In consultation with each UP, the team has selected a sample based implemented scheme from the UDCC annual action plan for the year (2019-20)
- 4) The field exercise is done: The trained SA team has conducted field exercises at the selected implemented scheme of respective UDCC and measured the gaps between Government standards and quality of work. The major schemes were the construction of delivery beds and boundary walls of the Community Clinic, sitting arrangement at the CC, tube-well installation, and establishing an adolescent corner at school, etc.
- 5) Analysis and report preparation: The team analyzed the current and previous year UP budget and made a comparison with the year earlier to find the status that the budget has followed the guideline provided by the Government (additional gadget 23 January 2013) or not.
- 6) Organized public hearings: The team organized 64 public hearing meetings at UP where 1,823 participants (637 women) UDCC members, CSG members, community leaders and community members participated. In the meeting, the SA team shared the community satisfaction and their recommendation for better implementation of the scheme in the future. Finally, both agreed to take necessary measures to improve quality work. The major findings were project name plates were not available, people in the area do not know about the budget, community people do not know who was in the implementation committee, etc.

Through the process, it was found that service providers are aware of the gap in people's opinion during the public hearings and community people are aware of how they will communicate and or raise issues to the next plan of action for better services. The process encouraged service providers to create a transparent way to implement the UDCC scheme in the field.

2.3.6 Organized annual review and reflection meetings on nutrition action plan progress with UDCC and CSG groups

In the reporting period, the project has organized annual review and reflection meetings jointly with UDCC and CSG groups for ensuring better compilation of the Community Clinics' annual action plans and the issues of CSG and CC plans are rightly addressed in the UDCC plans and accordingly create the provision of next year's annual budget (2021-2022) considering the availability of funds. The project organized these meetings before the UDCC planning meeting is held. In this reporting period, 64 meetings were scheduled where 208 CC's annual nutrition plans were shared with respective UDCCs and made sure that the important issues are included in the yearly UDCC nutrition action plans. The following are some issues- like boundary walls



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for community clinics, set-up of WASH blocks in the CC, increasing the number of sanitary latrine and tube wells at community level, increasing the safety net support for pregnant and lactating mothers in the up-coming budget, establishing breastfeeding corners in CCs and repairing the road for communication of CCs, etc. which was prioritized by the participants to include in the UDCC plans.

2.3.7 Organized capacity building sessions for the UNCC on multi-sector nutrition sensitive issues

The project facilitated two-day trainings on multi-sectoral nutrition sensitive issues to enhance the skill of the respective UNCC members on NPAN-2 (2016-2025), UNCC operational guideline, and engagement in the implementation of NPAN-2. Honorable members of DNCC, Rangpur, have facilitated the sessions. One out of seven targeted sessions has been completed in the reporting period where 18 UNCC members (women-3) were trained on the issues mentioned above. Due to COVID-19 and the lockdown 6 sessions have been carried forward to next year's planning.

2.3.8 Formation of Upazila civil society forum consisting of NGOs, media, and professionals

The project has mapped relevant civil society actors in the region and formed an Upazila Civil Society Forum comprising of 17 members of NGOs, media, academics, social workers, adolescents, and professionals. Through these platforms, members will be exposed to the nutritional context of Bangladesh and their regions. These platforms will push and support the UDCCs, UNCCs, and DNCCs to advance the multi-sectoral nutrition approach. In the reporting period, one Civil Society Forum was formed in Taraganj, and JANO activities were discussed with the members. The project also briefly discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Civil Society Forum. After the discussion, the members nominated a President, Vice-President, and Member Secretary.

2.3.9 Organized and supported the District “right to food” forum to engage with DNCC and create peer pressure for implementation of nutrition action plans (soft accountability)

Right to Food Bangladesh (RtF BD) emerged from more than 800 local, national, international NGOs and networks, civil society, and different social organizations catering the grand event ‘South Asia Right to Food (SARF) Conference 2015’ hosted in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister, People’s Republic of Bangladesh, graced the SARF conference as the Chief Guest. She declared that her Government would be firm to formulate and implement necessary laws to promote the growth of agricultural and food production in ensuring food security and nutrition for all. The network is playing an essential role in the proper formulation and implementation of the act with relevant stakeholders, including the Government. The platform addresses the issues relevant to the Right to Food. In the reporting period, two meetings were organized at Rangpur and Nilphamari District, and 12 members in each District committee. In the meeting, Civil Society forum members were also invited to work together. The committee will



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help DNCC members to implement the District Annual Nutrition Plan. The major meeting decisions were as follows: (i) DNCC will involve RtF and Civil Society Forum members during the preparation of the Annual Nutrition Action Plan (2021-22) at the District and Upazila levels. (ii) Representatives of JANO will participate in every campaign of RtF Forum, and (iii) DNCC and or JANO will arrange visits for selected participants of Rtf to observe the UDCC plan.

Output 3 (Expected Result 3): Production and access to high-value nutritious commodities and services are increased

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ER 3:

Table 8: Performance of output indicators under expected result three and project targets

Description of indicators	Baseline (Mar 19)	MTE (Aug.21)	% Change	Project target
% of households involved in the production of higher value nutrition products	36.70	42.30	15.26	56.70%
% of households practicing climate-smart agricultural techniques (minimum three techniques have to be used)	5	13.90	178.00	25%
# of initiative jointly taken as a result of the tripartite agreement	0	Two initiatives were taken at two sectors this year ⁴		At least two initiatives will be taken on each of four thematic areas ⁵ .

The overall implementation performance of ER3 is on track, considering the current pandemic situation. The analysis of planned activity under results 3 revealed that about 78% of annual targeted activities were performed during this reporting period. The analysis also showed that about 38% of planned activities were performed compared to overall project targets. Through the third year of implementation, it is also found that some activities have achieved more than 100% against the targets. For example, demonstration of high-value nutritious commodities achieved 117% against year 3 targets; farmers training on cultivation practices and climate-smart agricultural techniques the activity has reached 100% of year 3 targets. However, some of the activities require special attention which has been considered in the year 4 plan. A few activities also depend on the findings of the food fortification study, which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and is expected to be completed next year. During the reporting period, the

⁴ One is in the agriculture sector- demonstrations set up jointly by DAE, the private sector (ACI) and JANO and another is the vaccination and de-worming campaign for livestock that was jointly organized by DLS, the private sector (ACI Animal Health) and JANO.

⁵ Four thematic areas - agriculture, livestock, WASH, and micronutrient supplementation



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team followed alternative modalities like use of virtual platforms and small meeting formats as per Government directives due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns

The project has supported the production of high-value nutritious commodities by engaging Government departments (DAE and DLS) and the private sector. JANO worked closely with DAE and the private sector to promote knowledge on homestead vegetable production and fodder cultivation following climate-smart agricultural techniques by setting up 448 demonstrations (homestead vegetable gardening-407, fodder-35, sweet potato-4, zinc, rice-2) in year 3 and 519 cumulatively. The project supported capacity-building sessions for 9,095 farmers through 910 batches of training. It has established collaboration with the private sector (ACI) who have contributed by providing inputs (seeds) to set up 99 vegetable garden demonstrations in JANO working locations, creating a ground to work jointly with the public and private sector players. JANO has also worked for capacity building of 1,940 livestock rearing households, particularly dairy, which is one of the selected sub-sectors recommended by JANO's value chain study. JANO has supported the DLS to establish 35 fodder demonstrations which contributed to promoting the practices to livestock farmers. As a result, linkages were established with the relevant Government Extension Departments (DAE, DLS) from which the community people, including PLW, are now able to demand access to information and services they require. It has been observed that service-seeking behavior is changing among communities for both agricultural extension and health services. This is a finding of the MTE. JANO has linked the beneficiaries to government institutions and extension service providers to demand for required services (*3.1.3 article of MTE report*). The JANO project has especially focused on strengthening local government institutions and the service departments of the government so that they can recognize the demand for services of the communities and respond accordingly. This reflects the behavioural change on the demand and supply side for nutrition governance interventions (*Chapter 6 of the MTE report*).

During this reporting period (year 3), some of the activities progress slowly. In year 4, the project plans to step up the pace of implementation under this component based on the fortification study, and to broaden engagement with public and private sector players to reach the last mile.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Activity 3.1: Strengthen complimentary role of the private sector and government extension systems in agriculture and livestock, for nutrition focused productivity and income growth

3.3.1 Identified potential women for entrepreneur development

A total of 211 potential women have been identified who will be supported to develop as entrepreneur/business champions for promoting knowledge and information on Agro inputs, fortified and nutritious food products, and services to reach the last mile. They will receive technical and business training from both the public and private sectors. 35 out of 211 entrepreneurs will be developed as champion entrepreneurs (e.g., vermicompost, which will be more environment friendly). JANO will support them in their marketing through campaigns, meetings, workshops, etc.



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Activity 3.2: Facilitate knowledge and skill building of relevant government and private extension workers in the areas of nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart-agriculture

3.2.1 Demonstration setups on high-value nutritious commodities

During this reporting year, JANO has supported about 17% more demonstration setups beyond the annual target. A total of 448 demonstrations on higher value nutritious crops (vegetable, cereals) and fodder cultivation using climate-smart agricultural techniques in collaboration with the public and the private sectors in Rabi and Kharif-1 season. The objective of the demonstrations is awareness creation among the community people, knowledge building on high-value nutritious vegetable cultivation at the homestead, and creating an understanding about the importance of fodder cultivation for dairy at the household level, which contributes to increased productivity and improved consumption. For establishing the demonstrations, DAE, DLS, Research Institutions (BARI & BRRI) provided technical support, and the private sector contributed by providing inputs (vegetable seed). Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) On-Farm Research Division of Rangpur and Bangladesh Rice Research Institute Regional Office, Rangpur provided vine of vitamin A-rich BARI sweet potato 8 & 12, and the seed of zinc enriched rice variety BRRI Dhan 72, 84, and 88 respectively for demonstrations.

The Private Sector (ACI) contributed through supplying vegetable seeds to establish 99 demonstration plots covering six types of nutritious vegetables (red amaranth, spinach, sweet gourd, okra, yard long bean, summer tomato) out of 448 in last Rabi and Kharif-1 season. JANO has supported the establishment of 35 fodder demonstration plots to promote knowledge on fodder cultivation practices to the livestock farmers. Out of which 35, DLS (Upazila Livestock Office, Kaunia) provided fodder cutting (pukchong) and technical support for establishing five fodder demonstrations at the community level during this reporting year. The Upazila Livestock Office conducted an orientation session for 15 farmers, including 4 CSG members, out of which 14 were women, to provide hands-on knowledge to the participants on fodder cultivation practices. The other 30 fodder demonstrations have been established through seed sowing of Jumbo grass,

Table 9: Demonstrations set up in the reporting year (Sep 2020- Aug 2021)

SL #	Type of demonstrations	# of demo	Season	Remarks
1	Homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetables using climate-smart agricultural techniques.	213	Rabi	Supported by JANO
2	Homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetables.	35	Rabi	Red Amaranth, spinach, and sweet gourd seed provided by the private sector (ACI)
3	Homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetables.	95	Kharif-1	Supported by JANO
4	Homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetables using climate-smart agricultural techniques.	64	Kharif-1	Red Amaranth, okra, yardlong bean, summer tomato seed provided by private sector (ACI)

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5	Demonstration on fodder cultivation	05	Rabi	Cutting provided by DLS Rangpur
6	Demonstration on fodder cultivation	30	Kharif-1	Supported by JANO
7	Demonstration with zinc rice (BRRI Dhan-84)	02	Rabi	Seed provided by Regional Rice Research Institute, BRRI, Rangpur
8	Demonstration with vitamin A-rich BARI sweet potato 8 &12	04	Rabi	Vine provided by BARI on-farm Research Institute Rangpur
Total		Rabi - 269 and Kharif -189		

3.2.2 Organized farmers trainings for technology dissemination

JANO has supported 846 batches (652 batches for homestead vegetable gardening and 194 for livestock rearing) of trainings on homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetable cultivation using climate-smart agricultural practices, fodder cultivation, dairy management, and



rearing during this reporting year (September 2020 to August 2021). In each batch, an average of 10 participants attended the session. A total of 8,457 participants (70% women) received homestead gardening and livestock rearing training during this period. The training session was facilitated by the Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO) and Veterinary Field Assistant (VFA) for homestead gardening, dairy management & rearing, and fodder

cultivation at the community level. Most of them established vegetable gardens at their homestead and started improved dairy management practices as a consequence of their training session. The session used a jointly developed training module (by the project and Government line department) in these sessions and provided participatory facilitation involving private and public sector specialist trainers and Government line department representatives. Training details are as follows:

Table 10: Number of farmers training and the disaggregated participants

Indicators	Agriculture	Livestock	Total
# of Trainings	652	194	846
# of Participants:			
Men	1,984	550	2,534
Women	4,533	1,390	5,923
Total	6,517	1940	8,457

3.2.3 Organized field day for results/process sharing at field level

Process sharing is one of the best ways of technology dissemination. In this reporting period, the JANO project has organized 298 process-sharing events on climate-smart technologies. 103



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sharing sessions were conducted in Rangpur District and 195 in Nilphamari District. The respective Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers facilitated the process sharing sessions for the community members. S/he also described the nutritional value of planted vegetables. The respective FOs and volunteers helped organize the demonstration sessions. During the event, the community perceived it as *“this is one of the most valuable sessions to disseminate knowledge and information to the targeted participants”*.

3.2.4 Conducted Training Needs Assessment (TNA) for frontline Government and private sectors staff

JANO has planned to provide trainings to frontline staff from the departments of Agriculture Extension, Livestock Services, Health, Family Planning, Education, and Women Affairs. They are directly or indirectly involved with nutrition sensitive and specific activities. Before organizing Government frontline staff training, JANO conducted a TNA (Training Needs Assessment) using internal resources to understand the gaps on nutrition of the frontline staff of selected Government departments. For the TNA a set of questionnaires had been developed and data collection was carried out by JANO internal staff. The TNA also helped to design capacity-building plans for the mentioned Government frontline staff. The TNA report recommended the following areas for capacity building which is planned to take place from October 2021 through January 2022.

- The basic concept on nutrition as a multi-faced issue, brief introduction on a multi-sectoral approach to nutrition in Bangladesh.
- The basic concept of food and nutrition and nutritional value of different foods.
- Health and nutrition services for lactating mothers and pregnant women and adolescents.
- A balanced diet for lactating mothers and pregnant women, adolescents, and children under 5.
- Safe food, food adulteration, and preservation.
- Highly nutritious food preservation at home.

Trainings on the mentioned capacity building areas will take place from October 2021 to January 2022.

3.2.5 Workshop to finalize the training module and facilitator’s guide for the Government frontline staff’s capacity building training

The project conducted a validation workshop at District level to finalize the training module and facilitator’s guide for the Government frontline staff’s capacity development training. During the workshop, the facilitators were identified for each of the sessions, the session plan was developed, feedback on the training module from all concerned was taken into consideration and the module was finalized.

3.2.6 Diversifying and enhancing nutritional intake through innovative dietary approaches



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JANO has supported 407 homestead vegetable garden demonstrations at 7 Upazilas under Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts during this reporting period in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the private sector. The JANO project has taken the initiative to demonstrate different cooking processes of vegetables in each Union. The cooking exhibition was organized in the village of the Union where the garden is best, bringing together farmers and members of the JANO Target Group. A total of 64 sessions (32 in Rabi and 32 in Kharif-1 season) were conducted during this reporting year.

After successful cultivation of the demo plot, a very good amount of vegetables have grown like red amaranth, spinach, pumpkin, and tomato by following climate-smart technology. With the support of CSG members, the demo farmer invited the nearby farmers, the Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer (SAAO), and community people and arranged cooking demonstrations to show the way of cooking without losing nutrient values, food diversification, and using fortified salt and oil for cooking. Community people, especially lactating mothers, pregnant women, and girls, celebrated this event in a festive mode, creating a community sensitization regarding innovative cooking methods that retain the nutritional value of cooked vegetables. Community volunteers, a female field officer, and some progressive lactating mothers facilitated the session with the technical assistance of FWA, CHCP, and CSG members. They demonstrated vegetable hotchpotch, opakura, mixed vegetables, vegetable fry, vegetable mass, and salad with different ingredients. They organized this session beside the garden, demonstrating the harvesting, processing, and consumption process. Community members, UP members, chairman, and CSG helped arrange the cooking demo by contributing additional pulses, rice, meat, egg, firewood, wood, etc. During the event, members of the community learned about / improved their knowledge of different cooking methods and how to diversify their diets using different vegetables and processing methods that avoid the loss of nutrients.

3.2.7 Developed Fortification-Nutrition Community School at community level

The JANO project facilitates the development of a new platform named Fortification-Nutrition Community School where members of the community, especially PLW and adolescent girls, will have the opportunity to learn about the benefits of fortified nutritious food products and nutrition issues. In this reporting period, seven fortification nutrition community schools have been established in 7 working Upazilas considering model Unions and model para. The project has a plan to conduct six sessions⁶ in each school, but one session was conducted in each school during this reporting period. Before the session, a quick assessment was done to measure the participants' level of knowledge of food and nutrition. Most. Sultana (one of the participants of Gangachara) said, *“this session is new to us. It is necessary for the survival of every human being”*, SACMO of Taraganj Upazilla has appreciated this initiative and commented, *“he had never seen this type*

⁶ i) Basic knowledge on food and nutrition. Short discussion on 6 essential nutrients of food ii) Which foods (local) contain which types of nutrients and identify daily amount considering kilocalorie iii) Calculation of BMI, kilocalorie, and development of own diet chart considering balanced food. iv) Basic discussion on fortified food and iodized salt v) Basic discussion on fortified oil and rice vi) Basics of food safety, food adulteration and contamination, food processing and preservation, food law (fortified food standard, etc.



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of event on nutrition issues before. It seems the session will be more useful for the PLWs and adolescent girls for the nutritional aspects”.

Activity 3.3: Facilitate Private Sector Engagement to produce nutrition focused and climate-smart products, needed by the base of the pyramid population, and recalibrate the last mile distribution

3.3.1

3.3.1 Facilitated Government and the private sector to organize Cattle Vaccination and De-worming Campaigns

During this reporting year, JANO has supported a vaccination and de-worming campaign on 24 June 2021 in the village of Nilakchandi, Gangachara Union, Gangachara Upazila, Rangpur District in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and ACI Animal Health. The company provided necessary medicine, DLS Gangachara provided technical support (vaccine administration, prescribed de-worming tablets, and vitamins), and JANO assisted in mobilizing the community and organizing the event. During the last two years, cattle has been affected by lumpy skin disease at Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts, and no effective treatment has yet been identified. In addition, worms are another dangerous insect for cattle. The community received information on cattle health care and livestock extension services through this event. Moreover, DLS extended their extension services to a broader community and strengthened the collaboration among JANO, Government, and the private sector. A total of 121 livestock rearing households participated in the event, 82 men and 39 women. 110 livestock HHs received de-worming tablets, vaccines, and vitamins for their cattle.

3.3.2 Organizing orientation workshop with the Local WASH Private Sector Actors on WASH supply chains

During the third year, 2 District-level workshops and 16 Upazila-level workshops were completed during the third year, reaching 126 people (112 M, 14 F). The purpose of the workshops was:

- To learn about the different private sector actors in the WASH sub-sector/market along with their currently available products and services.
- To engage private sector actors so their WASH products can be made available to schools and communities.

To explore common interests, working modalities, and possible scope of collaboration.

3.3.3 Organized meetings with public and private sectors at the national level for tripartite MoU

The JANO team conducted a series of meetings with DAE, DLS, and relevant private sector companies for a tripartite MoU between the Government, JANO, and private sector actors. The purpose of the MOU is to promote public private partnership initiatives which will contribute to



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strengthening coordination among relevant Govt. Departments, JANO and the Private Sector. Two private sector companies will sign the MOU next – i) ACI Seed for Vegetables and ii) ACI Animal Health for Livestock to promote knowledge on climate smart agricultural practices to the last mile.

The project submitted a first draft MoU to DAE and DLS who provided initial feedback. Now a revised version of the MoU has been re-submitted to DAE and DLS, which is currently pending approval by the Director General's (DG) office. The Government departments are continuing to support JANO interventions despite of the fact that it will take another few months to get the MoU signed.

3.3.4 Organize meetings with different organizations who are working on fortification activities in Bangladesh for identified and scope of activities

JANO has conducted meetings with GAIN, Nutrition International, Alive & Thrive, and WFP during this reporting year. They shared their previous study report on fortification in the context of Bangladesh. In addition, they identified what type of studies have already been commissioned in the area of food fortification in Bangladesh, in order to avoid duplication in the upcoming JANO fortification study and the ToR for the upcoming study were also developed.

Output 4 (Expected Result 4): Information and communication technology (ICT) platform is established at the local level to connect relevant Government departments and increase awareness of members of the community on nutrition interventions

ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ER 4:

Despite some technical and advocacy-related challenges coupled with the COVID situation, the project has made 71% progress against year 3 targets. However, expected result 4 achieved only 27% of the overall target. This is due to the complexity of developing ICT-related interventions that require ample time to develop and rectify problems associated with the system. Moreover, each of the interventions requires Government-level approval which further delays the development and rectification of problems. However, once the technical problems are solved, it takes less time to deploy. Therefore, then the process speeds up quite rapidly. The project is expecting to cover a big portion of the activity plan in year 4 as almost all of the interventions are now ready for deployment.

LoT 1 of ER1 comprises of an activity, finance, and governance monitoring platform for the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) to track and monitor the nutritional multi-sectoral approach across the country. The ownership of BNNC was a prerequisite for the successful design and implementation of the monitoring platform at the national and sub-national level. In this project year, the project was finally able to receive approval from the BNNC to deploy the portal, and the project officially handed over the system to BNNC. All District and Upazila level trainings have been completed, and sub-national level data are now ready to be entered. The honorable minister will officially launch the system nationally and after the



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launching event, the data input process will start. (NOTE: At the moment of revision of this report, the system has been already officially launched. Ministry-wide activity finalization is in progress, which is being managed by the BNNC team. It is hoped to see the online version of the annual nutrition plans of the districts in June 2022. The system has been developed and launched, but data entry by sub-national and sub-district level government stakeholders will take some time as it requires some capacity of DNCC and UNCC members at a certain level. Further, mPower and BNNC are working to resolve some challenges in the system. Simultaneously, BNNC and JANO continue training DNCC and UNCC members to enter the data of the annual district nutrition plans by themselves.)

The development of eLearning apps for frontline field workers and members of the community (particularly targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescents, and children) is in process. (LoT2 of ER4 – a digital learning system containing GoB certified nutritional information for educational purposes for field workers, beneficiaries/members, and others.) These learning apps will help enhance target groups' knowledge of nutrition and essential health and hygiene topics. Out of five applications, one (SMS/IVR System) has already been deployed and the project expects to see the reflection next quarter. This SMS system took longer than expected because each SMS had to be approved by the local Government departments. Permission from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (BTRC) was also required to deliver SMS among the public. The development of another three applications (eSession, eLearning for volunteers, and eLearning for beneficiaries) is also completed and presently under User Acceptance Test (UAT) phase. Apart from eLearning Apps, a knowledge repository on nutrition is also under development and the content of the repository and messages is being developed in collaboration with relevant Government departments.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION

Activity 4.1: Strengthen existing government MIS, to ensure effective vertical and horizontal information flow

4.1.1 Maintained advocacy with the relevant Government ministries and other stakeholders at the district level

For the successful implementation of ICT interventions (online M&E system for national and sub-national level, learning apps, and knowledge repository), it was key to build and maintain relations with relevant Government departments. The ICT consultants continued their regular visits both to District and Upazila level meetings and events. A total of 4 meetings were attended. During the meetings ICT-related progress was shared with DNCC members, capacity assessment was carried out, and UNCC training plans were designed.

4.1.2 Conducted workshops with relevant ministries to present the online M&E system, and to seek approval from all ministries on the conceived ICT solutions

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A handover ceremony of the online M&E system for national and sub-national levels took place on the 8th of February 2021 in the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) office. Dr. Md Khalilur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNCC) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, attended the event as Chairperson. He said this step is an initiative to move forward towards the commitment of developing digital Bangladesh. Following this handover, the BNNC will now be responsible

for including and maintaining the annual nutrition plans of all Districts including JANO's working areas (Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts).

Activity 4.2: Digitalize all records and incorporate automated alerts into the system

4.2.1 Development of ICT based solution which leads to both vertically and horizontal communication among government departments at district and sub-district level

mPower has finished developing the nutrition information portal for Bangladesh National Nutrition Council and the whole server of the system has been transferred to BNNC's own server and is now armed to include the data from national and sub-national level.

4.2.2 Testing and deployment of android based nutrition information platform

N/A yet in year 3. Planned for year 4.

4.2.3 Software maintenance and support of LoT 1 and LoT 2 applications for 18 months

N/A yet in year 4. Planned for year 4.

Government Activity 4.3: Develop easy-to-use mobile phone based ICT (information and communication technology) tools enabling communities to access nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific information on demand

N/A in year 3.

4.3.1 Capacity building for Government officials

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To create a context and evidence-based sub-national level nutrition plan and monitor the progress of the plan, the JANO project developed the above-mentioned online M&E system. To allow Rangpur DNCC members to familiarize themselves with this system the project organized a half-day orientation. DNCC officials will now be able to access the information dashboard and to make informed decisions on multi-sectoral yearly nutrition action plans. In addition, during this reporting period, 14 training sessions were conducted for UNCC members in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. During these trainings, the user accounts of all sub-national level participants were also created.



4.3.2 Organized ToT for ICT Officers/Consultants

For troubleshooting and capacity building of the sub-national level Government officials, there is a need for a resource pool, and on that ground; the project arranged a ToT for the staff responsible for implementing the sub-national level online M&E system. A one-day virtual training on the online monitoring system was arranged on 7 April 2021. The training was facilitated by mPower representatives and all key staff from the JANO project attended the training. In the training, detailed discussions were made on how to enter/upload the department-wise Upazila annual nutrition action plans and progress in the web portal. Later, a refresher training was also arranged for the staff associated directly with assisting the sub-national level Government officials with the data entry and progress update of the annual nutrition plans.

4.3.3 Arranged training for UNCC and DNCC members

In this reporting period, 14 training sessions on sub-national level online monitoring systems have been conducted to the UNCC members in Rangpur and Nilphamari district by following social



distance and health & safety protective measures of govt. The training was imparted to the nominated persons by the UNCC, those involved in the data entry process from the respective department. The participants were taught how the system works and operational and technical procedures to include the nutrition plan in the system. Through these trainings, the user accounts of all sub-national level

participants were also created. The final data entry will be initiated after BNCC's confirmation on the server transfusion process. In the meeting, 315 participants (35 women) were trained.

4.3.4 Conducted community-level awareness campaigns to ensure maximum uptake and access to the developed ICT-based communication channels

Due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and country-wide lockdown, it was impossible to conduct community-level awareness campaigns (TfD shows, community

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campaigns) on ICT-related issues. However, to achieve this intended objective, the project revised the activity and is going to develop docu-drama video shows to raise awareness on ICT use and benefits. Pico projector will be used to showcase the drama in small groups while ensuring social distancing. The videos will also be accessible on mobile phones, and this will achieve even broader coverage than physical Tfd shows and meetings. This activity will be implemented in Year 4.

4.3.5 Workshop on Learning Application Software Requirement Specification (SRS)

To enhance their nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive knowledge and improve the service delivery performance of the frontline workers and in order to ensure information access for the members of the community, the JANO project is designing a number of learning apps in its ICT initiatives. To facilitate the process, mPower organized an online workshop to design the software specifications flow along with the project staff. In the workshop, the key staff of the JANO project provided their input on how to improve the design of the learning application and to make it more effective when deployed in the field.

Activity 4.4. Talking Book Talking Book initiative



The primary focus of JANO is to change the nutrition behavior of the targeted participants so that they can internalize the know-how around different nutrition components for the family. JANO is deploying volunteers and undertaking different means of social and behavioral change communication (SBCC) tools to influence the behavior of the target participants. As a part of the technological intervention, the project is going to deploy 215 talking books to influence the behavior and enhance the lives of project participants by providing them with information pertaining to best practices. The talking books will be given to the community volunteers employed under the project, who will use them to train the targeted participants. The talking books will

also disseminate messages on health and nutrition, wash, gender equality, and so on. Most importantly, the project intends to use the talking books to extract and analyze information from the communities to monitor the project progress, learn from user feedback, and make data-driven decisions for project improvements.

The talking book records the listening and feedback audio data based on the audio segment played or recorded. There is an app that extracts those data after a certain interval (4-6 months) and automatically uploads the data on a portal which can then be represented in a dashboard. The

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dashboard presents the data on how many times the PLW/mother of a child under 5/adolescents and other listeners listened to those messages.

All 6 training sessions on the talking books have been completed and key responsible staff from the project attended the sessions. As required, a database has been created and uploaded on the Talking Book portal for future progress and analytics. All the required software for entering the audio contents and drawing progress analytics is available. The project is presently developing the audio contents to be approved by the Government. The project is expecting to launch the talking books in the field in late October 2021.

4. *Other JANO Activities*

The project has completed about 78% of annual targeted common activities which contributed to the overall program to achieve the ultimate success of the project. The implementation plan analysis also revealed that the project has achieved 56% of overall project targets. The following are the major activities and their details – all were completed during year 3.

4.4 Partner Coordination Meeting

During the reporting period, 7 partner coordination meetings were held in Rangpur and Nilphamari District (some took place virtually, due to the pandemic). In the meetings, the partners discussed the project progress, and the way forward for the subsequent period.

4.5 Quarterly Progress Review Workshop

The project has organized a two-day Quarterly Progress Review Workshop. Only the 2nd quarter meeting was organized physically. The remaining three were held virtually. All the senior staff of the JANO consortium participated in the discussion sessions. Through the meeting, the project progress, challenges, lessons learned, and the way forward were critically discussed, and the work plan was updated for the next quarter. The COVID-19 situation compels the program to be more interactive and participatory, but the senior management has tried to engage all colleagues by applying different presentation and engagement modalities.

4.6 Half Yearly Reflection and Learning Workshop

The project organized the half-yearly learning and reflection workshop in Gazipur from the 27th of February to the 1st of March 2021. All the senior staff of the JANO consortium were present and discussed about the planning of the project. All the participants made a plan to complete the undone activities within the stipulated time. Through the workshop, the project has also reviewed and updated its implementation strategies.



4.7 Conducted Mid-terms Evaluation



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The project has engaged a well-experienced consultancy firm (Innovative Research & Consultancy (IRC) Limited-a national consultancy firm) comprising of national and international consultants to conduct the project's mid-term evaluation. Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, it was not possible to complete the evaluation work within the planned timeline. The firm completed its fieldwork by the end of August 2021 and shared top-line findings to the project, which helped manage the re-planning work for the following project period. Please find the MTE report in *Annex 5*.

4.8 Conducted food fortification study

In this reporting year, JANO has commissioned the Food Fortification Study through a hired consultant team, ICDDR'B. The study was conducted to understand the knowledge gaps of community members living in the so-called last mile, with regard to fortified food products, their benefits, cost implications, perception of fortified food sellers, etc. The study will also help to identify the constraints and opportunities from suppliers' perspectives (both public and private) for last-mile reach (distribution of fortified and nutritious food products). (Note: At the moment of revision of this report, the final draft was received from the consultants. The report will be shared soon.)

4.9 Refresher training of EU Compliance

A refresher training on EU Compliance was held on the 20th of April 2021. The training was facilitated by Stella Szonn and Teresa Holzapfel from CARE Austria. A total of 34 participants participated from CARE Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh, and ESDO of the JANO Project. The training focus was on financial rules and eligibility of expenditures, Government allowances, honorarium, travel, food allowances, EU communication & visibility, contract changes & amendments, reporting & payments, procurements, audits, and the EU fraud policy.

4.10 Training on Partners Financial and Administrative Guidelines

A three-day training on partners financial and administrative guidelines from 27-29 April 2021 was held during this reporting period. The training was facilitated by the representatives of Plan International Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka. In the training, the discussion was mainly on internal control system, accounting, fund requests, procurement policy & procedure, project approval, agreement/MoU, fixed asset management, anti-terrorism screening, Vat & Tax, payment procedure, cash management, advance management, budget management, financial reporting, personal management, fraud awareness, and prevention.

4.11 Organized visit for senior staff of consortium at JANO working area

The Country Director and Deputy Country Director of CARE Bangladesh and Country Director of Plan International Bangladesh visited the JANO project areas on 3-4 February 2021. On 3 February 2021, they visited Madrasa Para, Kolkanda, Gangachara, Rangpur to meet CSG members Dhakkin Panapukur CC, Barabil, Gangachara, where they talked with the CHCP, and after that, they went to Thakurdaha School & College, Barabil, Gangachara where they visited the adolescent corner, school garden and talked with SMC members. On the 4 February 2021, the team went to Nilphamari, where they visited Itakhola BL High School at Nilphamari Sadar

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adolescent corner and talked with SMC members. After that, they went to Khoksabari Union and there they met with UDCC members.

4.12 Experience Sharing and Learning Visit of SONGO Team at JANO Project areas



In the reporting period, the SONGO project team, Gaibandha, visited JANO working areas at Rangpur and Nilphamari. Before visiting the JANO working area, a discussion

session was held at the CARE Rangpur office, where JANO team members presented and discussed JANO project interventions and implementation modalities. After the discussion session, one team went to Gangachara, Rangpur, and another team to Nilphamari Sadar. The team members discussed with the CSG group members on the process of developing and implementing their annual nutrition action plan. The team also discussed with the CG members and visited the adjacent community clinics and two adolescents' corners and schools.

4.13 Organized mental health sessions for the staff

Three virtual trainings have been organized by CARE to strengthen the staff capacity for managing crises in the global pandemic. The first one was a Mental Health Webinar on 13 September 2020, the second one was on how to maintain a positive relationship during the COVID-19 situation, which was held on 14 September 2020, and the third was on staff awareness on COVID-19. All the staff and volunteers of JANO attended the seminar/training. The facilitators from CARE virtually conducted the training. A total of 306 people (262 JANO project volunteers and 44 JANO project staff members), participated in the training.

4.14 Organized training on Writing Case Stories for project staff

A one-day virtual meeting on Writing Case Stories was held on 21 June 2021. CARE JANO team representatives facilitated the meeting. All senior staff, including Upazila Managers, participated in the session. Staff are now capacitated on what they need to pay attention to when collecting information in the field in order to write a good case story, and how to write such a story.

5. Challenges and lessons learned

Challenges:

- The COVID-19 pandemic seriously hampered the implementation of planned activities: the countrywide lockdown slowed down the overall implementation. For example, after



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conducting TNA (Training Needs Assessment), JANO could not organize a validation workshop on time as it required physical gathering. Only one workshop was held in the Rangpur District in June 2021. As a result, the training of the Government frontline staff was also delayed. The food fortification study was also delayed. The study required physical presence for the field survey, which is now in progress and will be completed in the last quarter of 2021. Some of the planned activities depend on the findings of the fortification study, such as validation workshops, marketing campaigns, and community-level meetings to promote fortified food products to the last mile. These activities will be carried out once the study ends. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, countrywide lockdown and restrictions on mass gatherings hampered regular activities such as organizing courtyard sessions, awareness-raising programs, and day observances.

To mitigate the challenges and continue the activities, necessary adaptations were taken such as organizing discussions in smaller groups, online interviews, altering the data collection methodology etc.

- During the countrywide shutdown, different service providers' offices were closed and members of the community did not receive adequate services. Program activities such as CSG capacity building training and the CSG annual action plan were not organized in due time, and participation was comparatively low due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Continuing activities in smaller group gatherings, communicating over the phone, and one to one mentoring and supervision.

- Frequent transfers and reposting of sub-District and District-level Government officials was another challenge for the project. Newly posted officers were not aware of the roles and responsibilities of DNCC and UNCC which hampered the continuation of regular activities. Additionally, due to the lack of proper coordination in some sub-District level offices, organizing sub-District level activities within the stipulated time was a major challenge.

At present, the Government departments (DAE, DoF, DoLS etc) have no separate budget to implement the activities mentioned in NPAN-2. The budget mentioned in NPAN-2 is an estimated budget. At present the departments are proposing the activities related to nutrition that are supported by their own budgets but there is no specific budget for nutrition for the departments. Moreover, the UNCC and DNCC do not have their own budgets to organize meetings, joint field monitoring or other activities if they are planned beyond the department's own activities, etc., which is also a challenge when trying to operationalise the platform.

Currently the project is providing support to the DNCC and UNCC. The budget gap analysis and advocacy at national level is JANO's next priority. It is a national priority to mainstream this platform and ensure budget allocation for nutrition.

The tripartite MoU between the Government, the JANO project and the private sectors demands a great deal of time: The MoU needs approval from relevant ministries that might take a significant time. However, JANO has made remarkable progress in this regard and



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submitted the Final MoU to the Director General of DAE. For DLS, the revised version of the MoU has been submitted to the Director General's Office for their final approval.

Used a different channel for lobbying with ministry level officials.

- Due to the delayed food fortification study, a number of relevant activities have not yet started under ER 3. The project might require more time to accomplish all planned activities under ER 3.

As a mitigating strategy, the team has already exercised and outlined possible interventions for promoting food fortification consumption at HH level.

NOTE – snapshot of key recommendations of food fortification study:

A. Community-based SBCC intervention

- Community awareness through SBCC tools to improve knowledge about fortification and eliminate the mistrust about fortified foods. This includes community mobilization, advocacy and mass media campaign, etc.

B. Motivation at the household level

- Engaging and capacity building of CSG and CHW/CHCP as information providers because they are last-mile info givers to PLW and HHs level.
- Awareness session for HH heads to inspire use of fortified foods as they are the decision making of purchasing fortified foods.

C. Customer motivation at the market level

- Advocate Upazila parishad/local Govt. to conduct meetings/training for retailers at sub-district level to promote information and fortified foods to last-mile customers.

D. Facilitate Public and Private sectors to reach the last mile

- Work with Govt. to facilitate TCB for last-mile reach with fortified foods at village level through alternative distribution channel at subsidized cost.
- Facilitate private sectors to produce small units of fortified oil and salt to address the affordability issues.
- Promote an inclusive social business model through local entrepreneurs/intermediaries.

E. Market monitoring

- Market monitoring - facilitate market management committee (MMC) to establish a strong market monitoring system to prevent food adulteration and artificial blocks.

Immediate outcomes of the study will be that JANO plans

- to design SBCC interventions in the target area
- to influence local governments to include fortified food items in safety net packages which include food distribution through local government (= part of the Government's COVID response).
- to develop a policy brief for national-level advocacy based on the study findings
- to work with the private sector to make fortified products reach the last mile in our intervention areas.



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- Due to the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and country-wide lockdown, it was impossible to conduct community-level awareness campaigns (TfD shows, community campaigns) on ICT-related issues.

Mitigation strategy: To achieve this intended objective, the project revised the activity and is going to develop docu-drama video shows to raise awareness on ICT use and benefits. Pico projector will be used to showcase the drama in small groups while ensuring social distancing. The videos will also be accessible on mobile phones, and this will achieve even broader coverage than physical TfD shows and meetings.

- Because of the COVID-19 Government restrictions, schools were closed throughout the year, and a series of school-related activities such as the Support to Out-of-School Adolescent Clubs, the functionality of the adolescent corners, TfD shows, and GEMS sessions were either not possible this period or had to be adapted and were delivered but at a slower pace than initially planned. The students without access to the internet and smartphones are the hardest to reach during COVID-19.

JANO continued supporting students via Facebook classes, and one to one communication by volunteers, as well as by organizing online sport events, community based GEMS sessions etc.

- The project undertook a number of alternative methods to tackle the COVID-19 related challenges. For instance, it increased the use of the internet to advance some community-level activities, but it was challenging to conduct the field-level operation smoothly due to lower bandwidth.
- After a long 18-months period of no schooling, students are coming back to schools with depression and a low concentration level. This will be a challenge for teachers and also for the project staff to effectively continue the regular school-based activities. This will need to be consistently reviewed and monitored in case adaptations are needed to our approaches.

Lessons learned:

- The bottom-up planning process ensured the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and developed ownership for the development and implementation of the Annual Nutrition Action Plan. The CSGs, and CGs have shared their plans in the UDCCs meetings, and UDCCs have incorporated these plans into the UDCCs action plans. The UDCCs are translated to the UNCCs, and the UNCCs to the DNCCs.
- It was found that when the members of the community are more aware of the service requirement and provision, the service providers are more accountable to provide the service. So community awareness is important towards receiving services.
- Pregnant and Lactating Women have better access to health and nutrition services when their male counterparts have enough information and knowledge of gender norms and barriers.



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- Where the engagement of Community Support Groups was found more active and vibrant the community clinics also found to provide better services.
- The interventions under ER3 are mostly interlinked and dependent on the other stakeholders like private sectors, extension service providers alongside public sector engagement, which created some unexpected delays in rolling out the nutrition-sensitive value chain interventions on the ground. It takes time to deal with technical and advocacy-related issues with national level Government departments and the private sector. Ultimately, the lesson learned is that the project significantly under-estimated the time needed to integrate and engage market actors in multi-sectoral platforms for system-level changes.
- There are plenty of opportunities to work jointly with agriculture and livestock departments by aligning with their regular nutrition-sensitive activities, and now JANO has to focus on these opportunities. For ER3 interventions, year 3 was the building block and created a basis to intervene more rigorously in year 4, which is crucial.
- Process sharing of demonstration is one of the most important events, which has created practical learning opportunities for many members of the community. As a result, they have been able to apply those learnings later in their field.
- Cooking demonstrations contributed significantly to increasing diversified use of vegetables among the members of the community using their cultivated vegetables from homestead gardens.
- Educating the farmers, including PLW through user-friendly IEC materials might be more effective in adopting the best practices. The materials can be used by Government departments also and JANO can support.
- For the last three years, the project has been working on developing some comprehensive ICT-based solutions for the Government and the community. However, while working with the ICT-based interventions, the project experienced some unintended delay in the progress due to some technical, advocacy, and system chain-related delays. Acquiring approval from the Government is another time-consuming part of the ICT-based intervention. Frequent re-posting of the national and regional Government level officials also adds up to this system-level delay. Hence this is a lesson learned for the project that ICT-related interventions take longer to implement, specifically if it is connected with the workflow of the Government or the general public announcements.
- For smooth implementation and sustainability, ownership by the government is crucial. Therefore, involvement of the relevant Heads of Govt. Departments, and official a priori endorsement of any event or meeting is crucial.
- Several of the adapted modalities used for activity delivery during COVID-19 provided new opportunities and worked well under the circumstances:
 - We learned that school-based activities can be done virtually, to an extent, and engage schoolteachers and students even if classrooms are not accessible.



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- Household visits as a new approach together with awareness-raising on sensitive issues like gender, SRHR, health, and nutrition shared by the volunteers have contributed to changes in the conservative mind-sets of community members. And this is the reason school volunteers are successfully continuing the GEMS sessions through courtyard sessions.
 - Virtual annual sports days and annual campaigns through online platforms proved to be a helpful modality during COVID-19, with the engagement of large numbers of students and adolescents from the household level.
 - The video recording of Tfd shows, virtual GEMS training, use of JANO Facebook classes, and Pico projectors were effective ways to continue activities and reach students during COVID-19 and the project may consider continuing them in the same way after COVID-19, if appropriate.
- It was possible to provide need-based support and fully engage the School Management Committee (SMC) on safe school re-opening, resulting in good planning, effective coordination, and teamwork.

6. *Updated action plan for Year 4 of the project*

Please find *Annex 3* for the updated action plan for year 4 of the project. Please note that the forecast is based on the assumption that schools remain open and that there are no country-wide, strict lockdowns in project year 4. If this assumption proves wrong, the project team will adjust the implementation plan to the situation.

7. *Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other cooperation*

7.1 How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e., those having signed the mandate for the Coordinator or the affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

The working relationship between CARE and the two consortium partners, Plan International and ESDO, can be described as very close and productive. The division of activities based on each organizations thematic expertise, lessons learned from previously implemented projects, and established ground relationships make this consortium an effective and efficient team with a shared vision. CARE and Plan International also ensure the required technical support to ESDO for the implementation of all activities at the field level.



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7.2 How would you assess the relationship between your organization and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

The JANO project is directly linked with NPAN-2 and liaises with the respective Government departments for its implementation. At the central level, 22 ministries are connected to and accountable for implementing the NPAN-2, out of which eight ministries are under the direct auspices of the BNNC. A challenge is that the District and Upazila level departments receive little communication from their central counterparts on the scope and operationalization of NPAN-2. Therefore, their knowledge about planning, budgeting, implementation, and monitoring of annual nutrition action plans is somewhat limited. To enhance knowledge on the operationalization of NPAN-2, JANO continued to strengthen a trusted relationship with Government officials of relevant departments through constant communication, various meetings, and joint activities to solidify their support and understanding of the roles and responsibilities they play when it comes to materializing the nutrition outcome. JANO works directly with BNNC and DESE at the national level to ensure effective regional level activities and gain their full ownership for long-lasting results. An MoU with DAE and DLS for the initiatives under Expected Result area 3 is also in the process of being developed. So far, all key Government stakeholders responded positively to engage with JANO as they also consider the project as an opportunity to improve their (mandated) performance. JANO continues to use the existing and good relationships between project consortium partners and Government institutes, which is a real advantage. The JANO team has built and maintained an excellent relationship with the Government and other related stakeholders. The project has successfully engaged the Family Planning Department in the school health campaign. The team conducted advocacy on functioning the existing school health campaign. The Divisional Director of the Family Planning Department took the initiative to engage Government health service providers in the school health campaign. Simultaneously the team maintained a good relationship with the Rangpur divisional level Government Education officials (primary and secondary), and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), all of whom support the smooth implementation of JANO interventions.

7.3 Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organizations involved in implementing the Action

- Associate(s) (if any):

Apart from the consortium partners, there are no further associates.

- Contractor(s) (if any):

During the reporting period, a number of consultants were hired to deliver specific services, which includes: The Annual Survey and Mid-Term Evaluation by IRC, the Cloud-based M&E system by Streamtech, and the ICT platform under Expected Result 4 by mPower, Food Fortification and the CSG performance assessment by ICDDR, B.

- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups:



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The relationship with final beneficiaries and target groups can be described as very good. Especially during the COVID-19 situation, JANO volunteers continued to work closely with the beneficiaries to raise their awareness of preventative measures. JANO continued to build a trustworthy relationship with pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescents through household visits, courtyard sessions, counseling, school interventions, and Community Support Group activities in the Community Clinics catchment areas. Most importantly, JANO has identified and hired 267 women from the working villages, working as volunteers for JANO at the community and school levels. These volunteers have already proven to be a great bridge- and trust-builder between JANO and the target group members. The volunteers will continue representing JANO and their services to improve the living conditions of the target population even after project closure to ensure a sustainable impact.

- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other Government agencies or local Government units, NGOs, etc.): n/a

7.4 Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions

The team established a nonfinancial collaboration with a USAID Ujjiban SBCC project. As a result, the JANO team is using many audio-visual SBCC materials from the Ujjiban project, which are Government-approved materials, and this represents good value for money.

7.5 If your organization has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

n/a

8. Visibility

8.1 How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

The JANO project always focuses on the European Union and Austrian Development Corporation's visibility guidelines wherever applicable. In this reporting period, JANO has produced a number of communication and visibility materials such as newsletters, leaflets, learning briefs, posters, videos, training manuals, billboards, brochures, etc., which were distributed at various national and regional level workshops, events, meetings and in-person visits with the officials. For all the IEC materials produced and all equipment purchased, JANO ensured that the visibility of the European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation, and JANO consortium partners was there. Most national and regional level workshops, meetings, and training organized by the JANO project ensured that the banners, posters, notebooks, and pens are properly visible for project donors and implementing partners. All staff old and newly joined is also aware of the visibility guidelines of the donors and partners.

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8.2 Communication and visibility plan update

Activities	Deadline/ Timeline	Status
Publication of articles both in printed and electronic media	y2, y3, y4	The handover event of the JANO ICT platform was published in the following news medias: 1. https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/multi-sectoral-nutrition-plan-goes-online 2. https://www.carebangladesh.org/publication/nutrition/Multi_sectoral_nutrition_plan_JANO.pdf The news was also published in some national and regional Bengali newspapers, both in printed and electronic media.
Publication of innovation briefs, sectoral briefs	y2-y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The JANO ICT innovation brief was published and shared among the stakeholders.▪ Download link: https://bit.ly/3kQKabF▪ The JANO project brief was updated with some revised numbers and available here: https://cutt.ly/REUtMcd▪ The JANO visitor's guide is available here: https://cutt.ly/8EIVfkQ
Publication of project success stories on social and other electronics/web-based media channels as well as consortium member websites	y2, y3, y4, y5	Two success story videos were published on social media: 1. https://cutt.ly/PEUjIGn 2. https://cutt.ly/GEUjJYV Stories are attached in <i>Annex 4</i> .
Dissemination of studies and research findings	y3, y4, y5	MTE has been completed but not published yet.
Publication of success stories and lessons learned around multi-sector nutrition governance	y4, y5	Due in y4, y5
Media visits of local and European journalists	y4-5	A media visit was planned for y2; however, due to the COVID-19 crisis it had to be canceled. Most likely, the media visit can only take place in y4/5 of the project.
Development of a radio feature broadcasted in Europe	y4-5	A press visit combined with a radio feature and video development will most likely be conducted in y4/5.

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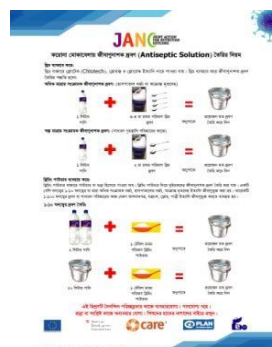
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Sharing of lessons learned and success stories in national round table, exchange visits at local, sub-national, national and international levels	y3, y4, y5	Some lessons learned have been shared in different regional and national events. 2 Exchange visits were organized with the SONGO project at Rangpur and Gaibandha.
Production of video clips, photo stories on nutrition governance and climate change	Y2-5	Two video clips were developed in Y3. Links below: 1. https://cutt.ly/PEUjlGn 2. https://cutt.ly/GEUjJYV
Development of annual reports	y1, y2, y3, y4, y5	Y3 annual report

8.3 Communication and visibility materials

In the 3rd year of the project, JANO produced a number of communication and visibility materials and organized a number of events where JANO highlighted the branding theme of the donor organization and consortium partners. During the reporting year, JANO developed/distributed i.a. posters, leaflets, nutrition plans, learning briefs, visitor’s guides, training manuals, billboards, handwashing devices, thermal scanners, pico-projectors, and adolescent corner materials, on all of which the logos of the relevant organizations were present.

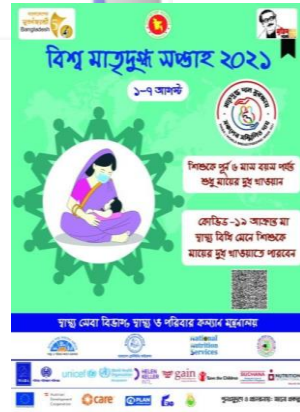
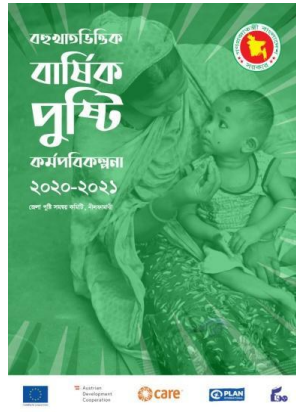
Below are some photos of the materials such as a height scale, weight scale, nutrition plate, waste bucket, spray bottle, bleaching powder for disinfection, etc., most of which were used for COVID-19 prevention activities and nutrition/adolescent corners at schools:





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The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

JANO consortium team does not have any objections against publicizing the report on the EuropeAid website.

List of Annexes

Annex1: Logframe indicator progress status based on Mid-Term Evaluation (end of year 3)

Annex2: Annual and overall project implementation progress against targets

Annex3: Updated action plan for project year 4

Annex4: Case studies

Annex5: Mid-term Evaluation Report

Annex6: Participatory Gender Analysis Report

Name of the contact person for the Action: Morgan Siegel, Program Officer, CARE Austria

Signature: 

Location: Vienna, Austria

Date report due: 31st October, 2021

Date report sent: 11th February, 2022 (final report, incorporating all feedback from EUD)

*This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union.
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