



ANNUAL REPORT ON YEAR FOUR

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

ACA/018/397-245

(1.09.2021-31.08.2022)



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List of acronyms used in the report

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
CSA	Civil Society Alliance
CSC	Community Score Card
CSF	Civil Society Forum
CSG	Community Support Group
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DESE	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
DG	Director General
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DMA	Data Management Aid
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DSHE	Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education
ER	Expected Result
ES	Extension Services
eSBCC	SMS-based learning system
ESDO	Eco Social Development Organization
EUD	European Union Delegation
FFD	Farmers Field Day
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
FPI	Family Planning Inspector
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
FWA	Family Welfare Assistant
FWC	Family Welfare Centre
FWV	Family Welfare Visitor
GEMS	Gender Equity Movement in Schools
HA	Health Assistant
HI	Health Inspector
HH	Households
ICDDR'B	International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh
ICT	Information and Communication Technology



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IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IPHN	Institute of Public Health Nutrition
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JANO	Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MDD	Minimum Dietary Diversity
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoAg	Ministry of Agriculture
MoH&FW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MTE	Midterm Evaluation
NCTB	National Curriculum and Textbook Board
NPAN-2	National Plan of Action for Nutrition II
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PNC	Postnatal Care
RtF	Right to Food Bangladesh
SA	Social Audit
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer
SACMO	Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officer
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change and Communication
SMC	School Management Committee
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
TfD	Theatre for Development
ToT	Training of Trainers
UAT	User Acceptance Test
UDCC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UH&FPO	Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
UH&FWC	Union Health & Family Welfare Center
UNCC	Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee
UN	United Nations
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
VFA	Veterinary Field Assistance
Y4, Y5	Year Four, Year Five
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: **01.09.2021 – 31.08.2022**
- 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)
- Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different):
 - **The final beneficiaries of JANO:** (i) 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; (ii) 190,322 (215,000 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) children under five years old; (iii) 421,425 (510,620 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) unmarried adolescent girls and boys aged 10 to 19 years, (iv) 9,907 (10,557 was the proposal/ pre-inception committed number) community members
 - **The target groups of JANO:** (i) 331 Primary and secondary school and School Management Committee (SMC), (ii) 633 Community Support Groups; (iii) 74 Government Nutrition Coordination Committees at District, Upazila, and Union Parishad levels, (iv) 211 Community Health Care Providers, (v) 242 Family Welfare Assistants, (vi) 190 Health Assistants (vii) 92 Government proposed multi-purpose health volunteers, (viii) 11 Agriculture Extension Officers, (ix) 10 Livestock Officers; (x) 7 Public Health and Engineering Officers and (xi) 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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public mobility restrictions continued until the first week of March 2022. These restrictions, combined with the budget revision and amendment process in 2021, resulted in delays to some activities in Year 4 (Y4). Increases in prices linked to the war in Ukraine presented another challenge, particularly for the timely conclusion of procurement processes. Nevertheless, with some deviation from targets, in Y4, the Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project created visible outcomes at the community level, in schools and within the governance system, improving the state of nutrition among the targeted groups.

Under Expected Result 1, 82% of Y4 activities were achieved. As per the Y4 annual survey, the percentage of women and children with Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) increased significantly (baseline-34.9%, Y4-47.9%; baseline-17.8%, Y4-65.7%, respectively). Under the school component, JANO implemented Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) interventions in 297 schools, operated 331 adolescent corners, maintained 331 school gardens, performed 1,650 Theater for Development (TfD) shows and provided self-defense karate training to 175 female students. In addition, all School Management Committees (SMCs) have a nutrition agenda in their annual plan.

Under Expected Result 2, 93% of Y4 activities were achieved. The project played a vital role as an external facilitator and worked closely with different nutrition platforms from the community to the sub-national level. The project built the capacities of stakeholders to carry out evidence-based planning, budget allocation, and implementation of nutrition interventions. With JANO's facilitation, 80 multi-sectoral plans at district, Upazila and union government levels were prepared with allocated budgets to support nutrition interventions. Furthermore, the overall Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) budget allocations for nutrition sensitive and specific activities increased significantly in fiscal year 2021–22 in comparison to last year. However, more work is needed to ensure sustainability of these efforts, as ownership by respective committees and platforms is not yet up to marks.

Under Expected Result 3, 76% of Y4 activities were achieved. JANO promoted public-private partnerships and established key linkages from the community to service providers. Although the tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JANO, the Ministry of Agriculture and ACI (private sector) at the national level remains stagnant due to lengthy government procedures, JANO initiated several joint initiatives engaging both public departments and the private sector at the subnational level. Per the annual survey, the percent of households involved in the production of higher value nutrition products increased to 46.9% (baseline-36.7%). However, robust effort is still required to deepen impact in ER3, for example to engage national level public and private sector representatives and to provide further support to women entrepreneurs.

Under Expected Result 4, 79% of Y4 activities were achieved. The web-based online monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system was developed, handed over to the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) and launched nationally. JANO distributed 37 government-approved nutrition-related text messages to approximately 47,000 beneficiaries. Through Talking Books, JANO reached around 61,700 participants with interactive nutrition-related audio messages. Furthermore, JANO deployed eLearning apps for beneficiaries, project volunteers and frontline workers. From 4.2% at baseline, 29.7%² of community members are now receiving Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-based information. JANO may face challenges in Y5 given the volume of backlogged and upcoming

² Please see section 2.2 Results and Activities for an explanation of this updated result.

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activities, and further effort is needed to ensure sustained government use and ownership of ICT-based tools.

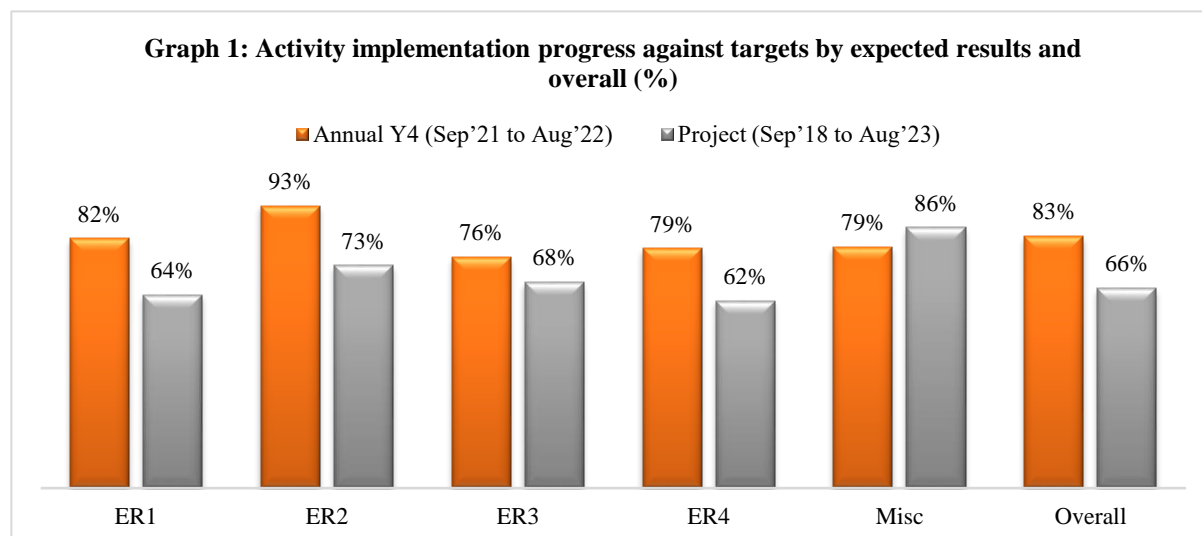
Overall, JANO made notable progress toward project outcomes and targets, despite COVID-19's impact on project implementation, especially in 2020 and 2021. However, there remain key areas for deepening and improving project impact, as well as promoting sustainability, which are described in the 'Results' section below. Furthermore, as during prior years affected by COVID-19, activity achievement was lower than planned (83% of targeted activities for Y4, with ER3 and ER4 particularly affected) and more activities will need to be implemented to widen the scope of impact.

The intervention logic remains valid and the project proposes only one modification to a select logframe indicator at this time. The project expenditure rate was 71% and the remainder of the Y4 budget, EUR 1,006,782, has been shifted to Year 5 to accommodate the rest of the activities. Overall project expenditure reached 63%, with 80% of project time spent.

2.2 Results and Activities

A. RESULTS

JANO created visible results in the community, schools and the governance system to improve the state of nutrition among the targeted group. Progress against Y4 planned activities was roughly 83%, and 66% of overall project activity targets were achieved (see Graph 1 and Annex 2). Y4 was key for implementing activities to create large-scale awareness in the community after the instability and restrictions on gatherings caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are project results identified through routine monitoring and different internal and external assessments, notably the Y4 annual survey. Please note that, after initial submission of the Y4 annual report on October 31, 2022, it was necessary to make additional adjustments to the Y4 annual survey. Due to the unexpectedly high results (values) for selected indicators, JANO re-examined the calculation approaches and, when needed, coordinated with the survey team to better align these with indicator definitions and past assessments. These adjustments affected the results of select indicators, which have been updated throughout this report. Further detail is included in the section below.





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Overall Results Achieved

The project reached or engaged the following stakeholders through numerous activities:

- **1,092,531** people (61% women) directly reached in Y4. So far, the project has reached **93%** of its overall final beneficiary target (see Table 1);

Table 1: Percent achievement against final beneficiary targets

Beneficiary Category	Target	Achievement	% of Achievement
Pregnant women	64,459	60,066	93.2
Lactating mothers	189,333	124,960	66.0
Children under 5 (Caregiver & Lactating)	190,322	209,895	110.3
Married adolescents	21,623	34,229	158.3
Unmarried adolescent girls	210,713	240,146	114.0
Unmarried adolescent boy	210,712	160,240	76.0
Total	887,162	820,910	92.5

- **60,066** pregnant and **124,960** lactating mothers directly received counselling support on health, hygiene, and nutritional messages;
- **287,420** adolescents (65% girls) aware of nutrition-related messages;
- **624** Community Support Groups (CSG) facilitated 3,436 bi-monthly meetings. CSG members linked **483,859** community people with government departments.
- **1,930** Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) members (30% women) were provided refreshers on their roles and responsibilities and Nutrition Sensitive issues for better functioning of groups;
- **316** Upazilla Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC) members (14% women) capacitated on their roles and responsibilities and nutrition sensitive issues;
- **16,595** farmers (70% women) trained in homestead gardening, dairy management practices, and climate-smart agricultural techniques;
- **597,841** household members (54% women) received nutritional gardening and climate-smart agricultural messages through household counselling, courtyard sessions, etc.;
- **920** frontline officials (47% women) engaged with project activities; and
- **3** private sector partners engaged (ACI Seeds, ACI Animal Health and Mega Feed) to ensure better access to quality inputs and extension services, promote knowledge on climate-smart agricultural practices and dairy management practices, and engage with women entrepreneurs.

System-level changes are visible within the project areas, such as:

- 74% of CSGs are performing excellently in their roles and responsibilities (see Graph 2 on pg. 14, measured based on eleven indicators of CSG performance);
- Multi-sectoral platforms—such as UNCC, UDCC, and CSG at the community, union, and sub-district level—are now attending their regular meetings to develop, review, and update their Annual Nutrition Action Plans. The meeting attendance rate increased for all platforms in the past year.
- 47 out of 64 UDCC increased their annual allocation by approximately 30% for nutrition specific and sensitive services in the fiscal year 2021-22 compared to 2020-21.
- District Nutrition Coordination Committees (DNCCs) are more proactive than before. For example, while the project previously had to actively mobilize DNCC members to develop their Annual Nutrition Action Plans, the president of the Nilphamari DNCC invited the project and other civil society organizations to provide more coordination and facilitation support for the 2022-2023 district plan.



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Overall, the project made notable progress toward both outcome and output indicators, with some indicators' progress exceeding project targets (progress discussed in detail in the pages below). For some indicators, the increases between Midterm Evaluation (MTE) and the Y4 annual survey are linked to the resumption of 'normal life' near the end of 2021, which allowed for enhanced demand and supply of services and for the project's efforts to have greater impact. In previous project years, services were limited due to the closure of schools, movement restrictions of service recipients, and limitations of the service providers amid COVID-19. It should also be noted that targets for some indicators were set conservatively, reflecting more incremental progress made during prior years affected by the pandemic. Finally, while figurative performance has exceeded some targets, more effort is needed to improve the depth of performance and sustainability of the changes, particularly for system-level indicators. Illustrative examples include, but are not limited to:

- Planning and utilization of budgets for nutrition governance has occurred with project support, but these initiatives continue to be viewed by government officials and the respective platforms as additional responsibilities on top of their regular work. Further effort is needed to shift the government platforms' perceptions, fully integrate this into their work and promote ownership, so the efforts will be sustained after the conclusion of JANO;
- The project developed a web-based M&E system for nutrition planning and decision-making by government platforms, but use of this system by the DNCC and UNCC is currently at a primary level. Similarly, government frontline workers do not yet use the project-developed eLearning app. Training and sensitization of government workers, combined with strategic tailoring of the tools, is needed to ensure their adoption by the government.

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

Impact-level results are measured through baseline, midline and endline evaluations. As such, updates on JANO's progress toward impact-level indicators are not available for Y4.

Specific Objective (Outcome): Improved maternal and child nutrition in Nilphamari and Rangpur Districts

The project made notable progress toward outcome-level indicators, with some indicators' progress exceeding targets (see Table 2). However, as noted above, while figurative performance has exceeded some targets, depth of performance and sustainability, particularly for system-level indicators, remain areas for further effort. For outcome indicators 3 and 4, targets were set conservatively based on the more incremental progress made during past years affected by COVID-19. While these targets have been achieved, potential remains to improve performance beyond current achievements. And with a view towards the future, deepened engagement with communities and institutions will be critical to sustain project achievements.

Table 2: Overall achievement against the target of outcome indicators at different points of the project's duration

Indicators	Baseline	MTE	Annual Assessment 2022	Targets Y5 (2023)
% of women of reproductive age in the targeted districts who are consuming a minimum dietary diversity (MDD)	34.9%	40.2%	47.9%	46.9%
% reduction of anaemia among pregnant women in Nilphamari and Rangpur districts	57.3%	54.8%	N/A	50.0%



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Proportion of children 6–23 months of age who receive foods from 4 or more food groups	17.8%	23.7%	65.7%	30.2%
# of UNCC and UDCC budget spent effectively on nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive actions	0	14 UNCC, 64 UDCC	14 UNCC, 64 UDCC	7 UNCC, 64 UDCC
% of increased participation of community people, particularly women, in formal (government-led) and/or informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces ³	Formal: 1.79%	Formal: 10.3%	Formal: 4.1%	Formal 11.79%
	Informal: 1.79%	Informal: 9.7%	Informal: 18.4%	Informal 11.79%

Source: Year 4 annual survey

Indicator: % of women of reproductive age in the targeted districts who are consuming a minimum dietary diversity (MDD)

The percentage of women consuming a MDD increased significantly (47.9%) compared to the baseline (34.9%) and mid-term (40.2%). The number of women consuming a MDD is 1% higher than the indicator's target. The practice of MDD was higher among pregnant women (54.5%) than lactating women (44.5%), and more women in Nilphamari district (49.7%) achieved MDD than women in Rangpur district (46.3%).⁴ The project facilitated a comprehensive learning process to raise awareness among the community on health, hygiene, nutrition and climate-smart agricultural practices, such as via household visits and counselling provided by volunteers and courtyard meetings. CSG support for better targeting of safety net participants and more proactive engagement in their community, combined with increased coordination among different government platforms and with the private sector to extend support to communities, have also contributed.

Indicator: % reduction of anaemia among pregnant women in Nilphamari and Rangpur districts

This indicator is measured through baseline, midline and endline evaluations. As such, updates are not available for Y4.

Indicator: Proportion of children 6–23 months of age who receive foods from 4 or more food groups (based the MDD-C methodology) by sex (Percentage)

In the case of MDD for children aged 6-23 months, nearly two-thirds of the children received four or more food groups⁵ over the previous 24 hours. The comparison indicates that MDD for children was significantly higher (65.7%) than during the baseline (17.8%) and mid-term (23.7%). The food consumption rate was found to be slightly higher among girls than boys. There was no remarkable variation in food consumption for children between the intervention districts, although the children of Nilphamari district were observed slightly ahead in consuming diversified foods. Considering the baseline, MTE analysis and COVID-19 situation, which showed more incremental progress, the project had set this indicator's target too conservatively and additional progress can be achieved.

Indicator: # of UNCC and UDCC spent budget effectively on nutrition-specific or nutrition-sensitive actions

³ Indicator presented in two parts in OPSYS system and logframe.

⁴ Results (values) were adjusted due to a calculation error in a previous draft of the Y4 assessment report. The calculation was initially made considering four food groups. This has now been corrected to five food groups, as per the definition of the measurement criteria, resulting in a slightly reduced percentage.

⁵ Food groups include: 1) grains (rice, wheat, maize, kawin), roots, and tubers (bread, rice, noodles, porridge, white potatoes); 2) legumes and nuts (lentils, peas, nuts); 3) dairy products (milk, yogurt, cheese); 4) meat and fish (including dry fish); 5) eggs; 6) vitamin-A rich fruits and vegetables (including ripened mango, ripened papaya, carrot, pumpkin, sweet potatoes); 7) other fruits and vegetables.



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JANO played a vital role as an external facilitator and worked closely with different nutrition platforms from the community to the sub-national level. The project built the capacities of stakeholders at these levels to carry out evidence-based planning, allocation, and implementation of nutrition interventions. At the same time, JANO also increased the awareness of the community to voice their demands to service providers. CSGs are now providing support to local government institutions for better targeting of safety net participants. The CSGs prepared social maps, identified community needs through community consultation, and shared community demands with the Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC).

At present, there is no concrete and consolidated data available to track UNCC activity progress. However, government officials present departmental data and share activity progress during UNCC meetings. From these meetings, the project found that on average the departments under UNCC achieved more than 80% of their targeted UNCC nutrition activities in the year 2021-2022, which is roughly a 20% increase compared to last year's activity implementation. This resulted from increased interdepartmental coordination, accountability and engagement within the UNCC departments. However, there is a lack of evidence-based decision making as some of the departments under UNCC, especially under non-project Upazilas, are not maintaining the prescribed government format for informed decision making. To improve this, the project is trying to bridge the activities of UNCCs under non-project areas with UNCCs in project areas, through arranging exposure visits between project Upazilas and non-project Upazilas, increasing intra-UNCC coordination, and providing coordination support for regular UNCC meetings. As a result of these exposure visits, intra-UNCC coordination has increased in a few of the non-project Upazilas as a spillover effect and this is beyond the set target.

In terms of UDCC, about 89% of their targeted activities (both nutrition sensitive and specific) have been implemented in 2021-2022, which is a 9% increase from last year. Furthermore, project monitoring data showed a significantly increased allocation of the UDCC budget to nutrition-related actions in fiscal year 2021-22 when compared to fiscal year 2020-21 (see Box 1).

Box 1: Increased budget allocations of UDCC in the fiscal year 2021–22 compared to 2020–21

- The budget allocation to safety net programs for pregnant women and lactating mothers was increased by 172%
- The budget allocation to WASH facilities at community clinics, schools, and marketplace interventions was increased by 73%
- The budget allocation for medicine and testing kits/equipment for community clinics and educational institutions' interventions was increased by 39%

However, the collection of the expenditure status of UDCC budgets remains a challenge for the project, as some UDCC members are reluctant to provide actual expenditure. UDCC's showed their spending summary, and confirmed that at least 30% (combined average of all UDCCs) was spent on nutrition-specific or sensitive actions, but a line-by-line spending breakdown is not available. The project is trying to motivate the UDCC members and develop a better mechanism to collect and track the UDCC yearly expenditure. A trend analysis will be provided in the upcoming report.

Indicator: % of increased participation of community people, particularly women, in formal (government-led) and/or informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces

The participation of community people, particularly women, in formal (government-led) decision-making spaces (4.1%)⁶ increased when compared to the baseline (1.79%). However, it has decreased compared to the MTR (10.3%). A clear reason for this decrease was not found, however future surveys

⁶ Result was adjusted to better align with the baseline, prior annual assessments and MTE. Previously, the Y4 assessment considered only members of formal platforms as the denominator. The figure now considers the household survey sample of women and adolescent girls as the denominator, resulting in the notable change to the result.



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may provide more insight. The project assesses efforts remain on track. Women's participation in informal (civil society-led, private sector-led) decision-making spaces increased up to 18.4%⁷ versus 1.79% at baseline and 9.7% at midterm. This achievement in informal and formal participation was caused by the effective mobilization of JANO's 268 women volunteers for promoting awareness on nutrition issues, women's leadership in the community, and the increased capabilities of the 624 CSGs. The target for informal participation (11.79%) has been achieved, but for formal participation more progress is needed. Considering the baseline, MTE and COVID-19 situation, the project had set the target for informal participation conservatively, and the volunteers' mobilization at community-level had a bigger impact than expected.

For formal decision-making spaces,⁸ participation data represents women and adolescent girls. For informal decision-making spaces,⁹ participation data also represents women and adolescent girls. Both results were estimated based on the household survey and following the same methodology as the baseline, MTE and prior annual assessments. For both formal and informal spaces, two criteria were assessed: 1) whether the individual is a member of the formal/informal space; and 2) whether they attend regularly or often OR participate in discussion during meetings regularly or often.

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

The project reached 82% of annual workplan milestones under Result 1 and the performance of logframe indicators showed considerable progress compared to the baseline and mid-term evaluations (See Table 3). However, the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first quarter complicated the fulfillment of annual targets, and school closures presented one of the biggest challenges. Schools initially closed in mid-March 2020 and did not reopen until mid-September 2021 on a roster basis (18 months later). In 2022, schools again closed from mid-January until mid-March. The pandemic hampered the quality of interventions, in particular under the school component, as alternative modalities of implementation needed to be used to enable some progress during COVID-19 restrictions.¹⁰ Additionally, some interventions could not start when planned, such as GEMS¹¹ engagement at the primary level. After extended delays in approval of the GEMS primary manual from the Directorate of Primary Education, JANO ultimately had to replan this activity using a government-approved module of the Directorate of Family Planning as opposed to the GEMS curriculum. As a result, this activity will not be implemented until Y5.

⁷ Result was adjusted to exclude courtyard sessions as an informal group. Previously, the Y4 assessment included courtyard sessions in the result, however these are not considered an informal group and are no longer reflected in the calculated result. During previous annual assessments and MTR, data on courtyard sessions had little to no effect in the overall result.

⁸ Formal platforms: Community Groups, Community Support Groups, School Management Committees, Family Welfare Centre Management Committees, and Union Development Coordination Committees.

⁹ Informal platforms: Village Savings and Loan Association, youth group, women's support group, local club, Farmers Field School, Adolescent club, TfD Groups, student council.

¹⁰ Notable alternative modalities included: 1) community-based GEMS sessions conducted in courtyards for small groups of 8 to 12 adolescents by JANO school volunteers. These sessions reached 13,074 students, which is approximately 20% of students. GEMS sessions were originally planned to be conducted by GEMS teachers in schools and to reach a larger number of students, however this was disrupted by school closure; 2) usage of Pico projectors to showcase Theater for Development shows, rather than live performances; and 3) online classes over Facebook, rather than in-person classes.

¹¹ GEMS, which stands for Gender Equity Movement in Schools, aims to promote gender equality among adolescents in school settings by encouraging equal relationships between girls and boys, examining the social norms that define men's and women's roles, and questioning the use of violence.



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Table 3: Overall achievement against the target of indicators under Result 1 at different points of the project's duration

Indicators	Baseline	MTE	Annual Assessment 2022	Targets Y5 (2023)
% of students disaggregated by sex who apply key learning points regarding nutrition, health, and hygiene at home	0.15%	7.7%	31.3%	15.4%
% of women and adolescents have claimed nutrition-specific and sensitive services from relevant service providers ¹²	Community Clinic: 35.5% Extension services: 3.98%	Community Clinic: 40.1% Extension services: 7.2%	Community clinic: 86.6% Extension services: 14%	Community clinic: 53.5% Extension services: 19%
% of CSGs in targeted communities are functional	0%	73%	74.2%	60%
# of School Management Committees set agenda for nutrition-specific and sensitive services for adolescents in the SMC meeting	7 SMCs	330 SMCs	330 SMCs	330 SMCs

Indicator: % of students disaggregated by sex who apply key learning points regarding nutrition, health and hygiene at home

Remarkable progress was made toward this indicator. Per the Y4 annual survey, 31.3% of students applied five key learning points regarding health, nutrition and hygiene at home, compared to 0.15% and 7.7% at baseline and midterm, respectively.¹³ The knowledge and application of learning points was notably higher for girls (38.3%) than boys (24.3%). The significant increase in the indicators is rational, as the students had opportunities to learn about these issues at schools through the GEMS sessions, adolescent corners on school premises, etc. It is to be noted that schools were closed for about two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2019-2021. At those times, adolescents had limited opportunities to learn about health, hygiene, nutrition, and gender, but the re-opening of schools created enthusiasm for students to re-engage in learning. Considering the baseline, MTE and COVID-19 situation, the project had set the target conservatively.

Indicator: % of women and adolescent have claimed nutrition specific and sensitive services from relevant service providers

The project mobilized 268 women volunteers of JANO to promote mass awareness on nutrition issues and women's leadership in the community. Additionally, 624 CSG members are playing more active roles than the previous year. Every two months, CSGs sit together, discuss their progress and prepare a way forward for the next month. As a result, it was found that communities are more aware of, and able to raise, their demands to relevant public and private sector actors. The results increased significantly in comparison with the baseline and midterm evaluation. As noted above, the return to 'normal life' and removal of mobility restrictions also created space for increased demand of services. Access to health

¹² Indicator presented in two parts in OPSYS system and logframe.

¹³ Result was adjusted to better align with the definition of the indicator and the past assessment. For this indicator, students must apply five learning points out of eight. Each learning point includes several sub-points (23 sub-points across eight learning points) and at least one sub-point affiliated with a learning point must be met for the student to qualify as applying that learning point. During previous drafts of the Y4 assessment, students were counted toward this indicator if they applied any five of the 23 sub-points. This has now been recalculated.



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services from the community clinic (CC) progressed from 35.5% at baseline to 86.6%,¹⁴ and access to extension services progressed from 3.98% to 14%.¹⁵ However, adolescent access to CCs and extension services remains low and is an area for further effort moving forward.

Indicator: % of CSGs in targeted communities are functional

Although CSGs' functionality performed similarly to the midterm evaluation, all CSGs are playing a vital role in creating mass awareness of nutrition issues in communities. Annual assessment findings showed that 74.2% of CSGs' performances were excellent and 24% of CSGs performed fair. CSG performance was found better in Nilphamari, where 80.0% of CSGs scored excellent compared to Rangpur with 68.8%. The lower performance in Rangpur could be linked to the district's geography. Many communities are spread along river banks with more limited livelihood opportunities and poorer access to services, as people may be more focused on securing their livelihoods and less likely to engage with CSGs and the support they offer. As during the midterm evaluation, the target continues to be achieved.

Table 4: Percentage of CSGs in each performance category

Categories	Rangpur	Nilphamari	Total
Moderate (Scores 16-18)	3.1%	0.0%	1.6%
Fair (Scores 19-24)	28.1%	20.0%	24.2%
Excellent (Scores 25-33)	68.8%	80.0%	74.2%

CSG performance was measured based on eleven indicators of CSG performance, facilitated through a participatory session in each CSG. The below graph shows the percent of CSGs performing excellently in each category. Though CSG performance was good overall, performance of each of the eleven indicators varies and shows the need for more nursing to sustain their performance, particularly with a view towards their long-term performance after JANO ends. The below figures show that more than 50% of groups performed excellent in five out of eleven indicators, such as team cohesion and leadership, group operational nutrition and gender-sensitive plan, regular interaction with the community, understanding of group objectives, and record keeping.

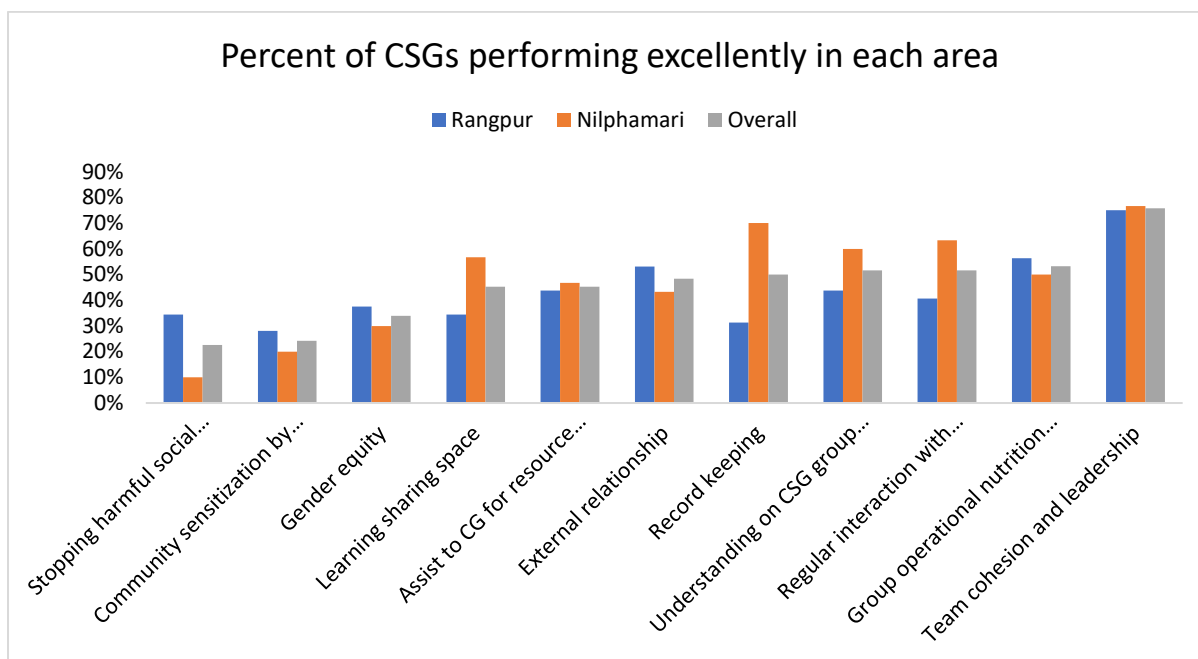
Graph 2: Percent of CSGs performing excellently in each area

¹⁴ Result was adjusted to better align with previous surveys. The Y4 assessment initially included a formula error, which has since been rectified. The calculation logic is 1) must be a woman and received ANC/PNC/Counselling service or information, or 2) must be an adolescent and received health care and nutrition support from CC. If either of these two conditions are fulfilled, the household will be counted. This logic aligns with the previous assessment.

¹⁵ Result was adjusted to better align with previous surveys. The Y4 assessment initially included a formula error, which has since been rectified. The calculation logic is 1) if women or adolescents receive the service and 2) if the service is received from any of the three departments (Department of Livestock Services, Agriculture and Fisheries) only then will the household be counted. This logic aligns with the previous assessment but was not met during the initial calculation.

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Indicator: # of School Management Committees set agenda for nutrition specific and sensitive services for adolescents in the SMC meeting

All 330 targeted schools have active SCMs. 330 SMCs have set an agenda on nutrition-specific and sensitive services for adolescents in the SMC meeting, which is the same as the MTR. Most SMCs (23 out of 30 SMCs sampled during the Y4 annual assessment) are governed by an ad hoc committee and reported that they set an agenda for nutrition-specific and sensitive issues for students. They discussed vegetable and nutrition issues in their meetings, and consequently, teachers encouraged students to try vegetable gardening and poultry rearing at home. Furthermore, 25 out of 30 sampled SMCs prepared the Annual Action Plan Properly. In bi-monthly meetings, SMCs discussed the progress of their plan and updated accordingly.

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

JANO implemented 93% of Y4 target activities under Result 2. The high rate of implementation was possible due to the positive behavior of stakeholders of the multi-sectoral governance platforms. The project found early signs of systemic changes among the district and Upazila-level nutrition platforms, including the DNCC and UNCC, as compared to the inception period. This year, the president of Nilphamari DNCC invited the project and other shareholders to provide more coordination and facilitation support for the timely accomplishment of the Annual Nutrition Action Plan for 2022-23. Aligned with government protocol, the DNCC compiled all UNCCs' plans and submitted them to the BNCC as a district plan. Prior to plan preparation, each of the multisectoral platforms evaluated last year's implementation performance.

The project successfully facilitated a community-based multisectoral annual nutrition plan and developed the targeted nutrition plan with 624 CSGs, 331 school management committees, 64 UDCCs, 7 UNCCs, and two districts. The union, sub-district, and district-level multi-sectoral plans for nutrition incorporated community-level feedback and the community's needs. Most of the platforms conducted their coordination meetings on time, with an attendance rate of 75%.



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However, while attendance of meetings was good, the ownership of the respective committees and platforms was not found to be up to marks. Most members still perceive that this work is additional work on top of their main roles and responsibilities. More effort is needed to change this thinking and promote sustainability. The frequent transfer of government officials also leads to delays in the overall nutrition governance process, as it takes time for new members to adapt to the planning and implementation process. CSGs are reformed every two years, the UDCC every five years, and some members of DNCC/UNCC frequently change due to government transfer processes. Additionally, as a result of COVID-related mobility restrictions during past years and until the first quarter of Y4, some initiatives such as cross-visits (exchanges), campaigns, and civil society forum meetings could not be completed under Expected Result 2, and activities that were completed during this restrictive period showed lower attendance. Closer interaction among participants was also limited. More activities and engagement are needed to ensure the committees' and platforms' ownership of, and sustained capacity to move forward with, these efforts in the future.

Table 4: Overall achievement against the target of indicators under result two at different points of the project duration

Indicators	Baseline	MTE	Annual Assessment 2022	Targets
# of multi-sectoral plans at district, Upazilla, and union levels have allocated budget to support nutrition interventions in the two target districts	0	80 plans	80 plans	73 plans with allocated budget (64 unions, 7 Upazilas, 2 districts each year)
% of increase of PLW people from the target population received nutrition-specific safety net support	8.4%	12.40%	25.1%	18.4%
% of women and adolescent girls of target population in government forums (UDCC, CG, CSG) meaningfully participated in the nutrition action plan development and implementation process	0.2%	41.4%	63.6%	60% (2023)
# of platforms in the target districts which allow effective feedback mechanisms for service receivers	0	64 Unions and 208 CCs	64 Unions and 208 CCs	64 Unions and 208 CCs

Indicator: # of multi-sectoral plans at district, upazila and union level who have allocated budget to support nutrition interventions in the two target districts

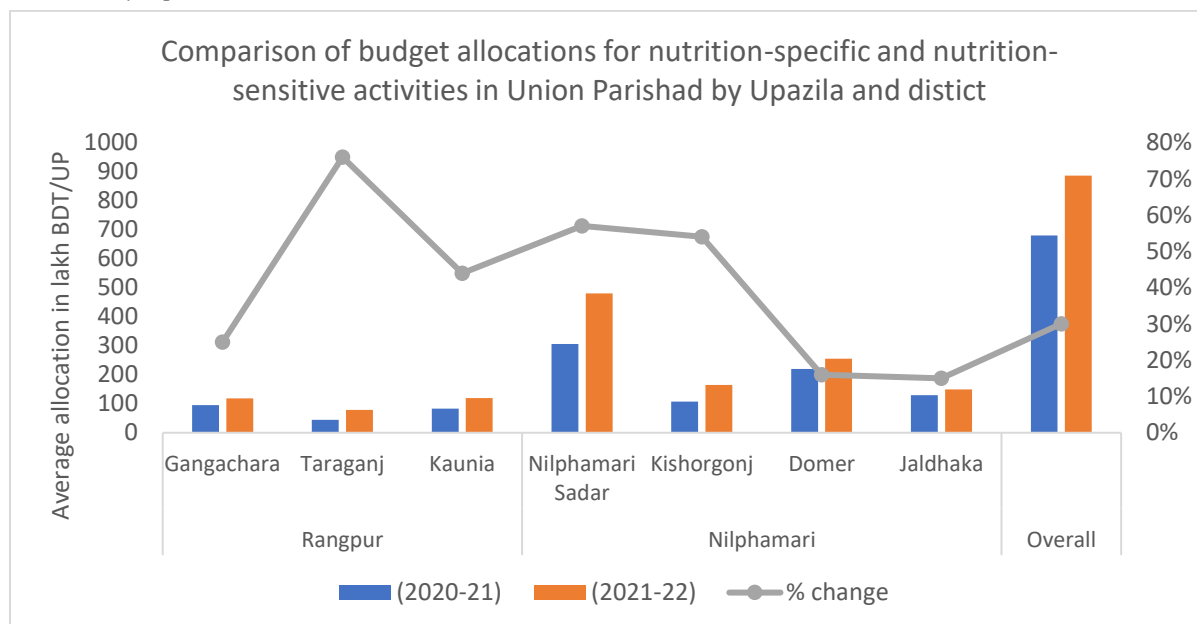
80 (2 DNCCs, 14 UNCCs [7 from project and 7 from non-project Upazilas], and 64 UDCCs) multi-sectoral plans at district, Upazila and union levels have allocated budgets to support nutrition interventions. Among the platforms, the Union Parishad (the authority of UDCC) was found to allocate their budget in a way that most aligns with the Government circular.¹⁶ On average, the UP budget increased by 30% in comparison to the previous fiscal year (see Graph 3). The graph below shows that the Rangpur district's UP is more sensitized for allocating nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities than the one of Nilphamari district.

¹⁶ The circular is the instruction/guideline of the national government of Bangladesh for allocating budgets focusing on 10 different sectors, such as agriculture, fishery, livestock, education, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), etc.

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Graph 3: Comparison of budget allocations for nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities in Union Parishad by Upazila and district



Indicator: % of increase of PLW from the target population receiving nutrition-specific safety net support

The percentage of PLW from the target population receiving nutrition-specific safety net support increased to 25.1%, whereas the target for 2023 is 18.4%. The annual survey showed that roughly 62% of households received benefits from any sort of social safety net program during the last 12 months. Around 25% of PLWs received benefits from maternity allowance, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programs combined. The percentage of PLWs found to receive benefits from maternity allowance is lower, at only 6.2%.

Indicator: % of women and adolescent girls of the target population in government forums (UDCC, CG, CSG) meaningfully participating in the nutrition action plan development and implementation process

Meaningful participation of women and girls in the nutrition action plan development and implementation process of government forums (UDCC, CG, CSG) increased to 63.6%, which is significantly higher than the MTR (41.4%). The Y4 annual study used the last six meeting minutes of UDCC and CG, along with the participatory tool facilitation with CSG, to estimate this indicator. The percentage of female members who participated in the meetings, raised issues, and their issues were incorporated in planning were considered as the value of the indicator. Examples of raised issues include: no breastfeeding corner at the Community Clinic; the cleanliness of clinic washrooms; and the availability of menstrual hygiene products at school.

Indicator: # of platforms in the target districts which allow effective feedback mechanisms for service recipients

Accountability mechanisms have been fostered through community scorecards and social audits, with feedback from the communities now being incorporated in the union, sub-district, and district-level nutrition plans, budgetary allocations, and delivery of services. Most of the stakeholders highly appreciated the role of the project in accelerating the working process of each nutrition governance district to community-level platforms and health service delivery institutions.



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Through the project's facilitation, all of the targeted Union Parishads (UPs) and community clinics (64 unions, 208 CCs) display a suggestions and feedback box in each institution, but the management process varies. Through the annual survey, data for this indicator was collected from various sources, including document review, participatory tools facilitation, key informant interviews (KIIs) and a household survey. During KIIs, interviewed Community Groups said that there is a "Complaint Box" in the community clinics and every two months the CG collects written complaints and acts per the gravity of the complaint. CGs also noted some people prefer making verbal complaints to either the UP Chairman or the Community Health Care Provider (CHCP). Community Support Group members mentioned that they have used the complaint box, when/if they found that the CC's services unsatisfactory. Key informants of UDCC also claimed that all government bodies have a strong feedback system, but that community people do not frequently use it.

Nearly two-thirds of household survey respondents mentioned that mechanisms for feedback and complaints are available in the community clinic and, among them, about 27.2% and 20.3% reported they made suggestions to a community clinic and UP/UDCC respectively. About 94% of the respondents (PLWs) stated that the quality of services of the community clinic is good.

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

Y4 was a critical year for JANO's efforts under Result 3, with significantly more activities implemented than prior years. JANO provided business trainings to 208 women entrepreneurs in collaboration with the public and private sectors (ACI, SMC and Mega feed). To enhance collaboration between the public and the private sectors, JANO organized business meetings with sub-district level government line departments and relevant private sectors. JANO set up 450 demonstration plots in collaboration with private sector actors, organized training on vermicomposting for 70 farmers (50% women) and supported the set-up of 35 compost pits in the community. In addition, JANO organized trainings for 7,500 farmers in collaboration with Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Department of Livestock Services (DLS) on the use of climate-smart techniques for homestead gardening and livestock rearing. JANO trained 920 government frontline staff on nutrition issues for message dissemination during their service delivery at the community level. JANO also provided training on nutrition and climate issues to 270 private extension agents in collaboration with DAE, DLS and ACI and organized a national-level roundtable on food fortification to share findings and recommendations from a recent research effort.

These activities led to notable progress to achieve project results (see Table 5). However, robust effort is still required in Expected Result 3 and there are significant opportunities to deepen project impact. For example, JANO's engagement with women entrepreneurs shows potential, but has faced delays due to rapid price increases affecting JANO's procurement of key business support for the women. It will take time and effort to bring this intervention to maturity. Additionally, to engage the private sector in nutrition governance, it will be necessary to involve national level private sector representatives rather than only regional level to ensure a more robust and sustainable impact on a broader scale.

Finally, the national level tripartite MoU process under Result 3 has been delayed by more than a year due to government bureaucratic formalities. After a common understanding among the DAE Unit, MoAg, ACI (private company) and JANO, the MoU was finalized and submitted to the DAE for processing in April 2021. But after the involvement of several other ministries for review, the MoU still remains pending. JANO initiated joint tripartite initiatives at the local level last year instead, but further time, effort and engagement is needed at the national level.

Table 5: Performance of output indicators under expected result three and project targets



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Indicators	Baseline	MTE	Annual assessment 2022	Targets Y5 (2023)
% of households involved in the production of higher value nutrition products	36.7%	42.3%	46.9%	56.7%
% of households practicing climate-smart agricultural techniques (minimum three techniques have to be used)	5	13.9%	17.8%	25%
# of initiatives jointly taken as a result of the tripartite engagement agreement ¹⁷	0	2 initiatives taken ¹⁸	11 initiatives taken in four thematic areas ¹⁹	At least two initiatives will be taken on each of four thematic areas ²⁰

Indicator: % of households involved in the production of higher value nutrition products

The percent of households involved in the production of higher-value nutrition products has shown an increase (baseline-36.7%, Y4 assessment 46.9%).²¹ Analysis revealed that production of households in Rangpur was somewhat higher than in Nilphamari. It is to be noted that 31.8% of the households are completely landless. 65.6% of households cultivated any crop on their farm during the last 12 months, of which the highest percentage of households (65.7%) cultivated bottle gourd. Apart from bottle gourd, cultivation of rice (62.1%), Malabar spinach (55.1%), and bean (52.1%) appeared prominently. A remarkable proportion of households/farmers have also cultivated red amaranth (39.1%), pumpkin (34.3%), and potato (20.2%).

Indicator: % of households practicing climate smart agricultural techniques

17.8%²² of households have practiced at least three climate-smart agricultural techniques. This is higher than the mid-term (13.9%) and baseline (5%) assessment, however not as high as initially expected. The most common climate-smart agricultural techniques were organic vegetable farming, vegetable cultivation on raised bed, and crop diversification. The findings show no significant variation between the intervention districts. Alongside increased project efforts in Y4, the enthusiasm of farmers as well as public and private service providers after a long period of COVID-19 restrictions contributed to the increasing results. The emerging acceptance of JANO community volunteers and community support group members was also unexpected.

Indicator: # of initiatives jointly taken as a result of tripartite engagement²³ agreement

¹⁷ Proposed revision to indicator phrasing. Please see logframe for adjusted definition.

¹⁸ One in agriculture, namely a demonstration set up jointly by DAE, private sector (ACI) and JANO. Another is a vaccination and de-worming campaign for livestock jointly organized by DLS, private sector (ACI Animal Health) and JANO.

¹⁹ Four in agriculture, four in livestock, two in WASH and one in micronutrient among JANO, government line departments (DAE, DLS, Department of Women & Child Affairs) and private sector (ACI Seed, ACI Animal Health, Mega Feed, Nirapad Sanitary Napkin, SMC).

²⁰ Four thematic areas: agriculture, livestock, WASH, micronutrient supplementation.

²¹ Result was adjusted to better align with the definition of the indicator as well as the previous assessment. As per the indicator definition, high value nutrition products consist of five categories of crops, four of which have to be fulfilled for a household to count. While reviewing the analysis the project found a syntax error and corrected it, hence the percentage changed.

²² Result updated to better align with the local context. The indicator definition lists 20 climate-smart agricultural techniques, however the project team assesses that only 13 are relevant for the target regions. As such, analysis was adjusted to reflect only households practicing at least three of the relevant 13 techniques, as well as to remove cases where techniques were applied unknowingly by beneficiaries. The analysis was cross-verified with baseline, first and second annual survey and MTR.

²³ Proposed revision to indicator phrasing. Please see logframe for adjusted definition.



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Although the project has yet to sign a tripartite agreement centrally, it has been building good relationships with local-level public and private service providers to promote climate-smart technology and improve production in agriculture for its intended beneficiaries. 11 initiatives were taken in four thematic areas. JANO coordinated with line departments and the private sector to ensure the rollout of these initiatives.

Table 6: Initiatives taken jointly in four thematic areas

Thematic areas	Parties engaged	Number of Initiatives taken
Agriculture	JANO, DAE, ACI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstration plot on climate smart techniques 2. Capacity development of women entrepreneurs 3. Training of private extension agents 4. Business meeting (entrepreneur, ACI Seed and dealers)
Livestock	JANO, DLS, ACI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of private extension agents 2. Vaccination and de-worming campaign for livestock
Livestock	JANO, DLS, Megafeed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity development of women entrepreneurs 2. Business meeting among women entrepreneurs, private sector actors and dealers
WASH	JANO, MOWCA, Nirapad Sanitary Napkin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capacity development of women entrepreneurs
WASH	JANO, Social Marketing Company, women entrepreneur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing business linkages for sourcing of products and services
Micronutrient	JANO, Social Marketing Company, women entrepreneur	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing business linkages for sourcing of products and services

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

JANO faced challenges in Y4 due to the slow response from key government counterparts (for coordination around the BNNC online M&E system) and technical issues in selected ICT-based systems. Some initiatives also faced delays tied to the delayed start-up process of prior activities. The frequent transfer of government officials and low internalization of newly acquired knowledge and skills also affected progress, in particular regarding the use of the BNNC online M&E system. Despite these challenges, JANO implemented 79% of Y4 target activities for Result 4 and was able to reach 146,073 project participants, 92% of which were female.

Moving forward, when possible, JANO will aim to speed up activities and mitigate delays by using some alternative modalities. For example, to train government frontline workers on ICT-based tools, the project will target a portion of regular UDCC meetings to conduct capacity development sessions rather than organizing separate training sessions. While tailoring the eLearning application for frontline workers, the project will only use content already approved by the government to avoid delays and enable easy onboarding. Additionally, a video eManual developed recently by the project will help ICT application users solve day-to-day challenges themselves, rather than waiting for support. However, given the number of backlogged activities and volume of upcoming Y5 activities, JANO will face challenges in achieving its final outcomes for Expected Result 4, and further effort and activities are needed to ensure sustained government use and ownership of ICT-based tools.

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Table 7: Overall achievement against the target of indicators under result four at different points of the project duration

Indicators	Baseline	MTE	Annual assessment 2022	Targets Y5 (2023)
# of government forums (UNCC, DNCC,) utilizing Nutrition Information Portal for planning and decision making at district and 21 upazila level	There is no Nutrition Information Portal for planning and decision making at district and 21 upazila level	One web-based platform developed	One web-based platform has been developed. Annual Nutrition Plan data entry completed for all 14 Upazilas. Government officials starting to use the platform with project support.	9 govt. forums (2 DNCC, 7 UNCC)
% of frontline workers and volunteers using the ICT based e-learning platform to support the community based on needs	0% Frontline workers	Preparatory work completed	Volunteers: 60% Government Frontline workers: 0%	50% of relevant govt. frontline workers and volunteers
% of community members who have accessed or received ICT-based nutritional information	4.2%	14.0%	29.7%	45% of community members

Indicator: # of government forums (UNCC, DNCC,) utilizing the Nutrition Information Portal for planning and decision making at the district and upazila level

In Y4, JANO organized a national-level launch event for the BNNC online M&E system with the endorsement and presence of the Honorable Planning Minister of Bangladesh. This launch was a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the system for all nine subnational-level government platforms (2 DNCCs and 7 UNCCs). The system will help eight ministries²⁴ of Bangladesh to implement the Multi-sectoral Minimum Nutrition Package.

After the launch, the project supported the local government departments of Rangpur and Nilphamari to complete data entry for the 2020-2021 annual nutrition plan. This previous year nutrition plan's data entry will help the government to understand how the system is designed for recording nutrition plan data. After completion of nutrition plan data entry in 14 Upazilas (seven in non-working areas), the project started supporting the government to enter progress data against the annual nutrition plan of 2020-2021. As of now, 2 DNCCs and 14 UNCCs (7 from non-working Upazilas) are using the platform for planning, but they are not yet using the platform for decision making as progress data entry is not complete.

Indicator: % of frontline workers and volunteers using the ICT based e-learning platform to support the community based on their needs

The project developed and deployed five eLearning solutions. Among these, two apps were made specifically for volunteers and frontline workers. After spreading information about the apps, 60% of volunteers (out of 208) now use eLearning apps to conduct courtyard sessions on health and nutrition and for their own self-learning. However, government frontline workers are not yet using the eLearning apps. JANO is currently working to make modifications in the app tailored to government staff, so they

²⁴ The eight ministries include: Health and Family Welfare; Agriculture; Livestock; Fisheries; Local Government and Rural Development Cooperatives; Education; Women and Children Affairs; and Social Welfare.



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may use it effectively. Additionally, a training designed to enhance frontline workers' skillset is planned for mid-Y5. However, it may be challenging to address the changes, train government staff, and deploy the finished app by project end.

Indicator: % of community members who have accessed or received ICT based nutritional information

The percentage of community members who have accessed or received ICT-based nutritional information increased to 29.7% (target for 2023 is 45%).²⁵ The project introduced multiple types of ICT-based interactive interventions with wide reach to the community, including Talking Books, SMS-based learning system (eSBCC) text messaging, and four different types of nutrition-related digital learning tools. The result for Rangpur is lower than Nilphamari (13.9% and 43.6%, respectively), which the project assesses is due to more limited reach of the eLearning Apps. However, the project expects to expand reach across target areas in the coming period, as the eLearning apps are being modified based on feedback from the community participants, which will increase the user base, and regular follow-up and monitoring mechanisms are in place. However, it should be noted that the effectiveness of messages, in terms of content, relevance, and appropriateness, was not assessed during the Y4 survey. These are planned to be assessed in Y5.

B. ACTIVITIES

Expected Result 1

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

As in the previous year, the project facilitated 208 community clinics to create better access to primary health care services. The Community Health Care Providers (CHCP) regularly meet with Community Support Groups to disseminate health and nutrition related services to the communities. The following initiatives were accomplished during this reporting period and cumulatively in the project's life so far.

1.2.1 Facilitated CSG to conduct gender analysis with the community

JANO facilitated 624 CSGs to conduct three participatory gender analyses with their communities, engaging both men and women to identify ways to overcome gender-based discrimination. Before Annual Nutrition Action planning for each year, CSGs exercise the tools: i) analysis of daily time used for household work, (ii) analysis of household-level decision-making process on nutrition and health issues and (iii) analysis of barriers to accessing health and nutrition services. On average, 17-18 participants engaged in each session. Based on the analysis, all targeted CSGs identified gender norms and challenges, as well as the obstacles to receiving nutrition services and engaging in decision-making, which have an adverse effect on nutrition. The issues identified were incorporated into the CSG nutrition action plan. This exercise helped the community to understand the progress they have made through JANO's facilitation.

This activity seeks to understand the current gender norms, constraints to receiving nutrition services, and barriers in the community. The aim is to promote self-realization among CSG members and to identify the issues which need to be included in CSG and/or UDCC annual nutrition action plans for improving gender equality and nutrition for women and girls.

²⁵ Result was adjusted to better align with the definition of the indicator and the previous assessment. The indicator measures the access of community members to nutritional information from mobile-based eLearning apps, receipt via text messages, and through Talking Books. The initial calculation did not consider access to smartphones and use of the eLearning apps as a factor in analysis, and a syntax error was identified during additional review.



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

The project facilitated 2,812 bi-monthly Community Support Group meetings (Rangpur-894, Nilphamary-1,918) to follow up on the 2021-2022 annual nutrition action plan at the community level. JANO observed that, on average, 13-15 out of 17 total CSG members were present in each meeting. In these meetings, CSGs discussed the progress of the previous month's plan, raised funds for the CSG to support the sending of emergency patients where necessary, and discussed: the benefits of a model village; homestead gardening; service availability to public and private service providers; the listing/updating of pregnant women and lactating mothers in the community; and the status of message dissemination via courtyard sessions.

The CSGs, with JANO's support, also organized meetings to review the existing action plan and develop the 2022-2023 annual nutrition action plan involving community and government officials. In the reporting period, 624 meetings planned by the CSG were conducted with government officials, School Management Committees (SMC), Union Parishad representatives, and local elites participating and developing the CSG plans for the fiscal year 2022-23. Later, three CSG plans were compiled at each Community Clinic level and any identified issues beyond the community clinics' capacity were shared with the UDCC, including their yearly action plan.

Major results of these efforts:

- 624 CSGs completed the Annual Nutrition Plan 2022-2023. Community members, along with government officials, reformed the CSGs according to government guidelines.
- The analysis of last year's CSG plans revealed that, on average, 96% of their planned activities were implemented. This constitutes almost the same achievement as last year, however, the quality of implementation and ownership increased.
- About 10,400 participants (58.5% female) participated in the annual nutrition action plan development processes.

1.2.3 Facilitated CSG functionality assessment tool in each CSG

JANO facilitated a participatory tool, called "participatory performance tracker," in all 624 CSGs to help them self-assess their annual group performance, realize their strong and weak areas, and identify next year's priorities. JANO facilitated a structured questionnaire in each CSG, involving all members of the CSG, looking at eleven key issues relevant to the group's functionality and capacity (examples: understanding of CSG group objectives; team cohesion and leadership; access to and use of services/external relationships). The CSG members were provided scores against each key issue based on their responses. The participatory analysis revealed that, out of 624 CSGs, about 37.7% scored excellent, 45.3% scored good, 10.9% scored fair, and 6.1% are counted as progressive. CSGs of Nilphamari Sadar, Jhaldhaka, and Domar performed better than other Upazilas. However, this assessment was facilitated by JANO staff so that following the assessment result, they can make an action plan to improve the category of the CSG functionality. This assessment was done at the mid of Y4 and results are separate from those later collected during the Y4 annual assessment.

1.2.4 Conducted community meetings to increase male engagement at the household and community level



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3,677 male participants attended, including: husbands of 481 pregnant women; husbands of 1,364 lactating women; husbands of 329 married adolescent girls; and 1,503 other male participants.

In the reporting period, JANO arranged 273 community meetings (Rangpur-95, Nilphamari-178) with male groups to increase male engagement to support women for better nutritional practices within households. The major discussion points were: (i) engagement of the female members during household decision-making processes and (ii) workload relief during pregnancy and assistance in getting medical and other services. Through the meetings, it was found that men came to realize the importance of women's participation in decision-making in their family.

1.2.5 Courtyard sessions conducted by CSGs/volunteers

Courtyard sessions aim to encourage pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescents, and caregivers to take various steps to improve their health and behaviour regarding nutrition, and to provide information on sources of nutrition services so that women and adolescents are empowered to receive nutrition services. With support of the volunteers, CSGs arranged 23,390 courtyard sessions (Rangpur-7,835, Nilphamari-15,555) in the community, focusing on "Service and care for pregnant and lactating mothers." 363,478 PLWs, married adolescent girls, and child caregivers participated (with a maximum of 14-15 participants per session) and received information on the following six topics: (i) food and nutrition for PLWs; (ii) antenatal care (ANC) and postnatal care (PNC) services; (iii) symptoms of child malnutrition and infant vaccination, Infant Young Child Feeding (IYCF); (iv) malnutrition prevention; (v) climate-smart homestead vegetable gardening; and (vi) safe water, sanitation, and waste management. Government officials also participated in these sessions. Participants felt particularly encouraged to make small gardens at their household level, and it was observed that most of the households cultivated homestead gardens from which they are consuming vegetables, as well as earning money by selling surplus produce to neighbours.

1.2.6 HH visits by CSG members/volunteers

Similar to last year, the major counselling issues included: 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) the importance of safe motherhood; v) the food situation considering the pandemic; and vi) the COVID-19 vaccine.

CSG members along with community volunteers conducted household visits and provided counselling services to community members, especially to PLWs and adolescent girls. The visits aimed to raise awareness of health and nutritional aspects relevant to PLWs, adolescent girls, and caregivers to children under-

five. Through real time project monitoring data, JANO found that 185,619 visits (Rangpur-66,309, Nilphamari-119,310) were conducted and 488,236 individuals (18,224 pregnant women; 40,343 lactating mothers; 77,628 caregivers of children under five; 123,423 girls; 62,112 other male members; and 166,506 other female members) were provided with health messages. Consequently, 41,149 pregnant women received ANC services; 16,059 mothers received PNC services; 37,333 boys and 49,545 girls received Sexual Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services; and 69,644 children aged 0-2 years and 23,210 children aged 2-5 years received immunization from 208 community clinics in the project areas this year.

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

To follow up with community clinics' annual action plans, JANO facilitated 84 bi-monthly Community Group meetings with 14 model community clinics which community group members, community leaders, and government officials attended. In the meetings, participants mainly discussed the follow-up of the nutrition action plan, how to speed-up the activities of community clinics and how to

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strengthen the CCs to ensure their services to the communities, and following up on plans for model clinics and CSG reformation plans according to the instruction of the respective UH&FPO. In the meetings, the CGs decided to work on the following issues: (ii) fundraising for community clinics; (ii) awareness sessions to increase ANC and PNC services through CSGs; (iii) establishment of a functional Complaint Response Mechanism for improved service delivery; (iv) criteria for measuring model clinics; (v) boundary wall at CCs; and (vii) wall painting with different messages for pregnant and lactating mothers. The members of selected CGs tracked their regular progress in their meeting minutes. It was found that regular bi-monthly meetings increased the members' attendance at meetings.

1.2.8 Days of Observance

To create mass awareness on health and hygiene, nutrition-sensitive and specific issues, high-value climate-smart agricultural practices, and gender equality movements, the project observed special days and events in collaboration with local, regional and national-level private and public stakeholders, as follows:

- International Women's Day, March 8, 2022: JANO celebrated International Women's Day with a colorful rally, procession, and discussion sessions in Upazilas, CCs and at the community level in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts.
- World Health Day, April 7, 2022: The theme for this year's World Health Day was "Our Planet, Our Health." The JANO project observed this day jointly with relevant government departments/institutions at the Upazila and community level. At the Upazila level, the project supported the Health and Family Planning Department to organize a rally and discussion program on the importance of the day. At the community level, the project facilitated a community clinic to organize a small group discussion.
- Education Week, May 11 to June 6, 2022: The government conducts National Education Week annually to recognize the best students, teachers, and institutions across secondary schools, colleges, technical institutions and madrasa levels. JANO observed this day at the district and Upazila level through rallies and discussion sessions, as well as in 36 schools under the JANO project through debate and essay competitions.
- National Nutrition Week, April 23 to 29, 2022: With this year's theme "Proper nutrition for a healthy life," Bangladesh aimed to face the challenge of malnutrition in Bangladesh. The week was celebrated in JANO's working area at the district, Upazila and community level under the leadership of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee. At the Upazila level, a colorful rally and discussion were conducted and a supplementary food allowance was provided to vulnerable people in the Upazila administration. JANO project staff supported the identification of the most vulnerable PLWs for support. At the community level, a discussion session was organized in ten Community Clinics per Upazila, where participants were provided with information on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and children's food and nutrition.



Nutrition week at Upazila level

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- World Breastfeeding Week, August 2 to 7, 2022: The theme for breastfeeding week was “Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support.” The JANO project and the government jointly celebrated the week on a limited scale at the Upazila level, at the Community Clinic and the Community level. The week was celebrated with different activities, such as discussion sessions, rallies and awareness-raising sessions where participants received information on the merits of breastfeeding and breastfeeding practices.



Breastfeeding Week, Dhakkinkonda Community Clinic, Kolkonda-Gangachara

- Handwashing Day, October 15, 2021: JANO observed the day in collaboration with the government and stakeholders through rallies and discussion meetings in divisional, district, and Upazila level offices. The project also observed the day at 85 CCs (Rangpur-45, Nilphamari-40) and 330 schools, demonstrating the importance of hygienic handwashing to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescents.

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 Action research to assess change in attitude and beliefs related to nutrition among students

To identify adolescents’ learning about health, hygiene, and nutrition and the implication of those learnings in their practical life, JANO began to conduct action research to assess changes in attitudes and beliefs about nutrition among students in the project areas. Plan International Bangladesh is leading the activity with technical support from the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR’B). Due to a prolonged review and procurement process, work began behind schedule, but the activity is planned to be completed in the first quarter of Y5.

1.3.2 Provided refresher to School Volunteers

JANO conducted a three-day residential refresher training for 60 school volunteers on project activity status, child and youth safeguarding, gender, Teachers Module (GEMS), and the GEMS rollout plan during this reporting year. The training used participatory methods and staff observed that all participants actively engaged in the training. Pre- and post-test results showed a notable increase in volunteers’ knowledge on these topics after the training.

JANO also provided a one-day refresher training to 58 female school volunteers and 14 field officers (female-7, male-8) (school) on climate smart school gardening. The objective of the training was to update school volunteers on school gardening, and plan for the upcoming cultivation season. JANO observed that school volunteers were more

“This refresher training gave me confidence about garden replication. It also helped me understand the linkage and importance between cooking demonstrations and gardening,” said a school volunteer from Kishoreganj.

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focused and strategic about students' climate-smart gardening at schools and households' replication after receiving the refresher.

1.3.3 Volunteers' bi-monthly review and sharing meeting

During this reporting period, JANO held 12 volunteers' bi-monthly meetings, which engaged all school volunteers, field officers (school), and the respective project personnel from Plan International Bangladesh. During the meetings, participants discussed and shared achievements, challenges, and learnings from the implemented activities under the project. The district team provided guidance to field officers and volunteers on mitigating challenges and proposed solutions for technical issues.

1.3.4 Developed Teaching AID and SBCC Materials on Nutrition

JANO project developed a Nutrition Value Book with recipes and a festoon (banner) promoting healthy and hygienically prepared food in the tiffin (lunch) time at school, which was distributed in 2022. Teachers and students reported their appreciation for the Nutrition Value Book, with students testifying their increased knowledge of different fruits' and vegetables' nutritional value and other health benefits as a result. As another measure to raise awareness and increase knowledge on nutrition among project participants, JANO began developing four animated videos on this topic, to be finalized in the first quarter of Y5. The videos will continue featuring the same character as the JANO introductory video. Alongside other SBCC materials, the videos will be developed for the adolescent corner in schools.



Adolescent character "Khushi" in JANO animated video

1.3.5 School-based JANO Intervention: Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) created evidence to change the attitudes and behavior of adolescent girls and boys

In Y4, the GEMS intervention experienced challenges because of school closures due to COVID-19. Schools remained closed until September 11, 2021, after which they reopened only for four months before closing again until March 2022. Y1 GEMS sessions were partially completed in 2021, thus remaining Y1 sessions were conducted in 2022. These will be completed by December 2022. The GEMS module for Y2 will start in January 2023.



GEMS session at school by trained GEMS teacher

Community sessions: As a result of these delays, JANO took an alternative modality to continue the GEMS sessions through community approaches. Up to December 2021, 13,076 students were reached by 60 school volunteers (22 groups per volunteer, 10-12 students per group) and completed the GEMS Y1 curriculum. JANO conducted an effectiveness measurement of the GEMS community sessions and found that 73% of students had excellent knowledge on issues related to the GEMS curriculum, while 98% could talk about their bodily changes with their parents, friends, and teachers, and 82% knew how to manage stress.

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School sessions: From January 2022 onwards, the JANO project started Y1 GEMS sessions at 297 high schools and madrasahs for grades 6, 7 and 8 through GEMS teachers. Approximately 17,000 boys and 22,000 girls participated in the GEMS sessions through regular school sessions.

Refresher trainings: The project completed two batches of GEMS refresher training with 48 GEMS master trainers and 40 batches of trainings with 1,185 GEMS teachers. The relevant focal points from the Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education (DSHE) and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) facilitated the GEMS Training of Trainers (ToT)s. They also conducted monitoring visits during the 40 batches of the training.

The Director, Planning and Development Wing, DSHE, observed a GEMS training and visited one school's adolescent corner and vegetable garden. During his visit, he stated, *"These are not only the project activities. These are also the government mandate. JANO is supporting us and this joint effort is significant to achieve the goal of SDGs. We will include the GEMS curriculum in the regular curriculum from next year on. The government is focusing on life skills-based education, and the content of the GEMS module is the foundation for essential life skills."*

Volunteer trainings: JANO conducted two batches of volunteer trainings on the GEMS curriculum. School volunteers and field officers play the important role of monitoring the implementation quality of GEMS sessions in schools, and as such, this training was crucial to clarify their understanding of the module. The facilitators covered all nine modules of the GEMS Y1 and Y2 curriculum.

Primary schools: Introducing the GEMS curriculum to 34 primary schools has proven challenging. JANO conducted several meetings and one workshop with the Director General of Primary Education, but the activity was not approved in Y4 by the central level due to long government administrative procedures. Considering the need to move forward in a timely manner, JANO decided not to proceed with the GEMS primary-level curriculum and instead planned to collaborate with the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), which issued a letter to implement the School Health Campaign Curriculum of DGFP in primary schools. In this alternative curriculum, health, hygiene and nutrition content would be covered with primary-level grade five students. Rather than introducing the GEMS curriculum, the JANO team planned to conduct trainings for the government's frontline staff members who would conduct the health sessions in primary schools, following the School Health Campaign curriculum. However, this plan was similarly not approved in Y4.

As such, JANO planned another alternative to approach the School Health Curriculum of Family Planning through Family Planning staff. To do so, JANO's project staff will train 12 master trainers in the Family Planning Department, with each master trainer providing two batches of training to 34 Sub-Assistant Community Medical Officers (SACMO)/Family Planning Inspectors (FPI)/Family Welfare



School volunteer conducting a GEMS session with adolescents at the community level



Group picture of facilitators and participants from GEMS ToT



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Visitors (FWV) near the primary school catchment area. The frontline staff of the Family Planning department will conduct regular health sessions for primary school students in this way.

1.3.6 Action plan development and follow-up meeting with School Management Committee Members (half yearly)

In the JANO project area, schools are maintaining good practices regarding the development of the Annual Nutrition Action Plan and conduct follow-up meetings every six months. Every School Management Committee (SMC) produces an Annual Nutrition Action Plan and the JANO project provides technical support to continue the process. In this reporting year, all SMCs created a nutrition action plan for 2022-23. The major action points in the plans included:

- GEMS training of school teachers;
- Vegetable garden maintenance at the school and replicating this garden at the students' household level;
- Cooking demonstrations: students will learn about healthy food preparation and cooking practices, and the nutrient value of food;
- Maintain adolescent corners and ensure effective utilization of SBCC materials;
- Linkage with family planning and ensure health sessions at school by SACMO/FPI/FWV under the school health campaign; and
- Ensure sanitary napkins and iron and folic acid tablets for girls.

1.3.7 Training of school council/cabinet members on climate-smart gardening, child protection and their role in promoting WASH, Health and Nutrition

The government of Bangladesh started a leadership development process called "Student Cabinets/Councils" for adolescents to learn about self-respect, leadership, collaboration, decision-making, democracy, and other topics. They will also learn about the election process in Bangladesh and participate in an election of cabinet members for each educational institute. Cabinet members will be involved in various activities, such as managing the cleaning process of their classroom, health development, nutrition, the supply of educational materials, WASH, gardening, sports, and other activities. Participating in these activities will empower students to become involved in civil society in the future.

JANO provided its field officers with an orientation session on the Student Cabinet/Council Manual, after which they cascaded the training among the student cabinet/council members of the 331 project schools. 2,608 (Girls-1,566, Boys-1,042) students participated in the training, through which cabinet/council members learned about their roles and responsibilities.

"I was elected as a cabinet member and I am responsible for the ICT division, but before the training, I was not clear about my roles and responsibilities. Now I know what I have to do and how I can coordinate among teams and our friends," said an 8th grade student from Nilphamari Sadar.

1.3.8 Half-day orientation for class captain and co-captain on the use of SBCC materials and their role in facilitating adolescent corner activity

The project conducted a half-day orientation for 3,381 (60% girls) class captains and co-captains. The objectives of the orientation were: (i) class captains learn the responsibilities and duties of a class captain and basic leadership skills; (ii) class captains are aware of the additional activities of schools, including adolescent corners and materials; (iii) class captains know about their role in facilitating adolescent corner activities and how to conduct sessions using adolescent corner materials; and (iv) orientation on fundamental child protection issues (e.g. 'No, Go, Tell'). Now, class captains are capable of leading the maintenance of school gardens by engaging other students.

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1.3.9 Maintain 330 school gardens

During this period, the JANO team supported the completion of a one-year, season-specific climate-smart vegetable gardening technology (five techniques) for all students in 330 schools. Parents, teachers, and students applied their learnings from the school gardens by replicating vegetable gardens at the household level of the students. A total of 1,527 vegetable gardens were replicated by students at the household level. A school teacher on agriculture and a front-line worker from the agriculture department guided the students practically on how to cultivate, nurse, and collect vegetables, and taught them about cooking processes while maintaining the produce's nutritional value.



Students taking care of their garden

During this reporting period, school gardens were maintained twice by the project. In a few cases, the field team observed that seeds were destroyed by heavy rainfall. In this situation, the SMC replaced the seeds in the ground following the guidelines on the school vegetable garden.

Passion for Gardening Made Me Self-dependent



“Now gardening is my passion for my studies. I never thought it could be my passion, but JANO’s school garden changed my thoughts,” said Sathi Akter, Class VIII, Muktipara Dakhil Madrasah, Kishoreganj. Her father worked as a day laborer and he was the only income generator in the family. It was hard for the family to maintain the cost of living under these circumstances.

Sathi contributes her knowledge from the school garden to replicate the garden at her home. Nowadays, she earns 300-350 tk. per week selling the vegetables from her garden, helping to fulfill her family's needs. She added, *“This garden teaches me to be self-dependent.”* Her mother said, *“Sathi does not waste a single moment idly now. She enjoys vegetable gardening as entertainment.”*

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

This year's annual campaign was held physically in 331 schools. The campaign focused on debate, essay writing, and quiz competitions to enhance students' knowledge on nutrition, health, hygiene, and gender. According to field observations and staff consultations, students' participation in such campaigns increased their knowledge, courage, and outlook on the issues in question. The government's education department was directly involved in the campaign. The Deputy Director of Secondary and Primary Education in the Rangpur division provided official instructions to promote this campaign's activities in all schools. The District Education Officer and the District Primary Education Officer of Rangpur and Nilphamari issued a letter to support this annual campaign.



Female Students participating in a game called 'Cock Fighting'

1.3.11 Annual Sports Day celebrations in schools with special 'gender bender' & nutrition games

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After two years of school closure, this year each project school celebrated Annual Sports Day in their school field. The project complemented these efforts by arranging ‘gender bender’ games for students, such as unique gender and nutrition games, cycle racing, football, cricket for girls, pillow cover wearing, and stitching clothing for boys. The objective of arranging such a game is to challenge existing gender stereotypes in society.

1.3.12 Organizing orientation workshops with the Local WASH Private Sector Actors on WASH supply chains

To build linkages between private sector actors on WASH supply chains, JANO organized 13 workshops attended at the Upazila level by different private sector representatives from SMC, BRAC, Unilever, ACI, SQUARE, Bengal, RFL, local entrepreneurs, and sanitary accessories producers. All participants agreed to work together in this platform (as a group) by creating connections between small entrepreneurs and the private sector to provide products available to the community people. These relationships could help lead to an increased standard product quality in the future.



Meeting with WASH private sector actors at Taraganj

1.3.13 Refresher training of School Management Committee

One of the critical objectives of JANO is to build the capacity of School Management Committees (SMCs) to function smoothly, especially with regard to discussing the nutrition-related agenda in regular SMC meetings effectively and efficiently with other members. With this objective, JANO conducted refresher trainings for 327 SMC members this year. The training aimed to make SMC members more knowledgeable about their duty as per the government guidelines and strengthen their capacity to effectively implement the annual nutrition plan for their school. Following the training, the SMC annual plan is now monitored by the head teacher.

1.3.14 Developing the self-esteem of school student leaders by acquiring self-defence training (including video documentation for wider use)

The JANO project provided self-defense karate training to 175 female students in the target areas. The training was provided in groups of 25 students over a period of 32 days per group, covering more than 150 self-defense techniques. This training built the confidence and self-defense capacities of the girls, who now know strategies and techniques which will be helpful to protect them from violence. A learning video and training manual was developed so that the trained young girls can help their friends and other girls to learn the techniques.



Karate training at Taraganj

“I am thrilled and overwhelmed with this JANO project initiative. This foundational self-defence training is necessary for all girls in our country.” Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Kishoreganj Upazila, Nilphamari District.

1.3.15 Support to Out-of-School Adolescent Clubs

Adolescent clubs, especially for out-of-school adolescents, are a unique initiative in the JANO project area to increase adolescent learning about gender, nutrition, and different issues related to adolescent health. To increase awareness among out-of-school adolescents on gender, nutrition, health,



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reproductive health and other topics, JANO established 64 adolescent clubs in the Union Health & Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) and Union Parishad in the project areas. The project selected two peer educators and co-peer educators from each club, who will be trained by master trainers on gender, nutrition, and adolescent health in Y5 and facilitate monthly sessions for adolescents of clubs with the support of the respective team of the family planning department.

JANO staff and volunteers have observed that adolescents have started to come to the clubs and spend time playing the educational games and making handicrafts. They have also received health and mental care from the representative of the UH&FWC, and shared their learnings and healthcare-related information with friends and family members.

The lack of staff in the Family Welfare Centre (FWC) presents a notable challenge, as these staff are essential to monitor and sustain the club after the JANO project concludes. To address this, JANO continues to conduct advocacy, from the main to field level, with the Family Planning Department. Advocacy has proven effective to-date, as the DG-Family Planning issued a letter to support the JANO interventions in leading areas, including the adolescent clubs from marginal to higher levels in the Rangpur area.

1.3.16 Functioning School Health Campaign

The goal of the school health campaign is to raise awareness among adolescents on their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), personal hygiene, and nutrition among school students. This campaign follows the government-approved School Health Curriculum and benefits from the direct involvement of the family planning department. Plan International Bangladesh initiated an advocacy effort in support of the school health campaign, which is not always implemented as it should be. The DGFP issued a Government Order to all Family Planning offices in the JANO area to functionalize the school health campaign session at school, especially focused on primary grade 5. In the reporting period, JANO conducted orientation sessions for related DGFP staff on how to implement health sessions at schools, to support students to learn about health, hygiene and nutrition issues in their classrooms and the adolescent clubs.

“In collaboration with the education department, I am now conducting sessions following the School Health Campaign curriculum. For proper healthy growth of our adolescents, these sessions are very helpful. JANO project took this initiative and is still supporting us in this regard.” SACMO Kishoreganj.

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

1.4.1 Training to Tfd group on drama

This year, 53 Theater for Development (Tfd) groups (community based-23, school based-30) received refresher trainings. Though they received basic training earlier in the project, the groups could not perform shows during the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the refresher trainings aimed to enhance the performance capacity of the Tfd groups and provided the participants with strengthened oral communication skills and self-confidence (especially in handling feedback and new responsibilities), promoted creative problem-solving and increased participants' ability to work under pressure.

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1.4.2 Tfd Show

Tfd shows as part of the JANO project are popular and present one of the best ways to reach large groups of people, especially adolescents, to share information on nutrition, gender equality, health, and hygiene via art forms. The project promotes two ways to stage Tfd shows: a physical stage show and a video show projected through a Pico projector.

1,650 physical stage performances were presented at the community level, attended by 182,142 audience members from the community (male-67,246, female-114,896). 1,205 pico projector Tfd shows were completed, reaching 27,364 audience members (male-10,099, female-17,265). Tfd shows were performed on seven different topics, such as: SRHR, hygiene, nutrition, gender equality, gender discrimination, balanced diet, child marriage, and handwashing.



Tfd show at Magura, Kishoreganj

Activity 1.5: COVID-19 Response Activities

1.5.1 Establishment of handwashing stations

JANO established seven handwashing stations at the selected seven model unions (one from each Upazila). The unions were selected in consultation with DNCC and UNCC representatives. Handwashing station installations in schools were not completed in Y4 due to the prolonged procurement process. The activities were thus shifted to Y5 and will be completed as per the plan.

1.5.2 Boost-up support 3,200 PLWs for the consumption of high-value nutritious food

3,200 PLW from poor and extremely poor households were selected for providing boost-up support to expedite production and consumption of high-value nutritious foods. The selection was done following a thorough process with the active engagement and endorsement from the CSGs. Due to COVID-19, many poor and extreme poor households were struggling to invest in homestead fruits and vegetable cultivation as well as to feed their cattle properly. It was expected that this support will revive their homestead agricultural and/or livestock practices, ensuring improved nutritious food production by PLW and increased consumption in the long run. The plan of the project was to distribute inputs during Kharif 1 (crop season mid-March to mid-June). However, the delayed procurement process hampered the timely accomplishment of this activity. Vender selection and demand assessment of beneficiaries were delayed. Hence, project management rescheduled this activity for Y5.

1.5.3 Provided assistance to the government in providing COVID-19 vaccine to school children and community people

On January 8, 2022, with the help of the Upazila Administration and the Upazila Secondary Education Office, the Upazila Health Department started administering the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to 12 to 17 year-old students. In vaccination centers, banners with the JANO project logo were erected and 30,000 vaccination cards were provided. The project also provided support to the civil surgeon office at the district level to implement the COVID-19 awareness and COVID-19 vaccination campaign by printing 100,000 COVID-19 vaccination cards for school students, and JANO volunteers supported the queue management of the vaccination registration process. A tent with chairs was decorated at the Nilphamari Sadar Upazila vaccination centers, enabling students to rest after receiving the vaccination. In addition, the school volunteers mobilized school students to come to the vaccination centers. Under



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the direction of the Upazila Secondary Education Officer in each center, eight school volunteers assisted the government in the mass vaccination center every day.

Furthermore, community volunteers supported the government in raising awareness of COVID-19 vaccination and registration on Surakkha App (government COVID-19 vaccination registration app). A total of 594,674 people (52% women) were provided support in the process. Volunteers were also present at the vaccination centres and provided support to maintain the registration process.

Expected Result 2

Activity 2.1: Assist in the activation and capacity building of Nutrition Coordination Committees at the district and upazila levels, and the Union Development Coordination Committee

2.1.1 Refresher ToT of staff on Community Score Cards and Social Audits

JANO organized a refresher ToT to develop staff capacity on facilitating two social accountability tools, namely the Community Score Card (CSC) and the Social Audit (SA)²⁶. Seven Upazila managers and 23 field officers received this training which helped staff to effectively conduct the 64 CSC sessions (four sessions each for CSC) and the 64 social audit sessions (two sessions each for SA) at the 64 Unions.

2.1.2 Refresher/review workshop on UDCC capacity building and nutrition planning

JANO organized a refresher training for 1,930 (584 women) UDCC members on various topics, such as the community scorecard, the social audit, gender equality and the roles and responsibilities of UDCC members. As 90% of the UP members are newly elected, the refresher training was needed to develop their capacity on the functions of UDCC, their roles and responsibility as UDCC members, the role of the chairman, the development and functionality of the nutrition action plan, and on taking initiatives to make the committee more dynamic.

2.1.3 Build UNCC capacity on multisector nutrition-sensitive issues

To develop the capacity of the UNCC members, JANO organized 13 trainings (six for project Upazilas and seven for non-project Upazilas) for a total of 316 UNCC members (44 female). The objective was to sensitize UNCC members about their roles and responsibilities and understand the alignment of National Plan of Action for Nutrition-2 (NPAN-2) within the DNCC and UNCC. Due to COVID-19, the project could not organize the training in the previous year as originally planned. However, UNCC members of both project and non-project areas reported that they realize the importance of UNCCs' Annual Nutrition Plans for developing the District Nutrition Action Plan. They also noted that they have a clear understanding of the bottom-up approach of the nutrition action plan in connection with the district level. The UNCC of non-project areas took the decision to keep an agenda regarding UNCC progress and planning within their regular meeting, considering their time and resources at the end of the training session.

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

²⁶ CSC and SA are social accountability tools. Community score card is a citizen-driven accountability approach for the assessment, planning, monitoring, and evaluation of public services. CSC measures the satisfaction of service receivers, as well as identifies gaps in service provision. 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. SA helps sensitive Union Parishad to allocating comprehensive budgets considering all sectors as per the government protocol, as well as creates the opportunity to look back on implemented schemes. Based on findings, the UP takes initiatives to overcome the gaps.



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2.2.1 Develop multisector nutrition annual action plan/review at the union level

JANO is working closely with the UDCCs to develop multi-sectoral annual nutrition action plans. During the reporting period, 64 Unions developed their annual nutrition action plan (Rangpur-20, Nilphamari-44) for the FY 2022-23. These plans include both nutrition-sensitive and specific activities, covering health and nutrition, education, WASH, agriculture and livestock, women and children's affairs and social safety net activities. The plans were developed based on local resources and in line with the operational plans of the ministries. The UDCC's plan includes the demands of the community people, which is being ensured by the community clinic's Annual Nutrition Action Plan. Gender issues are also included while the plan is developed. Through the development of this plan, the Union Parishad has started to allocate budget to incorporate sectoral allocations as per the government circular.

2.2.2 Develop multisector nutrition annual action plan/review and approval meeting with budget allocation at the Upazila level

JANO supported 12 UNCCs in Rangpur and Nilphamari to develop multi-sectoral annual nutrition action plans for 2022-23. These plans guide the UNCCs in implementing the nutrition plan of their respective Upazilas which were developed through the aggregation of eleven line departments' (DAE, DLS, Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs [MoWCA], Department of Public Health Engineering [DPHE], Department of Primary Education, Department of Secondary Education, Social Welfare, Local Government, and Engineering Department, Health, and Family Planning) respective action plans. The plans include both nutrition-sensitive and -specific activities, covering health and nutrition, education, WASH, agriculture and livestock, women and children's affairs and social safety net activities. UNCC plans also include the issues raised during the UDCC planning process.

JANO organized 12 out of 14 multi-sectoral annual nutrition action plan workshops both in project and non-project Upazilas. In the workshops, all line departments presented their progresses and lessons learned, and discussed the challenges they faced during the implementation of their respective department's action plan. Through this process, JANO has observed a competitive working environment is developing among the departments and nowadays, departments are becoming more accountable to each other. However, the project is facing challenges to track departmental progress data, as each department representative presents their progress differently and it is shared verbally in the meeting—representatives are less interested in sharing written documentation on their progress. The project team is continuing efforts to resolve this challenge and collect uniform progress data.

2.2.3 Develop multisector nutrition annual action plan/review at district level

JANO worked with the DNCC of Rangpur and Nilphamari to facilitate the development of district-level multi-sectoral annual nutrition action plans for FY 2021-2022. During the reporting period, JANO organized two DNCC annual nutrition action plan development workshops. These plans included both nutrition-sensitive and -specific activities, covering local government, health and nutrition, education, WASH, DAE, DLS and fisheries, women and children's affairs, and social safety net activities. In short, the district plan is a compilation of all Upazila-level plans within their district and provides an opportunity to discuss the nutritional interventions among all departments. Through both district workshops, a closer relationship was created with the BNNC, as BNNC senior officials were present to provide technical guidance.

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



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As per government protocol, UDCC meetings are usually arranged on a two-month interval. During Y4, 187 meetings were organized by the UDCCs with facilitation from JANO. The purpose was to accelerate the implementation of different departments' and Union Parishads' planned activities, as outlined in their nutrition action plans, discuss challenges, and increase interdepartmental coordination at the UP level. In the meeting, each department presented their departmental achievements and discussed potential challenges and mitigation methods. In addition, the UDCC discussed crucial issues that were raised while implementing the nutrition plan and how to address those in the upcoming plan. On an average, 20 out of 30 UDCC members attended the meeting regularly. Through these meetings, the chair collects union-level demands and challenges to later present during Upazila-level meetings.

The UDCC meetings have proven fruitful and JANO observed that departments are implementing their activities involving the Union Parishad and taking need-based action. For example, one community demanded a livestock vaccination campaign, and the veterinary surgeon and livestock officer immediately took action on this demand. Furthermore, departmental support from the Upazila level has increased as an outcome of these meetings. For instance, community people are getting support in terms maternity allowance, supply of medicines in the community clinic, supervision of the demonstration plots, vaccination and de-worming support for livestock, agricultural support, etc. During one of the UDCC meetings, Md. Habibur Rahman, Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer and member of the UDCC, Betgari Union, said, *"The Department of Agriculture is assisting in setting up family vegetable gardens. Interested persons who have abandoned one to two decimals of land could contact us to receive support."*

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

JANO also facilitates UNCC meetings at the Upazila level on a two-month interval. In Y4, 30 UNCC meetings were organized with an average of 30 members in each meeting. The objective of the meetings is to share departmental progresses, challenges and lessons learned. Each department brought forth their departmental achievements and discussed potential challenges. Through these meetings, interdepartmental coordination was increased, departments more closely understood each other's activities, and were enabled to support each other for implementing planned activities. Departments are now jointly organizing events to achieve outcomes at a broader scale. For example, departments jointly organized events awareness rallies, cooking demonstrations, distributed Nutrition Packs for PLW, etc., during National Nutrition Week 2022 under the UNCC banners.

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

In this reporting period, JANO facilitated the organization of four district-level (DNCC) meetings (Rangpur-2, Nilphamari-2) to review the progress and challenges of the nutrition action plan. Meetings were chaired by the respective Deputy Commissioners of each district. In the meetings, participants discussed departmental engagement against COVID-19, engaging the Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute authority as a DNCC member to ensure food safety, study findings on locally available nutrition sources, and other topics. Each participating department also talked about their achievements and discussed ongoing challenges and measures to address them.

2.3.4 Facilitated Community Score Cards for the UDCC nutrition action plans

UDCC accountability is reinforced through the exercise of the social accountability tool, Community Score Card (CSC). 12-18 community support group members are elected from each union to form CSC teams. These teams share CSC findings against benchmarks of the Nutrition Action Plan at UDCC meetings. CSC scoring is measured against set indicators following the minimum district nutrition



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package²⁷ recommended by BNNC, where the project assisted the committees to develop multi-sectoral action plans to address emerging issues. During the reporting period, 96 CSC exercises took place on the nutrition action plan of UDCC for the FY 2021-22 (in 64 UP) and FY 2020-21 (32 UP). The exercise is repeated every year regarding the planned nutrition action plan of each fiscal year, to guarantee that local communities can monitor progress in an open and transparent manner. The exercise created the opportunity among various departments to look back on progress against the planned activities of the nutrition action plan and to create pressure from the community people as well as from the local government's side.

2.3.5 Facilitated Social Audit by CSG members

To reinforce the accountability of the UDCC, JANO uses another tool called Social Audit on a yearly basis. The exercise focuses on monitoring the budget and resource allocation by Union Parishads (UPs) per government protocol, and the allocation of their resources toward the multi-sectoral nutrition action plans. The exercise helps ensure multi-sectoral budget allocation and improve the quality of implementation and citizen's engagement.

To do the social audit, teams of 12-18 CSG members from each union were formed to conduct the social audit. During the reporting period, JANO conducted 61 social audit sessions to go through the comprehensive budget allocation as per the government guideline and to measure the quality of the implemented government projects at the Union Parishad. The audit team also physically visited areas where the nutrition sensitive interventions were implemented and assessed the quality of implementation and services in poor and marginalized communities. Findings were then raised in a public hearing meeting at the UDCC.

Through the social audit, Union Parishad representatives were sensitized on comprehensive budget allocation. Most UPs are now considering the government circular²⁸ during the preparation of the annual budget. JANO observed that the Union Parishad addressed last year's implementation gaps (identified through the social audit process) during the implementation of this year's activities. For example, Khokshabari Union under Nilphamari Sadar identified that a vendor was not providing high quality CI sheets²⁹ for adolescent corners. As a result, the Union Parishad repaired the work this year following their own initiative.

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

In Y4, JANO organized 64 annual review and reflection meetings jointly with the UDCC and CSG groups to ensure better compilation of 208 Community Clinics' annual action plans and to address the priorities of the CSG. This activity ensures that CC plans are addressed correctly in the UDCC plans and accordingly creates the provision for next year's annual budget (2022-2023), considering the availability of funds. It was considered that the most important issues were included in the yearly UDCC nutrition action plans. The key issues addressed were largely the same as the prior year, namely the boundary wall of the community clinic, the establishment of the WASH block in the CC, increase the

²⁷ Pusti package (nutrition package) is the minimum district nutrition package recommended by BNNC, MoH&FW, where it proposes a set of activities (priority minimum services/interventions/activities) by different line departments with specific indicators to measure progress.

²⁸ The circular is the instruction/guideline of the national government of Bangladesh for allocating budgets focusing on 10 different sectors, such as agriculture, fishery, livestock, education, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH). It indicates possible sector-wise minimum and maximum budget allocations ordered by the government, and which local government should comply with. Examples of notable allocations: agriculture and irrigation (min 10%, max 15%); livestock and fisheries (min 10%, max 15%); health and family welfare (min 10%, max 15%).

²⁹ A thin structural sheet made of iron or steel, formed with alternating ridges and troughs.

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number of sanitary latrines and tube wells at the community level, increase the number of safety net support systems for pregnant and lactating women in the UP budget, the establishment of a breastfeeding corner in the community clinics, the establishment of nutrition-sensitive gardens, the social allocation of agricultural input, and the supply of medicine.

2.3.7 DNCC visits at the Union level to monitor the implementation of the nutrition action plan and provide guidance



DNCC members visit at Ramnagar Union Parishad, Nilphamari Sadar

JANO organized an exposure visit for select DNCC members to oversee and experience the interventions at the Union Parishad level, as well as to encourage DNCC members to institutionalize regular field visits and share their findings at DNCC meetings. Monitoring visits have been a tool for the DNCC to develop plans to address challenges faced by communities, with active participation and commitment from relevant departments and agencies in the DNCC. The BNNC online M&E system was shared during the visit to make the DNCC members understand how the M&E system will finally reflect the district level nutrition plan. ICT-

enabled data platforms were also introduced to the DNCC members, so that they can understand the local context and set priorities for the district annual nutrition action plan. During the visit, DNCC members observed UDCC-level planned activities and reflected that they are not gender transformative. They suggested including women's empowerment-related activities in the UDCC plan, and ensure that the gender analysis tool is applied to include gender-transformative approaches in all activities under the plan.

2.3.8 Organized and supported the district's "right to food" forum to engage with the DNCC and create peer pressure for the implementation of the nutrition action plans (soft accountability)



Right to Food meeting at Rangpur Sadar

At the district level, a civil society forum called Right to Food (RTF) was invited by JANO to have a discussion with DNCC members on their annual nutrition plan. RTF Bangladesh is a platform with more than 100 local, national and international NGOs and networks. The forum aims to ensure the right to adequate food and nutrition for citizens, especially for the marginalized population. The forum also plays the role of a pressure group for implementing the planned activities under the government nutrition plans.

In this reporting period, two meetings of the forum were held in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts, with a total of 36 members participating in each meeting. These meetings have created the opportunity to raise issues regarding the progress of the UNCC and DNCC nutrition action plan, and to help elevate grassroots-level issues to district-level decision makers.

2.3.9 Annual reflection learning meeting between the district food forum and the DNCC

During the reporting period, a meeting was jointly organized by the DNCC Nilphamari and the Right-to-Food Nilphamari district forum. The objective of the meeting was to explore how both platforms can collaborate and work to improve the nutrition status of the population. The Chairperson of RTF Nilphamari said that both platforms can jointly organize different events, such as the observance of

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national days and nutrition-focused activities. As the members of RTF are from different CSOs, they can contribute and oversee the progress of the nutrition action plan. It was not possible to organize the same meeting in Rangpur district due to the limited availability and work priorities of the leading member of the RTF forum and DNCC.

Expected Result 3

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

3.1.1 Women entrepreneurs' capacity building



"I was an ordinary woman until JANO empowered me as an entrepreneur, linking me with ACI. I now sell vegetable seeds, ensuring nutrition within my home and the whole community." Nasima Akhter, Gangachara, Rangpur

In Y4, JANO organized trainings for 208 potential women entrepreneurs (one under each CC). The trainings were conducted in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Extension, the Department for Women Affairs and private sector actors (ACI Seed, Mega Feed and Nirapad Sanitary Napkin). The trainings aimed to empower poor and extremely poor women economically. Training topics included, for example, how to initiate a business, the quality of higher nutritious vegetables, the characteristics of seeds, the sources of quality seeds/feed, cultivation time, consumption rate considering body weight and milk production, etc.

Among the women, 52 have evolved into entrepreneurs that attend CSG meetings and aggregate community demands as a part of their business strategy. Some have already started selling agricultural inputs, such as seeds, cattle feed, and sanitary napkins in collaboration with private sector actors. The training was provided at different times in the Upazilas, and as such, the remaining women

are still preparing their businesses. The women regularly discuss their business ideas at CSG meetings. This initiative will strengthen service accessibility for the community people as well as improve the livelihoods of the women entrepreneurs, which will in turn contribute to uplifting the nutritional status of the wider community.

3.1.2 Start-up business support

To promote climate-smart agricultural practices, increase the production of high value nutritious vegetables at the homestead and enhance access to services, JANO organized trainings for 70 individuals, namely the women entrepreneurs, interested to produce natural fertilizer through using vermicomposting³⁰ (35 husbands and wives as peers to support each other during production). This initiative also helps to popularize the production and usage of organic climate-friendly fertilizer in the wider community. JANO worked with the Department of Agricultural Extension to select trainees and DAE officials, with JANO support, provided the training in seven Upazilas (five peers from each Upazila). JANO is providing in-kind support for business start-up, such as inputs to prepare the vermicomposting pit.

³⁰ Vermicomposting is high quality organic manure prepared with a combination of decomposed cow dung and earthworms in a vermicomposting pit.

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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 set ups on high-value nutritious commodities



Demonstration of homestead vegetable gardening at Taragonj Upazila

JANO is working to improve the knowledge of farmers and relevant government and private sector stakeholders on high-value nutritious commodities. To facilitate this, JANO supported establishing 450 demonstration plots of high value nutritious commodities across the seven Upazilas. Out of these, 382 plots focus on homestead vegetable cultivation applying climate-smart technologies, 64 plots on fodder cultivation for livestock, seven plots on bio-fortified zinc rice and seven plots on vitamin-A enriched BARI sweet potato. To implement this activity, DAE and DLS provided technical support and the private sector (ACI seed) provided seed input support. JANO also organized 450 process-sharing events on the demonstrations, which 11,126 community members attended. During the events, knowledge was

shared on the production techniques of high value nutritious commodities. Through these efforts, JANO established linkages among government departments and the private sector to make the extension of service and inputs available to farmers. As a result, 1,575 homestead vegetable gardens have been replicated.

3.2.2 Organized farmers' training for technology dissemination

JANO organized 750 batches (558 batches for homestead vegetable gardening and 192 for livestock rearing) of trainings on homestead gardening with higher value nutritious vegetable cultivation using climate-smart agricultural practices,³¹ fodder cultivation, dairy management, and rearing during this reporting year. In each batch, an average of 10 participants attended the session. A total of 5,580 participants (75% women) received homestead gardening and 1,920 participants (77% women) received 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 and rearing, and fodder cultivation at the community level. Most participants established vegetable gardens at their homestead and started improved dairy management practices as a consequence of their training session. The session used a government approved training module and participatory facilitation involving private and public sector trainers.

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

JANO organized four sessions of Farmers Field Day (FFD) on bio-fortified zinc rice (BRRI 84) demonstrations and three sessions on sweet potato (Vitamin A enriched BARI Sweet Potato 8 and 12) demonstrations in collaboration with DAE, BARI, TCRC Breeder Tuber Seed Production Center, Debiganj, Panchagar, and Regional Rice Research Center under BRRI Rangpur. The objective was to share the results of the demonstrations and raise the awareness of the community on the vegetables' benefits to meet the micronutrient deficiency of children and PLW. Around 738 community people (male-237, female-501) participated in the events.

³¹ The project is promoting the following five climate smart techniques: (i) organic farming; (ii) inter cropping; (iii) vegetable cultivation on raised bed; (iv) crop diversification; and (v) mulching.

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3.2.4 Conducted Government frontline staff's capacity-building training

JANO supported the respective UNCCs to organize 33 training sessions for government frontline staff on nutrition issues. 920 (432 female) frontline staff from six departments³² participated in the trainings. The training helped frontline staff improve their knowledge on nutrition issues in order to deliver nutrition-related messages and services to the CSGs and other community people. The respective Upazila-level government officials facilitated the sessions, which covered the following topics: multi-sectoral aspects and nutritional activities; basic concepts of food and nutrition; health services of PLW and adolescents; balanced food for PLW, adolescents and children under five years of age; safe food, food adulteration and preservation; and highly nutritious food preparation at home. Before the training, JANO conducted a training needs assessment to identify the knowledge gaps of the staff. Based on the assessment findings, a draft multi-sectoral nutrition handbook was developed and validated with the departmental heads of all relevant departments. The handbook was finalized and distributed to all participants as a resource material.

3.2.5 Private extension agents' capacity building

JANO supported the conduct of 13 batches of private extension agents' trainings in seven Upazilas of Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. Two sessions of trainings were held in each Upazila: one in agriculture and another in livestock rearing. 270 (16 female) private extension service providers (input retailers, para veterinarians, women vaccinators and artificial insemination workers) attended the trainings, both in agriculture and livestock. The events were organized through a collaboration of public departments (DAE and DLS) and private sector actors (ACI Seed and ACI Animal Health). The objectives of the training were to improve the knowledge of private extension agents on climate-smart agricultural techniques and nutrition-sensitive and specific issues so that they can disseminate this information to community members. Topics discussed included: quality seeds and seed preservation; pest control management; livestock rearing; vaccination and artificial insemination; and nutrition sensitive and specific services. The technical sessions were facilitated by the government departments and private sectors representatives. Only one batch of training was conducted in agriculture at the Jaldhaka Upazila under Nilphamari district.

3.2.6 Diversifying and enhancing nutritional intake through innovative dietary approaches



*Cooking Demonstration at
Gangachara, Rangpur*

JANO supported the organization of 128 cooking demonstrations at the community level by using the harvested vegetables from the demonstration gardens. The key objectives of the events were to raise awareness of community members on a diversified use of vegetables and introduce different recipes which retain the nutritional value of vegetables. The events created community sensitization on different cooking methods that can enrich the nutritional merits of foods and boost consumption. A total of 6,571 community people (4,500 female), including CSG members, attended. Community elites, respective government officials and private sector representatives participated in the events as well.

³² Departments include: Health and Family Planning, Agriculture Extension, Livestock Services, Primary and Secondary Education, and Women Affairs.



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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 Disseminated Food Fortification Study findings:

JANO commissioned a study titled “*Scoping of fortified and nutritious food products for the targeted households and strengthening the distribution network to the last mile.*” The study was led by CARE Bangladesh and conducted by ICDDR,B, one of the most renowned research organizations globally. The study explored the attitudes, preferences, knowledge, and practices related to fortified food and fortified food supply chain actors. This assessment identified the reasons influencing consumers’ decisions to purchase fortified and non-fortified foods.

Key findings:

- Only 41% of respondents had heard about fortified foods, and among them 52% did not know the process of food fortification.
- Despite the increased cost, respondents were willing to spend 107 BDT (approximately \$1.23 USD) per week for Vitamin A fortified oil and 15 BDT (\$0.17 USD) for iodized salt per week in addition to the regular household expense.
- Less than half of respondents (48.9%) were using other fortified food in addition to iodized salt.
- Affordability was reported as one of the primary barriers to consuming fortified foods. In addition to this, several other factors influenced fortified food purchase and consumption: lack of availability in markets, the distribution of decision-making power between men and women within the household, knowledge about adulteration, lack of trust in fortified food products, and input from relatives.
- Mass media, relatives and neighbors, and the fortified food suppliers are the major source of information in areas where community health workers and community mobilization programs are not playing a major role in raising awareness about the importance of fortified food.

Food Fortification Roundtable: Following the study findings, a roundtable titled “*Food Fortification towards Sustainable Nutrition Security*” was jointly organized by JANO and The Daily Star³³ on April 26, 2022 in Dhaka. A panel of experts from different fields and organizations came together to discuss the findings, challenges, and solutions to tackle the challenges related to food fortification moving forward.

The roundtable discussion resulted in recommendations, as followed:

1. Fortified food products need to be made affordable for the poor community.
2. Mass media campaigns should be organized to make people aware of fortified foods.
3. An extensive advocacy campaign should be undertaken to raise awareness.
4. Producers should introduce smaller packaging options for fortified oil.
5. Fortified food products should be included in food support programs, including primary and secondary school meal programs.
6. Cultivation of new and more enriched varieties of bio-fortified crops should be promoted.
7. The supply chain of fortified food should be monitored regularly.

3.3.2 Organize community level meetings to popularize nutrition-fortified and nutritious products at the rural level.

41 community meetings were organized during this reporting year at the CSG level under Gangachara, Kaunia, Taraganj, and Nilphamari Sadar Upazila for popularizing nutrition-fortified and nutritious

³³ A prominent newspaper in Bangladesh.

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products in the community. The meetings were facilitated by the women entrepreneurs with the support of CSGs. Through these meetings, entrepreneurs introduced to their nutritious and fortified products to the community, so that the community can buy the products from their doorsteps moving forward.

Expected Result 4

Activity 4.1: Strengthen existing government Management Information System (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

JANO continues to develop effective working relationships with national and sub-national-level government departments to facilitate ICT-based interventions in the project areas. The project organized a national-level meeting with BNNC along with other peer organizations to finalize the nutrition activities for the BNNC online M&E system, which has been developed to support the DNCCs and UNCCs implement, monitor and review progress of their nutrition action plans. As the government is planning to deploy the system nation-wide for all 64 districts, the online M&E system has been adjusted with different types of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive planned activities concerning all 64 districts of Bangladesh. This pre-startup activity finalization will help to ensure an error-free data input system country-wide. At the sub-national level, the project team attended two district-level meetings and seven sub-district-level government meetings to discuss ICT-related progress and challenges and plan upcoming interventions and capacity development initiatives.

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



BNNC online M&E system launch event with the presence of the Minister, BNNC and JANO staff

JANO organized a launch event for the BNNC online M&E system on September 26, 2022, where the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, attended as the chief guest. Through the event, the project reached an important milestone as the endorsement from the Honorable Minister will help the project to successfully implement the online M&E system moving forward. At the event, the 'Online M&E System' was presented by the Deputy Director of BNNC. Other important dignitaries from the European Union, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UN Network for SUN, UN agencies, UK Aid, CARE Bangladesh, Concern Bangladesh, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, and Save the Children attended the event.

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 vertical and horizontal communication among government departments at the district and sub-district level

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Orientation session of DNCC staff on the BNNC online M&E system at Rangpur

JANO completed the development and deployment of the BNNC online M&E system. After the national launch, JANO worked closely with the BNNC to resolve a few technical issues that remained in the system.

JANO's team supported the sub-national level government departments to complete data entry (District and Upazila planning activities) for the annual nutrition plan 2020-2021 for all 14 Upazilas (seven in non-working Upazilas)

under Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. To date, JANO is supporting the government to initiate progress entry (compared to the annual nutrition plan 2020-2021).

Overall, progress of the online M&E system is somewhat delayed as the government is currently resolving final technical issues in the system. The system is in operation, but before replication country-wide, it is key to ensure all issues are resolved and the system is adjusted based on the different types of activities in each district for all 64 districts nation-wide. JANO expects the full functionality of the system by November 2022, especially for project districts, once one cycle of both annual plan and progress against the annual plan entry is complete. Furthermore, JANO continues to develop the capacity of the sub-national-level government staff to ensure a smooth engagement with, and operation of, the system.

4.2.2 Testing and deployment of android-based nutrition information platform

JANO started the development of a mobile-based online monitoring system from the same web-based M&E system used by the government. This system will enable an easy data entry process and keep the information handy whenever and wherever required. This will make the overall system faster and will help the connected government department have a unified, systematic and centralized decision-making process.

The startup of this process was delayed, as JANO first conducted an in-house need analysis on the requirements of the mobile-based app (as suggested by the government) and due to delayed responses from the government counterpart amid the joining of the new Directorate General (DG) of BNNC. mPower was hired to provide technical and capacity building support during the development and deployment process. At present, mPower prepared a report on the software requirement specifications and submitted it in January 2023.

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

After deployment of the eLearning applications described below, regular system maintenance is a necessary part of the process to keep the application server up and running and to fix any ongoing issues with the system. Additionally, based on feedback collected from end users, some system-level changes to the apps were required. To address this, JANO hired mPower for the duration of one year to provide regular maintenance support, troubleshooting, cloud server space support for storing application data, and some user interface-level changes.

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

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Volunteer conducting courtyard session using JANO eSession application

To enhance the nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive knowledge and awareness among the volunteers, frontline workers and community people, JANO developed and deployed five eLearning applications, particularly targeting pregnant and lactating women, adolescents and mothers of children under 5 years of age. These apps include:

- **eSession:** An interactive digital learning system containing government-certified nutritional information. It is used by volunteers to teach project participants in the same way they would do with flipcharts.
- **eLearning for Volunteers & Frontline Workers:** An android app for volunteers and frontline workers where they can access government-approved digital content regarding nutrition for their self-learning.
- **eLearning for Beneficiaries:** An interactive, easy to navigate and audio-visual-focused eLearning app developed for PLW, children under 5 and adolescents containing government-approved nutrition-related content.
- **Knowledge Repository:** A web portal where all nutritional data and other useful information will be stored, and which will be accessible to everyone with every device (laptop/mobile).
- **eSBCC:** An SMS service for the project beneficiaries filled with government-approved nutrition-related short messages.



Shyamoli Akhtar (25), lactating mother from Nilphamari showing nutrition message she received JANO eSBCC

Two of the given applications (eSession and eLearning) were developed for volunteers and government frontline workers. Presently, 60% of volunteers are using the apps for conducting courtyard sessions with interactive session modules and audiovisual content, and the eLearning app helps them with self-learning and self-evaluation. JANO faced some challenges while introducing the eLearning app to frontline workers, as there were some customized needs from the government. As of now, only about 44 out of 957 frontline workers are using the eLearning apps in the project area. To address this, based on feedback received, JANO is working to make necessary modifications to the app, so it is tailored to the government and may be used



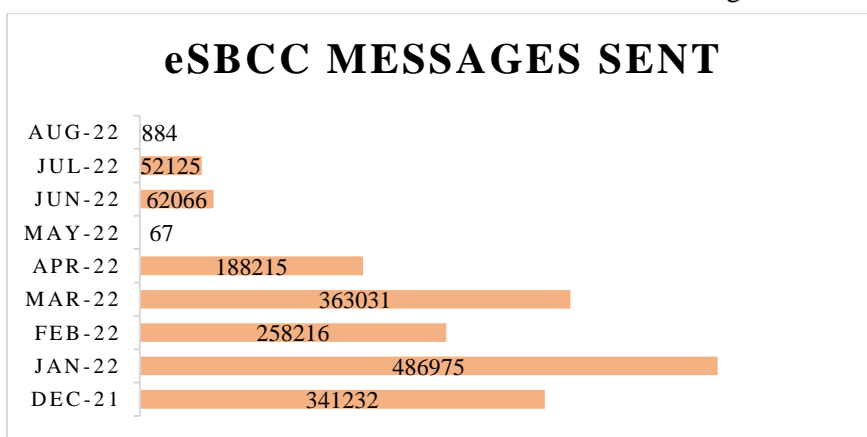
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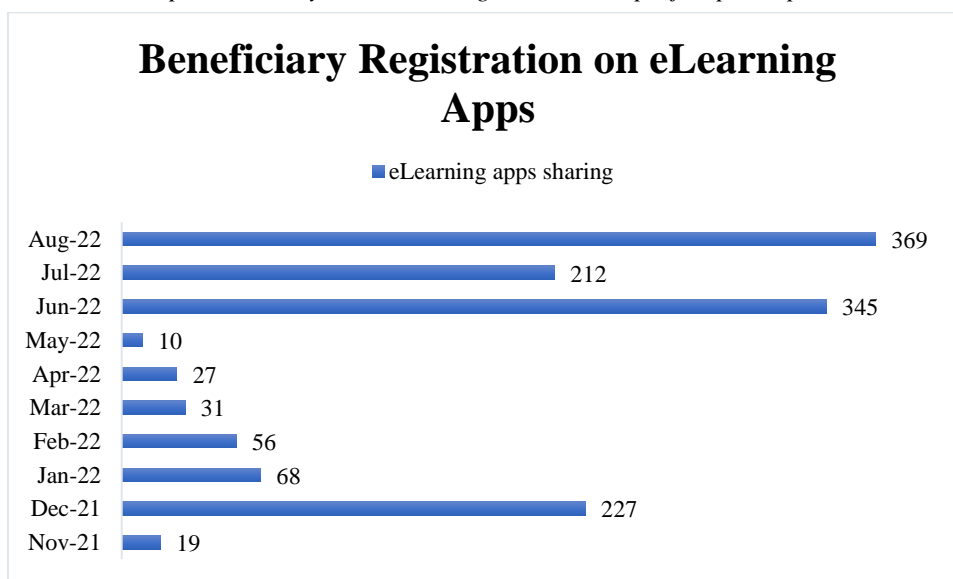
by frontline workers more effectively. A training is also being designed to enhance their skillset to use the app.

eLearning for beneficiaries is designed specifically for the project participants and was distributed to around 1,500 participants now registered in the app. Through this app, participants are getting different types of interactive nutrition-related content pertaining to best practices. *“Digesting the information is a lot easier now, by viewing pictures and videos to understand the content easily,”* said a lactating mother in Balapara Union, Kaonia, Rangpur.

The project also deployed eSBCC (an SMS-based learning system) to distribute 37 government-approved nutrition-related text messages to about 47,000 pregnant and lactating women, mothers of children under 5 and adolescents to-date. In total, around 1.7 million messages have been dispatched.



Graph 4: Monthly eSBCC messages sent to the project participants



Graph 5: Beneficiary registration on eLearning apps facilitated by the volunteers

4.3.1 Capacity building for Government officials

The project worked directly with the sub-national level government departments to facilitate the capacity development process of government staff. There was no formal training arranged in Y4. However, the project staff visited government officials to understand their constraints and also gather

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their feedback on the BNCC online M&E system to incorporate requests for changes, which will be addressed by mPower in Y5.

4.3.2 Organized ToT for ICT Officers/Consultants

Completed in Y3.

4.3.3 Arranged training for UNCC and DNCC members

A refresher training is planned for UNCC and DNCC staff in Y5, to be conducted by mPower, focusing on the use of the mobile-based online M&E system application.

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

JANO developed four docu-drama shows to raise awareness on ICT-based interventions. The objective was to motivate participants to use the eLearning solutions. In Y5, JANO will organize a series of campaigns to showcase the dramas in the communities, and encourage communities to embrace ICT-based information access. The docu-dramas will also be shared on the JANO Facebook platform and on the mobile phones of participants to further broaden coverage. This activity was delayed as it was dependent on the deployment of the eLearning applications.

Activity 4.4. Talking Book initiative



Salma with her son, from Gangachara, Ranpur showing the Talking Book

JANO deployed 208 Talking Books³⁴ through 208 volunteers in Rangpur and Nilphamari. All the volunteers were trained and provided with detailed operational guidelines. The volunteers applied, and will continue to apply, a group approach (5-10 members per group) to circulate the Talking Book messages. The project received a highly positive response from different levels of project participants and the Talking Book has played a vital role in disseminating messages in an interactive and fun manner. “Talking book helped me to take necessary services during and after my pregnancy”, said an individual from Khokshabari

Union, Nilphamari. Notable outcomes include:

- 208 volunteers were trained and deployed the Talking Books in all seven Upazilas;
- 61,647 participants were reached under the Talking Book intervention;
- A deployment guideline was developed for volunteers;
- An animated video manual was developed for easy learning by end-users.
- 50 audio contents developed from government-approved information sources (completed in prior year)

Other Activities

- **Partner Coordination Meeting**

During the reporting period, 11 partner coordination meetings were held in Rangpur and Nilphamari. In the meetings, the partners discussed project progress and the way forward for the subsequent period.

- **Quarterly Progress Review Workshop**

³⁴ A Talking Book is an audio device that can hold a library of informational audio content in an interactive manner. The device uses different icon-based buttons, where project participants choose the topics that interest them most and can replay content as often as they want.



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The project organized four quarterly progress review workshops. Workshops were held physically and all senior staff of the JANO consortium participated in the discussion sessions. Through the meetings, the project's progress, challenges, lessons learned, and the way forward were discussed and the workplan was updated for the next quarter.

▪ **Refresher Training on M&E Tools and Techniques**

Previously in the project, JANO contracted the development of a 'Stream' platform for collecting and representing project M&E data. However, for various reasons, this platform has not functioned well. The team is rigorously working with the contractor (StreamTech) to identify solutions for the issues and revive the system, but its effective rollout within the remaining project period is uncertain. In the meantime, to continue necessary data flow, the project trained 256 volunteers (201 community volunteers and 55 school volunteers) on how to easily collect data from the field using Kobo tools. Through this online tool, the project has been able to manage data quickly, which helps with data-driven decisions. The workload of the volunteers has also been reduced, as paper-based information collection methods are not needed.

▪ **Yearly Reflection and Learning Workshop**

JANO organized a three-day annual reflection and learning workshop from March 28 to 31, 2022 at Cox's Bazar. Senior Management from CARE Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh and Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) attended the workshop and delegates from European Union, CARE Austria and the Country Director of CARE Bangladesh joined virtually. Key outcomes and conclusions from the workshop included:

- Built a common understanding within consortium staff on different CARE markers³⁵ used in the JANO project;
- Raised staff members' awareness on audit compliance and fraud;
- Identified advocacy issues;
- Developed a communication and branding plan and discussed with the consortium; and
- Determined the operation strategy needs updating, focusing on priority issues in Bangla to reach all staff for a common understanding.

Representatives from the BNCC and the private sector participated in an interactive panel discussion session on '*Public-private coordination and collaboration to strengthen nutrition governance in JANO*' during the workshop. Through this, a good understanding was created among BNCC and private sector partners on strengthening nutrition governance and the roles of private sector actors in developing strategies for documentation and communication for advocacy and policy influence.

- **Conducted JANO M&E systems refresher and self-evaluated the progress on Gender, Governance and Resilience using marker tools**

³⁵Three markers are used, including: 1) Gender Marker: Gender Marker is a self-assessment program quality and learning tool. It measures the integration of gender into programming along the CARE Gender Continuum from harmful to transformative; 2) Inclusive Governance Marker: Inclusive Governance Marker is an internal accountability and learning tool of CARE aimed at assessing the degree to which a project integrates inclusive governance into programming; 3) Resilience Marker: Resilience Marker is a tool that allows teams to self-assess how well resilience is integrated into their projects and provides a starting point for further reflection on integrating resilience throughout the project cycle.

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JANO organized a two-day JANO M&E systems refresher and workshop on CARE's Gender, Governance and Resilience markers from August 23 to 24, 2022. All senior JANO staff from CARE, Plan and ESDO participated and reviewed JANO's M&E activities. Topics included: an overview of JANO's M&E systems; the participatory performance evaluation of the CSG; the effectiveness of the GEMS community approach; ensuring program quality and progress through quality monitoring; challenges and the way forward for tracking nutrition planning and spending. The gender, governance, and resilience assessment tools were briefly presented as well as the progress in these areas. Group presentations on different markers took place and received feedback from other groups.



JANO M&E refresher workshop

▪ CARE Austria team visited different interventions in the field

In August 2022, staff from CARE Austria (Deputy Head of Program and Program Officer) visited JANO interventions, met with relevant stakeholders, and reflected on project progress and areas for improvement with the team. After field observations, the visitors reflected, *“The initial hypothesis of the project is rolling out on the ground. The system is working much better now than in the inception period of the project.”*



Student Cabinet members briefing CARE Austria on adolescent corner activities under the JANO project

▪ European Union Delegation (EUD) Visit

European Delegates Margherita Capalbi (Programme Manager, Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition), Laura Cecchi (Programme Manager, Finance and Contracts), and Meher Nigar Bhuiyan (Programme Manager, Resilience and Livelihoods) visited the JANO project from February 28 to March 1, 2022 in Nilphamari and Rangpur. The delegates, with accompanying project staff, met with different stakeholders and platforms, such as CSGs, students and school teachers, farmers, SMCs, School Cabinets, pregnant women and lactating mothers, private sector representatives, and government officials at the district and regional level. The delegates also observed different project events and activities. At the end of their visit, they provided a debrief of their observations and findings, highlighting the project's effort toward target goals despite COVID-19 challenges.



Discussion session at the Deputy Commissioner's office, Rangpur

2.3 Challenges and lessons learned

Challenges

- The JANO budget revision and amendment process in Y4 delayed some key activities, particularly those planned for the first quarter of the year. This impacted overall activity implementation in Y4, however preparation efforts prior to the submission of the amendment request helped minimize some of the congestion.



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- **Restriction on staff movement due to COVID-19:** The second wave of COVID-19 continued until March 2022. Mobility and large community gatherings were restricted by the government, and in alignment with this, CARE Bangladesh limited staff mobility. As a result, JANO staff were compelled to postpone some activities. To mitigate this, when possible, JANO leveraged alternative modalities to continue activities, but overall quality and monitoring of the activities was hampered to some degree. JANO also developed guidelines for online monitoring of activities to promote engagement with volunteers and the community.
- **Limited availability of CG/CSG members:** The chairs of CG/CSGs usually play a leading role in running and managing the group. However, as they are local leaders, their availability is affected by their ongoing political engagement. Similarly, CG and CSG members' time is limited as they must prioritize their occupations, and engagement in CG/CSGs provides no monetary benefit. This sometimes slows the activities of CG/CSGs. To address this, JANO engages in continuous rapport building and, when possible, tries to identify alternative engaged persons to perform the chair's role as back-up.
- **Balancing compliance and administrative procedures with the on-time procurement of products and services:** In 2022, JANO had a number of large procurement activities of a technical nature. Identifying technical expertise to support the procurement process proved to be challenging and time-consuming. For example, an engineer's input was needed for the proper development of Terms of Reference for the construction of handwashing stations. Moreover, for quality monitoring of the establishment of the handwashing stations, JANO needed to ensure the engagement of local government and school authorities. As a result, the procurement process took longer than expected, which delayed project implementation. To mitigate this challenge, JANO leveraged its network to identify external expertise and also used internal-project expertise.

Lesson learned: For large-budget procurement, purchasing items that need a technical specification is time-sensitive. Thus, the procurement process should start earlier than expected.

In another case, JANO identified 3,200 poor and extremely poor households to receive support for their homestead gardening. However, it later became clear that some of the households had insufficient space to practice gardening. To guarantee the procurement of inputs tailored to their needs, the project team then conducted a situation analysis. This proved time-intensive and, as a result, the procurement process was not completed on schedule. One season was lost for homestead gardening, however JANO's support is ultimately better suited to the context. Based on the analysis findings, JANO proceeded only with the procurement of livestock support.

- **Price increases and procurement:** Variances between the allocated budget for procurements and bidders' proposed amounts further complicated and delayed procurement processes. Examples include procurement for start-up business support for women entrepreneurs and support for livestock for poor and extremely poor households. Variance resulted from price increases for materials during Y4. To mitigate this, JANO leveraged savings from other activities, as well as arranged meetings with vendors to make them understand the requirements. The retendering of procurements and adjustment of budget per the new market price was also another strategy.
- **Government bureaucratic formalities:** The national level tripartite MoU process under Result 3 has been delayed by more than a year due to government bureaucratic formalities. After a common understanding among the DAE Unit, MoAg, ACI (private company) and JANO, the MoU was finalized and submitted to the DEI for processing in April 2021. From DAE, the MoU was shared with the Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN) and other departments of MoAg for review. After their review, DAE then forwarded the MoU to the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Business. JANO's rapport with the



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Ministerial Secretary of Agriculture accelerated the process, but after back-and-forth, the MoU remains in review at the ministry level. To mitigate this challenge, local-level relationships were leveraged and JANO initiated several joint tripartite initiatives at the local level last year. In another case, government approval postponed GEMS module development for the primary level. After delays in approval of the GEMS primary manual from the Directorate of Primary Education, JANO decided to instead perform this activity with a government-approved module of the Directorate of Family Planning as opposed to the GEMS module. In Y5, this activity will be implemented with the support of the Family Government Planning Division.

Lesson learned: Any initiatives with the government are both time-sensitive and time-intensive, and should start soon after project launch to minimize delay to the intervention.

- Development of women as business entrepreneurs: JANO has found that, in order to sufficiently and appropriately support the women entrepreneurs to develop successful businesses, significant staff time and project resources need to be invested. To date, due to their project responsibilities, JANO's staff have faced difficulties finding sufficient bandwidth (time) to mentor the women entrepreneurs to grow their business initiatives. On the other hand, the women's limited access to finance has presented another challenge to their establishment as an entrepreneur.

Lesson learned: Any livelihood activities or income generating activities need significant time, both in terms of staff investment and duration, to fully create the desired positive outcomes.

- Malfunctioning devices and limited ICT knowledge of volunteers caused delayed M&E data from the field: Select devices used for M&E record keeping have malfunctioned, and repair and management has proven a lengthy process. As a result, some regular M&E data was delayed for uploading or sharing in Y4. To continue recording data, some volunteers used their smart/Android mobile available at their households. JANO is currently in the process of procuring services for repairs, however securing a vendor has proven challenging due to vendors' limited availability.
- Frequent transfer of government officials and low internalization of newly acquired knowledge and skills affected the progress of data input/reporting in the BNNC online M&E system. Similarly, CSGs are reformed every two years, the UDCC every five years, and some members of DNCC/UNCC frequently change due to government transfer processes. This delays overall nutritional governance processes, and in turn JANO's efforts, as it takes time for new members to adapt to the planning and implementation process.
- Introducing eLearning apps to mothers, pregnant and lactating women: JANO has observed that some mothers, pregnant and lactating women have limited technical skills, which is a challenge for their use of the eLearning apps. However, to mitigate this, JANO encourages other members of the family (such as adolescent girls or boys) to assist the women in using the apps and accessing the key information.
- Slow government response: Under Result 4, the project received slow responses from the government regarding several activities. As the government is a key stakeholder in these activities, this caused delays and prevented the team from moving forward in a timely manner. For example, the correction of minor errors in the BNNC online M&E system. To mitigate this, project staff regularly visited the government staff in-person to receive immediate feedback and approvals.
- Interdependency of activities: Some activities depend heavily on other activities, and as a result, delays in one activity can have a cascade effect. For example, the project hired mPower to incorporate changes to eLearning solutions under Result 4 based on user feedback. A refresher training for government staff and volunteers was scheduled to occur afterwards, but as the



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changes faced delays, so too was the training delayed. To address this instance, the project deployed a technical person on the team to make the process smoother and faster.

Other Lessons Learned:

- Leadership at the local level plays a critical role in maternal and child nutrition. At the community level and its next tier, leadership, commitment, and resources are crucial. Through JANO's advocacy efforts, facilitated and established leaders in CG, CSG, and UDCC evolved as nutrition champions/leaders.
- Bringing government service providers and local government in front of the community for social audits is sensitive and challenging. However, rapport building and demonstrating a clear understanding of the social audit process can neutralize the discomfort among the social auditors and government service providers.
- Extra curricula engagement in school builds adolescents' confidence and leadership. The adolescent corner, GEMS sessions, and karate training support adolescent girls to become empowered, confident and physically capable of protecting themselves.
- Each department should have a different budget line for its annual nutrition planning. This will increase the scope of work for nutrition improvement and enable an environment for more collaboration and coordination among departments to implement interventions collectively.
- Interactive tools (tools with a fun factor) can have more impact on the learning process of project participants. For example, participants have accepted Talking Books more than any other SBCC tools. Based on this, JANO is trying to embed interactive eLearning options (e.g. eManuals) in the SBCC tools to get a positive response.
- Community Clinics can be a great resource for distributing important information (message dissemination), as community people rely on their services. To capitalize on this, the project started to distribute eLearning apps through CHCP to community members who come to the clinic with a smartphone.
- The involvement of women in homestead gardening, especially in poor households, helps fulfill the nutrition demand and income needs of households. It also helps create a saving mentality among women, which helps them better mitigate shocks in the future.
- Demonstrations of diversified, higher value nutritious vegetable gardening at Union Parishad campuses can have a big impact among the surrounding people. There are many visitors to the Union Parishad, and these visitors may be encouraged to replicate the gardening at their homesteads.
- Service data on ANC, PNC, IFA, stunting, wasting, underweight and MDD are available within the GoB departments to understand periodic nutritional status development, which can be incorporated into the JANO reporting system.
- Managers and frontline staff of multisectoral departments should be annually provided with refresher trainings on the relationship of other departments to specific basic nutrition.
- Monitoring/follow-up of CSG meetings and activities by a second level of government officials, as a monitoring mechanism, should be required.

2.4 Logframe matrix updated

Please see attached Annex 1.

Table 8: Procurements above 60,000 EUR in Y4



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Budget Line	Vendors/ Consultants Name	Awarded amount Y4	Type of works/ Supplies/ Services	Brief description of how the contractor was selected
6.4.1.24 Development of an ICT- based Nutrition Information Portal on the District level	mPOWER Social Enterprises Ltd.	6,496,876.00 BDT 71,394.24 EUR equivalent	1. Development of BNNC online M&E system mobile application 2. Software maintenance and server space support for JANO eLearning application.	The contractor was selected through a non- competitive procurement modality.

2.5 Please provide an updated action plan for the future activities of the project

Please see attached Annex 3.

3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other cooperation

3.1 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 JANO team implements the project with a ‘one team’ approach. The working relationship between CARE and the two consortium partners, Plan International and ESDO, has been developed based on mutual understanding and trust. The consortium is an effective and efficient team with a shared vision. The division of project components among CARE and Plan International is based on each organization’s thematic expertise and skills. With smooth coordination and technical support by CARE and Plan International, ESDO directly implements interventions with shared staff at the field level.

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

The Government of Bangladesh remains fully determined to attain the goal of the ten-year Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN-2) to achieve food and nutrition security in Bangladesh. JANO helps ensure the quality implementation of the NPAN-2 and, as such, works closely with ministries at the national level to ensure regional level implementation and gain their full ownership. The JANO team has built and maintained an excellent relationship with the government and other related stakeholders. Through close relationships with officials of national-level departments—such as DSHE, the Ministry of Education, the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU), the Ministry of Food, the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition, Community Based Health Care, BNNC, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, BIRTAN, the Policy Wing Ministry of Agriculture, and Local Government Rural Development and Cooperation—JANO is able to implement the NPAN-2 smoothly at the ground level. For example, the project successfully engaged the Family Planning Department in the school health campaign. The team conducted advocacy on the functioning of the existing school health campaign, and the Divisional Director of the Family Planning Department took the initiative to engage government health service providers in the campaign. Simultaneously, the team has maintained good relationships with Rangpur divisional level Government Education officials (primary and secondary) and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA), working to functionalize the adolescent corners at UH&FWC. Staff of the Agriculture departments are assisting JANO to implement Expected Result 3 at the ground level, and Health and Family Welfare department front-line staff cooperate with JANO to continue courtyard sessions and activities at the CSG and CC level. Local government also supports JANO for the Social Audit and Community Score Card exercises, and local



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government admin departments have extended their support to continue the activities of the DNCC and UNCC. Importantly, the admin department supported JANO in issuing the letter of certificate for the NGO Bureau. Without this support, the smooth implementation of JANO interventions would be difficult.

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

- Associate(s) (if any):

Not applicable.

- Contractor(s) (if any):

During the reporting period, a number of consultants were hired to deliver specific services, including: the Annual Survey by the Data Management Aid (DMA); the ICT platform by mPower under Expected Result 4; the Food Fortification Study, the CSG performance assessment, and action research on adolescents' behavior by ICDDR, B; and the media fellowship with "Artistic Communication" and video animation with CATCH Bangladesh.

- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups:

The relationship with final beneficiaries and target groups is very good. Especially during the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, JANO volunteers continued to work closely with the beneficiaries to raise their awareness of preventative measures. JANO continued to build trusting relationships 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. Only through JANO's good relationships with beneficiaries and their support are the activities related to CC, CG, CSG and Union Parishad continuing effectively.

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

Apart from the consortium partners, JANO maintained close relationships with other projects, notably the projects implemented under the Food and Nutrition Security Programme (2015) funded by the European Union: MUCH, SUCHANA, LEAN, BEiNGS, CRAAIN, and SONGO. At the national level, JANO cooperated and collaborated with SONGO to organize a national-level workshop event on Nutrition Governance. During Y4, two teams from SONGO (led by CORDAID) and CRAAIN (led by Concern Worldwide) visited JANO project field sites for cross learning.

At present, the EU facilitated the arrangement of a national-level meeting to oversee nutrition governance project operation under the FNS umbrella lead by FPMU under the Ministry of Food. There are different structures with different senior officials, such as the Task Team Meeting, the Senior Management Board, and the Project Steering Committee. In these platforms, the Senior Team Lead of JANO represented the project and shared the project's progress, challenges, and lessons learned. Moreover, higher-ranking government officials from the FPMU visited JANO's project working areas. They provided feedback to improve implementation quality.

To implement Expected Result 4, especially for developing a national web-based M&E system for the district and sub-district nutrition coordination committee, JANO is working closely with Bangladesh's National Nutrition Council, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW). The BNCC cooperates with JANO to develop the district and sub-district annual nutrition plan. Under the MoH&FW, there is a multi-sectoral platform, led by the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Country Focal Point, which consists of representatives of the entire SUN network (Civil Society Alliance [CSA], donors, UN, business and academia). JANO's Senior Team Lead and CARE Bangladesh are co-chairs of the CSA SUN network and are thus part of this national multi-sectoral platform. The JANO Senior



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Team Lead is also a member of other nutrition working groups led by the BNNC and Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN). This participation keeps the project up-to-date on national-level strategy discussions and decisions, which have implications for JANO's implementation.

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

The team established non-financial collaboration with the USAID-funded Ujjiban³⁶ SBCC project. The JANO team is using many audio-visual SBCC materials from the Ujjiban project, which constitute government-approved materials, thus demonstrating an effective sharing of resources. In addition, noted above is JANO's close relationship with other projects implemented under the Food and Nutrition Security Programme funded by the European Union.

3.5 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).

Not applicable.

4. Visibility

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

The JANO project complies with the branding and visibility guidelines of the European Union and the Austrian Development Cooperation. During Y4, the project produced around 18 Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials, organized events, workshops, meetings, and purchased equipment. The project ensured proper visibility and branding of donor and consortium partners in all IEC materials produced, all events held and almost all equipment purchased. Most national and regional-level workshops, meetings, exposure visits and trainings organized by the JANO project ensured that the banners, festoons, notebooks, and pens were properly visible to project donors and implementing partners. All staff old and newly joined are aware of the visibility guidelines of the donors and partners.

4.2 Communication and visibility plan update

Activities	Deadline/ Timeline	Status
Publication of articles both in printed and electronic media	y2, y3, y4	<p>The national launching event of the BNNC online M&E platform was published in the following news media platforms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. https://www.newagebd.net/article/150262/bnnc-launches-digital-monitoring-system 2. https://www.tbsnews.net/bangladesh/health/bnnc-unveils-special-publication-improved-nutrition-308251 <p>The roundtable event on JANO's food fortification study was published on a national daily network:</p> <p>https://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/news/food-fortification-towards-sustainable-nutrition-security-3032136</p>

³⁶ Ujjiban is a USAID-funded development project in Bangladesh for social and behavior change with respect to health.



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		<p>The JANO karate training was published on one of the national TV channels: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQ0m37gycz4</p> <p>A webinar on JANO's value chain study was published on a national daily news outlet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/trade/jano-organises-webinar-to-publish-findings-of-value-chain-study-1598615446 https://www.tbsnews.net/tags/joint-action-nutrition-outcome-jano <p>Amplio Network published news on JANO's Talking Book intervention: https://www.amplio.org/post/an-update-from-care-bangladesh-and-the-joint-action-for-nutrition-outcomes-jano-project</p>
Publication of innovation briefs, sectoral briefs	y2-y5	<p>JANO's ICT progress document published: https://www.carebangladesh.org/publication/nutrition/JANOICTProgress.pdf</p> <p>JANO's project brief updated with some revised numbers available here: https://www.carebangladesh.org/publication/nutrition/JANO_Project_Brief.pdf</p>
Publication of project success stories on social and other electronics/web-based media channels as well as consortium member websites	y2, y3, y4, y5	<p>A number of stories available below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.facebook.com/JANO-%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A8%E0%A7%8B-105734714548847 https://www.facebook.com/profile/100064859253450/search?q=JANO&filters=eyJycF9jaHJvbm9fc29ydDowIjoie1wibmFtZVwiOlwiY2hyb25vc29ydFwiLFwiYXJnc1wiOlwiXCJ9In0%3D JANO Newsletter: https://www.carebangladesh.org/publication/nutrition/JANONewsletter.pdf More stories attached as Annex 4
Dissemination of studies and research findings	y3, y4, y5	<p>Mid-term evaluation report: Final Report JANO MTE IRC 25102021 Fresh version.docx</p> <p>Value Chain Study report: JANO_VC Study report FINAL.DOCX</p> <p>Food Fortification Study brief: https://www.carebangladesh.org/publication/nutrition/JANOFoodFortificationResearch.pdf</p>



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Publication of success stories and lessons learned around multi-sector nutrition governance	y4, y5	Success stories and lessons learned on multi-sectoral nutrition governance expected to be published in Y5.
Media visits of local and European journalists	y4-5	A media visit is expected to take place in Y5.
Development of a radio feature broadcasted in Europe	y4-5	A media visit combined with a radio feature and video development expected to take place in Y5.
Sharing of lessons learnt 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. Stories and lessons shared in food fortification roundtable organized at the Daily Star. Two exchange visits were organized with ICCO Cooperation ³⁷ at Rangpur. Visits organized for the Managing Director, Community Clinic Health Support Trust, and representatives of Ministry of Food
Production of video clips, photo stories on nutrition governance and climate change	Y2-5	14 photo stories were published (as hard copies): https://drive.google.com/file/d/162aSVL9AIDwcRCL9Rt8viGqXT83c_zGm/view?usp=sharing Three video clips were developed in Y4. Links below: 1. Adolescent corner: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NSWXouFWL1yAbF-Mtcxv7xz9nEkxLRJO/view?usp=sharing 2. Homestead Garden: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iQxHvERunUG2OO69HTHFj2ki2PtVNA4C/view?usp=sharing 3. Moslema's story: https://cutt.ly/5YYwigy
Development of annual reports	y1, y2, y3, y4, y5	Y4 annual report

³⁷ ICCO Cooperation was founded in the Netherlands in 1964 and is an international NGO currently operating in 44 countries.

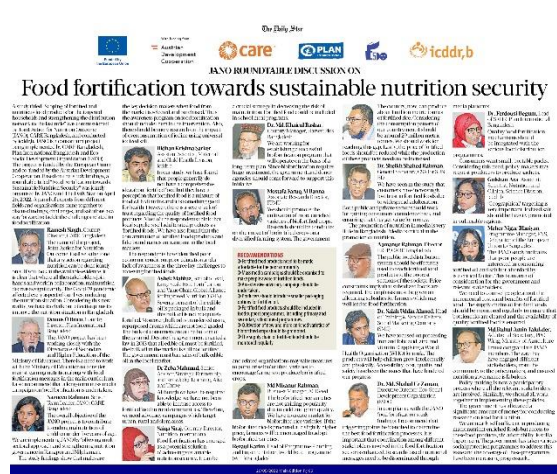
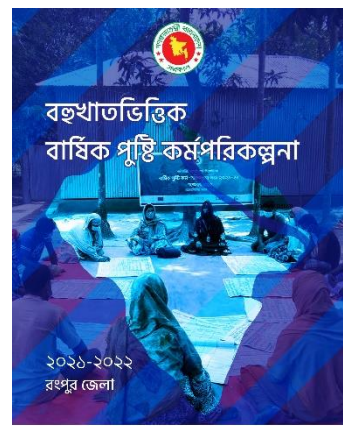
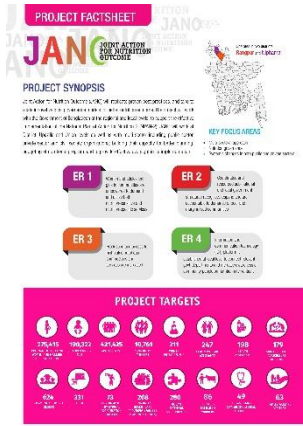


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4.3 Communication and visibility materials

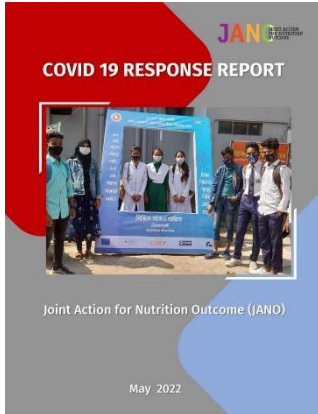
In Y4, the project produced a number of communication and visibility materials, such as study and research briefs, innovation briefs, newsletters, the nutrition plan, human interest stories, videos, photo stories, training modules, animated video manuals, billboards, and posters which were displayed and distributed at various national, international and regional-level events, meetings, workshops, exposure visits and government offices. The project also organized events, workshops and meetings where posters, banners and briefs were used. The project ensured proper visibility of the European Union, Austrian Development Cooperation, and Consortium partners in the above materials in every way possible. Below are some photos from the produced materials:





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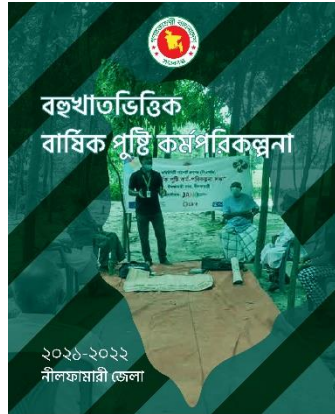


JANO ICT INITIATIVES

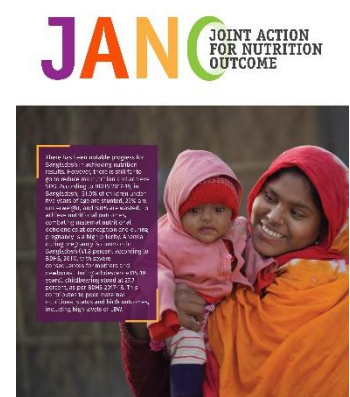
The development of a web-based nutrition information system and e-learning solution

Web-based nutrition information system

With the outbreak of COVID-19, the need for digital solutions in the health sector has increased. The digitalization of health services is essential for ensuring the continuity of health services during the pandemic. The development of a web-based nutrition information system and e-learning solution is a key initiative to support the digitalization of health services. The system will provide a platform for sharing nutrition information and e-learning resources. The system will be developed in Bengali and English. The system will be user-friendly and easy to use. The system will be accessible to all users. The system will be secure and reliable. The system will be scalable and flexible. The system will be cost-effective. The system will be sustainable. The system will be evaluated and monitored. The system will be disseminated and implemented. The system will be reviewed and updated. The system will be maintained and supported. The system will be documented and reported. The system will be disseminated and implemented. The system will be reviewed and updated. The system will be maintained and supported. The system will be documented and reported.



November 2021
Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC)
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare





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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 publishing the report on the EuropeAid website.

List of Annexes

Annex1: Logframe indicator progress status based on year four assessment

Annex2: Annual and overall project implementation progress against targets

Annex3: Updated action plan for project year 5

Annex4: Case studies

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

Signature:



Location: Vienna, Austria

Date report due: 31st October, 2022

Date report sent: October 31, 2022 (initial submission); February 28, 2023 (revised submission)

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