

NEWSLETTER

Funded by the European Union with the co-funding support from Austrian Development Cooperation, JANO will work with the Government to support the effective implementation of the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN). The project will contribute to ending malnutrition of children below five years of age, together with addressing the nutritional needs of Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and adolescent girls in Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts.



KEY PROJECT PROGRESS

- The Volunteers, along with CSG, the project so far conducted **10056** Courtyard session, through this session a total of **89,938** pregnant, lactating mothers, adolescent girls and their caretaker received nutritional messages and also **1370104** community peoples are received nutritional, COVID19 and handwashing messages through Counselling, among them 710275 are female and **659829** are male. As a result, women and girls are now included in the process of empowerment and increased nutrition services.
- 624 CSGs members received training and completed yearly nutrition action plan and have organized **10056** Courtyard session with mothers and adolescent girls and are also negotiating with Community Clinics and Union Parishads for nutrition-related services.
- 624 CSGs prepared service requirement and shared those in **64** unions and negotiated for incorporating those in the UDCC nutrition plan. It has also organized **25** advocacy workshops with Union Parishad and service providers for nutrition services.
- School Management Committee (SMC) have been increasingly functioning with effective engagement and developed **410** half-yearly nutrition action plans
- **135** Union Parishad's (Project-64, Non-Project 71) have developed Union Nutrition Action Plan by UDCC.
- **14** Upazila (Project-07, Non-Project 07) has developed the Upazila Nutrition Action Plan by UNCC.
- **64** UDCC's incorporate the demand of CSG's in Union Nutrition Action Plan to ensure support of the social safety net program for PLW.
- **14** UNCC incorporate UDCC's demand in the Upazila Nutrition Action Plan for PLW.
- Suggestion boxes have been placed in **208** Community Clinics, **64** Union Parishads and **330** schools and madrasas so that community people/students can place their dissatisfaction/suggestions regarding quality of service/education.
- As part of Technology Dissemination, JANO supported Farmer training and Demonstrations setup on Rice, Sweet Potato, and Vegetables.
- With the support from JANO, Kaunia Upazila Livestock Office conducted an orientation session on fodder demonstration (Pukchong variety) for promoting knowledge on improved fodder cultivation practices for dairy farming. **15** farmers (**women 14**) including **4** CSG members received the orientation and ULO distributed fodder cuttings to the farmers.
- Nutrition-Sensitive Value Chain Study, including two regional and one national-level, validation workshops were conducted.



WEBINAR TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF A RESEARCH ON VALUE CHAIN

Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project organized a webinar on August 27, 2020, to publish the findings of research on the value chain. The study has been conducted under the JANO project to find how the cultivation of highly nutritious foods in homestead gardens and rearing cattle along with ensuring safe water, cleanliness and proper sanitation, can help battle malnutrition. From the research, we identified the top-ranked food items. Among them, there were pumpkin, leafy vegetables, tomato, beans, okra, banana, papaya, fresh dairy items etc. These homestead items were easy to cultivate for the women. The most popular WASH items were sanitary napkins and sanitized washrooms. The webinar has disseminated the findings of the research that seek opinions from the guests on the issue. Dr M. Abdul Mueed, the Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Extension department was present as the chief guest of the program. The delegates of the European Union, ambassadors of different Government and non-government organization

related to the research, development partners, academicians, practitioners, experts concerned and journalists were present on occasion. Discussants emphasized the importance of ensuring safe food. In addition to the findings of the research, they came up with their advice: cultivation of low-cost but highly nutritious food such as moringa leaf, sweet potato, egg, fortified grain, etc. Discussants also added that finding out alternative ways of producing low-cost sanitary napkins and toilets is necessary and vital support from the private sector is needed. JANO project will harness the possibilities in line with the recommendations and explore interventions to bring the intended outcome. Private sectors' is already showing interest to be engaged with JANO for promoting nutritious and fortified foods and strengthening their distribution network to last mile reach. JANO is also capitalizing such opportunities to accelerate Private Sector partnerships in coming days.

JANO FACEBOOKCLASS INITIATIVE



10,615
PEOPLE REACHED

1,384
ENGAGEMENTS

In Bangladesh, the COVID-19 pandemic has been adversely disrupting the education system, especially in the remote areas. Since the COVID-19 outbreak in early March in Bangladesh, the Government has enforced a nationwide lockdown, restricting people's movement including shutting down of schools to halt the spread of the virus. Besides hurting the national economy, the lockdown has had an enormous negative impact on the rural education system, especially for the school-going children which relies fully on-school based education. As a response to the situation Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project has taken an initiative to continue the school education, not only limited to the project areas but in the overall country as a whole. With the support from Deputy Director Secondary Education, District Secondary Education Officer and Upazila Secondary Education Officer, the project initiated online classes through the project's Facebook page. The purpose of the sessions was to create a virtual platform, thus enabling environment for the students through JANO Facebook page on quality lessons and learning tips. Students are getting the opportunity of self-learning

through virtual interaction with the teachers. This initiative is also helping the students, to improve their psycho-social condition during the lockdown stage and is creating a space for the teachers where they can engage with their students, through a virtual platform. This initiative is supporting the conduct of a total of 52 classes on English, Social Science, Bangla, Mathematics, Science, Nutrition, psychological counselling, Gender Equity Movement in Schools (GEMS) and health hygiene issues for the students of Class 8 and 9. A total of 17 teachers from 17 schools (9 from Rangpur District and eight from Nilphamari Districts) recorded those classes, and the project is uploading the courses sequentially on the JANO Facebook group page. Each class is continuing for around 20 minutes, and the question-answer session is being conducted by directly calling or texting the teachers, on the screened mobile phone numbers. This initiative is helping thousands of students in the project areas and also nationwide to learn and remain updated, on the subject above matters. So far, 19 classes have uploaded, and the project has received a great response from the students around the project areas.



STORIES

"I am Most. Zannatul Mowa, a student of class 8 of Gangachara Government Model High School. Due to COVID19 pandemic our schools were closed for few months. It was really tough to learn on my own without any support from a mentor and I was losing my confidence and I thought that I would not be able to study again. In midst of this challenging situation JANO project introduced Facebook class initiative which I think is a lifesaver for girls like me. I started to attend the English class of Segufta Nasreen Madam, Math class of Rangad Chandra Barman which helped me a lot to learn the complex topics of different sections of my text book. I started to feel confident again. With the initiative from JANO project many girls of our community are getting the opportunity to continue their study which will help us to build a better future ahead. Besides learning our regular course topics, I have also learned how we can make ourselves safe from COVID19 pandemic and I am regularly counseling people in my community on how to keep themselves and the society safe from this pandemic and as a result no one in our community is infected so far. For all my initiative everyone in the community respects me and values my work which is a BIG thing!"

Most. Zannatul Mowa
Class 8, Gangachara Government
Model High School
Gangachara, Rangpur

**IT'S NOT JUST FACEBOOK CLASSES
IT'S WAY MORE THAN THAT**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP IS A VEHICLE TO IMPROVE NUTRITION SITUATION



With the facilitation of JANO project, 624 Community Support Groups has completed their 'Annual Nutrition Action Plan 2020-2021'. Before the development of nutrition action plan, the CSG analyzed last year's action plan, and its progress, present situation of nutrition status especially the number of pregnant and lactating mother, children and other facilities. During the plan development process, CSG also involved the Community groups and SMC members. Through this plan, several activities have undertaken under the CSG nutrition action plan. Some of the major activities are:

- » Organize courtyard sessions with pregnant and lactating mothers and married adolescent girls to disseminate knowledge around nutrition and nutrition-based services and motivate them to receive ANC and PNC services.
- » Awareness through a group meeting, and counselling to prevent early marriages.
- » Motivate community peoples to establish a home garden and consumption nutrition foods.
- » We are creating awareness to mother and their family elders for exclusive

breastfeeding.

- » We are taking the initiative to cover 100% of children to effect immunization.
- » Advocacy with Union Parishads to provide restroom, safe water source for the poor and extremely poor, include more PLW under maternal allowance and other safety-net programs.
- » Advocacy engagement with Community Clinics to ensure better service quality. Goal to the pregnant and lactating mothers and adolescent girls that they can take care of their child safely and healthily.
- » Linkage and coordination with other government service provider. Goal to ensure services on agriculture, livestock and other nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- » Advocacy with SMC, Education department and Union Parishads to allocate budget for providing sanitary napkins for the adolescent girls at school.
- » Advocacy with Community Clinics and Union Parishads. The goal is to establish breastfeeding corner, adolescent corner or the women-friendly environment in those service institutions.



JANO has completed the program implementation of 2nd year and is going to start the third-year operation. For absorbing the lessons, and learning and thematic way forwarding and better planning for the coming year, an Annual Reflection and Learning workshop had organized. The workshop designed under two phases: a) learning, reflection and thematic guidance b) planning of the third year. The first phase of the workshop completed on 25-26 August 2020, and the second phase (planning) completed in mid of September 2020. The workshop was

held at RDRS Rangpur, and the local staffs of ESDO, Plan International Bangladesh and CARE JANO staffs have participated physically at RDRS, while others joined through zoom platform. Besides JANO team, ESDO, Plan International Bangladesh and CARE Bangladesh's management leaders, CARE Austria, Plan UK, CARE USA and EU delegates also participated in the workshop via zoom connection. Thematic specialists of Plan International and CARE has been facilitated the thematic sessions and provided their guidance for a way forward.

The objectives of the workshop were:

Reflection on the progress of the projects 2nd year Sharing the major challenges, opportunities from the program itself having guidance from the organizational, technical experts and management for moving planning for 3rd-year implementation.

The annual learning and reflection mirror the lessons which were learnt in the 2nd-year implementation from a various perspective like field reflection, consortium organization reflection, Donor reflection etc. Also, the workshop reviewed the 2nd year progress and challenges, which considered in 3rd year planning. The thematic leader also analyzed and presented the current initiatives and also presented road map of thematic areas for incorporation in JANO.

JANO ANNUAL REFLECTION WORKSHOP

DEMONSTRATION OF BARI 84 RICE

Focusing the activities on the adoption of nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart-agriculture techniques, DAE has held demonstrations of BRR I Dhan-84 in Nilphamari District by the supported of JANO. The main objective was to established and disseminated knowledge on high yield zinc and iron-enriched new variety of rice to meet the demand of food and nutrition. BRR I Dhan-84 is a bio-fortified high yield rice variety, which is enriched zinc (27.6 m.gm) and iron (10.1 m.gm) per kg of rice and contained protein 9.7%. So, the array of BRR I Dhan-84 could make a positive effect to reduce nutrition deficiencies of the population in Bangladesh, especially those suffering from malnutrition.

During the last Boro season DAE has held two demonstrations on BRR I Dhan-84 at Binnakuri village under Barovita UP, Kishoreganj Upazila, Nilphamari by the supported of JANO. Two farmers, Nihar Ranjan Sarker and Jitendro Nath Sarker prepared the demonstration plots on 4 and 4.5 decimal land. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Rangpur Regional Office and Department of Agriculture Extension, Kishoreganj provided technical supports to the farmers to establish the demonstration on BRR I Dhan-84. Fertilizer uses, and management practices have followed the recommendations of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.



The Rice was harvested on May 10, 2020, where Nihar Ranjan Sarker has obtained yield 140 kg from 4 decimal land, and Jotendro Nath Sarker got 145 kg from 4.5 decimal land. So, we can assume that the outcome was 8.4 ton/hectare, which is higher that of existing cultivated varieties which is 6-7.5 tons/hectre except for hybrid varieties.

Both farmers stated that they are very satisfied with the results and the shape and yield of rise is much better than that of existing cultivate rice. Seeing the result surrounding farmers also showed their interest to grow this variety in the next season.

JANO COVID-19 RESPONSE



Coping up with COVID-19 pandemic situation JANO is working with the existing infrastructure in designated working areas to overcome the most significant global challenge. JANO volunteers are daily counseling to aware the community people on nutrition and preventive measures on COVID-19 pandemic in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. JANO project has provided some materials, like; waste bucket, posters, leaflet and also awareness message through Miking, local TV channel to aware the community people.

DIRECT REACH THROUGH COVID-19 RESPONSE



A total of 640,343 adults (52% women), 116,026 mothers of <5 children and 147,778 adolescent girls and boys (50% girls) received awareness messages on COVID-19 and hand washing practices through HH visits by 267 school and community volunteers in 64 unions applying the government directives (IEDCR) and WHO guidelines.

INTERVENTION WISE ACHIEVEMENTS

Waste Bucket (Paddle Bin) handed over to 208 Community Clinics, 56 FWCs, and 20 Sub Centers

Hand Spray Bottle & Bleaching powder handed over to 208 CCs, 56 FWCs, and 20 Sub Centers

Video has been broadcasted at local dish channel on breastfeeding process and importance during COVID situation

624 CSGs 5,753 members/youths oriented on the use of hand spray machine with bleaching powder solutions to disinfect roads/community places; among them 5,121 were CSG members and 632 were adolescents

Awareness raised on COVID-19 preventive measures to the religious leaders in 64 unions and disseminated messages through Mosque's Imam using Mosque loud speaker

102 project staff trained on hand washing using WHO approved low cost "Soapy Water"

Awareness raising on COVID-19 completed in 64 Union through portable loudspeaker setup on three wheelers

Disseminated 4953 posters/leaflets to households especially for lactating and pregnant mothers

Communicated with all Head Teachers from the 330 targeted schools to disseminate the information of the existing Television Class provided by Sangsad Television for students

Household visits to spread awareness of the television classes provided by Sangsad Television through Ministry of Education (MOE)

IMPACT OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

An external evaluation was conducted on the impact of JANO response activities. According to the evaluation around 67% respondents received services during COVID-19 situation on knowledge about the virus, hygiene kits and how to get financial support etc. Most of them (86.8%) received basic information about COVID-19 and around 50% received practical advice on how to wash hands and use masks in a safe manner.



INFORMATION SOURCE

Over 90% of the respondents received the basic information about COVID-19 from a JANO Volunteer. Other sources of COVID-19 knowledge included: community people (34.7%), Community Clinic (22.6%), CSG members (10.4%) and Government (7.3%). The source of other NGOs was only 1%.

MULTI-SECTORAL ANNUAL NUTRITION PLAN 2019-2020 BOOK LAUNCHED BY THE DNCC

In coordination with the government, JANO project launched Multi-Sectoral Annual Nutrition Plan 2019-2020 handbook in the 5th meeting of the District Nutrition Coordinating Committee in Rangpur. The book reflects the overall planning and budget allocation in all Upazilas in Rangpur district. The meeting was held at the Conference Room of Rangpur Deputy Commissioner's Office on August 31, 2020. Along with Mr Asif Ahsan, the Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur, Civil Surgeon, DDLG, Rangpur and DNCC members were present at the event.



In the meeting the Deputy Commissioner informed that the district administration has taken some initiatives for nutrition status improvement which will also reflect in the upcoming plan.

ADOLESCENTS CORNERS MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION



In the 5th District Nutrition Coordinating Committee meeting in Rangpur, JANO project organized Adolescents Corner Materials Distribution Ceremony. The Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon, DDLG, Rangpur and other DNCC members were present in the auspicious ceremony. Representative teachers of 5 selected schools received adolescent corners materials. Each school received 1 Television, 1 Height Scale, 1 Weight Scale, 1 Pusti Plate and 1 set Nijeke Jano Booklet.

Apart from the members of the District Nutrition Committee, Mr Akhtaruzzaman, Deputy Director, Secondary Education, Rangpur Division and representatives of JANO Project, ESDO, CARE and Plan International Bangladesh were also present on occasion. Remaining 109 educational institutes of Rangpur and 214 educational institutes of Nilphamari received the same package from respective Upazilla Nutrition Coordination Committees.



STORIES

Mimi is one of the brightest students of Chilapar High School located at Taraganj Upazila in Rangpur District. In the school intervention, JANO project came with an idea of school vegetable gardening, she was curious. Taken the support from her teacher, she eagerly learned each step of nutritious vegetable gardening such as seedbed preparation, caring of seedlings, use of compost and so on. The purpose of the vegetable model garden was that students will learn everything about gardening of nutritious vegetable and will practice the method at their homestead, which will fulfil the nutritional need of the families.

Just after learning the method, the COVID19 pandemic began, and the Government imposed countrywide shutdown. While most of the students were sitting home and passing idle time, Mimi was thinking about something else. There was a family-owned small unused piece of land nearby their home where she plans to start her very own vegetable garden. Seeing her interest, her farther also lends a hand to help her. In this small land, she starts to grow red amaranth, spinach, gourd, pumpkin, eggplant, long bean and lady's fingers. About a month or

two after the shutdown, the countrywide food scarcity began, but this was not much of a problem for Mimi's family because they already started getting vegetables from her garden. This garden not only helped the family to get nutritious food during the pandemic, but it also helped their relatives and neighbours to get a share from the surplus.

Inspired by Mimi's garden, some of the neighbours already started to grow vegetables, and they are also praising Mimi for her outstanding work. Her family members also applaud her for this initiative. It also helped the family to get a constant supply of food during the pandemic. For her remarkable initiative, her family and neighbours called her 'The Food Champion'. As Mimi said, "For me it was like a dream come true. I have never thought that I will be able to make a garden and grow vegetables on my own. I think my initiative will inspire others to do the same which will help them to get great source of nutrition right from their home. I feel proud of myself and I would like to thank JANO project and all my teachers and volunteer for this great learning experience."

MIMI: HER FAMILY'S FOOD CHAMPION