



USAID
আমেরিকার জনগণের পক্ষ থেকে



World Vision

NOBO JATRA - NEW BEGINNING

USAID's Development Food Security Activity

Newsletter

ISSUE-11

April - August
2019



Introduction

Dear friends,

We have had an exciting few months and our focus has been on 'collaborating and advocating for broader impact.' In August, Nobo Jatra took a leading role in organizing the '2nd Coastal Water Convention' to strengthen WASH governance, enhance private sector engagement, protect eco systems and foster adaptation to climate change. The convention was an incredible platform convening thought leaders and decision makers in Government, international and local NGOs, the private sector, academia and the media - to highlight the chronic water and sanitation challenges in south west Bangladesh. The Khulna declaration - an outcome of the convention - delineates commitments from decision makers in Government and NGO's to jointly address the immediate WASH needs at the local and national level. This is an incredible milestone in our advocacy journey - and I congratulate our team and counterparts in Government for the dedication in organizing this critical event.

And finally, our work with communities, particularly with women and children, has continued with the same intensity. We thank you for the unwavering support to Nobo Jatra - helping us to achieve our goal to improve gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience in south west Bangladesh.

Rakesh Katal
Chief of Party
Nobo Jatra



Nobo Jatra at a glance

2nd Coastal Water Convention

Internal and external visits

External engagement

Day observations

Communications and Knowledge Management

Success Story

Highlights



NOBO JATRA AT A GLANCE

April - August 2019



Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN)

12,248 Pregnant and Lactating Women completed 15 months Conditional Cash Transfers
28,224 CU2 reached via Growth Monitoring Promotion
19,729 CU2 provided Micro Nutrient Powder



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

1,157 water points installed
35,372 people gained access to basic drinking water Services
7,891 latrines installed
39,042 people gained access to sanitation services
102,639 participants reached through WASH Social and Behavior Change



Agriculture & Alternative Livelihoods

18,920 women in Village Savings and Loan Associations
16,244 participants trained in entrepreneurial literacy
2,036 farmers trained in alternative income generation



Gender

2,737 couples participated in male engagement sessions
5,546 adolescents trained in life skills education
26 child marriages stopped
9,727 Village Development Committee members provided gender sensitization training



Good Governance & Social Accountability

26 Union level standing committees activated
40 Village Development Committees reviewed their Community Development Plans
4 dialogues with government staff and community people to share the results of Citizen Voice and Action with Community Clinics and Union WatSan committees



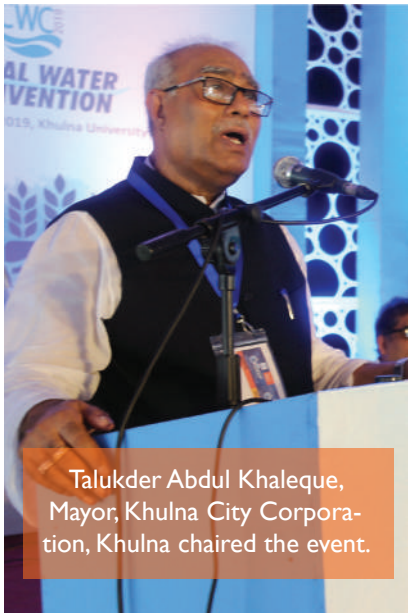
Disaster Risk Reduction

6,755 community people oriented on Disaster Risk Reduction
119 DRR mass awareness events reached **54,854** people
22 Cyclone simulation drill observed by **77,993** people

Nobo Jatra leads 2nd Coastal Water Convention



Honorable Members of parliament (MPs) from Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat region- Mr. Mohammad Mozammel Hossain, Bagerhat-4; Mr. Mir Mushtaque Ahmed Robi, Shatkhira-2; Mr. Mustafa Lutfullah, Shatkhira-1; and Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Khulna- face to face dialogues with local communities on WASH issues.



Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Mayor, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna chaired the event.

With the theme “Water Justice Towards Development” Nobo Jatra (lead), in association with Khulna City Corporation, Department of Public Health Engineering, Khulna WASA, Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology and 40 local, national and international organizations organized a divisional level Coastal Water Convention on 1st and 2nd August 2019.

The events brought all stakeholders under a common platform (among public, private and civil society actors) and strengthened collaboration and coordination to overcome challenges to access safe drinking water and affordable sanitation facilities in the coastal districts of southwest Bangladesh. A Khulna declaration was also made on the basis of the findings from the technical sessions under the theme of “Strengthening governance, enhancing private sector engagement, protecting eco-system and adapting to climate change impact”.



Honorable Minister, Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, M.P., Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives emphasized government commitment to ensure safe water within 2030.



Fred Witteveen, National Director -World Vision Bangladesh emphasized the need for a unified voice to solve the water crisis in southwest of Bangladesh



Mr. Rakesh Katal, CoP, Nobo Jatra urged everyone to accelerate efforts to follow up the discussions of the convention and take this to the next stage with firm commitment.



Ms. Habibun Nahar, M.P., Deputy Minister, Ministry of environment, forest and climate change declares no pond would be leased and urge Deputy Commissioners to stop leasing the ponds.

Internal and External visits



Senior Vice President, WVUS Margaret Schuler visited Nobo Jatra -interacted with lead farmers to observe climate smart agriculture, Village Savings and Loan Associations groups and local entrepreneurs with hatcheries.



USAID Program Management Specialist visited Nobo Jatra to meet with WASH SBCC and MCHN participants, observe livelihood, MCHN and WASH activities.

External Engagement and Strategic Learning



Collaborating, Learning and Adapting for greater impact! For the first time, the three USAID/FoodforPeace DFSA's in Bangladesh went on a learning tour to SHOUHARDO III working areas in Jamalpur. Why? To learn about sustainable, equitable approaches to build stronger, self reliant communities. Meeting producer groups, youth groups and VSLA's to understand local needs and how to engage communities in supporting service delivery.



Nobo Jatra led a plenary session on "Importance of conditional cash transfer and SBCC in maternal and child nutrition" in the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights & Nutrition fair organized by Action Aid Bangladesh with different government department and NGOs.



Sub district level Government authorities informed on Nobo Jatra's progress through status update review meetings.



Two divisional level dialogues convened with government officials to share the status of community clinics and coastal water and sanitation issues need to be addressed to ensure quality services. Additional Divisional Commissioner and Director-Health, Khulna Division presided the dialogues and the Director-Family Planning, Director -Local Government and Superintend Engineer of Khulna Circle were the guests of honor.



WINNERS!



Nobo Jatra awarded as the “Best Development Partner” in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar for its effective and excellent contribution in family planning activities recognized by Upazila Family Planning Department.



A Nobo Jatra lead farmer from Dacope awarded as best farmer by Bangladesh Department of Fisheries.

Day Observation

DAYS



WORLD HEALTH DAY



NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



WORLD WATER DAY



WORLD POPULATION DAY



NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE WEEK



NATIONAL BIRTH REGISTRATION DAY



NATIONAL FISHERIES WEEK



SAFE MOTHERHOOD DAY

STAKEHOLDERS



Students



Journalists



Teachers



NGOs



Government organizations



Youth groups



WatSan committees and VDC members



Guardians

EVENTS



Debates



Prize distribution



Art competition



Colorful rallies



Mother's gathering



Quizzes competition



Speech competition



Father's gathering



Cooking competition

VISIBILITY



Communication and Knowledge Management



Nobo Jatra also developed a video on Citizen Voice and Action approach to improve the health service of Community Clinics which is available in the following link:

<http://www.wvb-nobo-jatra.org/category/media/>

As a major milestone, Nobo Jatra developed a video on 'nutrition safety nets for pregnant and lactating women in South West Bangladesh' which is available in the following link:

<http://www.wvb-nobo-jatra.org/category/media/>



Kajol Rani, a mother and farmer, features produces vermin compost in south west Bangladesh..

A Nobo Jatra success story "Vermin compost: a sustainable, climate smart technique creating opportunities for increased household income in south west Bangladesh" won the 2019 Global GAM Annual Success Story Competition.

<https://bit.ly/2JFkZWZ>

Nobo Jatra capacitize staff



25 Nobo Jatra staff participated in Purpose, Energy, Affirmation, Knowledge and Sustainability (PEAKS) team building training facilitated by Research Communication International. PEAKS is an internationally well recognized data-driven approach to manage and lead people. Participants learnt how to nurture, mentor and lead learn and teach, employ and deploy, work and play, develop teams, build organizations and steer culture.

3 Nobo Jatra staff trained on 'Make Me a Change Agent' (MMCA) and acquired skills required to support the marginal people in developing or practicing the right behavior for their personal and social improvement organized by FFP funded SCALE and PRO-WASH Awards.



72 staff provided gender sensitization training focusing food distribution within a family, harmful effects of child marriage and Gender Based Violence and the benefits of gender equality at the community level.



Visibility



Nobo Jatra was covered by almost 100 of national and local level online and print media for events such as US ambassador and Nobo Jatra senior management visit to Nobo Jatra, WASH fair organization, celebration of World Toilet Day, BDJOBS fair attendance by Nobo Jatra and 2nd coastal water convention.

Success Story

Transforming lives through innovative technologies in south west Bangladesh



Critically, the first 1,000 days between a mother’s pregnancy and her child’s second birthday sets the foundation for all the days that follow. ‘Nobo Jatra’ a five-year development food security project led by World Vision and funded by USAID – has taken a number of innovative approaches targeting women during pregnancy till the child transitions from exclusive breastfeeding to complementary foods. In the Nobo Jatra project during her 3rd month of pregnancy, to start, Akhi received a COEL bangle – programmed to transmit weekly audio health messages – that are tailored to the exact stage of her pregnancy. Akhi describes the bangle as,

registered to Akhi, \$26 dollars is transferred each month for a period of 15 months – and is used to purchase nutritious foods. Akhi and Tushar also save some of the money for medical expenses.

Akhi delivered a healthy baby boy, Sopnil at the local Government hospital and the family continue to receive cash transfers – which they use to buy food at the local markets. Mili continues to visit the family on a weekly basis – and has found them to be committed to improving nutrition practices, taking Sopnil to Growth Monitoring Promotion sessions each month at the local community clinic.



Nobo Jatra is dedicated to transforming the lives of communities in south west Bangladesh – by focusing on pregnant women and children under 2 to improve nutrition outcomes leading to healthier, more self-reliant families.

‘my own personal doctor advising me to have vegetables, meat and milk. It also tells me and Tushar, my husband, when to visit the community clinic for checkups. My mother in law also listens to the messages’

Mili, a frontline health worker, also visits the household on a weekly basis to provide nutrition counselling, particularly focusing on Akhi’s nutrition during pregnancy and how this also affects the baby.

Throughout the pregnancy, Tushar has been a pillar of support to Akhi – primarily as he has listened to the messages from the COEL bangle.

‘These messages may seem simple, like take rest after eating during pregnancy, but for us we don’t usually practice this. Since listening to these messages we have changed.’

The COEL bangle is light weight and designed to be worn by women throughout their pregnancy. Often, it can serve as the only source of health information for pregnant women. As an ultra-poor household, Akhi’s family were also included in Nobo Jatra’s nutrition safety net cash transfers. Through an e wallet





Highlights

28 youth supported to obtain job placements

20 Climate Smart Agriculture and **163** nutrition sensitive demonstration plots established

96 Disaster Risk Reduction schemes completed with acceleration fund



32 Government Doctors and Nurses trained on Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) child management



20 trained on Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post Natal Care (PNC) and labor room protocols



268 youth (m-188, f-80) provided Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Apprenticeships training



TVET, trainees are self-employed and earning average **\$19** per month and

Apprentices are now employees in workshops earning average **\$43** per month.



13 private sector partnership established



360 Word Disaster Management Committees formed

22 cyclone simulation drill to build disaster resilience of local communities

Government departments and private actors contributed to implement **11,538** Risk Reduction Action Plans (RRAP)

981 Union Parishad Standing Committee members trained on budget process of Union Parishad.

