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Nobo Barta

News from USAID's Nobo Jatra (NJ) / New Beginning

USAID's Nobo Jatra (NJ)/ New Beginning

USAID's Nobo Jatra (NJ)/New Beginning, is a Food for Peace (FFP) Program, implemented by World Vision Bangladesh (WVB), World Food Programme (WFP) and Winrock International in partnership with Bangladesh's Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

The **Program's Goal** is to improve gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience of vulnerable people in four Upazilas - Shyamanagar, Kaliganj under Satkhira District and Koyra and Dacope under Khulna District, the Southwestern Coastal area of Bangladesh.

Khulna Divisional office, Nobo Jatra, World Vision Bangladesh

Nobo Jatra's Divisional office in Khulna was rented in December 2015. It is in the same building that occupies the office of World Vision Southern Bangladesh Region. A number of staff working from this office is **13** till now. The Upazila offices have been rented and **four** Field Office Coordinators have taken oversight of the programme implementation in the offices.



Nobo Jatra Dacope Upazila Office



Nobo Jatra Coordination Office, Khulna

A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR, WV BANGLADESH



On behalf of World Vision International, it gives me great pleasure to introduce this first newsletter of Nobo Jatra (New Beginning) being carried out under the Development Food Assistance Program (DFAP) funded by USAID. This publication describes the scope and coverage of the program that was initiated in October 2015 in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, and with other national and international organizations. Our joint goal is to improve gender equitable food security, as well as the nutrition and resilience of vulnerable people in two southern districts of Bangladesh.

Nearly 800 million people across the globe go to bed hungry every night. United States food assistance programs are evolving so as to provide more effective and efficient responses to the needs of vulnerable people through programming efforts aimed at reducing chronic malnutrition among children under five and pregnant or lactating women, to increasing and diversifying household income, to expanding agricultural production, and to building resilience. Having similar experience elsewhere, World Vision Bangladesh has been awarded a major grant in support of this Nobo Jatra program.

The president of World Vision International, Kevin Jenkins, has said that “each generation is responsible to do the very best it can with the resources it has. I am very excited by the many opportunities to make a difference for people who have little voice in today's world - especially the children”. Keeping this in mind, Nobo Jatra has focused to meet these critical needs found among the infants, children, and youth of its program areas in the south of Bangladesh.

The first six months of the life of Nobo Jatra have brought several significant results. 31,610 metric tonnes of US wheat has arrived and been offloaded at Chittagong port. It has found its way into the Bangladesh market place. This is quite exciting for me to observe. We have put in place a talented team of professionals who will oversee all of our work. Offices have been set up in the district of Khulna as well as four upazilas. I believe this newsletter will provide critical insights into our program and hope that it will assist all of our friends to be informed about this important work.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to USAID and GOB, especially the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, for their continued support and encouragement of our joint efforts. In conclusion, as *Kevin Jenkins has also said, “Together we can make a difference through our passion, professionalism and an uncompromising commitment to helping God's children realize life in all its fullness”.*

David Montague
National Director
World Vision Bangladesh

Message from Chief of Party, Nobo Jatra



I am delighted to see that Nobo Jatra (NJ)/New Beginning- a USAID Title-II Food for Peace (FFP) program completes the first six months of its operation, and is going to publish the first issue of the newsletter.

In marking this moment, I would like to reflect on the progress we have made in fulfilling the promise to serve the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people to build healthier, happier lives.

Keeping the philosophy of World Vision in mind, Nobo Jatra delivers an integrated package of interventions including essential health services, agriculture and economic development, resilience and the cross-cutting purpose of governance and social accountability, with youth development and gender integration throughout all activities.

Over the past few months, the program team was highly engaged attending different workshops, collecting data from the field and discharging the monetized food commodity to the government food grain silo in Chittagong port. Noteworthy progress has been made regarding the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with Bangladesh Government. On the administrative side, the program team was busy recruiting key program staffs and their orientation, setting up offices, and procuring essential equipment. Despite a few challenges, we were able to manage significant resources efficiently which made us confident to contribute more effectively in days to come.

While we are strengthened by our successes, we are also aware of the challenges that lie ahead. With continued support from our partners and supporters, I firmly believe that we can overcome those difficulties and indeed help people vault over the hurdle of poverty. Let's keep working until our goal becomes a reality.

As World Vision's founder, Robert Pierce famously affirmed, "Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God." Together, we will continue to fulfill this promise as we move forward. Thank you!

Rakesh Katal

Chief of Party (CoP)
Nobo Jatra/New Beginning
World Vision Bangladesh



TRAINING AND WORKSHOP

M&E Workshop

On behalf of USAID, Food & Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA) organized an M&E Workshop in Dhaka from 17th to 21st January which was attended by all the Technical Managers, M&E Coordinator and Field Office Coordinators along with World Food Program, Winrock International and World Vision US colleagues. This **five-day** workshop provided the staff with required technical assistance to help finalize project theory of change, logical framework, and Indicator Performance Tracking Tools (IPTT).



Gateway to Grant training and Start Up Workshop

Many of the Nobo Jatra staff who joined during 6th December participated in the **Gateways to Grant training** as well as Start Up workshop organized with support from WVUS colleagues between 6th to 15th December. Both of these events were actively attended by our consortium partners WFP and Winrock International. Group work, brainstorming sessions and lively discussions were important parts of the events. Handouts were distributed among the participants to know about the USG grant compliance and policies. Brief reports on both the training and workshop are available to access on request.

Baseline Workshop

The baseline workshop was facilitated by **ICF International** on behalf of USAID from 25th to 28th January. ICF helped by their technical knowledge regarding the methodology, key questions and challenges of conducting Baseline. All partners and the stakeholders had a scope to share relevant information and concerns in this platform. Workshop sessions included the selection process of program participants, Targeting Geographic areas, Sampling, Indicator definitions, questionnaire, data collection and baseline study timeline. The workshop had been very useful for the participants to have clear answers regarding those issues.

M&E Field facilitation

Nobo Jatra M&E team facilitated an orientation session for social resource mapping along with respective component Managers at the coordination office. The team was involved in resource mapping survey for WASH, MCHN, Gender, and Good Governance component.

The M&E unit also facilitated session for revising and setting targets in the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) of all program components, and compiled a village list with code for Nobo Jatra working areas.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

FOOD COMMODITY DISCHARGED TO GoB

As part of the monetization process, a quantity of **31,610.31MT** food (out of 155,440 MT) was discharged to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB). The regional Senior Food Aid Advisor- George Thomas was in Chittagong to look after the port operations. According to the draft survey no loss, damage, or undue incident had been reported. The team is going to submit the invoice of monetization sale proceeds to the Ministry based on the "Discharged Port Weight Certificate" prepared by the surveyor. A bank account has been set up to receive the payment.



Meeting with Agro-Input Retailers Network (AIRN)

AIRN is a network of agricultural input retailers, selling quality agro-input products in Bangladesh. Rakesh Katal, Chief of Party, Nobo Jatra discussed several issues with Alexis Ellicott, Chief of Party, AIRN on common areas of interest in a meeting. AIRN will train 300 women to empower them to do their own business which could be an opportunity to work with Nobo Jatra. It was decided that another meeting with AIRN will be held in April to further discuss the area of possible collaboration. S N Chowdhury, Country representative, Winrock International and Zunaed Rabbani, AIRN Capacity Building Director were also present in the meeting.

Rapport Building

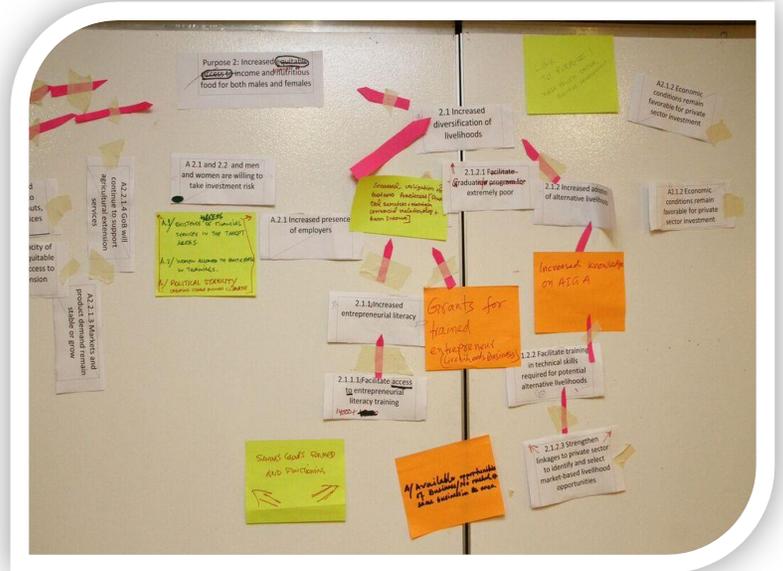
NJ team made a good rapport with Government and non-government offices, and met key stakeholders to exchange views on Nobo Jatra Programme operation.



Koyra Upazila Field Office Coordinator (FOC) met Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Koyra Mr. Badiuzzaman

Meeting with Catholic Relief Services

A meeting was held with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for exploring opportunities regarding mutual collaboration in implementation of similar programs across Bangladesh. Dr. Kamol Bhattacharya, Agriculture & Technical Advisor and Mr. Jonathan Newton, Business Development specialist, discussed and shared information with Mr. Rakesh Katal, Chief of Party, Nobo Jatra. It was clear that both organizations have ample scope to work together in partnership for working in similar programmes.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

USAID's Nobo Jatra ACCOMPANIED RESILIENCE FIELD ASSESSMENT

A team from USAID's Nobo Jatra, USAID Bangladesh and Chris Bene, Consultant from CGIAR (An agricultural research partnership) visited different Upazilas of Khulna and Satkhira for resilience field assessment from 06th to 9th February 2016. It was in fact done to explore the possibilities of including one module in resilience interventions of USAID-Food for peace. The draft module was derived from Nepal FFP office. The assessment found that the module needs tailoring to local specificity both at the country and provincial level, Gender and rural-urban linkages.



National Disaster Preparedness Day was observed in Dacope

Nobo Jatra, Dacope Field Office jointly observed National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) 2016 with the Upazila Administration and other NGOs. Nobo Jatra of World Vision Bangladesh supported Upazila Administration by providing placards and festoons containing disaster preparedness messages. Representatives of students, teachers, NGOs, Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration participated in a colorful rally under the leadership of honorable UNO. Later, the participants gathered in Upazila Compound to enjoy local songs on Disaster Management and took part in the discussion session at Upazila Hall room on the day's theme **"Durjoge pabona voy, durjogke amra korbo joy"**. Nobo Jatra staff of World Vision Bangladesh, Officers of various departments of Upazila Administration, Upazila Vice Chairman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Dacope delivered speeches on Disaster Preparedness.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

WELCOME, SARDER JAHANGIR HOSSAIN – New Deputy CoP

Sarder Jahangir Hossain, DCoP, Nobo Jatra, joined in the Program's Khulna coordination office on 10th March 2016. Mr. Sarder has over **20 years** of senior management level experience gained with a number of international and national organizations. Atul Mrong, the interim DCoP and other staff of Nobo Jatra office welcomed him with flowers. Later, Mr. Atul handed over the responsibilities of Nobo Jatra to him formally. Mr. Atul Mrong did excellent in his role and provided direct support to Nobo Jatra program from early January till the new DCoP joined.





International Women's Day 2016 observed

Upazila offices of Nobo Jatra observed International Women's Day 2016 on 8th March. The theme of this year's International Women's Day was, '**Adhikar, Morjaday Nari Purush - Somane Soman**'. Keeping that in mind, Nobo Jatra program has designed its intervention plan with a strong focus on Gender equality.

PROGRAM NEWS

Dacope, Khulna

Dacope Upazila office jointly celebrated the day with the Upazila Administration. A rally was organized and a human chain was formed on the occasion. An open discussion program was arranged in the Upazila Hall Room where representatives from School & College Students, Teachers and NGOs along with the Nobo Jatra Field Office Coordinator, Upazila Vice Chairman and UNO spoke on the day's theme and expressed their hope to see Dacope as an Upazila where gender equitable access to all of our fundamental rights will be prevailed.



Dacope-UNO speaking on Int'l Women's Day

Shyamnagar, Shatkhira

Shyamnagar team has observed International Women's Day in collaboration with Shyamnagar Upazila Parishad, Upazila Women's Affairs, Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha, different NGO's and Journalists. The day began with a colorful rally organized by Upazila Parishad and led by Member of Parliament Mr. S. M Joglul Haider. The rally circled around Shyamnagar Bazar followed by a discussion session at Upazila Auditorium. Mr. Abu Sayed Mohammad Monjur Alam, Shyamnagar UNO, stressed in his speech that, 'We should create employment opportunity for women to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)'

Kaliganj

Kaliganj also observed International Women's Day together with Kaliganj Upazila administration and office of Women Affairs. About **350** women and men from different organizations including World Vision Bangladesh, Shushilan, SUS, Rupantar, Stromme Foundation and Press Club participated in the Rally and discussion session on this occasion. M. A. Naher, Women Affairs Officer presided over the meeting and Golam Mainuddin Hasan, Upazila Nirbahi Officer spoke as chief guest in the discussion meeting. UNO in his speech emphasized on creating a movement with the help of GO, NGOs and other concerned institutions to stop early marriage from Kaliganj.



LATEST UPDATES

M&E Planning Workshop in Khulna

In addition to the M&E workshop in January, another was held on March 13th and 14th in Nobo Jatra Khulna office. This event is both a follow up of the previous M&E workshop held in January 2016 and technical assistance in M&E planning from USAID Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS). Mr. Mark Langworthy, Consultant and expert on USAID Title II program, facilitated this workshop and assisted in setting implementation area where the monitoring tools can best fit. The Main Focus Areas of the event was the process of Annual Monitoring, the details of actions to be implemented in the field and how these activities will be monitored in the Annual Monitoring. Therefore, Mark helped Nobo Jatra M&E team in the process of setting Annual M&E plan.

Orientation on drafting Nobo Jatra Operations Manual

Orientation on drafting Nobo Jatra Field Operations Manual was held on March 15, 2016. The Orientation session was started with the formal inaugural lecture of Rakesh Katal, CoP, Nobo Jatra Program. Remedios Gorgonio (Ting) from World Vision Bangladesh National Office facilitated the writing of outlines of Manual development draft for every technical component of Nobo Jatra Program. Six Working Groups were formed to accomplish this task. It was agreed with the Working Group members in presence of Sarder Jahangir Hossain, DCoP of Nobo Jatra Program that the total process of writing the Operation Manual has to be achieved within the specified dates.



Please Contact for more information

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