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World Vision

NOBO JATRA - NEW BEGINNING

USAID's Development Food Security Activity

Newsletter

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Introduction

I am delighted to share the 7th issue of the Nobo Jatra newsletter and provide a snapshot of our success and milestones from January - April 2018. Through concerted efforts, we were able to convene our first national gender learning event 'Addressing Gender Inequalities in Food Security Programming' bringing together stakeholders from Government, USAID, academia, development practitioners, media and most importantly, our invaluable project participants. We were also able to host a US congressional delegation to showcase first hand our work on ground through facilitating interactions with project participants and our incredible frontline teams at the helm of our activities. Finally, I am honored to feature Rahima, Samotta and Jorina - incredibly resilient individuals who we showcase in our success story focused on building inter-generational resilience capacities in south west Bangladesh.

Rakesh Katal
Chief of Party
Nobo Jatra – New Beginning

Nobo Jatra at a glance

USAID Mission Director and US Congressional Delegation Visit

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International Women's Day

National Disaster Preparedness Day

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Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) in Nobo Jatra

Success Story: Building inter-generational resilience



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Nobo Jatra's journey at a glance

January – April 2018

WASH



12 deep tube wells rehabilitated
1,296 people gained access to sanitation services
4,733 people gained access to basic drinking water services
115,132 participants reached through WASH SBCC

MCHN



20,891 CU2 reached via Growth Monitoring Promotion
12,693 Pregnant and Lactating Women received Conditional Cash Transfers
7,856 children received Micro Nutrient Powder

Agriculture & Livelihoods



61 lead farmers selected
59 Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) plots established
8,903 promotional graduation participants received Conditional Cash Transfers

Gender



3,354 male engagement participants
905 male engagement graduates
7 batches of Gender Sensitization and Integration training

Good Governance & Social Accountability



696 Village Development Committee members trained to develop action plans
201 Village Development Committee members mobilized to conduct Community Risk Assessment
17 youth volunteer groups mobilized for DRR

Disaster Risk Reduction



1,424 Village Development Committee leaders trained on leadership, management and Citizen Voice and Action
366 Village Development Committees reviewed action plans



USAID Mission Director and US Congressional Delegation Visit

Nobo Jatra hosted a US delegation including the USAID Bangladesh Mission Director and US Congressional Staff on February 20th 2018. The visit gave the delegation an opportunity to visit Nobo Jatra working areas and interact first hand with project participants and frontline teams at the helm of activities on ground. The delegation were able to observe an MCHN courtyard sessions, a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) demonstration plot and meet with a Community Savings & Loan Group (CSLG). The delegation also were able to have lively discussions with the beneficiaries to get a first hand account of Nobo Jatra's impact on their lives and within the community.



Celebrating World Water Day And Wash Fairs

On 27th March 2018, Nobo Jatra observed World Water Day across all its working areas in close collaboration with stakeholders including the Khulna district administration, Khulna WASA, the City Corporation, Upazila administration, journalists, academics and civil society. Nobo Jatra also strived to include school going children to attend the celebration to teach them about WASH Issues through fun quiz events and an art competition.





International Women's Day Celebration

To celebrate International Women's Day, on 8th March 2018 Nobo Jatra organized a number of festivities to attract teachers, school children and local government officials. Through our community theatre performances, fun activities and media coverage Nobo Jatra successfully celebrated this day to highlight the importance of women in our community for equal opportunities and development. Nobo Jatra also participated in USAID Bangladesh's digital campaign "Because I am Connected, I can..."



National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) 2018



As part of Nobo Jatra's Disaster Risk Resilience portfolio, WFP along with local government, cooperating partners and consortium partners observed National Disaster Preparedness Day on March 10th 2018, across all four sub districts covered by the project. The day's activities aimed to create mass awareness of local communities to reduce risks and vulnerabilities whilst also strengthening capacity to manage natural disasters effectively and efficiently.

Government Study Tour On WASH

The WASH study tour was conducted on 4-5 April 2018 under the framework of the Government Accountability and Capacity Building component. The study tour was intended to strengthen multi-lateral engagement on WASH challenges and align with Nobo Jatra's remit to promote joint thinking around broader challenges related to food security, nutrition and resilience in south west Bangladesh that are of broad interest to relevant branches of central government.





National Gender Learning Event: “Addressing Gender Inequalities in Food Security Programming”

On April 11th 2018, a Nobo Jatra national gender learning event titled “Addressing Gender Inequalities in Food Security Programming” was held in Dhaka. The event served to provide a platform for all three Food For Peace Development Food Security Activities in Bangladesh to share findings from their gender formative research and showcase early evidence of gender transformative approaches and interventions from all three working areas. Attendees comprised the honourable Minister and the Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, divisional and local Government representatives, USAID Bangladesh, academia, development practitioners and friends in the media. The learning event was designed as a first of a series and served to amplify peer-based learning, discourse, collaboration and collective action on gender equitable programming in Bangladesh.



Pause & Reflect: Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) in Nobo Jatra

As part of a strong learning and evidence based knowledge management strategy which aligns with USAID’s Collaborative Learning and Adapting (CLA) framework, two critical learning activities were undertaken for the Promotional Graduation and Male Engagement components. These learning activities fall within the adaptation remit which recognizes that taking the time to pause and reflect on our work is critical to learning and improving performance. Therefore, an underlying objective in implementing the learning activities was to analyze best practices and opportunities to improve the implementation of the promotional graduation model through reflection on existing processes, timelines and activities, in order to determine their cost effectiveness in relation to quality. Opportunities to modify, were then assessed and based on feasibility, immediately incorporated into the implementation level. Similarly, purposeful reflection was embedded within the male engagement component – leveraging opportunity to capture lessons learned from the pilot and infuse these during scale up.



Success Story: Building inter-generational resilience



South west Bangladesh is frequently referred to as 'ground zero' where the consequences of climate change are concerned. Cyclones, tidal surges, floods and droughts are pervasive and climate change is expected to exacerbate the intensity and frequency with which these occur. Given this reality, Nobo Jatra has worked extensively to build the resilience of local communities in the south west coastal belt of Bangladesh to cope with frequent natural disasters.

50 year old Rahima Khatun, her 70 year old mother Samotta Banu and 24 year old daughter Jorina Khatun live in Gobra Village in Koyra, a remote sub district. Rahima has faced many years of personal difficulty, having been abandoned by her husband 24 years ago, leaving her as the primary caregiver for Jorina and elderly mother Samotta. Impov-

erished even by the regions dire poverty rates, life has been a long and difficult struggle for Rahima. She has had to rely on day to day income for many years to provide for young daughter and hearing-impaired mother. ***"My husband Abdul Aziz Sana left us after his second marriage 24 years ago, when my daughter Jorina was 1.5 months old. I am struggling for survival through caring of my daughter (Jorina) and my mother (Samatta Banu) since 24 years. We have no regular income, my mother (Samatta Banu) is hearing impaired and cannot not walk alone, she needs constant assistance."***



Whether it was catching seasonal prawn or bargaining for daily essentials for her family, Rahima has worked hard to make ends meet with her meagre income. Given that the southwest region is prone to many natural

calamities, cyclones are described in her own words as “a nightmare for [us] all.” In 2009 during cyclone AILA, she and her family were forced to stay nearly 2 months in a Cyclone shelter. In 2017, the devastation left by another cyclone resulted in her house being completely submerged due to an embankment collapsing by the Kopotakho River.

In 2018, things took a turn for the better when a youth volunteer from the Nobo Jatra Project came to Rahima’s village to provide assistance for Rahima’s household in developing a disaster preparedness action plan. Through guidance from local Nobo Jatra staff and volunteers, Rahima and her daughter Jorina have prepared their own disaster preparedness plan tailored to the specific needs of their family. As daughter Jorina Khatun recounts, **“a youth volunteer of Nobo Jatra project from our village oriented us how can we prepare our household level disaster preparedness action plan for survival from disasters. As my grandmother (Samatto Banu) cannot hear any things; I have taken responsibility to carry her to the nearby cyclone shelter during warning period of disaster and included at plan. We have a goat; we included to carry our goat to Cyclone shelter in our household readiness plan and we will inform our neighbors to carry their**

livestock to the cyclone shelters also.”

With an emphasis on women’s inclusion, Nobo Jatra has reached 5,161 participants across 1,977 households to build capacities in disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Village Development Committees, a critical pathway to reach communities, have also been mobilized to conduct Community Risk Assessment sessions with over 600 committee members trained and action plans developed to support local disaster management committees. Youth, yet another key demographic in building resilience capacities, have also been mobilised and trained to develop leadership qualities during natural disasters.

Through Nobo Jatra efforts, Rahima’s household now have a detailed and feasible action plan for all members of her family, as well as livestock. Her family has also taken precautionary measures to protect her home from any further flood water through plinth raising, have secured dry food rations as well as saved emergency funds for any future natural calamity as part of their action plan. Now Rahima’s family is one of many that have successfully been given critical advice, information, and guidance around disaster preparedness and risk reduction. For any future natural disasters, her family now stands a strong chance of survival and resilience during times of hardship and difficulty.





Highlights

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National learning event

1

GoB WASH study tour

1

Steering Committee Meeting

3

International Day Celebrations

3

learning and adaptation activities

174,494

HHs reached

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of WorldVision Bangladesh and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



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