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World Vision

NOBO JATRA - NEW BEGINNING

USAID's Development Food Security Activity

Newsletter

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May – September 2018

Introduction

Nobo Jatra-new beginning' completed a very productive third quarter of 2018 contributing further to the overall project goal 'to improve gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience of vulnerable people within Khulna and Satkhira districts of Bangladesh.' As a major milestone, the Mid Term Evaluation took place followed by a 4 day Theory of Change review to further calibrate MTE recommendations, findings and refine implementation for the outer years of the project.

Continuous efforts were undertaken to troubleshoot child marriages and implement activities aligned with Nobo Jatra's 'Marriage not before 18' campaign. Till date, our combined efforts working with local communities, schools, Child Protection Committees and Government representatives have resulted in 47 early marriages being stopped.

We have also had a number of high profile visits to our working areas, notably the USAID Bangladesh Mission Director, a US congressional delegation, colleagues from the USAID Mission in Bangladesh and World Vision global leadership. The unwavering support of all our stakeholders, partners and colleagues has helped us to achieve crucial momentum in reaching our project goal. In that spirit, this issue of the newsletter celebrates a number of successes whilst also providing a snapshot of our progress.

Rakesh Katal
Chief of Party

Nobo Jatra – New Beginning

Nobo Jatra at a glance

Nobo Jatra's early marriage campaign

USAID Mission Director Visit

Head of World Vision Global Operations

Acceleration fund for DRR

MoU with Institute of Public Health and Nutrition

Field Guide Training

Gender Sensitization

Advocacy Strategy and Implementation Workshop

CVA: Improving health systems by encouraging communities to take greater individual and collective responsibility



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Nobo Jatra at a glance

May – September 2018

MCHN



16,573 Pregnant and Lactating Women received Conditional Cash Transfers
28,216 CU2 reached via Growth Monitoring Promotion
10,113 children received Micro Nutrient Powder
2,181 pregnant women, **19,507** lactating women and **8,313** gatekeepers provided MAMA messages. **275,821** voice messages and **8,763** SMS'
980 COEL bangle distributed

Agriculture & Livelihoods



25,117 participants completed 6 months literacy training
7,228 Ultra Poor Graduation participants received Cash Grants of BDT 15,000/person for business startup
112 agriculture Local Service Providers identified and trained

Good Governance & Social Accountability



CVA completed with **119** Community Clinics
 CVA completed with **39** Union WATSAN committees

WASH



1,740 new water points installed and **171** rehabilitated
29,955 people gained access to basic drinking water services
2,916 new latrine established and **2,971** rehabilitated
26,953 people gained access to sanitation services
92,153 participants reached through WASH SBCC

Gender



5,227 male engagement participants
3,592 male engagement graduates
5,690 LSBE participants
3,109 LSBE graduate

Disaster Risk Reduction



812 DMC members trained on DRR
46,034 community people oriented on DRR
 Facilitated **240** VDCs to conduct CRA
21 Cyclone simulation drill by **69,897** people

‘Marriage Not Before 18’: Nobo Jatra’s early marriage campaign



Media awareness campaigns:

• 10 events

(rallies + interactive discussions) with

1,844 participants

(Govt. staffs, students, marriage registers, youth groups, early marriage victims, VDC leaders, religious leaders, and community people)

• 38 Cycle Rallies

with 10,220 students



Boys-5,128



Girls-5,092



• 12 Billboards

• 5 performance of community theatre

“Adomya Lota” viewed by **3,215** community people

Engage and sensitize influential groups:

1 Union level human chain

1 workshop with 62 National and Upazila level journalists

4 Influential groups (elite group members, local leaders, birth attendants, journalists and VDC focal persons) meetings with 81 participants

4 workshops with religious leaders and marriage registers

2 round table meetings at District and Divisional level



* National Birth Registration Day

* National Youth Day

Impact:

Strengthened Child Protection Committees (CPC) to report and prevent cases of early marriage:

Reform and activate Upazila and Union level child protection standing committees (Upazila Parishad Standing Committee- Women and Child Development Committee and UPSC-Union Family Arbitration, Women and Child Welfare Committee)

Quarterly meeting with Upazila Child Protection committees

Stopped 47 early marriages





USAID Mission Director Visit:

Nobo Jatra hosted a US delegation including the USAID Bangladesh Mission Director and representatives from USAID Bangladesh. 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 (cooking feeding demonstration with GMP demo), a Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) demonstration plot and meet with a Community Savings & Loan Group (CSLG). The delegation also were able to have household visit of IGA (Karchupi) beneficiary and latrine beneficiary and lively discussions with Nobo Jatra's other beneficiaries to get a first hand account of project impact on their lives and within the community.



MoU with Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN)

Nobo Jatra Project have signed a MoU with Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) to pilot a mHealth project with mPower in Dacope Upazila. Under this agreement, Nobo Jatra will work with Government health department (DGHS) in a more extensive way to coordinate, share resources and generate data and disseminate them jointly. MCHN data particularly for Growth Monitoring and Promotion will be absorbed into the Government health department server and contribute to national data as well.

USAID Mission team:

A senior team from USAID/FFP comprising the M&E Director, Program Management Specialist and Project Management Specialist of USAID Bangladesh undertook a field visit to Kaliganj, Koyra and Shyamnagar Upazila of Nobo Jatra working arena. There was clear appreciation of Nobo Jatra's field level activities related to WASH, MCHN SBCC and Male Engagement activities, acknowledgement of steady progress under agriculture and livelihoods interventions, VSLA activities and Life Skills Based Education for youth.



Head of World Vision Global Operations:

Jean Baptiste Kamate, Head of World Vision Global Operations visited Nobo Jatra working Upazila – Kaliganj along with Fred Witteveen, National Director, World Vision Bangladesh and Rakesh Katal, Chief of Party-Nobo Jatra Project. The visit was at the strategic level to understand project progress, challenges and mitigation strategies.



Training/meeting and capacity strengthening



Field Guide Training:

Facilitated by Dan Norell, Senior Technical Advisor, Economic Development, WV US, a training on “Integrating Extremely Poor Producers into Markets Field Guide” was conducted for Nobo Jatra staff with the focus on value chain development and market system development and understanding of constraints to market participants of extremely poor producers.

Day observation



Safe Motherhood day:

Nobo Jatra Project observed Safe Motherhood Day 2018 with and through the Govt. Health Institute including Community Clinic, Union Family Welfare Center and Union Parishad; community people and other NGO staffs with the theme of “Midwife beside Mother; Help Reducing Maternal Death” across its working arena (4 Upazilas and 40 Unions). The theme for Safe Motherhood day 2018 resonated strongly across the project, with extensive efforts to nurture expecting mothers and new born babies to develop a healthy nation as Nobo Jatra is pledge-bound to develop mother and child health and reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

Gender Sensitization Training:

To lay the foundation for gender transformative project implementation, Gender Sensitization and Integration training were convened for project staffs facilitated by the Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, WVUS.

Advocacy Strategy and Implementation Workshop:

A 2-day workshop on ‘Advocacy Strategy and Implementation’ was organized for senior leadership and technical teams across the Nobo Jatra consortia co facilitated by the Advocacy and Justice for Children Director, South Asia Region, World Vision, with the objectives of mapping the stakeholders associated with each of the advocacy objectives identified in Nobo Jatra’s advocacy strategy, and broad understanding among participants of promising approaches to advocacy.



World Environment Day:

On 5th of June 2018, Nobo Jatra observed “World Environment Day” with the theme ‘Beat Plastic Pollution.’ The day was observed jointly with Upazila Administration, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), NGOs and education institutes with almost 780 people in attendance. Celebrations started with colorful rallies and discussion sessions with local government authorities, local elite, community people and frontline Nobo Jatra staff followed by quiz competition and prize distribution for college students.



World Breastfeeding Week:

Nobo Jatra participated in the observation of the World Breastfeeding Week during the first week of August supporting this year's theme "Breastfeeding: Foundation for Life" across its working communities. In leadership of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) of the GoB, along with other national and international non-government organizations NJP organized quiz competition for husband and in-laws, disseminated awareness messages and distributed materials like curtains on community clinics and family welfare centers to ensure privacy of mothers at the breast feeding corners. The participants inspiring participated in the events and shared experiences among other mothers by relaying the importance of breastfeeding with other members back in their homes and communities.



National Fisheries Week:

The National Fisheries Week 2018 was observed from July 18 to July 24 with the slogan "Shayang shoampunno Mashae desh, Bangabandhur Bangladesh," which means "Bangabandhu's country self-sufficient with fish." Along with Department of Fisheries (DoF) and different national and international organizations, Nobo Jatra celebrated the week with colorful rally followed by discussion session and released fingerlings in nearby pond of the each Upazila Porishad. Observing the day was visibly recognized by all participants and the government line staffs appreciated NJP activities especially capacity building and awareness creation among poor fish farmers on climate smart aquaculture.

Success Story

Citizen Voice and Action (CVA): Improving health systems by encouraging communities to take greater individual and collective responsibility:

"Since CVA, there have been many changes in our Community Clinic. Now, on average I see 50 patients a day – most are pregnant or lactating women and children. We (community health staff) provide nutrition counselling and give out iron folate tablets and vitamin A supplements. We are seeing service improvements because local communities are giving us feedback – and this is making us more responsive and accountable."

Prodipto Sarder, Community Health Care Provider, Khona Khatal Community Clinic, south west Bangladesh

Newspaper Coverage:

Concerted efforts have focused on building strong rapport with media at the national, divisional and local level. During these period, Nobo Jatra was covered via 48 national, division and local level online and print media for events such as observation of national birth registration day and breast feeding week, Divisional level youth conference, CVA interface meeting with Union Agriculture Service Units and Upazila dialogue sessions, field guide training on market linkage, Community Support Group meetings, VDCs voluntary work for community development, TOC review workshop, distribution of health related materials, installation of water points (Reverse Osmosis, Pond Sand Filters) etc.

Agricultural Behavior Change Design (ABCD):

In order to develop a high impact, cost-effective, and sustainable Behavior Change Communication (BCC) strategy for agriculture at scale to improve nutritional status of target beneficiaries, VISCOM, an external organization, undertook formative research in Dacope Upazila upon which a BCC strategy and implementation plan was developed for the out years of the project and beyond.



Since 2015, World Vision's Nobo Jatra project has sought to enhance the performance of Community Clinics in four sub districts of Bangladesh's coastal belt districts of Khulna and Satkhira. Community Clinics are the front line in Bangladesh's race to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 3. The ambition of these clinics is remarkable - 14,000 Community Clinics now operate across Bangladesh, and are designed to provide a range of critical, basic health and family planning services to citizens within a distance equivalent to a half hour walk. Often, community clinics are the only health outpost in rural areas with poor infra-structure and communication outreach.

Prodipto, a Community Health Care provider, quoted above, provides us with an affirmative representation of Community Clinics. However, this was not always the case in south west Bangladesh. World Vision's experience, as well as recent research, suggest that Community Clinics have not yet fulfilled their ambitious goal of bringing health care to the "doorstep" of the poorest. Community monitoring in over 100 clinics illustrates that service delivery quality is uneven, stock outs are common, and clinic management can sometimes fail to serve the needs of the sick. The monitoring by local communities, supported by World Vision in 119 clinics of Khulna and Satkhira districts, revealed that only 22% had safe drinking water and only 13% had a latrine.



In response to this reality, Nobo Jatra has sought to improve access to, quality and accountability of health

services in Community Clinics through dialogue and monitoring of Government service provision standards. Through applying the Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) approach, encouraging changes are already visible. Action Plans developed collaboratively by local community members and Government officials have resulted in improved WASH facilities in clinics through installation of tube wells, water tanks and filters and latrines, availability of basic equipment such as stethoscopes, scales and pregnancy and diabetes test strips. Communities have come forward to donate over \$12,000 towards renovations and over \$5,000 worth of land for construction of Community Clinics.

As a major outcome, CVA has also enhanced relationships between healthcare staff and patients, leading to increased health-seeking behavior, higher outpatient numbers, and more pregnant and lactating women using antenatal and post natal services.

‘Clinic staff are helpful and approachable. This makes it easier for us to talk about health issues and seek the right kind of advice. The Khona Khatail Clinic now has a tippy tap – this is a simple hand washing station that has been adopted by so many of us now in our homes.’



Hoaneara Begum, a young mother visiting Khona Khatail Community Clinic.

The role of local politicians in the CVA approach is yet another critical catalyst to success. Dialogues with Union level Government representatives across all four sub districts have shown that having their support in issues raised by communities become more credible.

“Health is the root of all happiness. Through our community monitoring, we have to ensure the quality of services in our Clinics. Citizens have to be aware and they have to know their rights. Action Plans develop through the CVA process helps us to collectively follow up and resolve outstanding issues.”

Binoy Krisno Roy, Union Chairman, Dacope sub-district, south west Bangladesh

Highlights

1

learning and adaptation activities

1

Post Distribution Monitoring completed on MCHN CCT utilization

3

MOU's signed

4

National and International days observed

1

Theory of Change review

3rd Monetization sales proceeds received

Completed Mid-Term Evaluation



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