



USAID
আমেরিকার জনগণের পক্ষ থেকে



World Vision

NOBO JATRA - NEW BEGINNING

USAID's Development Food Security Activity

Newsletter

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January – March
2019

Introduction

Dear friends,

I'm delighted to be writing the introduction for the 10th issue of the Nobo Jatra newsletter! As always, we bring you the highlights from the previous quarter and share a glimpse of our notable milestones.

We were honored to welcome US Ambassador Earl R. Miller to Nobo Jatra working areas in Dacope. The Ambassador spent time visiting our incredible lead farmers to learn about climate smart technologies and also interacted with local entrepreneurs. The visit was a huge encouragement to Nobo Jatra, particularly our dedicated field teams who implement activities in the remotest locations in south west Bangladesh.

For International Women's Day - we organized football tournaments for adolescent school girls, cycle rallies and also hosted guardian gatherings at secondary schools. I congratulate our team for continuously challenging ourselves to innovate and break social norms to promote greater gender equality.

We also won the USAID funded Agrilinks photo challenge in the Education and Extension and Resilience categories. All of this encourages us further to dedicate our efforts to improve the lives of the communities we serve, leading to a healthier and more self-reliant Bangladesh.

Sincerely,
Rakesh Katal
Chief of Party - Nobo Jatra
World Vision



US Ambassador visits Climate Smart Agricultural demo plot in Dacope

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Nobo Jatra at a glance

January - March 2019



MCHN

14,351 Pregnant and Lactating Women received Conditional Cash Transfers
26,694 CU2 reached via Growth Monitoring Promotion
10,548 Children received Micro Nutrient Powder
14,035 Households visit and **2,880** courtyard sessions for nutrition counseling



WASH

400 Water and Sanitation committees mentored
5,838 People gained access to basic drinking water service
1,515 People gained access to sanitation services
68,735 Participants reached through WASH SBCC



Agriculture & Livelihoods

751 Ultra-poor graduation participants received Cash Grants of USD \$178/person for business startup
8,934 Participants trained in 6 months entrepreneurial literacy
41 Youth received vocational training and earning \$43 per month
32 MoU's signed with private sector



Gender

4,636 Male engagement participants
2,829 Life School Based Education participants
3,599 Youth & adolescents provided leadership training



Good Governance & Social Accountability

221 Union level standing committees activated
161 VDC's reviewed Community Development Plan
622 VDC's held **14,359** monthly meetings



Disaster Risk Reduction

19,420 Community people oriented on DRR
40 Union maps prepared indicating cyclone shelter
18 Cyclone simulation drill covering **93,241** people

'Marriage Not Before 18'

#BalanceforBetter

Girls breaking social norms:

To 'Balance for better' Nobo Jatra celebrated International Women's Day 2019 through organizing football and cricket tournaments for adolescent girls in southwest Bangladesh.

Nobo Jatra works to challenge social norms to promote gender equality in all areas.



Guardian Gathering at Schools:

Guardian gatherings are yet another innovation practiced by Nobo Jatra. For the first time ever, Nobo Jatra convened parents and guardian of secondary school children to meet with School Management Committees, sub district level Government Education Officers and local chairmen. During discussions, parents and guardians were able to talk about their child's current education status, future education and job opportunities. 85 guardian gatherings took place bringing together over 17,000 participants.

Cycle rally:

Over 4,000 adolescents took part in cycle rallies across all four sub districts covered by Nobo Jatra. Girls and boys cycled through the streets with banners and hats showing anti child marriage messages - a unique and effective way of raising awareness on the harmful and dangerous practice of child marriage.



Impact:

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

Stopped
25 child
marriages

46
District,
Upazila and
Union Child
Protection
committees are
active

21
of them are
back in full time
secondary
school

Internal and external visits



US Ambassador Earl R. Miller visited Nobo Jatra - interacted with lead farmers to observe climate smart agriculture and local entrepreneurs with hatcheries. - a great encouragement to Nobo Jatra



A team from World Vision US visited 3 sub districts in January to collect compelling stories directly from project participants.



Upazila Nibrahi Officer, Family Planning Officer, Chairman and Deputy Director- family planning visited a Nobo Jatra installed Pond Sand Filter and a Court Yard session on complementary feeding of children under two.

Nobo Jatra held an internal workshop focused on sustainability and the journey to self reliance. During the workshop, models to engage private sector and greater government and local NGO ownership were the focus of future implementation strategies.

External Engagement



To sustain Nobo Jatra's nutrition initiatives on ground, the project intends to pilot the Social Marketing Company (SMC)'s model (an adapted version of the Blue Star Program) to transition a number of Community Nutrition Facilitators (CNFs) and Lead Mothers into Community Sales Agents. Given this objective, a team from Nobo Jatra visited project offices and field sites of SMC to see how the model works on the ground and develop a strategy on how this can be replicated in Nobo Jatra working areas along with a clearly articulated business plan.

DAYS



International Women's Day



National Disaster Preparedness Day

STAKEHOLDERS



Students



NGOs



WatSan committees and VDC members



Teachers



Journalists



Youth groups

EVENTS



Football match for young girls



Cricket tournaments for young girls



Art competition



Debates



Colorful rallies



Speech competition



Quizzes competition



Prize distribution

VISIBILITY



External/Internal Engagement



With the aim to strengthen mutual understanding, learning and develop the program in a more effective and efficient manner Nobo Jatra organized a cross sectoral field visit from 20 to 23 January in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar Upazila. Program managers of different components, specialists, coordinators, leads, M&E and Knowledge Management personnel had participated this field visit. The visit was robust, comprehensive and meaningful to understand the quality of the program in the field, inter-sectoral linkages and pathway towards sustainability.



Nobo Jatra took part in a job fair organized by the leading online job portal BD Jobs. The aim was to help Nobo Jatra youth participants who have received technical and vocational training to develop a CV, access the right employers and also develop skills and confidence to take part in job interviews.

WINNERS !

Nobo Jatra won the USAID funded Agrilinks Feed the Future Photo Challenge in the resilience and education and extension categories.



Chondona and her husband Paritosh catch fish from their pond to feed their children and also sell at the local market. Through training from Nobo Jatra, Chondona uses improved fish seed and cultivates nutritious small fish. To improve health and nutrition, Nobo Jatra supports the adoption of practices that are evidence backed, climate resilient and cost effective.

Dacope, south west Bangladesh



Morjina (left), a single parent with two young daughters, attends weekly entrepreneurial literacy sessions led by Nobo Jatra to develop skills and confidence to establish a small business. Through Ultra Poor Graduation, World Vision empowers women like Morjina to strengthen and diversify livelihoods, increase assets and earn sustainable income.

Koyra, south west Bangladesh

Nobo Jatra hosted a 'Knowledge Café' session focused on Child Marriage: Realities and Results in southwest Bangladesh.



Nobo Jatra participated and won the 1st prize of Women Development fair-2019 to contribute women's socio-economic development organized by Kaliganj Upazila administration.



Nobo Jatra shared the findings from the first phase of a longitudinal study focused on "Women's leadership in WASH governance" during the inaugural Webinar for the Food For Peace funded PRO-WASH Award. A full recording of the Webinar can be found here:

<https://bitlylink.com/9NdVV>

VISIBILITY



Nobo Jatra was covered via 37 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, Girls football match, International womens day and BJOBS fair attendance by Nobo Jatra.



Empowering women in south west Bangladesh through an Ultra Poor Graduation approach



Shabitri Dashi, 33, lives in the remote sub district of Kaliganj in southern Bangladesh with her 3 children Modhumala, 15, Ratna, 12, and Nayan, 6 and ailing husband Arobindo, 52, a van driver. Struggling with poverty compounded by several major accident and illnesses – the family were forced to beg for medical expenses. Shabitri remembers,

“I would just do some housework for neighbors. The money my husband earned wasn’t enough at all. There was not a single day that we didn’t quarrel with each other.”

Fortunately, Shabitri managed to enroll in the 24 month Ultra Poor Graduation program of Nobo Jatra where the project targeting 14,000 ultra-poor women like Shabitri, providing them entrepreneurial literacy and Income Generating Activities training with a monthly consumption smoothing cash grant of US \$12.50, a one-time cash grant of \$188 as start-up capital along with participation in Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA).

Diligently participating in 9 months of literacy training, Shabitri is now able to sign her name, has developed skills in basic numeracy and accounts and also learnt about basic nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and household resilience concepts. Simultaneously, Shabitri also joined a Village Savings and Loans

Association, essentially a savings group, comprised of other women also from the Ultra Poor Graduation program, and for the first time in her life – Shabitri started to save approx. **\$10** each month. Shabitri is the cashier of the saving group and has already saved **\$72** in her account.

Upon successful completion of training on income generation activities, Shabitri received a one-time cash grant of \$188 and chose to start a grocery shop and invest the rest into a bamboo product making business. Remarkably, Shabitri is making a profit of approximately **\$36** per month from her businesses. Other changes are also tangible. The family are now drinking water from a tube-well instead of a nearby pond where they normally collected water which was not safe for consumption. After attending SBC sessions on health, nutrition, water and sanitation, all Shabitri’s family members are now particular in terms of hand washing and keeping their latrine immaculately clean.

Shabitri and Aurobindo also learned about the perils of child marriage from the project, and have agreed to not arrange marriages for their children till they are at least 18. Arobindo is also contributing to child care and supporting Shabitri’s bamboo product making and selling these at the market. Modhumala is appreciative of these changes in her parents

“I saw my parents struggle, they quarreled every day because of not having money but now, we are happier, our Dad takes care of us more than before.”

Over 12,000 women like Shabitri have successfully completed the 9 months literacy training. An assessment has shown that households’ of those that have completed training have:

Productive assets have increased by 34%

86% are using a safe drinking water source and 56% were found to use a sanitary latrine.

100% of households are saving regularly, with the average saving for each household standing at \$24.

Average income of households stands at \$54 per month, compared to a baseline value of \$38 per month.

100% of households had household level disaster preparedness plans that they were following, and

No instance of child marriage in the household.



Shabitri is incredibly proud of her ability to contribute to the financial solvency of her family, send her children to school and also, pay for a tutor.

“I had no idea about business, I don’t have any education and I felt that my future was in dark. But after joining the Ultra Poor Graduation Program - I am confident that I can also do something for my child. I am very happy in my present situation. I don’t have any worry about my children’s education.”



Highlights

32
MOU's signed

8
National and International days
observed

Won **1st prize** of
Women Development
fair Kaligonj- 2019

Won USAID's Feed
the Future Agrilinks
Photo Challenge 2019

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