

BANGLADESH

Protecting and Promoting Food Security and Nutrition for Families and Children in Bangladesh (MDGF- 1994)

Children, Food Security and Nutrition



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|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|
| Total Budget: | USD 7,984,873 | | |
| Budget by Agency: | WFP: | 3,540,800 | |
| | UNICEF: | 2,154,575 | |
| | FAO: | 2,289,498 | |
| Participating Gov. Entities: | IPHN, NNP, MHFW, NGOs, MoFDM, DAE/MoA | | |
| Start Date: | 23 March 2010 | | |
| End Date: | 23 March 2013 | | |
| Extension: | Not yet requested | | |
| Disbursements: | First Disbursement: | 23 March 2010 | USD 2,979,817 |
| | Second Disbursement: | | |
| | Third Disbursement: | | |
| In Brief: | <p>This joint programme will achieve improved food and nutrition security for vulnerable children and their caregivers affected by high food prices. The programme will contribute to Bangladesh's accelerated achievement of the MDG-1 hunger reduction target. Elements include homestead food production, in-kind food transfers, community based management of acute malnutrition, school feeding and gardening, and strengthening food security and nutrition information systems. The objective of the joint programme is to: Contribute to the reduction of underweight prevalence and to reduce the proportion of the population which is food insecure having inadequate calorie and nutrient intake. The programme will protect against the reversal/erosion of past MDG-1 achievements by addressing malnutrition and food insecurity with an emphasis on children and women. Because under-nutrition is also closely linked to under-5 child mortality, the project will also contribute to the achievement of MDG-4 goals.</p> | | |

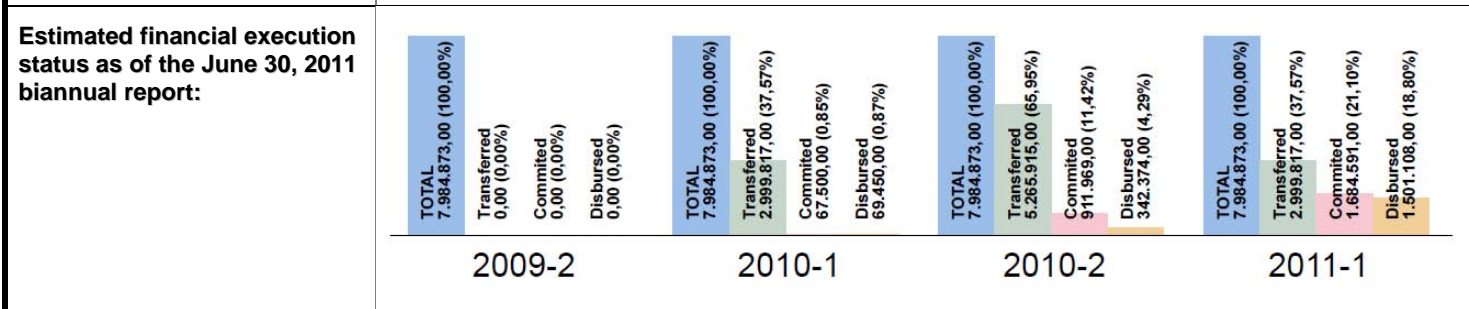
Outcomes:

- Reduced prevalence of acute malnutrition and underweight in children 0-59 months and acute malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women.
- Food security improved through agriculture, homestead food production and nutrition training.
- Improved learning and nutrition awareness through school feeding and school gardening.
- Reduced rates of anemia for young children and pregnant and lactating women through multiple micronutrient supplementations.
- Strengthened food security and nutrition information systems for planning, monitoring and evaluations.



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| Regions of Intervention: | | |
| MDGs | MDG1 T1.C, MDG4 T4.A | |
| Beneficiaries to date | Direct | Indirect |
| • No. Institutions | 9 | 0 |
| • No. Women and Children | 3138 | 12552 (estimated family members of the direct beneficiaries) |
| • No. Men | | |
| • No. ethnic groups | | |

Status
The programme is at an early stage of implementation, and has advanced at slower pace than originally anticipated in part due to a lengthy process in identifying a partner NGO for implementation and delays in recruitments.



Main Achievements:
By outcomes
While it is too early to report on achievements of outcomes, implementation of activities under all outcomes has begun. Regular screening is being conducted in the communities to identify children and women who are under-nourished. These families are being included in the program on a priority basis. Outreach centers and Government Health facilities at the Sub district level have been provided with the necessary equipment, materials, medicines and supplementary nutrition to manage under nutrition. The staff, including those at the facilities, and the outreach workers, have been trained in managing and preventing under nutrition. Courtyard sessions on prevention of under nutrition, feeding practices and cooking practices are being organized in all the communities.
The initial round of homestead and school gardens was successful and has generated enthusiasm in the communities. Strategies to further enhance food security of the families are being developed.

Does the JP incorporate gender considerations in the **activities/outputs/outcomes**?

The JP has consciously focused activities on women as the key change agents within the families. Women are the focal points for establishing homestead gardens. They receive technical and material inputs to set up homestead gardens. As the main caregivers, women are also responsible for the nutritional status of the families. This sustained focus upon women through different channels is expected to result in improved self esteem of the women and their status within families.

The program will track activities and outcome indicators according to gender. In addition, the program is also planning on monitoring the changes in women as they continue to be associated with the program. Specifically, the program will examine how women's perceptions of themselves change as they become more and more involved in improving the food security and nutritional status of their families.

Observations

Paris Declaration

Leadership of national and local governmental institutions:
The Economic Relation Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance is the lead agency that provides overall guidance to the programme and ensures involvement of other stakeholders. The PMC reviews the strategies, progress and ensures that activities are in line with GoB policies.
Ensuring meaningful involvement of stakeholders at National level has been challenging for the JP. The program is also building upon the existing bi-lateral relationships between agencies and the relevant line departments.
At the project level, coordination mechanisms are being established to ensure engagement of the different departments in the programme.

Involvement of CSOs and citizens:
The Program is implemented by NGO partners who are responsible for ensuring the capacity of the health system to provide services. The partner NGOs are also responsible for the involving communities in the program.
Furthermore, to involve citizens the JP activities have been designed to enhance the capacity of the participants and the service providers. Courtyard sessions will be organized to involve women, and to communicate key messages to increase awareness. Service delivery points also provide the necessary interface between providers and the community to communicate programme messages.

Alignment and Harmonization:
The Joint Programme is broadly aligned with the country Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), by

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| | <p>protecting and addressing the food security and nutritional status of the most vulnerable high-risk groups affected by volatile food prices.</p> <p>Innovative elements in mutual accountability: Joint Secretary, ERD and WFP are the Co-chair of the PMC. Membership of the PMC has been an issue to ensure it acts as a decision making platform among partners. The Coordination Unit is located in WFP. The Co-ordination unit liaises with GOB and other UN agencies on a regular basis sitting in WFP office.</p> | |
| Delivering as One | <p>Innovative elements in harmonization of procedures and managerial practices: Short term technical committees have been established to review IEC material and to review the baseline proposals. These will continue to be used as an effective mechanism to ensure co-ordination and involvement on specific issues. Monthly coordination meetings between the UN agencies and the Technical and Implementing partners have been instituted to improve co-ordination at the project level. Joint mission are planned to the project site.</p> <p>Role of the RCO and synergies with other MDG-F JPs: RCO provides valuable support to the JP, and keeps a good flow of communication with the MDG-F Secretariat.</p> <p>Inter-agency coordination: This JP is the first opportunity for the three agencies to work together on these multi-dimensional issues, providing an opportunity to utilize comparative advantages and resources of each agency in combination leading to the achievement of the programme outcomes. At the same time working jointly and taking decisions jointly is time consuming which can result in delays. The programme has identified existing bottlenecks and is better able to respond to these proactively. Further steps are being taken to ensure that these constraints can be foreseen and avoided in advance. The JP thematic area has been fully integrated in the new UNDAF showing commitment of the UNCT on working in these areas in response to national priorities.</p> | |
| Sustainability (concrete actions and strategic partnerships) | <p>Sustainability Plan in place? Consultations with the Government agencies have begun to discuss plans for sustainability and replicability. The programme considers that increased consultation and coordination with national partners will enhance sustainability of the programme.</p> | |
| Innovation and Scale-up | | |
| External Factors and mitigation | <p>The rise in political demonstrations has caused delays in implementation as well as the monsoon.</p> | |
| Communication and Advocacy | <p>C&A plan in place? The draft has been prepared and is currently being reviewed by the agencies before presentation to the PMC. Joint GoB and UN agency presentations on specific issues are planned for the coming period.</p> | |
| M&E | <p>The M&E framework is comprehensive and in place for the Nutrition Component. The M and E framework for the Food Security component will be instituted by December 2011. Baselines completed by November 2011, specific targets to indicators will be set based on baseline information.</p> | |
| Missions from MDG-F Secretariat: | Date: January 2011 | Members: Sophie de Caen, Paula Pelaez |

Mid Term Evaluation:

Evaluator:

Period:

Empty space for evaluation content.