



**Nobo Jatra – New Beginning USAID’s Development Food Security Activity
Annual Results Report (ARR), Fiscal Year-2018 - World Vision Bangladesh**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

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AIGA	Alternative Income Generating Activities
ARR	Annual Results Report
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CDMAP	Comprehensive Disaster Management Action Plan
CRA	Community Risk Assessment
CSG	Community Support Group
CU2	Children under two
CVA	Citizen Voice and Action
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
DFSA	Development Food Security Activity
DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMMP	Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
FFP	Food for Peace
FY	Fiscal Year
GMP	Growth Monitoring Program
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HCA	Host Country Agreement
H&N	Health and Nutrition
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
LSP	Local Service Provider
MCHN	Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition
MNP	Micro Nutrient Powder
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MTE	Mid Term Evaluation
NGO	Non-Government Organization

Acronyms and Abbreviations

PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PREP	Pipeline and Resource Estimate Proposal
SBCC	Social and Behavioral Change Communication
SUAP	Safe Use Action Plan
ToC	Theory of Change
TOT	Training of Trainer
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UP	Union Parishad
UPSC	Union Parishad Standing Committee
USAID	United States Agency of International Development
UzDMC	Upazila Disaster Management Committee
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WatSan	Water and Sanitation
WFP	World Food Programme
WMC	Water Management Committee

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A. ARR Narrative

i. Executive Summary

'Nobo Jatra-New Beginning' - a five year USAID Food for Peace Title II Development Food Security Activity - seeks to **improve gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience in southwest Bangladesh**. World Vision Bangladesh, together with the World Food Programme and Winrock International, undertook the project in September 2015, integrating interventions in Maternal Child Health and Nutrition, Water Sanitation and Hygiene, Agriculture and Alternative Livelihoods, Disaster Risk Reduction, Good Governance and Social Accountability and Gender to achieve objectives.

Nobo Jatra Goal: Improved gender equitable food security, nutrition and resilience of vulnerable people within Khulna and Satkhira district in Bangladesh

Purpose 1: Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

Under Purpose 1, Nobo Jatra works to (i) improve utilization of WASH practices by improving essential hygiene practices and utilization of improved water schemes and sanitation facilities (ii) reduce adolescent pregnancy by curbing early marriage rates (iii) increase equitable intake of nutritious food by increasing adoption of MCHN practice, improving nutrition and health related Government of Bangladesh services and (iv) increase practice of gender equitable norms in the household.

Purpose 2: Increased equitable household income.

Under Purpose 2, Nobo Jatra works with 52,000 vulnerable men and women to (i) increase their income through creating equitable access to nutritious food, (ii) graduate 14,000 families out of extreme poverty, (iii) form local producer groups and provide training on improved production technology, (iv) establish climate smart demo plots and (v) build capacity of local service providers.

Purpose 3: Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adopt to and recover from natural shocks and stresses.

Under Purpose 3, Nobo Jatra (i) strengthens disaster preparedness and response of communities and (ii) strengthens disaster preparedness and response of Government institutions and structures including Union and Upazila Disaster Management Committees.

Purpose 4: (Cross-Cutting) Improved social accountability and national policy engagement of service provision for vulnerable men and women.

Under (cross-cutting) Purpose 4, Nobo Jatra (i) increases responsiveness of market-based local service providers (WASH & Agriculture) to meet the needs of vulnerable men and women, (ii) increases responsiveness of Government service providers (Health and Nutrition, DRR, Agriculture,) to meet the needs of vulnerable men and women and (iii) engage in national level policy dialogue.

Nobo Jatra is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) of the Government of Bangladesh in four sub districts under two districts – Dacope and Koyra Upazilas in Khulna and Shyamnagar and Kaliganj Upazilas in Satkhira – and it aims to reach 856,116 direct participants including pregnant and lactating women, children under 2, youth, adolescents, husbands and fathers.

Category of Participants	2018 Target	Total Achievement in 2018
Child (0-23 months)	56,968	41,787
Child (24-59 months)	4,219	19,796
Boys (5-18 years)	N/A	17,652
Girls (5-18 years)	400	23,002
Youth (18-35 years)	256,942	256,942 (m – 111,933, f – 145,009)
Men (Over 35 years)	123,705	76,350
Women (Over 35 years)	142,993	131,593

Introduction

This Annual Results Report (ARR) presents Nobo Jatra activities and results realized from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. With the aim of achieving long term food security for vulnerable populations and adopting a multi sector approach, Nobo Jatra reached a total of 182,000 households in FY18, which is a 68% increase from 108,153 households reached in FY17.

Component	Targeted beneficiaries in FY18	Beneficiaries reached in FY18
Maternal Child Health and Nutrition	262,607	210, 621
Water Sanitation and Hygiene	113,379	88,382
Gender	15,900	18,849
Agriculture and Alternate Livelihoods	26,307	26,358
Disaster Risk Reduction	43,024	52,350
Good Governance and Social Accountability	4,741	4,397

Notably the 3rd Monetization sales proceeds totaling \$12,943,402 was received in May for 42,580 MT Soft White Wheat as per the Bill of Lading (B/L) quantity. The 4th Call Forward of 36,040 MT Soft White Wheat arrived in Bangladesh and the discharge was completed in August. [The sales proceeds of the 4th Call Forward was \\$11,937,403.51.](#) The second National

Steering Committee meeting was also a high point as Nobo Jatra were able to share and endorse the annual work plan with the nodal Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and other critical branches of central Government including the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs and Local Government Division – thus paving the way for smooth implementation in close partnership with Government across the national, divisional and local level. Further galvanizing the project, were a number of eminent visits to Nobo Jatra working areas by a senior US Congressional delegation, Food for Peace (FFP) Washington, USAID Mission Director and senior leadership from World Vision International and World Food Programme.

FY18 has proved a defining year for Nobo Jatra, comprising a number of sequential milestones such as the Mid Term Evaluation (MTE)¹, undertaken by Development Technicians and comprising desk reviews, field surveys in 20 villages across all four working Upazilas, a validation workshop, submission and approval of a final report. Key to note, a number of validated recommendations from the MTE have already been initiated; namely, i) refinement and recalibration of a clear sustainability strategy focused on system strengthening, building capacities, motivation and establishing linkages with external actors and ii) specific actions to streamline the Ultra Poor Graduation program to consolidate the number of organizations to reduce complexity and overlaps. The MTE clearly commended Nobo Jatra's women's empowerment focus – and to further underscore gender transformative implementation, 13 batches of gender sensitization and integration training were provided across the consortium reaching 275 participants (f – 75, m – 200) along with a capacity building workshop on gender mainstreaming for all consortium and national partners. To harness cross project learning on Gender between all three Development Food Security Activities, a national level learning event was convened to explore the drivers of gender inequality in Bangladesh with findings from gender formative research from all three Development Food Security Activities presented to identify the social, cultural and economic challenges that create and reinforce inequality and the ways in which they are addressed through programming. The event served to create a platform for development practitioners, donors, academics and activists to promote horizontal learning across organizations and formulate elements of a strategy that ensures that such learning is used to design, direct and enrich gender transformative interventions.

Based on an initial mapping of Feed the Future activities in Nobo Jatra working areas, Nobo Jatra participates in Feed the Future coordination meetings during which potential opportunities to coordinate are identified and discussed. To leverage resources with Feed the Future activities, Nobo Jatra coordinated with the CNFA led Agro Inputs Project based on which relevant SBCC materials such as flipcharts have been adapted and are currently being used at field level by frontline Nobo Jatra teams. Furthermore, CNFA trained input retailers who are part of the Agriculture Input Retailer Network (AIRN) in Dacope sub district are now working with Nobo Jatra as Agro Input Local Service Providers (LSPs). These LSPs are further trained by Nobo Jatra to serve as on ground advisors who operate on a fee-based model designed to supplement Government extension services which are often over stretched and unable to fully cover remote areas. During FY 18, Nobo Jatra also coordinated with the Feed the Future Agriculture Extension Activity where trained Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers, under the

Department of Agriculture Extension, were leveraged as resource persons during Nobo Jatra led trainings with lead farmers and producer groups. Sub Assistant Agriculture Officers were also involved as resource persons at Climate Smart Demonstration plots, farmer field days and farmer learning and sharing sessions. Key to note, climate smart technologies (bag gardening, keyhole gardening, pitcher method for irrigation, pit method, tippy tap method for irrigation, mulching, vermin-compost) used by USAID's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) project have been replicated amongst Nobo Jatra participants via the same local partner NGO thus ensuring the continuity of sustainable climate resilient practices.

Synchronizing with the end of the MTE, a Theory of Change (ToC) review facilitated by The TOPs Program served as a valuable opportunity to use learning and evidence as a basis for decision-making, again with respect to the layering, sequencing, integration, and overall prioritization of interventions. Immediately following the MTE, the thorough ToC review allowed staff including senior leadership within World Vision Bangladesh and Nobo Jatra to engage in honest appraisal and critique of the ToC, an opportunity to integrate new findings and determine whether the hypotheses put forth at project start up were still valid in the current context. Tangible outcomes of the Nobo Jatra ToC review include increased linkages across all four project purposes, clearly delineated coordination with local and national Government, NGOs and Feed the Future activities, assimilation of gender, youth, environment and governance across all purposes and amplified citizen engagement with government to improve delivery and quality of health, nutrition and WASH outcomes – thus paving the way for greater self-reliance of local communities and government. The outcomes of the ToC review have heavily influenced the FY19 PREP and are reflected across strategies and DIP activities.

Partner engagement remained a strategic priority throughout FY18, both in terms of strengthening the overall consortium partnership as well as continuous liaison with the nodal Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and other relevant secretariats. Regular coordination meetings amongst consortium and local partner NGOs also continued to be held at the Dhaka, Khulna and sub district levels ensuring alignment of activities on the technical and operational fronts and traction towards achieving annual targets.

The following reports and studies were uploaded on the DEC and approved by Food for Peace in FY18: 1) Annual Results Report FY17², 2) Mid-Term Evaluation³, 3) Surface and Groundwater⁴ study. Learnings and recommendations from these are detailed in this ARR narrative with emphasis on how they have informed component strategies and guided programmatic, management and operational decisions in FY18 and beyond.

The following narrative, graphics and annexes render an analysis of the headway made during FY18 along with elucidation of principal challenges, mitigation strategies, notable successes and

²<https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTEzMzI3>

³<https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTEzMzI4>

⁴<https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NTEzMzI2>

lessons learned along the journey. For ease of review, the narrative is presented by the LogFrame (purpose, sub-purpose, intermediate outcomes and outputs).

ii. Interventions and Results:

Purpose I: Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.

Sub Purpose I.I: Improved utilization of WASH practices

Intermediate Outcome I.I.I: Improved essential hygiene practices

To reduce incidences of diarrhea in children under five through the following intermediate outcomes (i) improving essential hygiene practices, (ii) strengthening utilization of improved water schemes, and (iii) improving utilization of sanitation facilities by strengthening WatSan committees, a number of critical activities were accomplished throughout FY18.

Nobo Jatra works to continuously strengthen and empower local government structures such as Union and Ward level Water and Sanitation (WatSan) committees to sustainably plan, monitor and report on WASH progress in their jurisdictions, mobilize resources to accomplish the plans through joint action planning with local government and promote essential hygiene practices. To equip WatSan committees to fulfil their mandate, Nobo Jatra provides capacity building and training on i) basic WASH concepts ii) Union and Ward WASH planning iii) essential hygiene practices and iv) behavior change communication. Throughout FY18, intensive capacity building training was rendered to 689 WatSan committee members (m-504, f-185), achieving sound progress towards meeting the IPTT target of 880. To ensure equitable and inclusive representation in WatSan committees, 1,555 women are now serving as active members and are participating in decisions related to resource allocation, repair and maintenance and monthly tariff collections for water points - this affirmative approach was endorsed in the MTE with the recognition that women serving in committees are well accepted within the community.

Pursuant to continuous training and mentoring, monthly monitoring has shown that 80% (318) WatSan committees are fully operational, a major achievement given that these committees are fulfilling all requisites that qualify them as operational. [To qualify as operational committees must meet regularly as per government policy and prepare and implement WASH activity plans. Notably, 25% of planned action points have been completed, 40% of the action points were related to ensuring safe drinking water, 33% to ensure safe sanitary latrines at the household level and 12% related to regular convening of Union WatSan committee meetings.](#) Annual progress review and planning meetings were also convened with 301 Ward WatSan committees comprising 3,895 participants (m-2,507, f-1,388) to monitor progress on WASH plans. Trainings and meetings have served to also reinforce Nobo Jatra's long term sustainability efforts to work in close partnership with local government and help ensure that local government ([Union Parishad](#)) and NGO resources are accurately allocated depending on severity of WASH needs as opposed to any other influencing factors.

As a result of the Ward Watsan meetings [and as found through monthly monitoring](#), committee members are undertaking household visits to continuously raise awareness and promote WASH messages and also monitor household latrines and water points. Furthermore, routine monitoring and field visits indicate that WatSan Committees members are more aware

of their roles and responsibilities, continuously mobilize inactive members through counseling, arrange meetings regularly and coordinate with important stakeholders such as the Department of Public Health Engineering, NGO's and influential community members to leverage resources to accomplish WASH plans at the Union and Ward level. A further 261 WatSan committees were activated in FY18, have developed activity plans and are also starting to convene on a regular basis. A major outcome of the activity plans is that WatSan committees are monitoring household level latrine and hygiene practices and continuously reaffirming positive messages related to WASH. Given this trajectory, it is anticipated that all 400 WatSan committees targeted by Nobo Jatra will be operational by FY19.

In taking a holistic approach to strengthen existing local government structures such as WatSan committees (rather than isolated strengthening of respective parts of the system), Nobo Jatra leverages World Vision's tested social accountability and local level advocacy approach Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) as a cross cutting theme across the project – including with Union WatSan committees. Through CVA, a local level advocacy methodology, 4,382 (2,385, f-1,997) project participants undertook 390 citizen services scorecards to rank and monitor⁵ WASH service provision in 39 Union WatSan committees. Qualitative and quantitative citizen feedback through CVA was collated and aggregated in a specially designed global database, which allows citizens to leverage common patterns of service failure and provide evidence at various levels of government as part of Nobo Jatra's advocacy for service improvements. Subsequently, 39 interface meetings were convened in the presence of Union WatSan Committee members, local community members and Upazila level government officials during which action plans were collaboratively developed to ensure that Union WatSan Committee are functional as per the Government mandate. As a result of the action plan follow up meeting, 25% of planned actions have been completed till date. Of this total, 40% of the action points were related to ensuring safe drinking water and 33% to ensure safe sanitary latrines at the household level and 12% related to regular convening of Union WatSan committee meetings. *Key to note, the intention is for activities within CVA action plans to be completed as expediently as possible. Deadlines vary for each action point depending on several factors. For example, some actions are contingent upon available resources, environmental factors and local context (for example, construction relation activities are not feasible during monsoon, certain activities cannot be completed immediately due to seasonal migration etc.*

CVA is central to Nobo Jatra's broader policy and advocacy portfolio, by ensuring that the voice of citizens is heard more directly by government. For example, Nobo Jatra is now convening district dialogues and planning national dialogues where citizens will be able to meet directly with government, share their views and aggregated evidence of their feedback across 280 WatSan committees to government by citizens themselves. *As a grass roots tier of government, Union Parishad's supervise health care, family planning, water, and sanitation services. In reality, they serve as the main citizen platform through which peoples' participation is ensured in the planning and budgeting process of development activities in rural areas. At the Ward level, each ward committee organizes a "Ward Shava" twice per year, convening all voters in the ward. This meeting is attended by the UP Secretary and is the main venue for communities to raise grievances, demands, and priorities and ensure that these are reflected in the Union Parishad yearly budget. Also, Nobo Jatra work with Union Parishad standing*

⁵ Scoring criteria for CVA ranking are: very good, good, moderate, bad, very bad

committees (described in detail under Intermediate Outcome 4.2.1: Union level standing committees are active and functional) to activate committees and build the capacity of members to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. As a result, Union Parishad standing committees can also participate in “Ward Shava” and open budget meetings during which they can advocate for WASH budget allocation. Citizen social audits of services is already promoting greater local government response through Union Parishad’s for improved resourcing for services. As a major outcome of the CVA process, 30% of Union Parishad’s incorporated budget for construction of Pond Sand Filters, 50% provisioned for repair of Pond Sand Filters and critically, 73% of Union Parishad’s incorporated budget for water tanks and sanitary latrines – indicating better planning based on the local WASH context and greater responsiveness to citizen requests.

To better affect nutrition outcomes, Nobo Jatra implements an integrated WASH and MCHN Social Behavior Change Communication module⁶ covering 1) baby WASH, 2) hand washing with a cost effective liquid soap solution, 3) safe drinking water, 4) water treatment 5) waste and fecal management, 5) maintenance and cleaning of sanitary latrines, and 6) targeted messaging on exclusive breastfeeding, pre and post-natal care and positive nutrition practices. In FY18, 270,624 (m-132,606, f-138,018) participants graduated through the SBCC module, including pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, caregivers of children under 5 and influential gatekeepers including husbands and mother in laws.

Contributing factors in achieving progress on SBCC, as acknowledged in the MTE and through routine monitoring, are i) the development of a deeply contextualized SBCC catalogue relevant to the WASH and nutrition challenges in south west Bangladesh, ii) interactive and participatory facilitation methods used by trained frontline extension volunteers, iii) mobilization and sensitization of participants to form and attend SBCC sessions and iii) intensive follow up and monitoring. The MTE particularly commended the confident and enthusiastic participation of female participants in sessions and also acknowledged evidence of change at the household level through improved hygiene conditions of upgraded latrines, with soap, sandals and access to water in the majority of latrines observed as part of the field work. Field observations also reinforce this, as hand washing practices with soap among the families that have graduated through the SBCC module stands at 50%, in comparison to the baseline of 39%. Seasonal migration (mostly for men) and economic livelihood activities have affected consistent participation in SBCC sessions. Adaptations have been made in implementation to address this reality with the schedule of SBCC sessions revised based on availability of participants (held during weekends, or in the afternoon when participants have free time) to ensure maximum attendance rates.

To further reinforce SBCC messages to a wider audience and promote secondary adoption of positive hygiene practices, a number of international days (Global Hand Washing Day, National Sanitation Month, World Toilet Day, and World Water Day) were celebrated in partnership with local administration, local government institutions, Department of Public Health Engineering and local stakeholders including the private sector. 8,224 (m- 4,673, f- 3,551)⁷ community members participated directly in the celebration of international days in FY18. Early

⁶ This module was developed and approved by FFP in FY17.

⁷ Participation is measured by an attendance sign in sheet at the planned events such as events, seminars, discussion meeting, FGDs, debates. Assumption based measurement is maintained for mass gatherings and rallies.

evidence of change is visible on ground. Households are maintaining sanitary latrines, practicing hand washing with soap, following Water Safety Plans and maintaining hygienic baby WASH techniques. Local government officials are more aware on WASH issues and allocating budget in their annual plan to improve the WASH services for the community.

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.2 and 1.1.3: Improved access to potable water and sanitation facilities

Throughout FY18, Nobo Jatra has worked with local communities to form 361 Water Management Committees (WMCs) with 4,095 members maintain water sources in the long term. WMC's play a key role to ensure water facilities provide safe, sufficient, equitable and sustainable water services in their local community. Through capacity building on basic WASH concepts, committee management, finances and fee collection and the development of water safety plans, WMC's are a catalyst to ensure that water sources remain safe so that local communities are able to access potable water in the long term. Key to note, 42% (1,723) of Water Management Committee members are female and as a major milestone, 567 women hold leadership positions as Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers and General Secretary's and are directly involved in decisions related to resource allocation for repair and maintenance and monthly tariff collections⁸ for water points, organize meetings regularly and monitor the water points. Tariff collection for all community-based water options are the mandate of Water Management Committees (WMCs). WMCs are trained on Operation & Maintenance of water points including tariff collection and use (to meet operational and repairing expenses for water points including how to maintain books of accounts). All 361 WMCs formed in FY18 have opened bank accounts, of this total, 245 WMCs have collected initial tariffs and deposited to each respective WMC account. Key to note, tariffs are decided by Water Management Committees in close consultation with local communities and Union and Ward WatSan Committees. Given the poverty levels in Nobo Jatra working areas, the tariff rates vary depending on the financial capacity of the household. For example, some households contribute rice grains whilst other households are able to contribute in cash.

A number of women in leadership positions have also been observed to be active in terms of building linkages with Union Parishad's particularly in terms of fund mobilization for the repair of water points. To further build capacity and confidence to serve within leadership positions and strengthen women's empowerment as a binding theme across the project, 136 women in Water Management Committees have received leadership training to build confidence, strengthen communication skills, resolve conflicts and participate in decision making. Key to note this training is provided by the Gender component and serves to fortify cross purpose linkages and leverage resources across the project.

As part of Nobo Jatra's thematic Learning Agenda, the first phase of a longitudinal study was undertaken in FY18 to address the issue of women's leadership as a driver in safe water supply management, resource allocation and sustainability of Water Management Committees. The imperative for the study lies in a knowledge gap that was identified on approaches that enhance women's leadership in various phases (i.e. design, management, maintenance of water systems) and the opportunity to understand and capture the best practices in engaging women in

leadership positions in Water Management Committees can serve to adapt and inform Nobo Jatra's extensive programming in this area. Based on several concerns around women's leadership in WMCs, the first phase of the longitudinal study was formative and focused on the following objectives: i) identifying best practices in women's leadership in WMCs, ii) ascertaining the extent of women's engagement to improve sustainability and functionality outcome, iii) promoting gender equality in accessing water resources. Further supplementing phase I of the study were KII's and FGDs that were undertaken in Nobo Jatra working areas with WMC participants (both male and female), local Government representatives and NGOs focusing on WASH interventions. The final write-up is under validation and initial discussions are underway with the Practices Research Operation (PRO) - WASH activity to ascertain how the learning can be disseminated widely among Food for Peace implementers.

245 Water Management Committees, comprising 2,712 (m – 1,358, f – 1,354) members were also trained on the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of water options covering key concepts of water, sanitation and hygiene, leadership roles, basic operation and maintenance of water technologies and importance of Water Safety Plans. 2,931 (m – 1,461, f – 1,470) water point care takers for community and HH based water options were selected, once again ensuring equitable representation of women (51%) and provided with skill development training on the overall concept of safe water, sanitation, water safety plans and operation of the technology. A set of tools were also provided for each water option to the trained caretakers.

Nobo Jatra follow the standard water quality protocol of the Department of Public Health Engineering/WHO for water quality testing. Frontline WASH teams are trained on Water Quality Testing and use kits to test the samples for iron, arsenic, salinity, manganese and fecal coliform. Given that water quality is a pervasive challenge and as part of sustainability efforts, throughout FY19, Nobo Jatra has increased engagement with the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) at the national, district and sub district level. A formal MoU is under finalization based on which Nobo Jatra will train DPHE officials to undertake water quality testing (for iron, arsenic, salinity, salinity, manganese and fecal coliform as per WHO guidelines) in conjunction with Water Management Committee members who have been orientated on the need, frequency and schedule of tests through Water Safety Plans. Continuous dialogue and coordination with DPHE has indicated a capacity gap within DPHE frontline officials to undertake Water Quality Tests.

As such, Nobo Jatra will work with senior resource persons within DPHE to jointly provide training to DPHE frontline teams responsible for Water Quality Tests. Field test kits will be used and contents of the training module will include i) demonstration of WQT parameters, ii) water sample collection and preservation process, iii) purification/ disinfection process of contaminated water and re testing procedure, iv) planning, reporting and documentation and v) linkage between DPHE, Union Parishads and Water Management Committees. Protocols if water tests come back as contaminated will vary – depending on the type of contamination detected. For example, if fecal coliform is found in pond sand filters – households will be advised to use water purification tablets and boil water before consumption – and WMCs advised to take corrective measures to clean and remove algae. If fecal coliform is detected in tube wells, the water will be disinfected, retested and then approved for use.

Based on the findings of Surface and Ground Water formative research and pursuant to consultation with the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) and local Government bodies especially the Upazila and Union Parishad, construction and rehabilitation of water options and latrines was commenced and intensified throughout FY18 considering all environmental compliances. Based on EMMP guidelines, Nobo Jatra has strictly followed three step environmental compliances including pre-assessment for water and sanitation options, during construction and installation of water points and ring slab construction monitoring and post monitoring for each WASH hardware installation. [Criteria to select households for installation of water points are: i\) no access to safe drinking water source, no community-based water option in close proximity to the household ii\) household is extreme poor, iii\) household has a child under 5.](#) Equally worth noting was that the selection of households was contingent on recommendations from WatSan committees, data lists generated through the project MIS system and physical verification of households by frontline staff (female headed households were prioritized).

In FY18, 49,169 (m- 24,952, f-24,217) poor and extreme poor participants obtained [year-round](#) access to basic drinking water through project led installation of 1,884 water options including [Rain Water Harvesting Systems \(1,608\), Deep Tube Wells \(60\), and Pond Sand Filters⁹.](#) This has resulted in an increase of 14% in safe drinking water coverage among targeted project participants and a 5% increase in the total population. [This is a significant achievement given that the baseline percentage of access to safe drinking water under Nobo Jatra areas was 52%.](#) 39,223 (m-19,401, f-19,822) participants have received access to safe sanitation services through project led installation of 3,927 new latrines and rehabilitation of 4,400 latrines resulting in an increase of 11% safe sanitation coverage among targeted project participants and 4% of the total population. Key to note, [latrine rehabilitation materials are not provided to households, rather contractors are engaged to do the construction.](#) Households contribute in kind support by helping with the manual labor, have fixed approach roads from households to community water point, and with regard to community water points, Ward level Water Management Committees have collected community contributions and deposited in bank accounts to use for operation and maintenance. [To ensure quality of latrine construction, frontline WASH and environmental compliance teams regularly visit households both during and after construction with checklists to ensure quality and hygienic standards of latrines.](#)

Intermediate Outcome 1.1.4: Increased engagement of WASH businesses to meet local WASH needs

Based on the findings of a gender sensitive WASH Market Assessment (undertaken in FY17), 9 new WASH products (household reverse osmosis, earthen water pitcher with tap, hand washing device, tippy-tap, dust-bin, sanitary napkin, sandbox, baby potty, toilet brush) were

⁹ [Rainwater harvesting system](#) used to accumulate and store of rainwater where rainwater transports through pipes or drains, filtrate, and store in tanks for reuse. [A Deep Tube Well](#) is a type of water well in which a long stainless steel tube or pipe is bored into an underground aquifer whose lower end is fitted with a strainer, and a pump lifts water for use. [Pond Sand Filter \(PSF\)](#), a special small scale filtering device used to treat the water from rain-fed ponds. It is a manually operated treatment unit, based on the principle of slow sand filtration.

introduced and existing products promoted through local service providers or vendors, including small shops. Furthermore, 56 packages of sample materials (as identified above) were distributed to local service providers to promote said WASH products into SBCC efforts to increase sustainability of key behaviors such as hand washing, water treatment/storage and latrine maintenance. The project has also been disseminating low-cost and environment-friendly sanitation products of RFL Plastics, Ltd. with a process underway to finalize a MoU with RFL Plastics and ACI Limited, both are large WASH private sector players. [The WASH Market Assessment](#), approved by FFP in FY17, identified WASH private sector actors with an existing presence in Nobo Jatra working areas. Based on this dialogue and coordination took place with RFL Plastics and ACI Limited to gauge interest in working with Nobo Jatra and outline a working mechanism through MoUs. Major areas to be included in the MoUs include provision of water sanitation and hygiene products at subsidized rates to trained WASH entrepreneurs and community people, participate in mass awareness campaigns in Nobo Jatra working areas and supply local demand based WASH products at competitive rates. The MoUs will also subsidize the price of water tanks for the planned Rain Water Harvesting systems and also subsidize the price of WASH hardware products to make them more affordable and accessible for households.

Within the ambit of private sector engagement and with the aim of increasing business knowledge for planning, maintaining books of accounts, market promotion and establishing linkages with various stakeholders to expand their own business, 169 entrepreneurs (m-138, f-31) received capacity building training on WASH products. 33 mechanics also received mason and mechanics training and were provided a tools package (screwdrivers, pliers, buckets, mixing pans, gloves, boots, goggles) which helped them to start earning immediately after training. Women WASH entrepreneurs, a rarity in the rural southwest, were prioritized for the trainings given their minority share of the market as well as the unique role that they can play in promoting WASH products.

Throughout FY18, Nobo Jatra trained 32 women entrepreneurs all of whom started their own business and are generating income¹⁰. [Of this total, 23 women entrepreneurs with village level grocery shops](#) received a tools package that includes sanitary napkins, liquid cleaning agent for latrines, soap, liquid hand washing agent, dishware cleaning agent, toilet tissue paper and cleaning brushes. [In addition to selling these products, the women entrepreneurs also provide messaging on essential hygiene practices and promote recommended WASH products at their shops. To date, women entrepreneurs have reported regular sales of WASH products¹¹ along with interest from local communities to learn more about products, including why and how to use them.](#) The remaining 9 entrepreneurs are engaged in sanitation or construction work.

[The remaining 9 women entrepreneurs are engaged in sanitation or construction work.](#) Key to note in this regard is that the overall prevalence of WASH business owners is lower than originally anticipated when the targets were set for this activity. Whilst the Theory of Change assumption that ‘there will be an increased demand for WASH products due to demand generation activities’ still holds true, Nobo Jatra has also undertaken specific activities to cement links between WASH entrepreneurs and consumers – namely through convening 15

¹⁰ Income generation and use of income will be captured in FY19 as this activity was at an early stage in FY18.

¹¹ [ibid](#)

WASH fairs at the sub district and Union level. These fairs are organized in collaboration with the Department of Public Health engineering, Union Parishad, NGOs and local private sector actors to promote and facilitate linkages between consumers and WASH entrepreneurs, promote identified WASH products for enhancing sustainable WASH behaviors and create mass-awareness on WASH products and services. Key to note, Nobo Jatra's WASH private sector engagement strategy is being recalibrated in FY19 to strengthen the market demand side and fortify links with private sector to sell WASH products via participants who have completed 6 months Entrepreneurial Literacy training under Purpose 2.

Sub Purpose 1.2: Reduced adolescent pregnancy

Intermediate Outcome 1.2.1: Reduced incidence of early marriage

To address the harmful practice and reaffirm that child marriage is illegal, poses serious health risks to the young girl and encourage girls to stay in school for longer periods Nobo Jatra follows multiple pathways including a mass awareness campaign 'Marriage not before 18' that is targeted to parents, grandparents, and youth; observation of international days with events in the community providing edutainment on the harms of child marriage, the rights of girls, and the importance of staying in school; and through implementation of Life Skills Based education for adolescents (described under Intermediate Outcome 1.4.1: Increased knowledge on gender equitable norms). The importance of ensuring girls stay in school and continue their education was continuously emphasized during all of these events, some including time for critical reflection with all influential stakeholders including the girls themselves, parents, teachers, religious leaders, marriage registrars and Government representatives.

The 'Marriage not before 18' was initiated in FY17 and further amplified throughout FY18. 220 activities/events, many of which were new and innovative, took place as part of the 'Marriage not before 18' campaign including public rallies, cycle rallies with adolescents, wall paintings in 121 secondary schools, 45 performances of a deeply contextualized community theatre piece reaching 38,864 people (m-19,417, f-19,447), 12 billboards, 4 workshops with religious leaders, Government officials and marriage registrars reaching 359 (m-325, f-34) participants, and a workshop with 62 local journalists. 2 documentaries were also developed for broadcast on cable TV and are under final review.

To reinforce the authority and role of government in a difficult social issue such as child marriage, 2 round table meetings were also held bringing together senior divisional and district level government administration including the Divisional Commissioner and the Additional Police Super - providing a platform for representatives to publicly reaffirm that incidents of child marriage or any kind of violence against children needs to be reported to the local police and if necessary, physical treatment sought. 56,175 (m-27,503, f-28,672) participants were reached via the campaign, which has proved to be an effective medium to reach secondary audiences with critical messages on child marriage. Celebration of 6 national and international days (National Girl Child Day, National youth Day, 16 days activism against violence against women, Begum Rokeya Day, International Women's Day, Birth Registration Day, International Youth Day and CEDAW Day) were also marked reaching a further 40,605 people (m-17,243, F-23,362).

As part of efforts to leverage existing government structures to act as champions of gender equality and join the campaign against early marriage, frontline teams have expended efforts throughout FY18 to engage and sensitize members of *Shishu O Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee* (National Children and Women Repression Prevention Committee) under the Ministry of

Women and Children's Affairs, skilled and traditional birth attendants, religious leaders, local Government representatives, and Village Development Committee members. 16 meetings were organized with sub district level influential groups focusing the discussion around child marriage elimination, gender based violence and the role of influential community people in mitigating child marriage.

A crucial catalyst to help reduce early marriage are strong and influential Child Protection Committees. These committees, a relatively new structure under the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs, serve as 'watchdogs', and are trained to monitor and prevent cases of child marriage and try to mobilize funds¹² through official government channels. Key to note, Child Protection Committee's in Nobo Jatra working areas were largely inactive and members were not aware of their roles and the responsibilities of the committee. As such, Nobo Jatra had to sensitize members on the importance of these committees given the prevalence of child marriage in south west Bangladesh, orientate members on their roles and responsibilities and continuously motivate committees to meet regularly. 42 (4 at Upazila level and 39 at Union level) Child Protection Committees (known as "Family Arbitration and Women & Child Welfare Standing Committees" at union level and "Women and Child Development Standing Committees at Upazila level), have also been reactivated in FY18. To be considered reactivated, all 42 Child Protection Committees have to meet regularly as per Government mandate, develop and implement annual action plans; with follow-up of the action plans at quarterly meetings at sub district level and in bi-monthly meetings at Union level.

Combined efforts have culminated in the committees enforcing child marriage laws and policies to **prevent 134 cases of child marriage**. This result shows that the Theory of Change assumption that '*child marriage laws and policies will be enforced by government*' is valid and still holds true within the Nobo Jatra operating context. Frontline teams regularly visit the household and counsel both parents and the young girl on the importance of continuing to go to school. Regular household visits show that 74% (100) of the girls are going to school. The Bangladesh Government provides free education to girls and also provides a stipend to female students, which also encourages parents to send the girls back to school. Follow up household visits have indicated that those girls not attending schools had dropped out much earlier as young children. As such, these girls have been enrolled in community based Life Skills Education (detailed under Intermediate Outcome I.4.I: Increased knowledge on gender equitable norms) and in some cases, their households have also been included within the Ultra Poor Graduation Program.

Sub Purpose 1.3: Increased equitable intake of nutritious food

Intermediate Outcome 1.3.1: Increased adoption of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) practices

¹² During meetings, Child Protection Committees try to mobilize funds at the Union and Upazila Parishad level to address child marriage and Gender Based Violence. Key to note, actual funds were not mobilized in FY18, rather, as an outcome the committees advocated to try and ensure that victims of child marriage or Gender Based Violence are included in Government led safety net programs through the Department of Youth or the Department of Women's Affairs.

In the past fiscal year, Nobo Jatra has executed a number of milestones under the MCHN portfolio. Through working in close partnership with front line health workers from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 11, 683 Growth Monitoring Promotion (GMP) sessions were held reaching 35, 691 (m-18082, f-17609) children under 2 with nutrition counselling rendered to caregivers on Infant and Young Child Feeding behaviors. The number of GMP sessions exceeded the Nobo Jatra IPTT target of 11, 520 for FY18 partly due to the enhanced capacity and involvement of local Government health staff at the actual GMP sessions as well as involvement of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) volunteers from local catchment areas. To address the high rates of anemia and Vitamin A deficiency among Cu2 in project working areas, Micro Nutrient Powder (MNP) was provided to 19,742 children (m- 9962, f- 9780) under 6-23 months of age along with messages on how to dispose of packaging in an environmentally sound way. Efforts to further reinforce nutrition behavior into practice culminated in 54,045 household visits which includes the severe and moderate underweight children identified through GMP sessions and households of pregnant and lactating women. [Nobo Jatra front line staff \(Community Nutrition Facilitator-CNF and Community WASH Promoter-CWP\) make household visits to consistently follow up and counsel households, including influential gate keepers such as husbands, mothers and mother in laws, on health and nutrition behaviors aligned to the 1,000 day approach. A number of tools are used including preinstalled videos on Tablets \(absorbed from the Alive and Thrive project\), counselling cards, flipcharts, food measurement bowls and plates and Infant and Young Child Feeding brochures. Household counselling are also a mechanism to follow up on child development through Growth Monitoring and Promotion \(GMP\) cards that chart child growth, alert households to the next date of GMP sessions, courtyard sessions, monitor if pregnant and lactating women are receiving mobile phone based mama messages and listening to messages and following the advice transmitted through the COEL bangle.](#)

Courtyard sessions, yet another entry point at the community level to continuously reaffirm health and nutrition messages, were also prioritised as part of nutrition outreach activities with Nobo Jatra's frontline cadre of volunteer Community Nutrition Facilitators linked to Community Clinics convening 9,667 sessions reaching 133,837 (m-2,738; f-131,099) participants. Nobo Jatra notifies frontline Government health staff (Health Assistant, Directorate General Health Services and Family Welfare Assistant, Directorate Generale Family Planning) of the schedule for courtyard sessions and encourages them to join in sessions to supplement nutrition messages and align with Government health campaigns (Vitamin A campaign etc.). These sessions focus on a number of themes including Ante Natal Care, WASH messaging, breast feeding and complementary feeding (cooking and feeding demonstration are also embedded within the complementary feeding courtyard session). These sessions were also leveraged to promote the use of environmentally friendly cooking stoves as opposed to firewood from the neighboring Sundarbans, the world's largest coastal mangrove forest also recognized as a UNESCO heritage sight.

A mHealth pilot designed to strengthen real time monitoring and collection of sex disaggregated Growth Monitoring Promotion data and incorporate this with the Government of Bangladesh Health Management System started in FY18. As part of the mHealth pilot, an MoU was signed between World Vision Bangladesh, mPower and the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition under the Directorate General health Services.

As part of a layered nutrition safety net activity, Nobo Jatra provided Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) of \$27 per month to 17,510¹³ pregnant and lactating women who fall under the lower poverty threshold and experience chronic food insecurity. Quarterly Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) undertaken by a third party has shown that:

- 96.3% of participants purchased food including local and indigenous fruit, meat and eggs surpass the IPTT target of 90%, 91.4% sought medical care and 18.4% saved money received through the CCTs.
- 65% of participants attended GMP sessions on a regular basis,
- 66% of pregnant participants sought ANC services more than thrice, 80% of lactating mothers received PNC services after enrollment into the CCTs.

The results related to accessing Primary Health Care Services through ANC and PNC visits is a positive indicator of improved health seeking behavior given that Nobo Jatra baseline data indicated that approximately 5% of women sought these services. In summary, early results reaffirm that e money CCTs offer tremendous potential to enable cash transfers at scale and foster longer term financial inclusion for women. To supplement the CCTs and support wide scale behavior change through innovative forms of SBCC, Nobo Jatra uses mobile messages as an important channel to disseminate health messages to pregnant and lactating women and influential gatekeepers such as husbands/mothers-in-law. [Till date, 1,271 pregnant, 12,099 lactating women and 8,312 gatekeepers were provided Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action MAMA messages.](#) A total of 395,384 voice messages and 23,294 SMS' were delivered in FY18. Parallel to mobile messages, Nobo Jatra also initiated a pilot with 1,000 COEL bangles – an alternative, low cost wearable device for pregnant and lactating women that disseminates audible maternal health messages tailored to the gestation cycle of the pregnancy or age of the child. A field based learning activity within the Collaborating, Learning and Adaptation framework with bangle recipients and front line teams indicates that the acceptability of the COEL bangle is high, with two messages transmitted per bangle each week. Recipients were able to relate the most recent messages they had received and also shared that other women in the vicinity showed an interest in the COEL bangle.

As part of BCC outreach activities, 53,207 (m-23,700, f-29,507) participants were reached through a number of channels including World Breast Feeding Week, World Health Day and Safe Motherhood Day. Recognizing the importance of working with local government and in partnership with local communities, celebrations included rallies, discussions, exhibitions and various interactive sessions such as folk songs, video screenings and quiz competitions. [Nobo Jatra's observation of international days have served to raise mass awareness on key 1,000 days concepts such as exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, accessing primary health care and maintaining a nutritious and balanced diet. Bringing together a cross section of stakeholders including Upazila, Union and Ward level Government representatives, project beneficiaries, local and international NGOs and the wider community also serve to ensure that key messages are conveyed to a wider pool of participants.](#)

¹³ \$ 3,838,201 was transferred to 17,510 women in total in FY18 as part of the MCHN Conditional Cash Transfers.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3.2: Improved nutrition and health related Government of Bangladesh (GoB) services

As part of institutional capacity building efforts to sustain health and nutrition services at Community Clinics and a commitment to work hand in hand with Government health care providers, two day trainings were rendered on the Basic Nutrition Training module from the Institution of Public Health and Nutrition to 142 (m- 44 f – 98) frontline Government health staff. Rigorous capacity building has also been undertaken with Community Support Groups and reaching 1,878 (m -322 f - 1,556) participants in each of the 119 Community Clinics also on the Basic Nutrition Training module and also to monitor and report on clinic performance. In effect, this also serves to establish valuable linkages as Community Support Groups work hand in hand with Community Groups which include local government representation and are mandated to oversee the security of infrastructure and equipment, maintain supplies, execute expenditure for capital investments and repairs, collect data about the Community Clinic's operations, and create an annual work plan. Community Support Groups (CSG), were supported to hold 703 meetings encompassing 13,423 (m- 7,080, f-6343) members.

Nobo Jatra recognizes that strengthening primary health care systems is a game-changer for local communities, leading to better health outcomes and more resilient populations. As part of efforts to strengthen existing service delivery, governance, build the capacity of the local health workforce and ensure resources such as essential medicines and supply structures, Nobo Jatra has worked to enhance the performance of all 119 Community Clinics in the four sub districts covered by the project. In using CVA, local citizens (service users) have been sensitized on Government service standards for Community Clinics (opening hours, availability of basic medicines and equipment, basic WASH facilities, staffing etc.). Data from the citizen monitoring exercise illustrates that, community clinics face serious staff, equipment, water, sanitation and medicinal shortages which undermine the effectiveness of the clinics. For example, 78% of the clinics did not have access of safe drinking water, 89% do not have safe sanitation facilities and 74% do not have appropriate medical equipment. A success story on the outcomes of the CVA approach with Community Clinics is submitted with the ARR FY18.

In FY18, Nobo Jatra mobilized 8,892 (m-5,301, f-3,591) community people, local government institutions and representatives from relevant Government departments to hold 117 interface meetings to review the status of community clinics against the government standards and developed action plan to improve services at community clinics. 4 Upazila dialogues were also held and allowed citizens to directly meet with government, share their views and the aggregated evidence of their feedback across 118 clinics. Through applying the CVA approach, encouraging changes were visible in FY18. Action Plans developed collaboratively by local community members and Government officials have been reviewed during 115 Action Plan follow up meetings bringing together 3,872 participants (m-2,303, f-1569).

This has resulted in improved WASH facilities in clinics through installation of tube wells, water tanks, filters and latrines, availability of basic equipment such as stethoscopes, scales and pregnancy and diabetes test strips. [This has resulted in improved WASH facilities in 30 clinics through installation of tube wells, water tanks, filters and latrines, availability of basic equipment such as stethoscopes, scales and pregnancy and diabetes test strips. Prior to CVA, 93 clinics did not have access of safe drinking water, 105 did not have safe sanitation facilities. After the CVA process, 30 clinics have improved safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.](#) Communities have

come forward to donate over \$12,000 towards renovations and over \$5,000 worth of land for construction of Community Clinics – yet another positive outcome of the CVA process with communities coming forward to invest and donate in improved health services leading to better nutrition outcomes. 22% of the action points have been achieved through community contribution and through local government institutions; 18% of completed action points are related to improved water facilities in community clinics, 16% are related to ensuring necessary medical equipment, 4% are regarding displaying citizen charters at community clinics, 3% are related to timing of community clinics and 8% related to improving the safe sanitation facilities in the community clinics. Through CVA, community clinics are building capacity to provide better quality primary health services resulting in local communities, especially women and children under 2, seeking health care more regularly – thus improving health and nutrition outcomes.

Sub Purpose 1.4: Increased practice of gender equitable norms in the household (food distribution, work load, supporting environment, and decision making)

Intermediate Outcome 1.4.1: Increased knowledge on gender equitable norms.

With the aim to empower adolescents and youth – a key demographic for Nobo Jatra – to develop crucial life skills such as decision making, interpersonal relationships, critical and creative thinking, 8,484 students (m-3,719, f-4,765) have received training through Life Skills Based Education (LSBE) sessions in 142 secondary schools. Key to note, in addition to the secondary school students and to foster inclusion, Community Based LSBE sessions were also held for 775 out of school boys and girls (m-507, f-268). LSBE sessions are designed to cover elements such as decision-making, goal setting, problem-solving, negotiating, friendship, interpersonal relationships with consistent messaging on early marriage, early pregnancy, WASH, menstrual hygiene, nutrition, gender equality and women’s empowerment.

As a major milestone, 7,692 students (m - 3,327, f - 4,365 girls) and 550 (m – 339, f - 211) out of school adolescents have completed the LSBE sessions and graduated. [As per post-tests, LSBE graduates are now playing an active role in the ‘Marriage not before 18’ campaign, 1,704 \(22%\) have taken on the role of peer educators and are confidently facilitating LSBE sessions for the second cohort.](#) Taking an intentional approach to reflect on implementation of the first batch of LSBE and recognizing the innate value of convening field staff, including local partner NGO’s, to leverage their local on ground expertise, a half day reflection workshop was also held during which challenges are resolved, minor adaptations agreed, and major issues highlighted for further action. Typically, the adaptations identified in the LSBE reflection workshop were related to process and quality – for example, revising learning tools, strategies to promote secondary adoption or cascade LSBE learning widely within schools, timing of sessions etc. – however, the sum of these adaptations leads to a more cohesive LSBE implementation package that can be replicated and scaled across the project. Purposefully scheduling the time to ‘pause and reflect’ and taking a bottom up approach that empowers frontline workers and partners to participate in decisions and adaptations has helped achieve better results through fostering an adaptive, action orientated team. [As a result, a more cohesive LSBE implementation package including revised learning tools, improved facilitation techniques, revised timing of sessions to ensure that more students can participate – has contributed to more active participation of students.](#)

In the area of gender mainstreaming, the Nobo Jatra Gender Analysis (undertaken in FY17) reaffirmed the ubiquitous need to increase the engagement of men in activities that have a direct impact on maternal and child health and nutrition. Through 5 thematic modules and 12 sessions staggered over nine months, Nobo Jatra successfully completed the pilot of a deeply contextualized module for male engagement, *Family Well-Being and Family Prosperity* with 1,004 couples in 88 groups. Once again, as part of Nobo Jatra's ongoing engagement within the Collaborating, Learning and Adaptation remit¹⁴, a male engagement learning activity was undertaken to reflect on existing processes, timelines and activities to help identify best practices and opportunities to adapt during the scale up. Findings were mostly related to facilitation of adult learning techniques and promoting the approach to a wider pool of stakeholders including Union Parishad and Village Development Committee members to allow for greater secondary adoption of the approach beyond targeted participants. Adaptations have been calibrated and reflected in FY19 plans. Till date, 7,207 individuals have participated in male engagement sessions, and of this total 3,216 couples have graduated. In taking a holistic and integrated approach, male engagement participants are also involved in various cross purpose activities implemented by Nobo Jatra; 41% (3,119 households) are involved in WASH interventions, 27% (2,019 households) in Agriculture and Alternative Livelihoods, 25% (1,870 households) in MCHN, and 8% (609 households) in Good Governance and Social Accountability.

Evidence of positive changes in perceptions, as captured through the Beneficiary Based Sample Survey, show that participation in the male engagement activity has a significant impact on perceptions related to gender equitable practices at the household level, particularly in comparison to baseline values:

- Men who think that women should be consulted on household budgeting and purchases (baseline value 43.30% and FY18 value 79.6%)
- Men who think that women should be able to access markets, health care services, and other public locations without restrictions or prior consultation (baseline value 18.30% and FY18 value 27.3%)
- Respondents who think men and women should share household tasks, such as cleaning, cooking and taking care of children (baseline value 8.30% and FY18 value 53.5%).

Fostering and promoting women participating in Nobo Jatra Producer Groups, DRR Youth Groups, Village Development Committees, Disaster Management Committees, WatSan Committees, WASH Committees, and Community Clinic Support Groups to take on leadership positions is a binding theme across Nobo Jatra. However, in doing so, there is also recognition, that women need to build capacity and overcome emotional and social barriers associated with speaking in public, negotiating, and participating in decision making processes to effectively serve in a leadership position. Throughout FY18, 100 batches of leadership training have been organized for women and youth covering 2,283 participants (m-1,154, f- 1,229).

As part of youth engagement activities, linkage meetings with Upazila and District Youth Development Department were convened and served as a key platform where government departments and local youth came together to exchange views, needs and opportunities related

¹⁴ Male Engagement Brief <http://www.wvb-nobojatra.org/2017/01/23/gender/>

to youth employment, vocational training and apprenticeships. As an outcome of these meetings, the Department of Youth Development (DYD) agreed to prioritize youth from Nobo Jatra working areas in different government led skill development trainings and youth safety nets. Furthermore, 30 female youth participants received training on cow rearing with a commitment from the Department of Youth and Development, Khulna to provide loans to purchase cows and start their own business. [Trained youth have access to funding of up to \\$1,192 from the Department of Youth Development. Application for these loans will start in January FY19.](#) 40 youths (m-35, f-5) have also been trained and linked with mainstream media via local press clubs to ensure the reports generated by youth journalists will be published free of cost.

To further enhance on ground coordination, mapping has been undertaken on existing gender programming and organizations working on gender issues in order to establish synergies with Nobo Jatra activities. Links have been established with the “Girls Not Bride” Bangladesh chapter, Citizen's Platform for SDGs and Bangladesh National Gender Working Groups with 9 Government and NGO networking meetings at sub district level to enhance collaboration and improve sustainability of interventions on early marriage elimination and promoting gender equitable norms in the community. Above all, to ensure gender sensitive workplace and gender integration in programs the project organized gender sensitization trainings for 272 staff (m-197, f-75).

Purpose 2: Increased equitable household income

Sub-Purpose 2.1: Increased diversification of livelihoods for graduation participants

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.1: Increased utilization of business practices

Nobo Jatra implements an Ultra Poor Graduation program, targeting 14,000 women split into two cohorts of 7,000, with the goal to graduate them out of extreme poverty. The Ultra Poor Graduation program consists of various sequential phases: i) entrepreneurial literacy training, ii) monthly cash transfer, iii) IGA selection and development, iv) productive asset development, v) participation in savings groups, vi) ongoing supervision, mentoring and follow-up. To progress towards the outcome to ‘*increase utilization of business practices*’, 13,922 Ultra Poor Graduation participants have undertaken intense 9 months of entrepreneurial literacy training. Remarkably, despite no formal education in schools, 93% of participants have scored 60% or higher in tests – surpassing the IPTT target of 75%. This evidence supports the Theory of Change assumption that husbands are supportive of women participating in trainings.

Bearing in mind that participants are from the poorest subset of the extreme poor, living below the lower poverty line of \$1.90, - monthly conditional cash transfers of \$12.50 were provided to 13,472¹⁵ women for the duration of the entrepreneurial literacy training for 9 months and were contingent upon a minimum of 60% attendance at the trainings. These cash transfers are provided digitally via an e wallet linked to a mobile phone SIM – thus ensuring longer term financial inclusion for the women – and are also intended as cash replacement for the lost income from not engaging in daily wage labor or seasonal migration. To further promote nutrition objectives into the Ultra Poor Graduation component, 54% of participants were

¹⁵ \$1,034,048 was transferred to 13,472 ultra-poor graduation participants as monthly cash transfers for attending 9 month of entrepreneurial literacy training.

facilitated to establish household kitchen gardens growing [bottle gourd](#), [bitter melon](#), [cabbage](#), [cauliflower](#), [eggplant](#), [spinach](#) to improve daily nutritional food intake. All household gardens had yields of 2-3 types of vegetables and 61% of the established gardens produced year-round vegetables for household consumption.

By design implementation of the Ultra Poor Graduation component takes place in two separate phases or cohorts, with an intentional buffer between the start of the two to allow for a reflection and analysis period. Therefore, the model allows for a strong learning and evidence based adaptive strategy whereby learnings from the first cohort are clearly identified and addressed before the 2nd cohort starts. This aligns with USAID's Collaborative Learning and Adapting Framework, particularly within the adaptation remit which recognizes that taking the time to pause and reflect on our work is critical to learning and improving performance.

In FY18 a focused learning based research activity was undertaken with frontline teams, including local partner NGOs. Several adaptations were recommended through the learning activity and further validated during a one-day learning and reflection workshop by all organizations involved in the implementation (World Vision Bangladesh, World Food Programme, Winrock International and 3 local partner NGOs). Adaptations and changes include introducing external post distribution monitoring on utilization of cash grants, revising pace and intensity of certain modules in entrepreneurial literacy trainings to allow participants to adequately absorb business and literacy concepts, use of adult learning and peer based learning techniques. This learning was documented in an application to the USAID CLA competition '*CLA in Nobo Jatra's Ultra Poor Graduation program.*'¹⁶

As major milestones in the Ultra Poor Graduation program, 13,152 participants selected two income generating activities based on their skills, local context and market opportunity and developed two viable business plans. Of this total, 10,184 participants received \$188¹⁷ each as cash grants aligned to two business plans – thus, progressing steadily towards the outcome to '*increase utilization of business practices*', and subsequently achieve the sub purpose to '*increase diversification of livelihoods for Ultra Poor Graduation program.*' 8,327 participants procured assets and established two Income Generating Activities (on farm and off farm) as confirmed via business plans. To reduce risk for livestock based Income Generating Activities, 51 Livestock Service Providers (LSP) were mobilized to arrange 201 vaccination campaigns to vaccinate 46,335 livestock in collaboration with Department of Livestock Services (DLS). Animal Health Cards were also introduced for Ultra Poor Graduation participants in partnership with the Department of Livestock Services – and orientation provided on vaccination schedules and establishing links to Local Service Providers.

Post distribution monitoring, shows that cash grants are being used according to business plans with early evidence of income generation. Within the last quarter of FY18 there is demonstrable increase of productive assets. For example, 3% increase in livestock (increase of 425 kids from 13,369 goats), 15% increase in sheep (increase of 218 lambs from 1,438 sheep), 4% increase in poultry (1,110 baby chicks from 28,372 local chickens), 3% increase in ducks (754 ducklings from 27,318 Ducks), and 16% increase in pigeons. (104 baby pigeons from 339

¹⁶ CLA in Nobo Jatra's Ultra Poor Graduation Program <http://www.wvb-nobojatra.org/category/knowledge-learning-and-research/collaborating-learning-and-adaptation-cla/>

¹⁷ [\\$1.8 million was transferred in total to 10,184 participants as cash grants aligned to two business plans.](#)

pigeons). Participants engaged in non-farm Income Generating Activities were also able to show returns; a total of \$317,698 was invested via the cash grants and within the last quarter of FY18, total profit of \$101,781 was recorded – with an average monthly profit of \$21 per participants or 32% return on investment.

Following World Vision’s savings group model, Nobo Jatra has established 449 ‘Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)’ groups with 9,517 participants to provide financial services to Ultra Poor Graduation program participants to diversify income generating activities. Seeking to maximize on women’s leadership potential and build capacity to serve as confident and knowledgeable leaders within savings groups, 2,210 women have received leadership training and 60 Village Agents trained to support VSLA group management in the long term. The total equity of the VSLA groups is \$126,224 and the value of outstanding loans was 45.2% (\$57,092) by 7,878 members. Participants used loans for Income Generating Activity inputs or asset purchase to increase diversification of their income sources (53%), children’s education (18%) and health care (29%). As a major outcome, 262 savings groups with 5,370 participants completed a full year cycle and have cashed out their deposited savings totaling \$101,848. The return on the savings was 24.31% on average \$17.30 per participant which further served to motivate members to continue savings.

Human Development Resource Center (HDRC) was engaged as a learning partner for the Ultra Poor Graduation program and conducted baselines for each cohort of 7,000 participants and process documentation graduation model to adapt and modify implementation – the documents are under final review.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.2: Increased entrepreneurial literacy of both men and women

To move towards the Theory of Change outcome to increase entrepreneurial literacy of both men and women, 18,179 (m-164, f-18,015) participants have received training reaching 104% achievement of the IPTT target. Given the high percentage (99%) of female participation – the Theory of Change assumption that ‘husbands will be supportive of women’s involvement in this activity’ still holds true within Nobo Jatra’s operating context. 526 local facilitators (m-39, f-487) were recruited and six-days Training of Trainers (ToTs) were provided on how to conduct the literacy training. To maximize women’s equitable participation, 1,603 child care corners were established in Entrepreneurial Literacy centers - creating a safe environment for children whilst mothers can participate in the sessions with participants citing a sense of relief, ability to concentrate to a greater degree and an increased incentive to participate knowing that children will be occupied during sessions. 278 (m-40, f- 238) high performing participants were also rewarded based on successful engagement in income generating activities.

Intermediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased knowledge on Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGA)

Recognizing the value of private-sector engagement and reaching beyond traditional models— Nobo Jatra has focused efforts on developing an enterprise driven Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGA) model. [The AIGA component is divided into - off-farm and non-farm. Off-farm deals with dry fish processing, pickle processing, turkey and poultry rearing and non-farm deals with Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\)](#)

internships/apprenticeships, hand embroidery, mat weaving, jute and bamboo crafts. Working with the private sector, Nobo Jatra strengthens and diversifies livelihoods to increase assets and income, reduce vulnerability to specific hazards, and help households manage risk. To attain sustainable employment and earn income, in FY18 Nobo Jatra has facilitated training (based on 20 trades identified via a market assessment undertaken in FY17) for 10,179 women and men (m-247, f- 9,932) in extreme poverty, including youth, to help them acquire technical skills required for income generation. Public-Private Partnerships with businesses leveraged to strengthen linkages between the participants and the private sector, specifically those that are interested in expanding production in rural areas in south west Bangladesh.

In pursuing market driven models, 9 private sector partnerships have been established in FY18 based on evaluation of business feasibility, sustainability and social criteria, such as the potential for equitable involvement and fair wages for women. The partnerships are as follows: e-SheBee Enterprise for jute-based products, Sundarbans Institute of Technology for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), A R Malik Seed Ltd for quality seed and technical support, Arman Hand Embroidery for embroidery products, BaSE Bangladesh for basketry and jute products, Bashar Cap International for Oamani prayer caps, Poroshmoni Madur Enterprise for mat products and Shobuz Shathi Enterprise for car dusters. Additionally, more than fifty local buyers and input suppliers are working with trained AIGA participants including restaurants purchasing paper boxes for food delivery, cosmetic shops for showpiece sales, bamboo product buyers for bamboo product sales, mobile shops for pickles, butchers sourcing turkeys, various local shops sourcing shopping bags and tailors for readymade garments etc. Leveraging the 'buy back' mechanism, these businesses have provided training directly to 830 AIGA participants with support of Government extension agents (where relevant) along with raw materials – and 'buy back' the final products based on pre- negotiated and competitive rates. 5,065 AIGA participants (m-129, f- 4,936) also received related inputs to help them start-up their businesses covering a part of the initial investment of the businesses they planned. Bringing together key actors on both sides of the supply chain demand, has resulted in approx. \$400,000 generated as income for trained Alternative Livelihoods participants. Further, to showcase AIGA products, attract new buyers and strengthen linkages with buyers, AIGA participants took part in a divisional level International Trade Fair and through 21 linkage building meetings resulted in trained AIGA producers being linked with 60 market actors including buyer and input suppliers. At a field visit the USAID Mission Director expressed interest in Nobo Jatra's alternative livelihoods approach. Consequently, a technical learning brief has been developed on Nobo Jatra's alternative livelihoods and private sector approach and is currently under review. Preliminary discussions have also been initiated with the FFP funded Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture, Livelihoods, and Environment (SCALE) Program – to disseminate learnings across Food for Peace funded implementers.¹⁸

Sub Purpose 2.2: Increased production of safe, diverse and nutritious foods

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.1: Improved use of sustainable production practices

9,514 (m-210, f-9,304) smallholder farmers directly benefited from agriculture interventions in FY18 reaching 100% targeted households. FY18 activities included the selection of 85 (m-51, f-34) lead farmers and establishing 85 Climate Smart Agriculture demonstration plots. 95% lead

¹⁸ [Food Security and Nutrition Network weblink https://www.fsnnetwork.org/launch-scale-program](https://www.fsnnetwork.org/launch-scale-program)

farmers have reported an increase in incomes through linkages with market. A sample based survey with 20 Lead Farmers revealed their production increased by 61% from FY17 (production in FY17 was 12,077kg whereas in FY18 it was 19,458kg) subsequently increasing income by \$3,360 from the previous year. The beneficiary based sample survey at the end of FY18 revealed that, against the target of FY18, the gross margin per hectare achievements is 156% in case of bottle gourd and 157% in case of bitter gourd. Aligning with the remit to introduce nutrient dense food, 155 nutrition-sensitive demonstration plots growing leafy vegetables (spinach, Indian spinach, kang kong), tomato, carrots, papaya and country bean were established by 155 (m-4, f-151) participants and 17 sweet potato nurseries set-up.

By design, Nobo Jatra collaborates with Government including Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Department of Livestock (DLS), and Department of Fisheries (DoF) and private sector market actors to train beneficiaries and lead farmers on improved production technology, climate smart agricultural technology, and safer use of pesticides in agriculture, aquaculture, poultry and livestock. Upon receiving training, lead farmers are then leveraged as local intermediaries for information and to cascade knowledge to producer groups and surrounding communities. This was evident in FY18 through 171 demonstration based learning and sharing sessions facilitated by lead farmers with 3,973 (m-120, f-3,853) producer group members and 81 farmers' field days with 8,778 (m-1,178, f-7,600) participants

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.2: Increased knowledge on sustainable production

Using Well-Being Analyses (WBA) at the community level, a total of 530 producer groups were formed where approximately 90% of group leaders were women. 3,707 homestead producers (m-76, f-3,631) and 5,807 (m-134, f-5,673) value chain producers were provided training on agriculture productivity and routine monitoring showed that improved technologies were being utilized through maintaining environmental compliance safeguards. Monitoring showed use of i) improved production technology for vegetables such as use of quality seeds, bed, pit, composting, maintenance of proper spacing, pruning, weeding, irrigation, Integrated Pest Management, ii) climate smart technology for vegetables: tower gardens, bag/sack gardens, pocket garden, pitcher irrigation, mulching, iii) improved production technology for fish production: pond preparation including dike repairing, fertilizer application, proper stocking density, supplementary feeding, water testing, partial harvesting, restocking, iv) improved production technology for poultry: housing, feeding, maintain bio-security, vaccination. This is remarkable given that prior to project implementation, general tools farmers used were limited to raised bed, pit and use of compost. This has yielded results in the form of a 15% increase of yield (per decimal yield of bottle gourd increased 38Kg from base yield of 34Kg, for bitter gourd increased 9Kg from base yield of 6Kg, GIFT tilapia 8Kg from base yield of 6Kg, water melon 208Kg from base yield of 138Kg and increased number of egg per birds was 79 from a base of 56).

Further, to increase yield of crop production and accessibility to and affordability of quality inputs, Nobo Jatra provided 16,372 input vouchers valued at \$84,578 to 12,008 producers (m-253, f-11,655) in FY18. Three types of input vouchers were distributed; (1) \$3.7 (summer seed voucher); (2) \$4.9 (winter seed voucher) and (3) \$8.5 (water melon, fingerling and duckling voucher) with 8,351 summer seed, 4,464 winter seed, 1,739 fingerlings, 1,418 ducklings and 400 water melon seed vouchers were. These vouchers allow participants to choose and purchase quality inputs from existing market actors, are safer to use than cash and promote development of the private sector to meet local demand. Through

collaborative efforts, a list of quality inputs was developed with the private sector and endorsed by the relevant Government extension departments. Concurrently, to reduce the mortality rate of poultry and livestock in the communities, 70 vaccination campaigns were organized surpassing the annual target of 60. It was estimated that, about 10% mortality reduced in FY18 than previous levels. There is still scope to secure the supply of vaccines, quality of vaccines, improving flow of information for increasing awareness of people in FY19. Further, to strengthen the business relationships between producers, input and output market actors 250 pre-season production and marketing planning meetings were organized with 7,200 producers (m-1,024, f-6,176), 25 input suppliers and 20 traders. These helped farmers to plan seasonal on-farm activities and identify the most profitable crops by using market information. As part of sustainability efforts, [Nobo Jatra has been working with the private sector seed suppliers, fingerling suppliers, fertilizer sellers and pesticide suppliers. Training has been provided to the suppliers on how to provide quality inputs and linkages established between trained service providers and the producer groups. Wherever possible, LSPS will also be agents for seed suppliers. Also, in FY19 Nobo Jatra will also work with seed companies using its 'private sector innovation fund' in order for them to support the sustainability of quality vegetable production through marketing of quality seeds in remote areas.](#)

[With the aim to reduce salinity intrusion and improve water holding capacity of the soil, a pilot learning activity Agriculture Behavior Change Design \(ABCD\) was undertaken with two selected technologies \(mulching and compost\) on the demonstration plots of lead farmers in FY18. The final learning product, currently under review, focuses on behavior change design for agriculture extension activities and better understand how behavior change design in agriculture extension can be used to enhance adoption of desired practices. The results from the pilot revealed that, farmers accepted the technologies, used them and shared the demo results with wider producers through farmers' field days and learning sharing meetings resulting in surrounding farmers showing an interest and slowly adapting the technologies gradually.](#)

Application of CVA, with Union Agricultural Service Units also commenced in FY18 to improve the agricultural service provision of local government to communities. As part of this process, five meetings were conducted with Upazila Government Officials and a special meeting with the division and district officials to acquaint them on CVA activities. 28 monitoring standard sessions were facilitated with service providers (Sub-assistant agricultural officer) and respective committee member. The project has conducted 112 scorecards with community people to get their feedback regarding the services with 1,126 (m-798, f-328) people scoring the services of the Union Agricultural Service Units. In the last Quarter of FY18, 27 interface meetings have also been facilitated with the service providers and community people in the presence of senior government officials and Union Parishad members and 27 action plans developed to improve services with the participation of 1,971 (m-1,454, f-517) people. Action Plans focused on adequate numbers of Sub Assistant Agriculture Officer at Union Agriculture Service Units, and availability of equipment. Early indications show that Union Parishads are receptive to the CVA process and committed to ensure quality services from the Union Agricultural Service Units and there has also been an increase in the linkages among community farmers, government service providers and Union Parishad.

Intermediate Outcome 2.2.3: Increased equitable access to markets

As a result of training provided by Nobo Jatra, producers are buying quality inputs for their agriculture and aquaculture production. Trained input retailers are reaching out to the producer groups and promoting the benefits of new seed/fingerling varieties and production techniques. Output buyers are in regular communication with the producer groups to buy their produce. Many of the buyers are coming to the collection points on a regular basis to buy the vegetables. Producers are also selling their products at their farm gates. The trained animal health service providers are organizing mass vaccination camps as per schedule with necessary technical assistance from the department of livestock services (DLS). Through the combination of these services producers are getting higher productivity and incomes.

Strengthening the supply chain for the distribution of the inputs and extension services through public and private sectors, Nobo Jatra provided training to 168 (m-168) input suppliers (agri. Input and aqua input suppliers). LSPs are a critical investment to help ensure sustainability of services beyond the project life cycle especially as they will have the technical know-how to provide fee based services and supplement Government extension staff, and FY18 progress has clearly demonstrated that the activity is on track. Internal monitoring shows that, inputs sales of trained input (seed, fertilizers, pesticides, fingerlings, feed and medicines) sellers have increased on an average of 35% with increased sale value of about 32%. Monthly incomes of trained animal health service providers stood at about \$477 to \$536 per person per month with profit of \$95 to \$120. BBSS (beneficiaries-based sample survey) revealed that more than 127% farmers used the public and private services - higher than previous year (68.4%).

Purpose 3: Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from natural shocks and stresses

Sub Purpose 3.1: Strengthened disaster preparedness and response of communities

Intermediate Outcome 3.1.1: Increased equitable community participation and decision making related to disaster preparedness and response activities

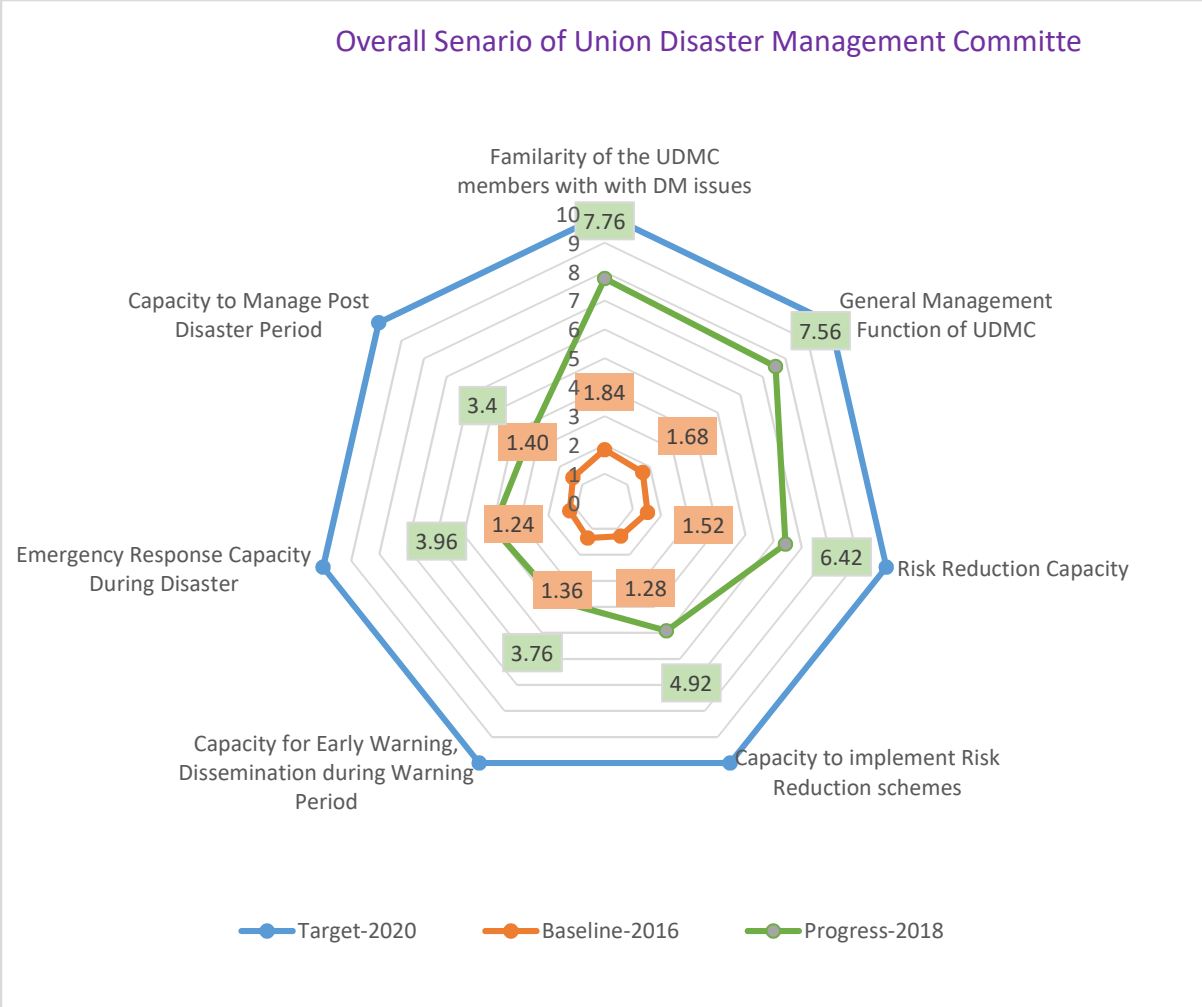
In FY18, Nobo Jatra selected and mobilized a total of 2,000 youth volunteers in 40 youth groups ensuring 50% female participation. Key to note, 28 youth group volunteers in 28 unions in Dacope, Koyra and Shyamnagar Upazilas were selected from the Government led Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). Selecting youth volunteers already working with the CPP strengthens Nobo Jatra's efforts to work in close partnership with existing Government structures by helping ensure that trained youth continue to work with and through Government beyond the life of the project. Through training 1,585 (m-890, f-695) youth group volunteers were trained on disaster preparedness, risk reduction, community risk assessment and linked to Upazila and Union Disaster Management Committees – as such, the outcome to strengthen disaster preparedness and responses of communities remains well on track. Youth volunteers are treated as valuable local resources to assist Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) to orient communities and local institutions on disaster preparedness and responses.

20,021 households participating in the Agriculture and Livelihood component (Purpose-2) comprising 52,530 family members (m-22,823, f-29,707) were oriented on Disaster Risk Reduction issues by youth volunteers, surpassing the IPTT target of 43,024. [Refresher](#)

orientation was provided during which all household members (including those who were missing during the original orientation) received further guidance on the 14 indicators (for example, identification of shelters, savings for emergencies, raising of plinths, preserving food grains, etc.) included in household level disaster plans. The phasing of the orientation allows participants to absorb messages, start planning for emergencies as guided by the indicators and also the opportunity for frontline teams to continuously reaffirm messages.

Intermediate Outcome 3.1.2: Increased community knowledge on DRR

At the beginning of FY17, functionality and capacity gap assessments were conducted with 25 Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), knowledge testing, and review of relevant documents such as meeting resolutions, Community Risk Assessments with 225 Wards in all 25 Unions, Risk Reduction Action Plans and Contingency Plans. The assessment data was then triangulated to understand the level of knowledge, skills, practices, functionality and overall capacity of the Union Disaster Management Committees. The same assessment was repeated in 25 Unions this year to ascertain progress. Outcome of the assessments shows a steady progress against baseline information collected in FY17, and as demonstrated in the DRR capacity spider net that, Union Disaster Management Committees are functional, aligned with the Standing Order on Disaster (SOD), have general knowledge and familiar with disaster management issues and are acquainted with the SOD.



471 Union Disaster Management Committee members (m-392, f-79) from 14 UDMCs were trained on their roles and responsibilities in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. Pursuant to the training, each Union Disaster Management Committee developed an action to enhance their capacities to perform better in disaster preparedness and response activities. Additionally, 986 UDMC members (m-805, f-181) from 29 UDMCs were provided refresher training and as an outcome of the training participants developed Union Disaster Management Plan (Contingency Plan) for each Union.

The capacity spider net shows that UDMC members have gathered general knowledge and are familiar with disaster management issues and acquainted with the Standing Order on Disaster. On average, UDMC members scored 7.76 (1 to 10 scale) on their familiarity with disaster management issues – in comparison to a baseline of 1.84. Also, all the UDMCs met quorum once per month, documented meeting minutes and maintained resolution books, members list and DMC volunteers list. The average score on general management of UDMCs was 7.56 in comparison to a baseline of 1.68. Furthermore, all the UDMCs have organized volunteer groups to work in emergencies, organized mock drill/ cyclone simulation for community awareness development, conducted Community Risk Assessments (CRA) and developed Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP), validated by UDMCs with approval from UzDMC. The average score on risk reduction capacity of UDMCs is 6.42 in comparison to a baseline of 1.52. The

UDMCs are implementing RRAP schemes from different sources of public actors and formed project implementation committees according to rules. The average score is 4.92 (out of 10) about capacity to implement risk reduction scheme of which baseline was 1.28. DMCs also have the capacity to organize response teams to evacuate people, distribute drinking water, food and lifesaving kits. The emergency response capacity during disaster score is 3.96 from a baseline value of 1.24.

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Further, in close consultation with Upazila and Union Disaster Management Committee, Nobo Jatra organized cyclone simulation exercises as it widely accepted as a critical pathway to improve preparedness and strengthen capacity of local communities. 146 performers (m-102, f-44) were trained and 40 cyclone simulation sessions organized across its working Upazila – based on a contextualized script entitled ‘Sagor Parer Golpo’ (Seaside Story). To help ensure the involvement of a cross section of stakeholders, performers were selected from Union Disaster Management Committees, Village Development Committees and youth group volunteers. 141,658 participants (m-72,626, f- 69,032) including Government officials, Disaster Management Committee members, Village Development Committee members, Youth Groups, community people and school children observed the simulation session and appreciated the contents, performers and performance. [The simulation exercises were designed to improve readiness so as to reduce the impact of a future disaster and is part of a series of exercises organized by Nobo Jatra to assist Government preparations for a large-scale emergency. These exercises have capacitated the UDMCs, youth, VDCs and community people with critical knowledge and practices in the event of a disaster.](#)

Sub Purpose 3.2: Strengthened disaster preparedness and response of Government institutions and private organizations

Intermediate Outcome 3.2.1: Better governance and capacity of UzDMC and UDMC to develop and implement RRAP and CDMAP

15 four-day trainings on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools and techniques, Community Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction Action Plan (RRAP), CDMAP preparation, good governance and gender sensitivity was organized for Union Disaster Management Committees, Village Development Committee members and Youth Groups comprising 433 participants (m-287, f-146). A one-day training was also organized for 33 Youth Groups on PRA tools and techniques, Community Risk Assessment, RRAP and CDMAP preparation, good governance and gender sensitivity encompassing 1,081 participants (m- 612, f- 469). The good governance module covers i) the importance of good governance of resources in disaster management and ii) specific areas in disaster management where there is scope to strengthen good governance.

Pursuant to the training, youth groups and Village Development Committee members organized revalidation and community risk assessment in collaboration with Union Disaster Management Committees at the Ward level involving Village Development Committees, community people and youths who will develop Risk Reduction Action Plans for the Union.

Community Risk Assessments (CRA) with 9,462 participants (m-2,961, f-6,501) were also undertaken in 15 Unions. The participants identified and prioritized hazards, causes of risk, prioritized the risk and identified possible risk reduction options. Results were compiled into Risk Reduction Action Plans with a corresponding budget for each scheme identified.

Given the importance of working with local Government administrations to strengthen disaster response in the long term, Union Parishad Chairmen were briefed on the importance of regularly convening UDMC meetings in accordance to the Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD). The Government officials included in the UDMCs and UzDMCs are trained on disaster preparedness, community risk assessment and risk reduction planning. The government officials in the UDMCs also serve as critical resource persons and facilitate the community risk assessment sessions, validate the risk reduction action plans at UDMC level and provide feedback to their line department officials about the necessity of RRAP and importance to implement the risk reduction options.

Following the compilation of the RRAPs, 17 Upazila Disaster Management Committee meetings were conducted convening 397 members (m- 350, f- 47). At the meetings UzDMC members reviewed the draft RRAPs considering the probable hazards and risk reduction options. Moreover, 388 Union Disaster Management Committee meeting were also organized in 25 Unions bringing together 8,911 UDMC members (m-7,086, f-1,825) to finalize Risk Reduction Action Plans, Comprehensive Disaster Management Action Plan and discuss overall preparation, review and submission of disaster risk reduction schemes under Acceleration Fund.

35 RRAP validation sessions convening 1,647 participants (m- 1,310, f- 337) were held at Union level with the involvement of Upazila Disaster Management Committees, Union Disaster Management Committees, selected VDC members and other public and private actors involved in Disaster Risk Reduction activities. The discussion focused on presentation of Risk Reduction Action Plans by the CRA teams, review and validation of Risk Reduction Action Plans by the UDMCs. Further, CDMAP of 40 Unions were developed based on the approved 40 RRAP recommended actions.

In addition to this, the Standard Operating Procedures on the acceleration fund management has also been finalized in consultation with consortium partners and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). An office order has been issued by the MoDMR to Upazila Disaster Management Committees to form Upazila Task Force Committees (UzTFC). To implement the acceleration fund, 44 orientations were organized for Upazila Disaster Management Committees, Upazila Task Force Committees and Union Disaster Management Committee members. 1,379 participants (m-1,137, f-242) were oriented on acceleration fund guidelines, account opening, scheme selection and proposal development for Acceleration Fund schemes. 40 MoUs have also been signed between Nobo Jatra and UDMCs where 67 DRR schemes (building embankments, approach roads, pond and canal excavation) have been selected by 25 UDMCs and approved by the respective Upazila Task Force Committee. In

addition to this, groundwork has started for 12 schemes after receiving the advance payment (40%).

Intermediate Outcome 3.2.2: Enhanced collaborative networking by local level public institutions and private sectors to support implementation of CDMAP and joint response

Throughout FY18, [under the initiative of UDMCs and UzDMCs](#), the Department of Disaster Management and Ministry of Public Administration and 8 international and local NGOs ([ADRA](#), [BASD](#), [BDPC](#), [BRAC](#), [CARE](#), [DAM](#), [Friendship](#) and [JJS](#)) implemented CDMAP/RRAP activities. Nobo Jatra maintained liaison and collaboration with the Government departments and NGOs and facilitated implementation of RRAP activities. On an average 13 types (of disaster risk reduction activities both structural and non-structural were implemented by 25 UDMCs. These include: [reconstruction of earthen approach road](#), [construction of brick approach road](#), [construction of drainage culvert/ bridges](#), [repair of embankment](#), [re-excavation of pond/ installation of pond sand filter](#), [construction of cyclone shelter](#), [re-excavation of canal](#), [construction of sluice gate](#), [ground raising](#), [distribution of water tank for safe drinking water](#), [school based disaster preparedness](#), [emergency tool kits distribution](#), [midwife training and rain water harvesting](#)) Changes related to improved availability of drinking water are visible on ground namely due to schemes such as [excavation of ponds or canals](#), [water tanks and rain water harvesting systems](#). Other schemes, such as [repair of embankments](#), are preparing local communities to better withstand natural disasters.

Purpose 4: (Cross-cutting) Improved social accountability and national policy engagement of service provision for vulnerable men and women

Sub Purpose 4.1: Increased responsiveness of market-based local service providers (WASH & Agriculture) to meet the needs of vulnerable men & women

Intermediate Outcome 4.1.1: Agreement on service delivery standard between LSPs and GoB Institutions at the local level,

Intermediate Outcome 4.1.2: LSPs are motivated to provide services to vulnerable communities

Nobo Jatra recognizes market based Local Service Providers (LSPs) as critical agents in delivering services to vulnerable communities particularly in the Agriculture and WASH arena. [Local Service Providers \(LSPs\) are the market based private sector service providers under WASH and Agriculture](#). [Trained entrepreneurs under the WASH component are WASH LSPs and sell ring slabs for latrines, sanitary products etc](#). [Agriculture LSPs are seed, fertilizer dealers and retailers as well as vaccinators](#).

Throughout FY18, Nobo Jatra has made steady progress towards the Theory of Change outcome to *'motivate LSPs to provide services as per agreed standards'* mainly through facilitating 8 meetings comprising 286 (m-238, f-48) LSPs, the local community and relevant Government officials, achieving 100% of the IPTT target. These meetings have served as a valuable platform to identify existing challenges and create a platform for local communities to raise their expectations from LSPs and for LSPs in turn to raise demand on the services they require from Government.

The project has further created scope for 145 LSPs (m-139, f-6) LSPs to attend 79 bi-monthly meetings of respective Union Parishad Standing Committees (UPSCs) where the community representatives in the UPSC are able to raise community demand to make LSPs accountable to vulnerable community people. This mark 99% achievement of the IPTT target (80). 4% attendance of female LSPs has further highlighted the need to emphasize development of female entrepreneurs. To this end, efforts under both WASH and Agriculture and Livelihoods components will focus on identifying and building the capacity of female LSPs through specific trainings and also establishing links to relevant Government extension services.

Sub Purpose 4.2: Increased responsiveness of Govt. service providers (H&N, DRR, AgE, social protection) to meet the needs of vulnerable men and women

Intermediate Outcome 4.2.1: Union level standing committees are active and functional

In Bangladesh, the majority of services that are critical to child nutrition are provided at the Union Parishad (“UP”) level¹⁹. As a grass roots tier of government, Union Parishad’s supervise health care, family planning, water, and sanitation services. The Union Parishad also provides essential support to livelihoods, including agriculture, and to the elimination of violence against women. In reality, they serve as the main citizen platform through which peoples’ participation is ensured in the planning and budgeting process of development activities in rural areas. Leveraging the findings of the formative research on social accountability conducted in FY17, Nobo Jatra continued to support Union Parishads to hold bi-monthly meetings of Union Parishad Standing Committees and also undertake capacity building of members. Standing Committees, established by the Union Parishad Act of 2009, are composed largely of citizens and are the government-endorsed bodies that are closest to the point of service in Bangladesh. To build the capacity of Union Parishad Standing Committees, Nobo Jatra provided refresher training to 997 Union Parishad Standing Committee members (m-643, f-334) and 1,150 bi-monthly meetings of 195 Union Parishad Standing Committees were also held. Key to note, 34% of members trained were women, a milestone in ensuring greater and more inclusive representation of minorities, given that members are usually male dominated and comprised of elite members of the community.

As a major feat, 57% of Union Parishad Standing Committees shared action plans publicly in FY18, surpassing the IPTT target of 30%. This is remarkable given that the committees are largely inactive, have no budget or clear guidelines, and little institutional support. As a result of Nobo Jatra’s intense capacity building, Union Parishad Standing Committee members were intensively involved in the Union Parishad annual planning and budgeting – thus ensuring that community needs and demands shared via Village Development Committees and at Ward Shava’s²⁰ were integrated. This has yielded positive results in FY18, as 39 Union Parishads organized open budget meetings - formally convened platforms that offer a genuine, sustained opportunity for communities to exercise agency and evaluate whether Ward Shava plans have been incorporated for implementation or not. During these meetings communities can also raise questions or demand answers from elected officials about the

¹⁹ Government of Bangladesh, Union Parishad Act of 2009, available at [Union Parishad Act 2009](http://old.lgd.gov.bd/images/pdf/download/up/local_government_union_parishad_act_2009.pdf)
http://old.lgd.gov.bd/images/pdf/download/up/local_government_union_parishad_act_2009.pdf

²⁰ At the Ward level, each ward committee organizes a “Ward Shava” twice per year, convening all voters in the ward. This meeting is attended by the UP Secretary, and is the main venue for communities to raise grievances, demands, and priorities.

nature of expenditures or planned projects – and also help ensure that activities and budget are allocated as per community need and demand. To strengthen accountability of local government bodies, in FY18 Nobo Jatra also mobilized 39 Union Parishad chairman and members to use bill boards as a means to creatively communicate the contents of service charters and communicate key governance messages. It is anticipated that investing in diverse means of communication could help position communities to keep services accountable for the government’s commitments. [Key to note, the fiscal year for the Union Parishad starts in July-August so within the ARR reporting period implementation of the budgeted activities was limited. However, there is regular follow up on the progress of the implementation of the planned budgeted activities and the outcome of this will be shared in quarterly and annual reports for FY19.](#)

Intermediate Outcome 4.2.2: Support provided at local level from senior GoB officials/policy makers of relevant ministry and departments

As per the proposal, World Food Programme (WFP) held the mandate for the Government Relations and Capacity Building component. Despite attentive partnership management and due to a lack of progress, this component was taken over by World Vision Bangladesh in FY18. Although this is a small element of the overall project, it is absolutely crucial and intrinsically linked to Nobo Jatra’s sustainability post the implementation cycle. Through continuous dialogue with all stakeholders, internal and external, a strategy and detailed work plan including specific activities and timelines has been developed for Nobo Jatra’s national policy engagement and advocacy component. A focused two-day workshop was held [on March 15-16, 2018 in Dhaka](#) to identify key policy positions/asks, targeting to various government agencies, relevant stakeholders and develop an engagement matrix based on which three policy briefs, aligned to Nobo Jatra’s advocacy objectives, were developed; on Local Level Service Accountability, Quality Health Care and Community Clinics and Water Sanitation and Hygiene in South West Bangladesh.

Aligning with policy engagement objectives, a thematic two day study tour on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was arranged for senior decision makers from the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Department of Public Health Engineering, Directorate General Health Services and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives at the central level in the first week of April 2018. [The overall objective was for the delegation to gain deeper knowledge on the overall WASH scenario in two Nobo Jatra working areas \(Kaliganj Upazila in Satkhira division and Dacope Upazila in Khulna division\) including challenges, best practices and opportunities to scale or replicate interventions through collaboration and joint thinking.](#) A strategic objective in hosting study tours was also to have senior level representatives from central Government visit Nobo Jatra working areas to understand local contexts, both in terms of opportunities and challenges, in order to effectively co advocate with Nobo Jatra at the national level for budget allocation. At the national level, a WASH roundtable was also convened at the Department of Public Health and Engineering and chaired by the Chief Engineer, who also participated in the study tour along senior Government representatives, INGOs and the media.

In terms of partnerships, visibility and external engagement, Nobo Jatra is seeking to partner and engage with key influential institutions and actors to achieve key policy objectives. A series of meetings have taken place with the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Water Aid Bangladesh

and Memorandum of Understanding's close to finalization. Nobo Jatra also participated in an international conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, organized by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) where senior leadership met the Principal Secretary to the Honorable Prime Minister and several high-level government officials to update them on project progress and opportunities to co-advocate at the central level on Nobo Jatra's advocacy objectives.

Sub Purpose 4.3: Vulnerable communities raise demand on social and technical services

Intermediate Outcome 4.3.1: Increased capacity of VDCs and local community groups to influence decision-making bodies

Village Development Committees (VDCs) are the central tent for community development planning and are catalysts to ensure project activities endure in the long term. Refresher trainings for 2,386 (m-1523, f-863) VDC leaders were provided to equip them to continue regular activities and maintain linkages with Government structures (Union Parishad, Union Parishad Standing Committees) to better ensure community development objectives are met. 621 VDC's reviewed Community Development Plan (CDP) developed in FY17 and 98% shared their plans with Union Parishad and Union Parishad Standing Committees before the Union Parishads' annual budget allocation. This resulted in Union Parishad's incorporating significant community development activities in their Annual Plans and Budgets. Results revealed that, of a total 39 Union Parishads, 30% incorporated budgets for Pond Sand Filter construction, 50% for Pond Sand Filter repairs, and 73% incorporated budget for Water Tanks and sanitary latrines for the most vulnerable households. 30% Union Parishad's also kept budget to improve the infrastructure of community clinics – also a tremendous ancillary and synergistic benefit emanating from the CVA process with WatSan Committees and Community Clinics.

Further, early evidence shows improvement in linkages between VDCs, Union Parishads and communities. Moreover, 17% VDCs have developed lists of households without sanitary latrines and shared with Union Parishads to incorporate in annual budget and plans, 10% of VDCs build community awareness to prevent child marriage and 6% of VDCs have sensitized communities on hygiene practices. To further embed VDCs linkages with different government offices including the Union Parishad, 4 annual gatherings were held at sub-district level.

Overarching Activities:

Communications, Knowledge Management and Learning

A number of significant achievements have been attained under the Communications and Knowledge Management and Learning portfolio during FY18. Nobo Jatra systematically increased engagement on USAID's Collaborating, Learning and Adapting framework through formulating a thematic learning agenda with focused learning outputs, purposeful learning and reflection activities across components leveraging the 'pause and reflect' tool, establishing and documenting learning loops between frontline implementing teams, operational and technical leads and also submitting an entry to USAID's CLA Case Study competition.

Systemizing and aggregating learning across portfolios has also been a key priority in FY18, to allow for dynamic use of evidence and information leading to innovative and flexible responses. Specific to learning and adaptive management, Nobo Jatra prioritized reflection cycles in the

Ultra Poor Graduation program, Male Engagement pilot, CVA with Community Clinics, and in the COEL Bangle pilot to allow for purposeful 'pause and reflection' with respect to the layering, sequencing, integration and overall prioritization of interventions. Findings from both the 'pause and reflection' learning activities were amalgamated and presented during one day reflection workshops based on which a series of adjustments were agreed and implemented. Recognizing the value in creating time for reflection as part of embedding a learning culture and to strengthen feedback loops that are the basis of adaptive management, CLA practices such as 'pause and reflection' will be scaled across all components in FY19.

A number of thematic learning outputs were developed and are under review in FY18 including; i) a longitudinal study focused on women's leadership as a driver in safe water supply management, resource allocation and sustainability of Water Management Committees, ii) a technical brief on Nobo Jatra's Alternative Livelihoods and Private Sector model, iii) a learning brief on Conditional Cash Transfers, best practices and opportunities to scale.

Other achievements include digitally publishing 3 e newsletters, development, re design and publishing of both Bangla and English projects briefs and 8 thematic component briefs and factsheets.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A 4 day Theory of Change review workshop was facilitated by the Strategic learning Advisor from the TOPS CORE Group. The workshop served to identify mid-course adaptations for Nobo Jatra, fortify linkages across the project and with external actors and embed cross cutting themes (gender, good governance, resilience and youth). Additionally, household (HH) data collection by frontline teams using tablets continued throughout FY18. A number of major activities were undertaken in FY18 including routine quality and process monitoring (RQPM), an internal Data Quality Assessment (DQA), an annual results survey, annual monitoring of 13 indicators, development of 25 new MIS modules, development and roll out of a program accountability framework and continuous capacity building of teams to maximize the potential of the Nobo Jatra MIS.

Environmental Safeguard

The Surface and Ground Water Study was completed and approved by USAID and the project received approval for the FY18 annual Environmental Status Report (ESR). Component wise Environmental Monitoring Checklists were also developed, and an amendment has been carried out for Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) and Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for newly identified water treatment systems (Reverse Osmosis Plant, Arsenic Iron Removal Plant and Sky Hydrant) and 8 types of DRR schemes to be implemented as part of acceleration fund and all amended documents are now waiting final approval. All water and sanitation hardware construction activities, disposal of Micro Nutrient Powder (MNP) sachets, application of Pesticide Safe use Action Plan (SUAP), Integrated Pest Management Plan (PMP) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during agricultural practice were closely monitored to ensure adherence to environmental compliances.

iii. Number of Direct Participating Households Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (Specific Objective/Purpose)

Specific Objective/Purpose (SO/P)	Direct participating households
1 only	110,496
1 & 2	22,814
1 & 3	9,118
1 & 4	912
1, 2 & 3	16,914
1, 2 & 4	152
1, 3 & 4	6,873
1, 2, 3 & 4	2,591
2 only	5,368
2 & 3	4,350
2 & 4	30
2, 3 & 4	370
3 only	777
3 & 4	1,534

Recognizing the innate value of targeting households with an integrated and cohesive package of interventions to address drivers of food insecurity, Nobo Jatra has reached 182,000 households in FY18. Whilst it is not possible or in most cases desirable for an individual to participate in all aspects of a project, Nobo Jatra interventions are designed to strategically engage project participants so that households are exposed to numerous interventions in order to increase household resilience. It is worth noting that overlap between the nutrition safety net and Ultra Poor Graduation Conditional Cash Transfers was avoided. As shown in the table, households reached through integrated WASH, MCHN and Agriculture and Alternative Livelihoods interventions under Purpose 1 and 2 peaked at 22,814. Moreover, 1,534 households also received interventions as part of DRR and good governance and social accountability programming under Purpose 3 and 4 respectively. Leveraging recommendations from the MTE and recognizing integration of interventions as a critical pathway to achieve sustainable impact in the long term, targeting of FY19 activities have been calibrated specifically to maximize integration at the activity level.

iv. Challenges, Successes and Lessons Learned

Challenge area	Responses
i) Consortium partnership with World Food Programme (WFP)	The consortium partnership with WFP has proved difficult given the bureaucracy

Challenge area	Responses
	<p>symptomatic of UN agencies. Rigorous efforts both at the World Vision HQ and country level to expedite the pace of implementation and burn rate of the WFP portfolio of activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Regular 4 corner calls with World Vision and WFP HQ and Bangladesh senior leadership teams to update on progress, identify bottlenecks and agree on way forward. ii) Formation of a Strategic Oversight committee (at Country Director level) to address, diffuse and mitigate any major project challenges iii) Regular coordination meetings at the national, Khulna and sub district level to effectively strengthen coordination between all three consortium partners to achieve a collaborative one program one voice approach. iv) World Vision had to address WFP's lack of performance in this component, which included special conditions through a corrective action plan. This eventually led to formal action by World Vision as prime to terminate and rescind the Government Relations and Capacity Building component including a budget of \$1.6 million from WFP. Although this is a small element of the overall project, it is absolutely crucial and intrinsically linked to Nobo Jatra's sustainability post the five year implementation cycle.
<p>ii) Payment for the balance 314.204 MT Soft White Wheat equivalent to BDT 70,26,007 or US\$89,103 from the 2nd Monetization as per the Bill of Lading agreed in the Host Country Agreement (HCA).</p>	<p>World Vision in close coordination with the USAID Mission in Bangladesh have appealed to the nodal Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) to release reimbursement of sales proceeds as per the Bill of Lading agreed in the HCA. The MoDMR has forwarded the issue for the Secretary's consent / advisory in resolving this and proceed for payment to WVB</p>

Challenge area	Responses
	as per B/L for the remaining amount of approximately US\$89,103.
iii) Streamline Ultra Poor Graduation Program	<p>World Vision has taken a number of actions to modify and address the streamlining of the Ultra Poor Graduation program. This includes transferring the following activities from WFP to World Vision; Income Generating Activity (IGA) selection, finalization of business plans, IGA implementation and training, on-going supervision, mentoring and follow up support</p> <p>The modification is also based on comments from the donor representatives who attended the MTE process, and the formal recommendations made in the MTE.</p>
iv) Environmental compliances on latrines	<p>Maintaining the standard distance between latrine pits and nearby water sources was a challenge because of the hydro-geological context in Nobo Jatra working areas. An internal field assessment was undertaken including consultations with district and sub district level Department of Public Health Engineering representatives, local NGOs and Nobo Jatra's frontline WASH teams based on which the following major recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) to maintain 10 meters distance between latrine pit and nearby drinking water sources, rather any water body/sources ii) to follow the standard 10 meters distance between latrine pit and water sources when households have adequate land <p>A waiver was requested to Food for Peace in the FY18 ESR and formal approval received based on which Nobo Jatra proceeded with latrine installation.</p>
v) FFPMIS Actuals Table	NJP implements three cash transfer modalities: 1/ monthly PLW, 2/ monthly Graduation, 3/ one off Graduation. FFPMIS Actuals only allow one modality. When communicating with

Challenge area	Responses
	FFPMIS support and FACG about this problem we were advised on Dec. 18, 2018 to: "...leave the cash column empty and include that information in the ARR narrative". A comment about this will be included in the FFPMS Actual Table comment box. Please also see the excel doc with the actuals table information attached.

Successes

The main successes realized by Nobo Jatra in FY18 have been adequately woven into the narrative under Activity Interventions and Results. That said, summarized below are a few notable accomplishments:

System strengthening and capacity building

- Strengthening and building the capacity of existing government systems such as community clinics, Union WatSan committees and Union Agriculture Services Units is a central principle for Nobo Jatra and is linked to the broader strategic objective to promote and achieve greater self – reliance for Bangladesh. Multiple pathways and strategies are leveraged including i) CVA to increase citizen engagement with government to fortify the quality and delivery of health, WASH and agriculture extension services in an equitable and sustainable manner and ii) rigorous capacity building of frontline Government staff at the helm of service provision at community clinics to provide quality primary health care services.
- Efforts throughout FY18 have shown fruitful results, outcomes of CVA action plans community clinics (discussed in detail under Intermediate Outcome 1.3.2: Improved nutrition and health related Government of Bangladesh (GoB) services) has resulted in improved WASH facilities in clinics through installation of tube wells, water tanks, filters and latrines, availability of basic equipment such as stethoscopes, scales and pregnancy and diabetes test strips. Communities have also come forward to donate over \$12,000 towards renovations and over \$5,000 worth of land for construction of Community Clinics.
- Moreover, as part of institutional capacity building efforts to sustain health and nutrition services at Community Clinics, two day trainings were rendered on the Basic Nutrition Training module from the Institution of Public Health and Nutrition to 142 (m- 44 f – 98) frontline Government health staff. As a result, 11, 683 Growth Monitoring Promotion (GMP) sessions were held in FY18 reaching 35, 691(m- 18082, f-17609) children under 2 exceeding the Nobo Jatra IPTT target of 11, 520 for FY18 due to the enhanced capacity and involvement of local Government health staff at the actual GMP sessions as well as involvement of Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) volunteers from local catchment areas.

Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation (CLA)

- Throughout FY18 building in systematic opportunities to pause and reflect has created an environment where purposeful reflection has allowed teams (including senior leadership within Nobo Jatra, consortium and local partners NGOs) to epitomize existing data and field experiences – and collaboratively agree on adaptations that improve the quality of implementation and outcomes.
- Strategically using pause and reflect at critical intervals in implementation (for example, between the pilot and scale up of the male engagement activity or 6 months into implementation of the 1st phase of the ultra-poor graduation program/immediately preceding the start of the 2nd phase) has translated learning into better decision-making (for example, refining the entrepreneurial literacy training module in the ultra-poor graduation program to better fit the needs of the participants) and helped Nobo Jatra to operate more effectively (for example, through introducing third party post distribution monitoring for the ultra-poor graduation program) leading to better development results.

Alternative Livelihoods and Private Sector Engagement

- Improving skills to attain sustainable employment and income for women remains key to Nobo Jatra's quest to accelerate alternative livelihood opportunities (also discussed in detail under Intermediate Outcome 2.1.3: Increased knowledge on Alternative Income Generating Activities) Mutually beneficial private sector engagement, a strategic focus throughout FY18, has shown tangible results with 10,161 women in extreme poverty, including youth, trained in sustainable, equitable and market driven technical skills required for income generation.
- In pursuing market driven models, 9 private sector partnerships have been established in FY18 and through leveraging the 'buy back' mechanism, these businesses have provided training directly to 830 participants with support of Government extension agents (where relevant) along with raw materials – and 'buy back' the final products based on pre- negotiated and competitive rates. Bringing together key actors on both sides of the supply chain demand, has resulted in approx. \$400,000 generated as income for trained Alternative Livelihoods participants.

Theory of Change review

- Planning and budgeting for an attentive ToC review in FY18 – including early identification of an expert facilitator and timing the review immediately upon completion of the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) - was a milestone for Nobo Jatra. The review served to increase staff engagement and familiarity with the ToC, critique assumptions for validity, fortify cross purpose linkages and assimilate cross cutting themes such as gender, youth, environment and governance across all purposes. Critically, the ToC review also served as a prime opportunity to integrate MTE findings and recommendations related to sustainability (establishing external links with NGOs and Feed the Future implementers and Government systems) and fortifying engagement with the private sector.

Lessons Learned

- The Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), served as a notable success in FY 18 and also highlighted a number of immediate priority actions to help the project achieve gains in the long term. A key recommendation was to validate and refine Nobo Jatra's existing sustainability strategy – ensuring that activities are reviewed according to the Tufts sustainability framework²¹. Subsequently, senior leadership within Nobo Jatra, technical teams and consortium partners convened for a PREP FY19 workshop during which sustainability strategies for each technical area were critically and collaboratively reviewed against MTE recommendations, Food for Peace observations and experiences from similar Food for Peace activities. The revised and consolidated sustainability strategy is being submitted as part of the PREP FY18.
- Given that Nobo Jatra's endline evaluation is population based – efforts have focused on intensifying pathways to promote secondary adoption of activities, services and practices promoted via the project. During the PREP FY19 workshop, teams convened to identify and clearly delineate activities to promote secondary adoption and included within the DIP FY19.

²¹https://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/FFP_Sustainability_Exit_Strategies_Study_Synthesis_Report_Dec_2015_Final.pdf