



# Asia Regional Knowledge Sharing Meeting, Bangladesh 2015

## Resilience Interventions: Lessons from the Field Nobo Jibon

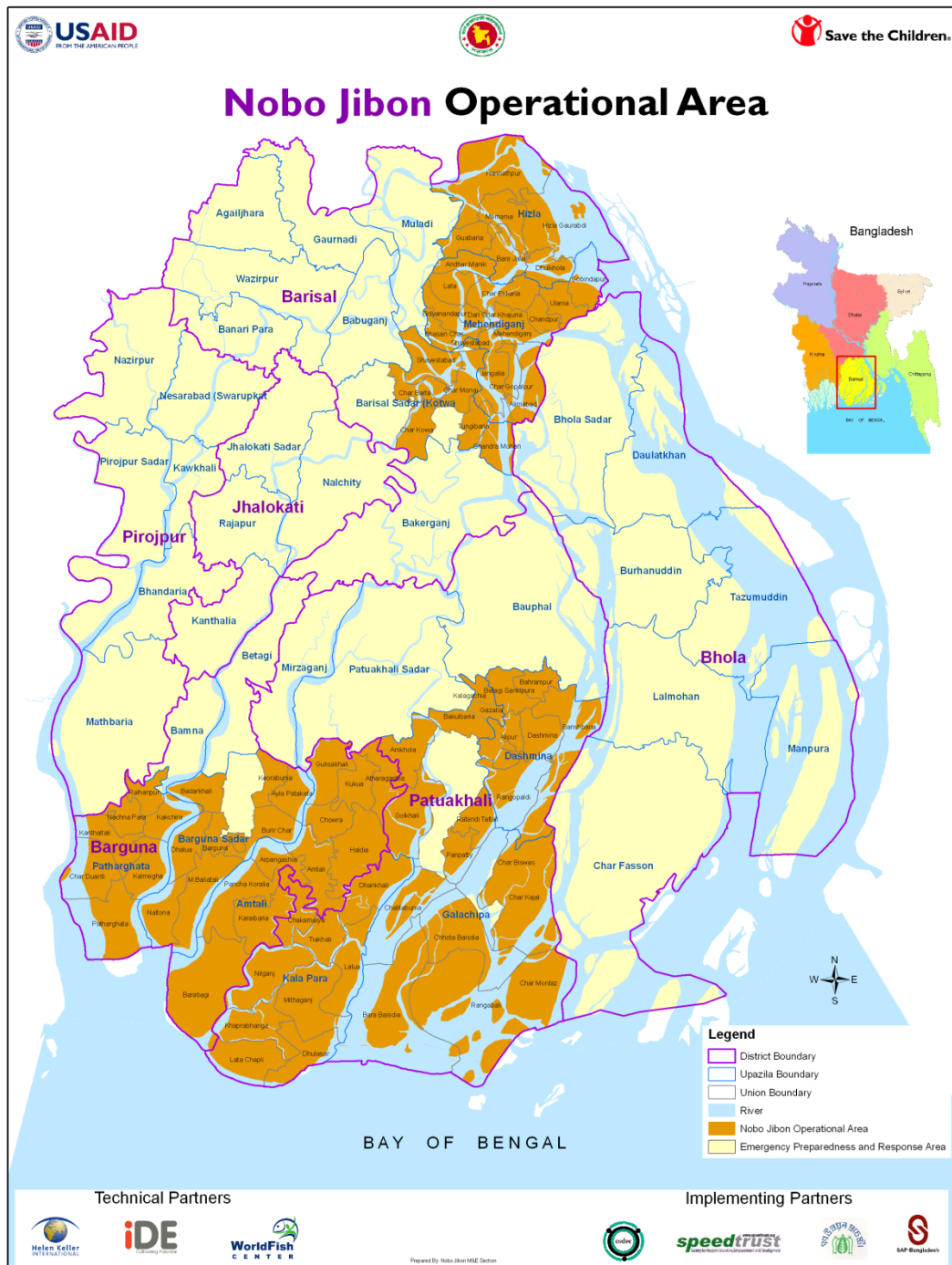
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# Nobo Jibon Goal & Objectives

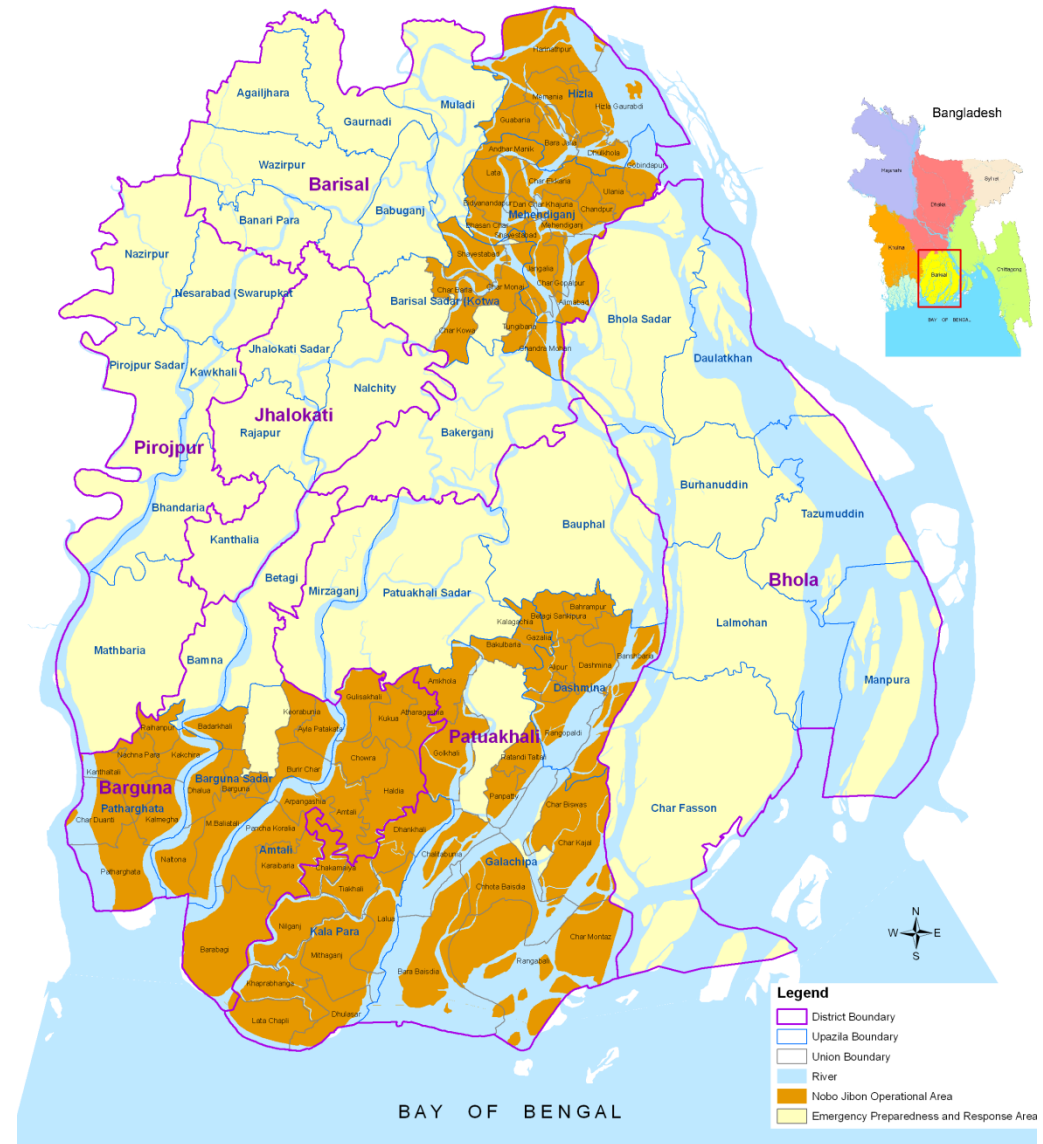
- Goal: to reduce food insecurity and vulnerability for 191,000 households (or nearly 1 million people) in ten upazilas of Barisal Division over five years.
- SO1 MCHN: Improved health and nutritional status of children U5 and PLW
- SO2 Market-based Production and Income Generation: Poor and extremely poor households have increased production and income
- SO3 DRR: HHs in targeted communities protect their lives and assets and quickly resume livelihood activities following natural disasters



# VULNERABILITY CONTEXT IN NJ AREA

- NJ operates in Barisal Division; **one of the most climate sensitive areas of the world**, where people are periodically affected by disasters and shocks.
- Barisal Division ranks among **Bangladesh's lowest** for a range of poverty and well-being indicators
- The difficult terrain leads to isolated villages with limited markets and other service infrastructure.

## Nobo Jibon Operational Area



# Why Resilience in Nobo Jibon?

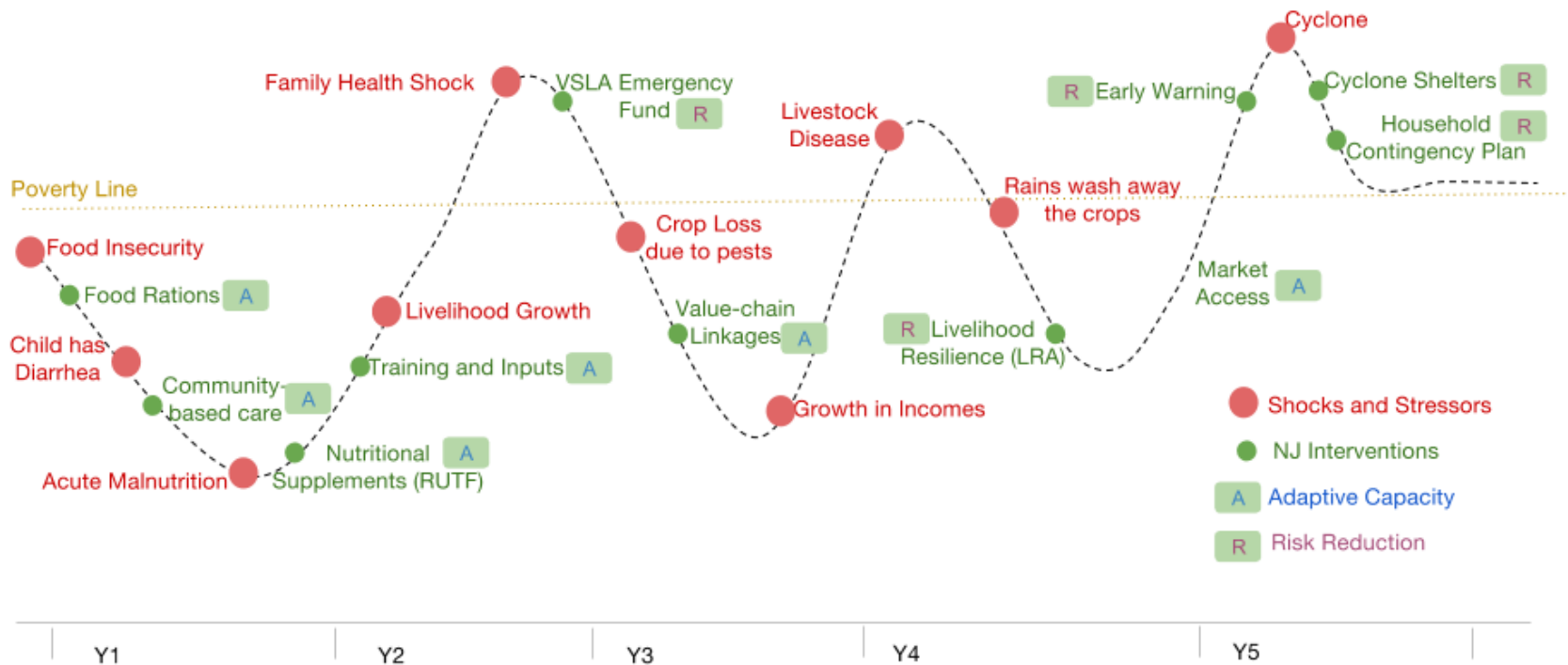
- Nobo Jibon operates in Barisal Division is one of the most climate sensitive areas of the world.
- The program also specifically targets the most vulnerable households and food insecure living in this area. Since the mid-term review there has been a greater focus on most remote communities.
- Historically, many development interventions in Nobo Jibon's implementation area have failed to sustain long-term gains in poverty reduction where people easily slip back into poverty and food insecurity due to shocks and stressors.
- Given this context, Nobo Jibon was designed in such a manner that the intervention not only raises incomes and provides food security, but also helps mitigate shocks, whereby poor households can sustain these gains.

# NOBO JIBON'S RESILIENCE CENTRIC DESIGN



# NOBO JIBON'S RESILIENCE INTERVENTIONS

Life-tracking of a Nobo Jibon Beneficiary: Pathways to Building Resilience



# NOBO JIBON'S RESILIENCE INTERVENTIONS

Income & Food Access	Access to Basic Services	Social Safety Nets	Assets	Adaptive Capacity	Stability
Homestead Production	Community Clinics	Village Savings & Loan Association (VSLA)			Collection Point
Supply Ration	Strengthening Community Assets		Asset Transfer	LH skills Training & Awareness	Group Marketing
	Local Service Providers & Vouchers		Access to Khash Land	Climate-smart Agriculture	Farm to Firm a Approach
	Cyclone Shelters		Livelihood Resilience Activities (LRA)		
				HH Contingency Planning & Disaster Preparedness	



**VSLA GROUPS**



# NOBO JIBON VSLA BASICS

- Self-selected members come mainly from homestead poor and extreme poor households; large number of landless members and widows.
- Share value determined by groups. Started at 20 Taka but many increased after first year.
- Annual Share-out of total accumulated equity
- Skills training is provided to members to improve success of livelihoods funded by VSLA loans

# RESILIENCE BUILDING ATTRIBUTES OF VSLA

## **Risk Mitigation: Serves as an informal safety net for very poor households**

- Social fund provides resources to members in extreme emergency situations such as a health shock
- Required savings leads to accumulation of assets as a cushion in case of emergency

## **Adaptive capacity: Builds social Capital**

- Strong relationships established between members with common purpose and deep understanding of each other
- Greater respect and support for the women from household members and community.
- Platform for coordinated social or economic activities

# RESILIENCE BUILDING ATTRIBUTES OF VSLA

## **Adaptive capacity: Builds productive assets**

- Accumulation of savings allows for longer term planning
- Small credit facility provides resources for productive investment/diversification
- Skills and knowledge are shared and developed
- VSLA group serves as a platform for linking with other services or markets

# Results to date

1.	<b>No. of groups</b>	<b>320</b>
2.	Total members	7339 (men 144, women 7195)
3.	Cumulative group savings	<b>BDT 26,079,360</b> (\$ 343,150)
4.	Cumulative profit earned from loan portfolio (service charge + fines)	<b>BDT 4,928,333</b> (\$64,847)
5.	Cumulative member equity (total value of accumulated savings, social fund and profit)	<b>BDT 31,007,693</b> (\$407,996)
6.	Per Capita equity accumulated	BDT4,225 (\$54)

## What do the members say?

- Many members report that they were not able to save before joining VSL. This was due to a lack of discipline, use of savings by other family members and not having a safe place to store the funds.
- Large majority of women report using the funds for purchasing poultry and goat that they will rear both for consumption and for income. Many have invested in new businesses with their husband's.
- Many are using the funds for books and tuition for their children. They see this as a great investment for the future.
- Some members talk about how before they joined VSL they did not feel they had a future. Now they are excited to think where their VSL group would be in 4-5 years.

# Sustainability

- Almost 100% of graduated groups (after 1 year cycle) continued VSLA activities independently
- Member drop out rates less than 05%
- Graduated VSLA's are paying fee for service to NJ trained community facilitators for continued support.

# Challenges

- Scaling: replication has taken place organically but not at the scale and quality possible.
- Savings are not equal due to heterogeneous group member.
- Savings linked loans limit amount that can be drawn for productive purposes.

# Case Study: Khadija Begum

- Married woman with 5 family members
- 10 decimal of homestead land where 2 decimal is pond
- Depended on day labor for livelihood (no experience in enterprise)
- Took 2000 Taka loan and started sanitary latrine business with husband
- 5000 taka revenue from 2000 taka investment in first round
- Now business continues to grow
- Also invested share-out of 2650 Taka in business





# VSLA Status: A Case



- Per Share value in 1st cycle was Tk20. Each member received Tk26 per share after share-out (30% dividend) .
- In 2nd cycle per Share value was set at Tk40. Each member received Tk54 per share after share-out (35% dividend) .
- Now this VSLA is running 3rd cycle independently without NJ direct support and set share value at Tk50.

Share-out and Seed Capital session of an Independent VSLA (Manikjhuri, Amtali)

# Starting Balance



# Purchase/Savings



# Picture Album



# Picture Album



# Thank You

