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Annex III
Final Narrative Report

Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) Project
Reporting period: 01 September 2018 – 29 February 2024

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Acronyms

AA	Asroy Angon
AD-DAE	Additional Director of Department of Agricultural Extension
AHI	Assistant Health Inspector
AKS	Ananya Kallyan Songathon
ALO	Assistance for the Livelihood of the Origins
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BC	Bazar Committee
BHDC	Bandarban Hill District Council
BIRTAN	Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition
BNNC	Bangladesh Nutrition Council
BNUF	Banosree Nari Unnayan Foundation (BNUF)
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
CAB	Consumer Association of Bangladesh
CB	Caritas Bangladesh
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCI	Chamber of Commerce and Industries
CDC	Communicable Disease Control
CHCP	Community Health Care Provider
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CHTDB	Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
CHTRC	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
CIP2	Country Investment Plan-2
COC	Chamber of Commerce
CP	Collection point
CPMC	Collection point management committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization/platform
CVP	Communication and Visibility Plan
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing
DD-DAE	Deputy Director of Department of Agricultural Extension
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DLO	District Livestock Officer
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DLS/DoLS	Department of Livestock Services
DNCC	District Nutrition Coordination Committee
DNI	Direct nutrition input
DoA	Department of Agriculture
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DoF	Department of Forest
DoYD	Department of Youth Development
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
DTU	District Technical Unit
DWCA	Department of Women and Child Affairs
EUD	The European Union Delegation
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization

FD-6	Foreign Donation form-6
FFD	Farmers' field day
FGD	Focus group discussion
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
FWA	Family Welfare Assistant
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GOB:	Government of Bangladesh
GO-NGO	Government and Non-Government Organization
GPS	Geographic Positioning System
HDC	Hill District Council
HSI	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
HYV	High Yielding Variety
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IDF	Integrated Development Foundation
IDI	In-depth interview
IEC	Information Education and Communications
INCA	Improving Nutrition Through Community-Based Approaches
IPHN	Institute of Public Health Nutrition
IPM	Integrated pest management
JF	Jum Foundation
KAP	Knowledge Attitude and Practice
KHDC	Khagrachari Hill District Council
LEAN	Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition
LGI	Local Government Institution
LSP	Local service provider
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MMNP	Multisectoral Minimum Nutrition Package
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MOCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoFood	Ministry of Food
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MOP	Ministry of Planning
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Market System
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MSP	Multi-Stakeholders' Platforms
NGOAB	NGO Affairs Bureau
NICC	Nutrition Implementation Coordination Committee
NNS	National Nutrition Service
NoC	No objection Certificate
NPAN2	National Plan of Action for Nutrition-2
NSAVC	Nutrition sensitive agricultural value chain
OC	Outcome

OP	Output
PG	Producer group
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPP	Project Procurement Plan
PPPP	Public Private Partnership Platforms
PTA	Parents Teachers Association
PTI	Primary Teachers Training
PTTI	Primary Teachers Training Institute
RGIL	Reading Glasses for Improved Livelihoods
RHDC	Rangamati Hill District Council
ROM	Result oriented monitoring
RUTF	Ready to Use Therapeutic Feeding
SAAO	Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officer
SAUS	Shantir Alo Unnayan Sangstha (SAUS)
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
SIWP	Society for Integrated Women Progress
SMB	Supervisory Management Board (PSC) and Programme Steering Committee
SMC	Social marketing company
SMC	School Management Committee
SO	Specific Objective
SP	Service Provider
SPA	Service Providers Association
SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
TA	Traders' Association
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TOR	Terms of Reference
UAO	Upazila Agriculture Officer
UHFPO	Upazila Health and Family Planning officer
ULO	Upazila Livestock Officer
UNCC	Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UP	United Purpose
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Value Chain
VCD	Value Chain Development
VFA	Veterinary Field Assistant
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WBC	Women Business Centre
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

1. Description

- 1.1. Name of coordinator of the grant contract: United Purpose
- 1.2. Name and title of the contact person: Sriramappa Gonchikara, Country Director
- 1.3. Name of beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the action:
- 1.3.1. United Purpose (UP)
 - 1.3.2. HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
 - 1.3.3. Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
 - 1.3.4. CARITAS Bangladesh
 - 1.3.5. Integrated Development Foundation (IDF)
 - 1.3.6. Jum Foundation (JF)
- 1.4. Title of the action: Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project
- 1.5. Contract number: ACA/2018/397-034
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: 1 September 2018- 29 February 2024
- 1.7. Country or region: Bangladesh
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups¹ (if different) (including numbers of women and men):
- 1.8.1. **Final/Key target group**
282,000 women and girls (82,000 pregnant and lactating women, 100,000 children under 5 years, 100,000 adolescent girls from 210,000 rural households).
 - 1.8.2. **Secondary:**
Government line departments (e.g. DAE, DLS, DoF, DoYD, DoA, DWCA, DPHE, etc.), line ministries (e.g. MoCHTA, MOF, MOHFW, MOE, MOP, MOWCA, MOF, MOA, etc.), CHTRC, HDC, BNNC, NICC, CHTDB, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, District and Upazila NGO Coordination Forum, media, academicians, researchers, COC, CAB, FPMU, SMB, corporate companies, and value chain agencies/companies, NGOs, UN agencies (e.g. WFP, UNICEF, FAO, etc.), PTA, SMC, PTTI, UP, Karbaries (Village Head), Headmen (Mouza Head), Offices of the Circle Chiefs (Chakma, Moug & Bomang Circle), Upazila Parishads, Headmen Association, Bazar Committees, Traders' Associations, BC, TA, traders, TG, local folk/theatre groups, youth clubs, and CSO, etc.
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): Bangladesh.

¹“Target groups” are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and “final beneficiaries” are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

2.1 Executive summary of the Action

The overall objective of the LEAN project was to improve maternal and child nutrition in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The specific objectives (Outcomes) of the project are: (Oc-1) enabling environment and awareness created for improved and sustained pro poor nutrition security service delivery (Oc-2) availability and consumption of safe and diversified nutritious food increased for poor pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent, and children through value chain intervention.

A significant progress against the targets was achieved by the project in improving **Nutrition Governance, Behaviour Change** and **Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Value Chain development**. About 12,25,589 people (where women form 82%) were reached through different services (e.g. nutrition, hygiene and sanitation sessions, nutrition fair, community theatre, small business & income generation, vegetable, fruit and native chicken production and sale etc.) in the project period.

Government officials from 3 DNCC, 18 UNCC and 77 union level MSPs were capacitated on ²NPAN -2 and ³CIP-2 by LEAN project to improve nutrition governance in CHT. A number of 22 government line departments have been actively planning, implementing and monitoring of the nutrition actions to deliver nutrition services to the community people from year 2 to the end of the project. In their annual action plan, almost 122 nutrition related activities were included and 85% of them were implemented by the different government line departments. Nutrition “**Resource pool**” trained by BIRTAN in each district facilitated capacity building for government officials at upazila and union level on “**Minimum Nutrition Package**” set by BNNC. The proposed nutrition budget for each district was approximately BDT70 million in the project’s last year.

A total of 164 Women Business Centers (WBC) comprising of 820 women entrepreneurs have been running their nutrition-sensitive small businesses, built capacity of PLW, adolescents and other community members on basic nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and negative effect of early marriage that created a real impact at the community. Minimum dietary diversity among women was highly increased. The percentage of women who consume 5 or more out of 10 food groups (MDD-W) daily improved to 90.50%. Approximately, 3000 adolescent leaders exhibited their leadership as a change maker to educate other adolescents and community people about nutrition and negative side of early marriage. Improved nutrition and WASH knowledge and practices in 141 high schools were enhanced where 33,300 students were part of the journey. A total of 359 primary schools were reached with 21, 540 students through art competition and little doctor initiatives.

Almost 101,554 smallholder farmers were capacitated by Local Service Providers (1081 LSP), Department of Agriculture Extension and Department of Livestock on vegetable, fruit and

² This Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) 2016-2025 is a multi-sectoral policy document. The goal of the National Nutrition Policy 2015 (NNP-2015) was to improve the nutritional status of all people, with special attention to the first 1000 days, disadvantaged groups, including mothers, adolescent girls and children; to prevent and control malnutrition; and to accelerate national development through raising the standard of living. Following the NNP 2015, NPAN2 has taken a lifecycle approach in ensuring adequate nutrition for every Bangladeshi citizen.

³ This Bangladesh Second Country Investment Plan 2016-2020 (CIP2) is integral to the multisectoral approach needed to tackle hunger and malnutrition and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a tool to mobilize funds and align sectoral and cross-sectoral food and nutrition security (FNS) related programmes. The overarching goal of the CIP2 is to achieve improved food security and nutrition for all at all times by making food systems nutrition-sensitive and sustainable.

native chicken production, handling and marketing. A total of 85 collection points has been playing an important role for group marketing, reducing transportation cost and getting a fair price. As part of DRR, 1200 households recovered their livelihood through receiving cash grant of BDT5,000 per household after flash flood and landslide in August 2023.

The round table at the national level with top level decision makers gave suggestion to increase nutrition budget for CHT. In the closing workshop at the national level, Secretary of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts & Director General of Food Planning & Monitoring Unit stated the significance of continuation of such a project in CHT for further improvement of nutrition.

A ROM mission was accomplished in February 2021, and it acknowledged that the action was on track. Based on the mission's recommendations, the project revised some indicators and added a few indicators and those were monitored on a periodic basis.

As a part of the exit process, a series of consultation meetings were held with Union Parishad, UNCC, DNCC & Schools on continuation of nutrition planning & budgeting by respective Government Line Departments, shared list of Local Service Providers, Women Entrepreneurs, adolescent's leaders with relevant line departments for maintaining longer term connectivity. Moreover, Integrated Development Foundation (IDF), the implementing partner, is planning to continue working with WBCs, LSPs and producers' groups in Khagrachari and with 3 district outlets in 3 districts to ensure sustainability.

The overall expenditure rate of the project was 92% for the whole project period. The main reasons which hindered the progress and expenditure were: i) a prolonged duration (6 months) for initial approval of the project by CHTRC; ii) the onset of Covid-19 and its impact for almost 2 years; iii) the prolonged closure of schools due to Covid; iv) sudden flash floods and landslides in August 2023; v) the blockage of road communication by landslide in Bandarban, the un-availability of Government Officials and local representatives due to flash flood response; vi) pre & post national elections in January 2024; vii) language barriers; and viii) prolonged local conflicts in Ruma, Thanci, Rowang Chari Upazila under Bandarban district where mass gathering was prohibited by the Government authority.

According to Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019, moderate and severe stunting (-2SD) of U-5 children in Chattogram was 27%. The endline survey in February 2024 showed moderate/severe stunting at 19.2% while the DHS 2022 results for Chattogram were 24.9%. This suggests a further reduction of 5.7% from the DHS in 2022 in the project area, which is significant.

The endline survey evidenced that the project achieved the impact level indicator (BMI for reproductive mothers) comfortably as the survey found only 6.2% mothers as underweight, whose BMI is less than 18.5. The baseline figure was 10%, so the reduction of underweight women is 3.8%.

On average, 28.1% adolescent girls of the project working area were found with the prevalence of low BMI (less than 18.5). A Review Paper Focusing on Regional and Institutional Variations (published in the American Journal of Public Health Research, July 2020), found the prevalence of low BMI (undernourished) of adolescent girls at 50%. And it is found 28.1% in endline survey. So, the reduction is 21.9%.

The following were the lessons learned throughout the project period:

- It was observed that the intervention of advocacy and lobbying created an enabling environment by district level decision makers to minimize the service delivery gaps and bolster the inclusion of nutrition interventions in line department's budget and mainstreaming of nutrition.
- It was realized that Women Business Centres played a key role in conducting community sessions to reach the last mile for a wider nutrition sensitization. In addition, there was a transformation in the role of women to become women entrepreneurs at the rural community of CHT.

- It was found that exposure visits of adolescents at different government line departments were very effective as they were inspired by learning directly from various technical experts.
- It was proven that the Local Service Providers and their association played an advisory role between primary producers and markets. This approach ensured the empowerment pathway of producers through an economically sustainable extension model even in such a challenging environment.
- It was observed that smallholder farmers significantly benefited from group selling of agricultural products using 85 collection points in 18 sub districts in CHT.
- Lessons learned indicate that there is a strong need for continued investment in nutrition governance to achieve sustained improvements in nutrition and community well-being.
- For making a nutrition project effective and sustainable, a reasonable time period and adequate budget are required. Moreover, considering remoteness and critical geographical situation in CHT, it needs more time and efforts.

The following are the key recommendations:

- Nutrition actions related directives should be delivered by government respective line departments at central level to district and upazila level considering the NPAN-2.
- To empower the community groups, associations and platforms, further support is needed to make it more institutionalized.
- Need more motivational interventions for ANC/ PNC check-up of the PLW to ensure safe and institutional delivery.
- Rainwater harvesting technology can be utilized for ensuring safe drinking water and minor irrigation in the CHT areas for increasing water accessibility.
- Artificial Insemination (AI) technicians can play a good role and sustain the project activities as a member of LSP. For this, respective government department's support is needed to ensure employment at the local level.
- The duration of nutrition project should be longer period (6 -10 years) to enable enhancing improving nutrition behavior change to the target people particularly for CHT as there were i) turmoil and security issues in Bandarban; ii) the dual governance system between local administration and Hill District Council; iii) and the climate disaster occurred in 2023.

2.2 Results and Activities

A. RESULT

Outcome 1 (Oc1): Enabling environment and awareness created for improved and sustained pro-poor nutrition security service delivery.

An enabling environment was created within ⁴DNCC and UNCC by the project where the members were well informed and acquainted about their role and responsibilities according to NPAN-2 of Government of Bangladesh. Earlier, they were unknown about integration of nutrition in the respective Line Department's annual plan and budget.

At the end of the project, 95% multi-Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) e.g., DNCC, UNCC in CHT are functional and advocated CHT nutrition agenda at national level (OCI 1.1.). Multi stakeholders' platform at district, upazila and union level become more active in regularizing meeting, annual planning, nutrition budgeting and necessary information sharing among government line departments. Different government departments included nutrition session in their regular works. The performance analysis of Annual Action Plan of MSPs indicated about 75% of planned activities were completed in year 3, year 4 and year 5. Percentage of government agencies prioritized allocation of budget for CHT in nutrition related area was found 85% in year 4 and year 5 (OCI 1.2).

On an average, each district prepared nutrition plan with BDT 70M per year which obtained from the compilation of nutrition budget of all the Government Line Departments. All 3 DNCC and 18 UNCC developed and/or revised their annual activity plan in cooperation with Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill District Councils in line with NPAN2 and CIP2 (OCI 1.3). Every year, 98 annual plans were developed (3 DNCC, 18 UNCC and 77 Union) where a list of 122 nutrition sensitive and nutrition specific activities were included in consultation with three districts and Hill District Councils.

Several roundtable and interdepartmental coordination meetings were organized with multi-stakeholders (e.g., government, NGOs, private sector, Sun Business Network, traditional leader & Civil societies) for initiating multi-sectoral initiatives (e.g., Health, Nutrition, WASH, livestock, Agriculture etc.) at multi-level (e.g., union, upazila and districts) for improving nutrition governance process in CHT. The meetings recommended to increase utilizing of local resources and raising awareness for achieving nutritional security. They also recommended to include MOCHTA and HDC in nutrition governance structure in NPAN-2 to ensure their leadership role.



A round table was organized at national level in year 5 with top level policy decision makers. The meeting was attended by the Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs as the Chief Guest. The Chakma Circle Chief and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman graced the occasion as the guest of honour along with SUN Focal Point from MoHFW, representatives from NNS, IPHN, BNNC, Department of Livestock, Fisheries, Agriculture, Family Planning and other line agencies, and several media. The roundtable titled “Advancing

⁴ District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) and Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC) were formed by the Government order on August 12, 2018. These committees were formed with the intention to ensure nutrition governance in Sub national level. As nutrition is a multisectoral issue the committee included representative from all the relevant sectors of Government, public representative, NGO representative, teachers and journalists. The committees will work according to the terms of reference. These committees are supposed identify local problems regarding nutrition and to develop annual workplan accordingly. These committees are supposed to sit two monthly.

Nutrition Commitments for Chittagong Hill Tracts” was jointly organised by the Right to Food Bangladesh Network and the LEAN project. Recommendations included amendment of the terms of reference (ToR) of District- & Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committees to enrol CHT traditional structures, enhancing departmental budget for nutrition services, and at least half-yearly monitoring and review of nutrition action plan status in CHT.

In the project period, the project has been creating a convenient environment through the Multi-Sectoral Platforms (MSP), and thus pro-poor nutrition services were received by the community people to a certain extent.

Output 1 (OP1): Effective governance system activated, strengthened

In the reporting period, the 3 Hill District Councils (HDC) facilitating functioning multi-stakeholder platforms (3DNCC, 18UNCC and 77 union MSP) in line with NPAN2 and CIP2 (OPI 1.1) which indicated 100% achievements. These 3 Hill District Councils (HDC) were actively involved to coordinate with respective government line departments and Union Parishad for improving nutrition through union level multi-stakeholders' platforms. A number (893) of government line department officials were trained on nutrition



sensitive inter-sectoral programming (OPI 1.2) using Emo-Demo tool⁵ focusing on initial 1000 days calendar for pregnant women and the child where the achievements was 149%. The training helped in developing skills on nutrition sensitive programming using the training module developed with BIRTAN as well. As a result, 3 DNCC, 18 UNCC members integrated nutrition activities in their annual plan in every year based on NPAN 2. After developing this annual plan, LEAN facilitated these stakeholders to estimate their budget giving a priority to nutrition activities and services. A total of 4,041 traditional leaders and local government officials were trained on nutrition related activities (OPI 1.3) which indicated 135% achievements. They have been playing a key role in disseminating nutrition knowledge, incorporating nutrition activities in the plan and budget of Union Parishad.

LEAN managed to sign MoU with the Ministry of CHT Affairs and Bangladesh National Nutrition Council (BNNC) to strengthen nutrition coordination system in CHT. A total of 77 union level MSPs were formed and operationalized by the project in collaboration with Hill District Councils. It is important to mention here that LEAN is the first project in CHT who conducted DNCC and UNCC meeting for the first time after the Government circulated the ToR.

A policy landscape analysis was conducted to find the policy gaps in achieving nutrition outcomes in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) with the aim to advocate CHT specific nutrition agenda at the district level and national level. In order to identify gaps in existing coordination mechanism among Local Government Institutions (LGIs), the Hill District Councils and relevant service providers, conducted a mapping study and shared the findings with key decision makers at district level. Accordingly, trainings on screening of SAM and MAM⁶ children were

⁵ Emotional Demonstration (Emo Demo) is a behaviour change communication strategy that uses the incorporation of Behaviour Communication Change (BCC) and Behaviour Communication Definition (BCD). It is an innovative, participatory group activity that aim to generate emotional responses to improve message recall, promote the adoption of desirable behaviours, and discourage undesirable ones.

⁶ Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) is defined by very low weight-for-height/length (Z-score below -3 SD of the median WHO child growth standards), or a mid-upper arm circumference <115 mm, or by the presence of nutritional oedema. Severe Acute Malnutrition is both a medical and social disorder. Moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) defined as weight-for-height z-score (WHZ) between -2 and -3 or mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) between 115 millimeters and <125 millimeters (WHO 2012).

organized for Government Officials and eventually cascaded this knowledge to the community health workers. Now, community health workers have been serving the community people for getting services for malnourished children from Government Health Department, Community Clinic & Union Health and Welfare Center.

Outcome 2 (Oc 2): Availability and consumption of safe and diversified nutritious food increased for poor pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescents and children through value chain intervention.

The availability of diversified foods was increased substantially through strengthening of vegetable, fruit and native chicken value chains. The consumption of safe, diversified and nutritious food was enhanced among poor pregnant, lactating women, adolescents and children under 5.

The household food security was improved in CHT where the prevalence of household food insecurity (OCI 2.1) was found 10.2% in the end line evaluation. The reasons for significant improvement might be increased production of agriculture crops, vegetable and fruits & consumption at household level. Minimum dietary diversity among women was highly increased. The percentage of women who consume 5 or more out of 10 food groups (MDD-W) daily (OCI 2.2) improved to 90.50%. The success was because of a number of nutrition campaigns on dietary diversity, theatres, nutrition fairs were held for disseminating benefits of micro & macro nutrients and ensuring availability of diverse food at the household level.

The percentage of households practising adequate hygiene practices for food preparation and consumption was sharply increased which was found 98.70% (OCI 2.3) in end line evaluation. This achievement was possible though hand washing exercises at schools & community level, repeated sessions on hand washing & message dissemination to adolescents, pregnant & lactating mothers and community people.



The decreased percentage of children affected by infectious disease was found 28.3% (OCI 2.4) at the end of the project. As hand washing practice was maintained both at schools and community level from Covid period.

Consuming Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) among 6-23 months children improved significantly which was found 92.80% (OCI 2.5) at the end of the project. Community sessions and campaign on complementary feeding for children above 6 months, dietary diversity and maternal practices improved the situation.

The percentage of women engaged in local institution & decision-making power in family and social institution increased 24.70% (OCI 2.6) at the end of the project. Women's participation and leadership in the community campaign, income generation, facilitation of nutrition sessions at the community level enabled them to be the part of decision making at the family, Union Parishad, Networking Committee at upazila and district level. The empowerment of women in decision making and their control over productive resources found a significant increase.

Output 2 (OC2): Nutrition sensitive awareness, demand and behaviour change increased at community level

An impressive sensitization & demand about nutrition was created among the target people which were reflected in improved behaviour changes and practice level during the end line evaluation.

During 5.5 years, the project achieved significant successes in reaching a total of 232,210 women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under 5 by nutrition session, training, community campaign, art and debate competition etc. supported by the EU (OPI 2.1) which indicated 103% achievements. Through the project interventions, Pregnant & Lactating Women (PLW) acquired diverse knowledge and skills on antenatal and post-natal care, adolescents received and practised knowledge about nutrition at puberty stage and under 5 children received maternal care on feeding & hygiene practices.

A total of 84,168 PLW and adolescent girls (167% achievements) received information on nutrition and health services through sessions and referral mechanisms by WBCs (OPI 2.2). These sessions, facilitated by both WBC members and adolescent leaders, served as a community platform for disseminating nutrition related knowledge and promoting healthy practices among the community people.

The activation of 581 student brigades at schools was done (161% achievements) to disseminate nutrition, hygiene and sanitation messages to peer groups (OPI 2.4). Moreover, these brigades adopted a child-to-family peer approach, effectively enhancing knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices at schools and within the community at the same time.

A total of 820 women entrepreneurs continued their engagement with the Women Business Centers, contributing to the distribution of inputs, outputs and delivery of services (OPI 2.5) which indicated 100% achievements. A total of 154 Women Business Centers successfully run their businesses (with Grocery items, agricultural products, WASH and DNI products) at the community level in collaboration with 3 district level outlets, Social Marketing Company (SMC) and RFL Ltd. This engagement not only empowered women economically but also reinforced the sustainability of the project's interventions. A total of 175,150 individuals participated in awareness sessions on proper hand washing practices at community level (OPI 2.6) where the progress was 63%. The progress was less due to higher target for year 4 and 5 and after Covid period, the hand washing practice was reduced by the target people. Upon receiving training, adolescents' leaders conducted training for adolescents and other community people on hand washing and improved the practices. This helped to promote hygiene practice and prevented the spread of diseases, contributing to improved health outcomes. In the reporting year, 63,326 adolescents were trained on balanced diet, diversified food intake, puberty, early marriage, antenatal care, postnatal care, neonatal care, safe drinking water and hygiene (OPI 2.3) and the progress was 97%. In addition, the adolescent leaders facilitated a total of 37,576 sessions with their peers, focusing on nutrition education & hygiene promotion (OPI 2.7) which indicated 68% of the sessions conducted. The lower percentage was due to flash flood and landslide in year 5 in Bandarban & Rangamati and local conflict that prevented mass gathering in Bandarban. Besides, 24,675 adolescents actively participated in nutrition events within the community (OPI 2.8) which indicated 123% achievements.

"The percentage of child marriage reduced" (OPI 2.9) by 60% of the base value in year 5. Given that this is a new indicator, a base value of 28% was set in year 4. The adolescent leaders and women entrepreneurs played a strong role in disseminating knowledge with parents and adolescents on negative effect of child marriage and collaborated with local authorities to prevent child marriage.

Output 3 (OC3) Nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart value chains promoted.

The project engaged Local Service Providers who organised 101,554 smallholder farmers (of them 52% are female) under the umbrella of 5,345 producer groups to promote three nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chains (vegetable, fruit and native chicken) in the project locations. A total of 108,488 smallholder farmers have established and strengthened their linkages with the 83 input market actors (ranging from seeds, fertilizer, plant protection Agro-chemicals,

agriculture machinery, etc.) which indicated 107% progress against the respective output indicators (OPI 3.1)

A total of 108,488 smallholders' farmers have strengthened their linkages with the 92 output market actors (local small and medium-sized traders including market intermediaries) which indicated 107% achievements. To achieve the indicator, the project established 85 collection points at the strategic location (OPI 3.2).

Almost 32,122 food-insecure people in farming households received support from the LEAN project in the full project phase, which indicated progress against the target is 92%. The food insecure people were organised under the umbrella of producer groups, they received technical advisory services on vegetable, fruit and native chicken production and marketing. The services included regular accompaniment, business planning, linkages development with input and output markets and conducting negotiations etc. Through the project interventions, the food-insecure farming households' people were able to increase their food production and generated additional income from the sale of surplus food production (OPI 3.3).

The project organised and promoted 1,081 LSPs (37% female) in 18 Upazilas of 3 hill districts and capitalised them on the production technologies of the selected nutrition-sensitive agricultural value chains. At the end of the project, almost 1,074 LSPs (397 female) were equipped with nutrition-sensitive production technologies, indicating 99% progress against the output indicator (OPI 3.4).

By the end of the project, almost 82% of LSPs (886 LSPs out of 1,081 LSPs) had developed their knowledge and skill on market linkages and established networks with the 72 backward market actors and with the 86 forward market actors. The project supported LSPs to unite at the upazila (sub-district) level under Service Providers Association (SPA). The SPAs established connections with larger input supply and wholesale companies. They also maintained contact with Department of Agricultural Extension at the sub-district and district level. The SPAs provided capacity building to the LSP and facilitated exchange and learning (OPI 3.5).

During the reporting period, a total of 108,488 smallholder farmers (58% Female) have adopted different climate-smart and agroecological production technologies in the selected 3 value chains according to the technical guidance learnt from LSPs which enabled farmers to avoid the risk of climate change (OPI 3.6).

During the reporting period, a total of 68,473 smallholder farmers increased their income by 15% due to increased productivity, increased scale of production, link with competitive market/buyers, and access to quality inputs. The progress was 114% against the whole target (OPI 3.7).

Until the end of Year 5, a total of 175 MSMEs increased their business turnover, and the overall progress was 88% (OPI 3.8). The project mobilized and engaged two types of MSMEs ranging from the input market (especially input sellers) and output markets (especially traders and buyers). The inputs market MSMEs made availability of quality agricultural inputs (like seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, irrigation water, etc.) for producers in due time. They also provided advice to farmers/producers on use of efficient use of inputs. The MSMEs of the output market bought produces from smallholder farmers/producers at fair price. They also supported producers and LSPs to establish and operate collection points and bought farm produces through the collection points. The output market MSMEs also provided information on specific market demand to producers during match making.

100% of rural local markets of the project locations have availability of comparatively more diversified, and nutritious foods, which include at least five food groups out of 10 food groups. Out of the 10 food groups, most common available food groups are: (i) grains, white roots and tubers, and plantains; (ii) pulses (beans, peas and lentils); (iii) meat, poultry and fish; (iv) eggs; (v) dark green leafy vegetables; (vi) other vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables. The overall progress was 100% (OPI 3.9).

By the end of the project, a total of 99,788 additional farmers (57% Female) increased their own food production at least by 20%. The overall progress is 99%. (OPI 3.10).

During the whole project period, a total of 20,623 smallholder farmers received financial services from different financial institutions, and the cumulative progress is 66% against the whole target. The average loan size was BDT 10,500 per farmer (OPI 3.11).

Farmer groups mobilization by Local Service Providers created a good example in the local level in CHT as service delivery approach. This approach allowed to increase community outreach at the very remote locations to increase agriculture knowledge, skills and agri production. In addition, establishment of collection center at the roadside created opportunities and results in group marketing connecting with higher level market actors with smallholder farmers.

B. ACTIVITIES

B1: Strengthening Nutrition Governance

Main activity 1.1: Promoted multi-stakeholders' platforms that linked to MSMEs, Service Provider Associations (SPAs), relevant government ministries, Hill Councils, Local Government Structures, market leaders, finance institutions and Chambers of Commerce and Industries

Activity 1.1.1: Stakeholder consultation to improve MSP

The project conducted 7 stakeholder consultation workshops (100% achievements) in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari led by the local district administration. In these workshops, the BNNC team (Director General, Additional Directors and BNNC-consultants) and representatives from Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) were present to address governance issues and created awareness about roles of Multi-stakeholders Platforms (DNCC & UNCC), the operation process of Multi Stakeholders Platforms and the status of nutrition in Bangladesh and CHT districts. Representatives from UNICEF, WHO and WFP were also present in the workshops to contribute to the enhancement of nutrition governance. The workshop topics covered the NPAN-2 objectives, nutrition issues (for example; effect of limited knowledge about nutrition or cooking, lack of food diversity, insufficient protein, micronutrients deficiency, alcohol or drug use, low income or poverty, and reliance on traditional foods etc.) in Bangladesh and CHT, development of yearly plans of DNCC & UNCC to address nutrition in line with the NPAN-2 goals, and an overview of the LEAN project.

LEAN project signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BNNC to facilitate nutrition governance at district and upazila level of CHT. DNCCs and UNCCs received technical assistance (in nutrition planning, reviewing, conducting meetings and monitoring) from BNNC and LEAN project for their operational processes.

The project also facilitated three consultation workshops with the goal of forming Union level MSP (77), developing MSP's ToR and its operational guideline at three hill districts. These workshops were led by HDC and DNCC with support from BNNC. The MSP formation guideline was developed in consultation with HDC to collate opinion and suggestions from different stakeholders. The guideline included the Terms of Reference, scope of work, area of interventions, membership and leadership modalities.

Activity 1.1.2: Annual planning & review workshop to strengthen stakeholder collaboration

LEAN project facilitated the DNCCs & UNCCs to organize annual nutrition planning workshops, and six-monthly review meetings with different service providing agencies at district and upazila level. The DNCCs and UNCCs members were oriented on review process, Multisectoral Minimum Nutrition Package (MMNP), budget analysis and ToR of DNCC and UNCC. LEAN engaged BNNC experts for providing support to UNCC and DNCC during these planning exercises. All 3 DNCCs and 18 UNCCs prepared their annual nutrition plan for every year of the project implementation according to guidelines of NPAN2 and CIP2. Local nutrition needs were reflected in their annual plans, and these were utilized as an advocacy tool to raise their demand at local, regional/divisional, and national level.

Based on the decision from DNCC, a bottom-up planning process was followed which started from Union Parishad level nutrition planning followed by upazila level multi-sectoral nutrition planning, and finally district level multi-sectoral planning combining nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive activities. The Union Parishads learned about their mandates on nutrition-sensitive planning based on Bangladesh Gazette published on 23 January 2013 as well.

A booklet was published containing all the annual plans developed by DNCC, UNCC and union level MSPs; this was used as demand placing and advocacy tool to inform nutrition demand to the local, regional/divisional, and national stakeholders.



A total of 487 workshops (the achievements was 90%) were held during the reporting period.

Activity 1.1.2.1: Facilitate Union-MSPs and organise dialogues with the Hill District Councils on linkage workshop with HDC

LEAN project organized 9 linkage workshops (100% achievements) with the HDCs and the Union-MSPs to share the identified gap of nutrition services and seeking support to improve nutrition at the ground level. A total 201 (M-161, F-40) people including Headman, Karbari, UP Chairman, Members & Secretary, Counsellor, Chief Executive Officer, Chairman from MSP and HDC were participated in these workshops.

The main discussion points of these workshops were demand sharing by the Union MSPs, available service in HDC, linkage opportunities between HDC and Union MSPs with mutual benefits, future scope of collaboration for nutrition inclusion and provide support to Union Parishad as the main entry point of community nutrition improvement platform.

The workshop created a space for raising local demand/voice for nutrition services; and agreed to work under the same umbrella for improving maternal and child nutrition. The demanded nutrition services were i) Increases awareness raising events at community level ii) Make availability of doctors for management of SAM and MAM treatment at District and Upazila health complexes iii) Logistics support for Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) corner Like MUAC tape, weight machine, RUTF, F75, F100 etc. iv) Joint support in nutrition activities planning, event arrangement, & service to community people.

Activity 1.1.3: Cross-learning events

The objective of the cross-learning events was to enable collaborative learning and problem solving around the formation and activities of MSPs. LEAN organized 226 learning sharing visits where 2712 members (M-1900, F-812) from Multi Stakeholder Platforms which indicated 103% achievements of the target. The members visited different activities like school nutrition fair, debate competition, blue school activities, safe farming, vaccination, vermicompost, adolescent club, women business centers, demonstration plots, UNCC & union level MSP. These learning visits enabled them to improve networking among multi-stakeholders for nutrition services delivery. During these visits, some commitments were also given to the target people by government for providing services; for instance, 11 WBCs received loan money from the Department of Women Affairs for running their businesses.

Activity 1.1.4: Establish linkages between MSP and multi-purpose service hubs

A total of 89 workshops were organized where 12 were held at district level among DNCC, WBC & LSP and 77 were at upazila level among UNCC, WBC & LSP. The achievement was 100% against the target. There were two main objectives of these workshops i) establishing linkages between MSP and multipurpose service hubs; ii) facilitating a functional collaboration between service providers at community level and Government Line Departments. As the community level service hubs, the WBC and LSP/SPA shared their demand and requirement (agriculture equipment, organic fertilizer, machineries, business linkage, input of agriculture,

fair pricing etc.) to the service providing agencies (such as DAE, DLS, DGFP, DGHS, Dept. of Social Welfare, Dept. of Women Affairs, and Local Government Institutions). The result of these workshops was reflected in delivering government services after these events, like the Department of Women and Child Affairs provided loans to WBCs; capacity building/skill training & allowance provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers. In addition, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) provided technical capacity building support/Training to the LSPs.

Activity 1.1.5: Linkages with SUN Movement established

LEAN and SUN Business Network (SBN) jointly organised capacity building training/workshops for 63 participants from WBC & LSP from 3 hill districts. The three-days training covered basic food and nutrition, food safety and business plan engaging the resource pool of SBN. This training introduced SBN with the community service hubs (WBC) for the first time. The collaborative action between LEAN and SBN was to strengthen existing MSMEs across the value chains at CHT for ensuring a sustained supply of nutritious and safe food for the targeted beneficiaries. SBN supported LEAN project's entrepreneurs for their capacity building and engaged private sectors with entrepreneurs of LEAN project.

A total of 3 workshops were held during the reporting period which indicated 100% achievements.

Activity 1.1.6: Involved MSP with NPAN2 & CIP2 for inclusion of CHT nutrition needs

A total of 21 orientations were organized (100% achievements) for Union MSP, UNCC and DNCC committee members on NPAN2 & CIP2. A total of 336 members (M -277, F-59) participated in these events. The orientations were conducted by BNNC at district level. Afterwards the resource pool from district level cascaded down this knowledge to upazila and union level. The main purpose of these activities was to sensitize the nutrition committees at multi-levels on NPAN2 and CIP2. Hence, they were able to prepare their annual nutrition plan inspired by NPAN2. As a result, 77 union level MSPs, 18 UNCCs and 3 DNCCs (all targeted MSPs) nutrition platforms prepared their annual nutrition plan according to the guidelines in three CHT districts.

Activity 1.1.7: Facilitated MSP to strengthen relationship with BNNC & BIRTAN

The main objective of this activity was to develop relationships between MSPs and national stakeholders like BNNC and BIRTAN to ensure the sustainability of these platforms. To strengthen the collaboration among union MSP, DNCC, UNCC with BNNC & BIRTAN, 22 workshops were organized (100% achievements) where 483 participants (M-429 & F-54) participated. Facilitators of these events were the Director General, Director, Deputy Director, Assistant Director of BNNC and Executive Director, Deputy Director & Principal Scientific Officer of BIRTAN. Other participants were Chairman of HDC, Upazila Parishad, Deputy Commissioner, Counsellor, CSO-BARI, Executive Officer and Journalists. Through these workshops DNCC and UNCC members made an effective relationship with national level stakeholders (BNNC & BIRTAN). They appreciated these dialogues for nutrition programming in CHT through a bottom-up planning process from Union MSPs to DNCCs via UNCCs.

Main activity 1.2: Advocacy for inclusion of CHT agenda as priority in national nutrition governance related policies, strategies, and action plans

Activity 1.2.1: Policy landscape analysis

One policy landscape analysis and one coordination mapping on nutrition in CHT were accomplished. Afterwards, LEAN project organized 3 workshops with key stakeholders and Government Line Departments at district level for sharing findings of policy landscape analysis and resource mapping in CHT. A total of 83 participants (M-70, F-13) participated there. The achievement was 100% of the target. These workshops highlighted policy & coordination gap, existing challenges & opportunities for harmonization, potential inter-department collaboration, existing nutrition related coordination & collaboration mechanism among Government Line Departments and other stakeholders at district, upazila and union level. Through these

workshops, participants were aware of nutrition related Government Policies, existing nutrition service gaps, and areas of improvements for better coordination. Participants appreciated these type of sharing events with updated knowledge of nutrition related policies, strategies, and guidelines for improving nutrition governance. They suggested that LEAN can facilitate coordination between HDC and DNCC for inclusion of traditional leaders in DNCC and UNCC.

Activity 1.2.2: Organized meetings to levy for budget allocation for nutrition in Annual Development Budget

Firstly, LEAN conducted nutrition budget analysis at 77-Union Parishads and found that there was no segregation of nutrition budget, inadequate information, and non-cooperation in disclosing budget and plan to stakeholders. Then several workshops were facilitated (404 workshops) with DNCC, UNCC, and union MSP to leverage levy budget allocation for integrating nutrition in their annual budget development where 10,908 (M-7854, F-3054) people attended. The participants were Chairman, Chief Executive officers and Councillors of HDC, DNCC, UNCC, Chairman of Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad, Headman, Karbaries, Ward Councillors, Officials of respective Government Line Departments, and Journalists etc. Besides, identification of nutrition-related activities and advocacy for allocating adequate budget within their provision were also focused during these workshops. The meeting provided scope to analyse the existing activities & budget and what should be done to reallocate nutrition budget for the coming fiscal year. As a result, 77 union, 18 upazila and 3 district (100%) MSPs analysed their annual budget to incorporate nutrition interventions. On an average of BDT 70M nutrition budget was identified by each district.

Activity 1.2.3: Developed policy and advocacy tools for nutrition inclusion

The Action prioritized SAM and MAM as an advocacy area for improving service provision for CHT population. LEAN facilitated NNS/IPHN to adopt CHT relevant SAM & MAM content in the existing training module and developed posters on SAM and MAM screening and identification at community level. To do this, an assessment was done on SAM and MAM service status and gap in CHT. Integrating the findings from this study, training guidelines on SAM-MAM were published in collaboration with NNS/IPHN. For this whole assignment, LEAN onboarded NNS/IPHN for conducting the assessment followed a mixed method (quantitative and qualitative). The survey identified several gaps in facility services, i.e., extreme shortage of skilled manpower (doctors and nurses), inadequate logistics, lack of supervision & monitoring, etc. A separate report was produced on this SAM-MAM study in CHT.

Activity 1.2.4: Develop and utilize of Emo-demo materials, translating to indigenous languages in CHT to engage mass population

Emo-Demo was an innovative, accessible SBCC tool that psychologically motivated pregnant women to take care of themselves and their babies through involving family members and following the 1,000 days approach (pregnancy and child nutrition up to 2 years). The Emo-Demo is a 6-page, 1,000-days calendar with catchy, updated scientific Bengali texts and relevant artwork (Chakma, Marma, Tripura and Bengali culture) with positive nutrition behaviour messaging relevant to self-care during pregnancy and childcare up to 24 months. Aiming to communicate with the target audiences, the CHT local social contexts was reflected in the Emo-Demo tool. The DGHS, DGFP, and 3-Hill District Councils endorsed the Emo-Demo tool and took responsibility to disseminate it to pregnant women through Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (UHFWC) and Community Clinic (CC).

Activity 1.2.5: Roundtable to convene discussions on nutrition priorities and issues in CHT

LEAN organized 26 roundtable discussions at district (6), upazila (19) and national (1) level which was 100% achievements of the target. A total number of 617 (M-484, F-133) participants from different Government and Non-Government stakeholders participated. The roundtable was intended to bring all actors and stakeholders together to discuss nutrition issues and make recommendations for specific actions. These were the first roundtable on nutrition governance in CHT. The discussants were DG-BNNC, Director-IPHN, Deputy Director-BNNC and

Chairman-HDC, Circle Chiefs, and relevant district level officials, traditional leaders, journalists etc. Through these events, all the actors were brought in one platform to work for the nutrition agenda. The Government Line Departments and policy institutions were sensitized for taking the CHT nutrition governance agenda at the policy levels. Key recommendations from the roundtables were as follows:

- Need to improve commitments and coordinated efforts among Government Line Agencies, Administration, and Civil Societies for achieving sustainable nutrition outcomes in line with national policies.
- Nutrition issues should be raised at multi-level for increasing investment in nutrition, initiating innovative steps for achieving nutrition indicators.
- There are opportunities to improve interdepartmental coordination among DNCC & UNCC and Civil Societies that will help reduce the resource gaps of nutrition products and ensure an availability of supply.
- Need to utilize local resources and raise awareness which are key for achieving nutritional security in CHTs.
- For successfully community mobilization, several educational videos can be developed for the nine ethnic languages, then messaging will have a far greater impact on nutrition outcomes.
- Nutrition related budget for the Chittagong Hill Tracts was BDT 76.24 lakh in FY2020-21. For FY2021-22 it was increased to BDT 2.65 crore (source from BNNC). Budget increased rate is praiseworthy, but the amount was not sufficient for bringing nutrition impact among the community. Therefore, necessary steps and actions should be taken from policy level for increasing nutrition budget in their respective Government Line Departments and Ministries.

Activity 1.2.6: Annual Programme Review workshop to receive feedback

To share LEAN implementation strategies, best practices, limitations, challenges, achievements and impacts with all stakeholders, especially with Government Line Departments, 39 annual plan review workshops were organized which indicated 100% achievements. A total of 468 (M-356, F-112) people attended. They were the Chairman of Upazila Council, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, UNCC members, Union Parishad bodies, Civil Societies, representatives from traditional bodies like Headman and Karbari, members from WBC, SPA, adolescents club and journalists. The current practices by the LEAN project were highly appreciated by the participants.

Main activity 1.3: Strengthen capacity and inter-departmental coordination in nutrition sensitive programming and service delivery of relevant government line departments, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), Hill Councils, and service providers.

Activity 1.3.1 Coordination mapping of LGIs, HC and SPs to identify synergies

The coordination mapping was done in order to understand current coordination mechanisms and make recommendations for future advocacy interventions. Findings of the mapping were shared with the local level stakeholders, and identified coordination gaps where service providers and service receivers listened well and provided their opinion and experience. Based on this, a needs assessment for capacity building of the CHT health service providers was done especially on SAM and MAM services. Then a SAM-MAM training module was developed and provided training to 55 (M-27, F-28) Officials who in turn provided training to the frontline field staff. A total of 644 health operators (60% women) through 23 batches training (100% achievements) on SAM and MAM were conducted for Community Health Care Provider (CHCP), Family Welfare Assistant (FWA), nurse, medical officers, and front-line staff. After receiving training from the LEAN project, CHCP and FWA were able to identify SAM and MAM children and referring them to upazila/district health complex.

Activity 1.3.2: Organized capacity building and strengthen line agency/inter-departmental coordination (particularly DAE, DLS & DoF)

The objective of this activity was to build the capacity of the nutrition-sensitive departments and members within DNCC and UNCC other than in the Health Service (DGHS) and Family Planning (DGFP), so that they can provide services to the communities integrating nutrition programming based on multi-sectoral effort in achieving NPAN2.

BIRTAN was engaged to develop modules and conduct training with the aim of increasing nutrition sensitivity of members of DNCC & UNCC. Prior to developing the module, BIRTAN launched 3-tire Training Need Assessment (TNA) for grade 9 or above Government Officers within DNCC and UNCC, front line extension agents of DAE, DLS and DoF (SAAO, VFA) and community leaders (Headman & Karbari) through semi-structured questionnaires for each of the target groups. Finally, based on the assessment, a module was developed. Firstly, a 'Training of Trainers-ToT' titled 'Nutrition Sensitive Programming' was provided to develop a 'Resource Pool' in each district. BIRTAN's Executive Director (Additional Secretary, MoA) inaugurated the 3-days long ToT in presence of DNCC president, BIRTAN's Director (Joint Secretary, MoA), Civil Surgeon and other senior functionaries of DNCC. The resource pool provided further training to the UNCC level. Altogether, LEAN project provided 27-batches training to 594 (M-475, F-119) participants in collaboration with BIRTAN which indicated 97% achievements.

Activity 1.3.3: District/National level inter-departmental meetings on integrating nutrition sensitive activities organized

This activity was aimed at inter-departmental coordination based on evidence of an undernutrition area identified by DGHS and DGFP while other nutrition sensitive departments would give trust for acceleration of activities. Interdepartmental coordination meetings were organized for DGHS, DAE, DLS and DGFP. This kind of initiative started by LEAN as pioneer where these agencies have participated to learn about nutrition programming and identified areas of alignment. This common planning process has created a new dimension of planning on nutrition sensitive programming for the beneficiaries in CHT.

A total of 119 meetings/workshops were conducted (100% achievements) in the reporting period. LEAN facilitated DNCC to observe "National Nutrition Week" in all 3 hill districts. The activities included a rally, discussion session, drawing competition for school children, a one-hour session on nutrition and a nutrition fair. LEAN project was the first to organize nutrition week programming in 3 CHT districts jointly with multi-stakeholders which increased LEAN's visibility at district and upazila level.

LEAN project's contribution was appreciated and the project was selected as the best project for improving maternal nutrition in 2021. The Civil Surgeon Office of Khagrachari and Bandarban awarded LEAN project for this contribution.

Activity 1.3.4: Organized capacity building event for Hill Councils & Upazila Councils/administration nutrition-sensitive programming

LEAN project provided training to 700 (M-464, F-236) Government Officials and traditional leaders in three hill districts on nutrition sensitive programming through 48 batches training conducted by district resource pool. The major topics covered basic nutrition, food diversity, maternal nutrition, child health & nutrition, early marriage, women empowerment, gender, adolescent hygiene & nutrition in the training. The trainees were from the Upazila Livestock and Agriculture Extension Office, Union Parishad Chairman & Members. The immediate output of this training was sensitization and knowledge building of trainees.

According to ROM recommendations, the local traditional leaders (Headman and Karbari) were trained involving BIRTAN resource pool, which was also done in year 4. Union Parishad members, female standing committee members, Chairman and Secretary of union MSP also participated. As a result, the local traditional leaders were sensitized and enhanced their capacity on nutrition programming and they disseminated their acquired knowledge at household and community level. For example, 90% of traditional leaders (total traditional

leader is around 800) were found more active in sharing nutrition information through meeting, workshop, group discussions at the community level. They were also supporting planning process at the Union level MSP.

Activity 1.3.5: Facilitated public sector platforms to promote nutrition integration in activity plans, budgets, and activities

The activity facilitated public sector platforms meetings at district and upazila level focusing specifically on planning, budgeting and monitoring of nutrition sensitive programming. As a result of these meetings, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and Department of Livestock Services (DLS) incorporated nutrition activities in their annual plan and budget in facilitation by LEAN team. LEAN was asked to participate in all the events organized by line departments, establish linkages with line departments in providing supports to LSPs & WBCs.

LEAN also hosted GO-NGO coordination meetings at district and upazila levels for enhancing coordination and collaboration to mainstream nutrition in their annual plan. The coordination meetings were led by the Civil Surgeon Office and Department of Family Planning. A total of 145 meetings (100 % achievements) were held in the reporting period where 3625 members (M-2610 & F-1015) participated. The immediate result of this activity was improved understanding of the importance of multi-sectoral involvement in achieving nutrition outcomes by multi-stakeholders. As a result, government officials were playing an active role in multi-sectoral nutrition platform to ensure the nutrition plan and budget. Even the Government Officials have been discussing the nutrition issues in their internal meeting.

Activity 1.3.6: Facilitated mother and child health (MCH) coordination meetings

This activity was intended to facilitate “**Mother and Child Health Platforms**” to promote integration of nutrition sensitive and specific activities in the government budget at district and upazila level. A total of 201 meetings between Mother and Child Health Platforms, Local Government and Non-Governmental organizations were facilitated at district and upazila levels where 6 meetings were conducted at 3 districts and the rest were at the upazila level. The meeting mainly focused on malnutrition management, Ante-Natal Care (ANC), Post-Natal Care (PNC), Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), vaccination & resource gap. As a result, coordination and service provision for mothers and children were improved. The field level staff of the health department become more skilled and were able to work very confidently. They were found responsive to use Emo-Demo tools during field counselling, and if required, SAM children have been referred to the Upazila Health Complex.

Activity 1.3.7: Organized capacity building event for Union Parishad bodies on nutrition sensitive programming

The main objective of the capacity building of Union Parishad was to enable elected bodies for an integrated nutrition planning and budgeting according to Bangladesh Gazette. A module has been developed to train Union Parishad bodies in the reporting period. A total of 3,280 Union Parishad members and staff from 77 Union Parishad were trained on nutrition-sensitive programming. This is the first time they received training on nutrition that made them aware and informed about the importance of integrating nutrition activities in their annual development plan. It improved their capacity to seek more budget from their line authority for implementing nutrition actions for their community. About 80% of the trained people were disseminating messages (like basic food & nutrition, maternal nutrition, food processing, preservation, food cutting, food safety and home gardening) to the community and supported annual nutrition budget preparation by union level MSP. In addition, elected bodies were trying to coordinate with respective Government Line Departments to know what packages of different opportunities are available for communities and how to avail them by the people.

A total of 138 meetings were conducted (the achievements was 87%) during the reporting period.

Activity 1.3.8: Facilitate Union Parishad and its Standing Committees to strengthen female members as change maker

The objective of the activity was to sensitize and orient Union Parishad (UP) and its standing committees on their roles regarding supporting female members of the committee and Parishad to promote their capacity to undertake pro-nutrition activities, lead committees themselves and bring positive change in nutrition status of their respective unions. A total of 3,746 female standing committee members were trained along with UP's standing committee members. These events reinforced their capacity as a change maker on nutrition related activities. Afterwards, they cascaded down knowledge of nutrition to other members of the community. The training topics were basic nutrition, food diversity, food safety, food preparation, gender discrimination, health care during pregnancy, breast feeding, proper cooking methods. More than 75% female standing committees' members were working as change makers to improve the maternal and child nutrition in CHT within their community. Following the training, 12 female members started kitchen gardening as well as encouraging neighbours to do the same and they shared nutrition related messages in different communities' arbitration.

B2. Enhanced awareness, demand and consumption of nutritious food intake of direct nutrition inputs (DNIs) and improve WASH practices

Activity 2.1: Dynamic community level Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) nutrition and WASH campaigns;

Activity 2.1.1: Sign MoU with DAE

From the beginning of the project implementation, the LEAN project established a close and active collaboration with DAE that provided direct technical support to the district and upazila offices to strengthen the fruit and vegetable value chains. According to communication with DAE at the central level, they told there was no need to sign an MOU at central level, the project can directly work with district and upazila level offices. Then the project management decided not to sign a formal MOU.

Activity 2.1.2: Needs Assessment on community nutrition behaviour change

A need assessment was conducted (100% achievement) through a digital platform developed by the LEAN monitoring and evaluation team in year 2 for identification of need and gap in nutrition behaviour changes. SBCC materials were developed and printed in year 2 and 3 based on assessment findings. The identified needs were preparation of module on entrepreneurship, basic nutrition, leadership, gender & community mobilization etc.

Activity 2.1.3: Develop & Print SBCC materials in local language

The SBCC materials of IPHN on nutrition were printed and utilized from year 2 to increase demand for nutrition and health services at the community level. In year 5, two modules (Gender & Community Mobilization and Leadership) were printed and disseminated to the WBCs and the Adolescent Clubs. In addition, 2 types of hanging posters on "**Sanitary Pad and Role of Women Business Center**" were also printed for the 164 WBCs as pictorial SBCC materials. These materials were found very effective in behavioural change at the community level. On the other hand, to reach a larger population with the message of nutrition, 77 billboards were installed in year 5 at the premises of 77 Union Parishad. The messages of nutrition on the billboard were about "**benefits of diversified food, a sample of food plate and a picture of a happy family**".

A total of 21 packages of SBCC materials were produced (100% achievements) and disseminated to beneficiaries and stakeholders.

Activity 2.1.4: Engage communities in awareness-raising events (e.g., World Health Day)

The LEAN Project observed a significant number of different types of days since its inception. These events were celebrated in direct cooperation of women entrepreneurs, adolescent boys and girls, children, government line departments, traditional leaders and respected people of society. These days were; International Women's Day, World Water Day, National Nutrition Week, World Breastfeeding week, Sanitation Month and Menstruation Hygiene Day etc. The community people especially the women and the adolescent boys and girls gained significant knowledge from organizing these events. During day observation, Government Line Departments shared important information, knowledge and learning on relevant topics on the respective day.

A total of 1212 out of 1239 (98% achievement) national and international days were organized by the project in the three hill districts.

Activity 2.1.5: Promote nutrition and WASH through theatre, local artists and folk musicians

The community level theatre programs became very popular since these were run in different local languages like Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Bengali, Chak, Mro, Kheyang, Bawm etc. and as a result it was very easy to understand by the community people. In the event, proper food processing & cooking, pregnancy check-up, exclusive breast feeding, complementary food for 6 months old children, hand washing practice, proper sanitation & hygiene & negative effects of early marriage were demonstrated in theatre program.

A total of 669 out of 653 (102%) numbers of theatre programs were conducted in the three districts of CHT.

Activity 2.1.6 Development of CHT specific IEC materials to identify service provider

The IEC materials on little doctor, adolescent health & nutrition and diversified diet were utilized for conducting sessions with students, adolescent boys & girls, pregnant & lactating mothers. Module on entrepreneurship was developed for women entrepreneurs and started utilization in year 2. The module on leadership, gender and community mobilization were developed in year 4. Utilization of these IEC materials created a lot of changes in mind-set, improved understanding and practice level by the target people in improving nutrition.

The total achievement reported 13,750 out of 13,750 (100% achievements)

Activity 2.1.7: Radio messaging in local dialects to promote nutrition

In year 1 and 2 of project implementation, the activity was found ineffective in CHT as radio listening was not popular and higher outreach of the target group was not possible through radio message. Thus, this activity was replaced by the following two activities (activity 2.1.7.1 and 2.1.7.2).

Activity 2.1.7.1: Dissemination community awareness messages on nutrition, health and WASH through Social/Religious Institution

The social and religious leaders disseminated 10 important messages on nutrition, hygiene, sanitation and early marriage to the rural mass community people in CHT. These leaders were selected from various group representations such as Imam of Mosque, Monk of the Buddhist temple, Priest of Hindu temple and Church, Headman and Karbari at community level and were considered an influential and highly respected person in the society and believed to be heard and obeyed by the community people. Religious leaders delivered nutrition messages in temple, mosque and church on their weekly holidays to cover mass people where 30 – 40 people were present in an event. On the other hand, the traditional leaders similarly disseminated similar messages at the mass gathering public places like near the market /social event /tea stall or in any places where people gathered. The traditional and social leaders were trained by the project earlier on those topics. As a result, mass people at the community became more conscious, sensitized and abled to apply these knowledges in their daily life.

10 Important messages:

- Regular physical check-up of pregnant mothers
- Early Marriage
- Exclusive Breast Feeding till 6 months children
- Weight measurement of under 5 children
- Balanced diet for adolescents
- Anaemia
- Hygienic latrine, safe water and cleanliness
- Safe food
- Regular physical exercise
- Food diversity

During the reporting period, 32,773 messages were shared against a target of 32,781 (99% of the achievements) by Religious and Social Leaders.

Activity 2.1.7.2: Develop and screening awareness raising audio-visual materials to WBC and community level

A total of 36 mini projectors were procured by the project and utilized by women entrepreneurs in conducting community nutrition sessions where relevant audio visuals were uploaded to use at the community level to increase nutrition knowledge. Some of them are listed below:

- Care and nursing pregnant and lactating mother
- Personal health hygiene
- Menstrual health hygiene
- Hand washing practices/ways of handwashing
- Care for infants
- 5 danger signs of mother during pregnancy period
- Nutritional food intake and importance of taking nutritional food during puberty stage.

A number of orientations were organized for women entrepreneurs on operation of audio-visual materials. These orientations covered some specific topics such as operation of microphones, projectors, speakers and other audio-visual tools commonly used in the community settings. Besides, the women entrepreneurs were provided one-day hands-on demonstrations where they practiced using audio-visual equipment in a simulated scenario. This allowed them to become familiar with the equipment and gained confidence in operating it effectively. The participants captured many videos on the nutrition related issues aimed at building their capacity to develop audio visual clips by them.

During the reporting period, 164 WBCs utilized audio-visual materials (100% achievements).

Activity 2.1.8: Promote Tippy Tap at community level and in schools

Tippy taps were used to educate and habituate the community people and school children for WASH practices. This was essential during the COVID-19 pandemic and enabled widespread increase in handwashing and sensitization to infectious disease prevention.

Total 1199 tippy taps utilized by school children and community people out of 1199 (100% target achievements).

Activity 2.1.8.1: Facilitate and support to adolescent leaders and WBC entrepreneurs, student brigades and local community leaders to install hand washing points at common places in villages:

A total of 3,500 handwashing station/points were installed (achievement was 100%) at all the targeted villages of LEAN working areas in 3 hill districts. Each hand wash point has a 100 litres tank, soap, case and jerrican. During the EU delegation field visit in CHT in year 2, it was recommended to strengthen WASH practice at villages. The project accomplished hand washing campaign at community level and conducted sessions on hygiene practice to increase proper hand washing and sensitization for prevention of infectious disease. Hand washing management group at the community took the responsibility to operationalize these handwashing stations for the long run.

Activity 2.2: School based awareness, school garden campaigns and innovation solutions from school children to integrate nutrition sensitive interventions.**Activity 2.2.1: Integrated Little Doctor scheme through nutrition sensitized PTTI staff**

LEAN project organized a workshop to revise the training module for teachers of primary school at Rangamati on 5 August 2019. The superintendent and instructor of Primary Teacher Training Institute participated in the workshop where 10 participants (8 male, 2 female) attended. In year 2 and 3, due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, mass gathering was restricted and this event could not perform. Then, an orientation on “**Little Doctor Module**” was held through Upazila Education Office under 2.2.7 activity line in year 4. Afterwards, an Action Plan was developed by school teachers to continue this activity with students at the respective school.

One workshop was organized out of 1 (100% achievements).

Activity 2.2.2: MOU with DPHE

DPHE agreed that there is no requirement for a formal MOU. They suggested to work directly with district level DPHE. The project team worked to implement selected activities of Blue Schools (explained in the following page) in consultation with DPHE in three hill districts.

Activity 2.2.3: Sensitize School Management Committee on nutrition

School Management Committee played an important role in the implementation of school-level nutrition activities that directly impacted the well-being of students. SMC members were oriented on the significance of mother and child nutrition, sanitation & hygiene practices as well as the importance of vegetable and fruit gardening. The teachers agreed to include this type of activities in the “**Annual Academic Plan**” of the school and will engage LSP for vegetable & fruit garden at school premises. The SMC members were actively involved in facilitating and guiding students in the establishment of vegetable and fruit gardens within the school premises. In addition, each student council developed and implemented an Action Plan for nutrition and WASH after receiving orientation by the assigned teacher.

Because of prolonged closure of schools during the Covid period, this activity could not be performed in year 2 and year 3.

In the reporting period, 470 sessions were organized on nutrition, hygiene and sanitation issues out of 471 (99% achievements).

Activity 2.2.4: Promote Blue School Concept

The concept of “**Blue School**” is a blending of good practices of water, sanitation, nutrition, health, hygiene interventions through reducing water borne diseases, contamination of worms & environment conservation. The “**Student Brigade**” was trained on basic nutrition, vegetable gardening, & hygiene practice etc. Afterwards, vegetable, fruit & vermin-compost production increased by school students through gardening in the school’s premises. Seeds and hygiene kits were received by the respective schools.



In year 5, set-up of WASH items (e.g.; water tank, motor & water filter), menstrual hygiene corner and renovation of toilet were accomplished in the assessed 111 high schools. This initiative created a conducive environment for proper hygiene practices and ensured access to safe water and sanitation facilities for the school students.

Throughout this process, the School Management Committees (SMCs) played a pivotal role in implementing these activities. Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between the LEAN project and Upazila Education Department was signed for the successful execution of the project initiatives.

In addition, nutrition fair, art and debate competition were organized to increase sensitization among students about nutrition and WASH related issues. It was observed that these events have generated great enthusiasm among students.

In the reporting year, “**Blue School**” concept was implemented in 141 high schools (covered 100% of targeted schools).

Activity 2.2.5: Develop, promote and engage Student Brigades on nutrition

The “**Student Brigades**” were reactivated/formed at school with 15 students in each brigade. Student brigades were sensitised by their teachers in school with the “**Flip Charts**” developed and delivered by LEAN project. It included the balanced diet chart, micronutrients, safe water sources and sanitary information with pictures. The Student Brigade played a vital role in sensitizing and increasing awareness among the school children on nutrition related issues. They motivated and encouraged students to adopt healthy eating habits, practising hand washing and healthy lifestyle. Afterwards, students shared nutrition related knowledge and learnings with their family members and thus; spreading these important messages about nutrition in the community.

A total of 424 student brigades out of 423 (101% of achievements) were reactivated and oriented students from the selected schools by the LEAN project.

Activity 2.2.6: Organize school-based nutrition fair

The “**Nutrition Fairs**” were organized in the selected high schools to increase more knowledge among the school students on basic nutrition, hygiene, diversified foods and health at puberty stage. These nutrition fairs were supported by school teachers where LSPs, WBCs, Adolescent Clubs, Community Clinics, representatives of local Government Institutions and representatives from various Government Line Departments participated.

The Adolescent Club, LSP, WBCs, Community Clinics and a group of school students set -up different stalls in the nutrition fair. The school students visited each stall and got to know details about each stall. In addition, school girls were briefed about menstrual health management and availability of iron/folic tablets from community clinics/upazila health department. WBCs and LSPs demonstrated a variety of nutritious vegetables & fruits and shared its nutritional benefits with students. These fairs played an important role in promoting nutrition awareness among school students.

A total of 137 school-based nutrition fairs out 137 (100% of achievements) were organized. Although the closure of the schools for COVID-19 was for long time, LEAN project was able to deliver all nutrition fairs planned in the school.

Activity 2.2.7: Facilitate PTI teacher training on nutrition sensitive interventions

LEAN project organized orientation to sensitize the Primary School Teacher's on integrated "Little Doctor" scheme and nutrition sensitive interventions. In year 4, these orientations were organized in 18 upazila through Upazila Education Officers and Upazila Nirbahi Officers. A total of 359 primary schools were covered by these orientation programs where one teacher from each school attended. During orientation they prepared an Action Plan to orient their students (class 3 to 5) about the Little Doctor program in the school. A module on 'Little Doctor' was delivered to each teacher.

In year 5, 18 exit workshops (where 396 primary school teachers participated) were organized from the LEAN project for the same schools. The main purpose of organizing exit workshops was to inform and agree with primary school teachers to continue implementation of "Little Doctor's Program" for the long run. The Upazila Education Department facilitated the implementation of these "Upazila Exit Workshops".

A total of 36 workshops were organized out of 36 (100% achievements).

Activity 2.2.8: Facilitate private sector to hold innovative nutrition activities and school competitions

A number of innovative nutrition activities and competitions were organized in three hill districts by the LEAN project. The Local Service Providers (LSPs), SMCs and the WBCs collaborated with the schools to organize these events. These events mainly focused on recitation of rhymes, storytelling, drawing and quiz on nutrition etc. where class 3 to 5 students from primary schools participated. The topics/themes of competition were selected on nutrition, diversified food, water, sanitation and hygiene etc. Most of the school students participated in this competition and the students enjoyed these very much. Also, SMC members, students, local leaders, guardians of students participated along with the primary school teachers.

A total of 153 completions were held out of 149 (102% achievements).

Activity 2.2.9: Nutrition-themed essay writing and school debate competitions

These events were organized in collaboration with the School Management Committee (SMC) and school teachers to engage students from class 6 to 10 in various activities. The essay writing competition was designed for the 6 to 8 grade students and the debate competition organized for the class 9 to 10 students. Themes were selected based on importance of basic nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, hand washing practice and negative effect of early marriage which were found effective in educating students and making collaboration among schools & government line departments. Upazila Primary Education officer, Assistant Primary Education Officer and Officers from various Government Line Departments were invited as judge in these competitions.

A number of 156 nutrition-themed essay writing and school debate competitions (97% of the achievements) were organized out of 161 planned.

Activity 2.3: Support adolescent clubs with a focus on girls and nominate nutrition champions from communities and Hill District Councils to lead nutrition sensitive activities

Activity 2.3.1 Departmental collaboration with DoYD/DoA/DWAE/DoLS

The collaboration with the Department of Youth Development (DoYD), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Women Affairs Extension (DWAE) and Department of Livestock and Fishery (DoLS) was established to engage them during project execution. The project organized 4 workshops (100% achievements) with above mentioned departments to make them oriented about project's goal, objectives, interventions. They actively engaged in nutrition coordination meeting at district and upazila level to incorporate nutrition in their Annual Action Plan and delivered nutrition services to the community people.

Activity 2.3.2: Adolescent exposure visits

The adolescent boys and girls visited the Department of Women's Affairs, Youth Development, Union Health Complex and Community Clinics to learn about the existing services, resources and facilities. From these exposure visits, adolescents learnt a lot on nutrition and health related concepts and received many valuable guidance. After these visits, they have been receiving these services from the Government line departments and they have been disseminating information to the others members of adolescent clubs.

In addition, a total of 100 networking workshops were organized in year 4 at union level. These were organized in each union where 20 to 22 adolescent leaders from different adolescent clubs attended. During the workshop, each club shared their ongoing activities and exchanged views for their future collaboration. In addition, a **"Working Committee"** was formed (5 members) in the workshop. The committee formulated an Annual Action Plan (eg; reduce early marriage, improving menstrual hygiene practice, linkage for iron & folic acid tablets) by prioritizing activities of clubs to be undertaken.

In the reporting year, a total of 1015 exposure visits out of 1001 (101% of achievements) were organized.

Activity 2.3.3: Identify, re-engage and train existing adolescent clubs on nutrition activities

Adolescents were trained on basic nutrition, sanitation, hygiene, reproductive health and reducing early marriage. The project organized a two days training on basic nutrition and one day training on leadership for adolescent leaders to perform as change agents at the community. These trainings were organized for the adolescent boys and girls within the age range of 10-19 years.

Adolescents were connected with Community Health Care Providers (CHCP), Union Health & Family Planning Officers to get health and nutrition services from them.

Six sessions covered the following issues:

- Adolescent Diet and Nutrition
- Malnutrition problems, prevention and treatment
- Assessment of nutritional status by age in adolescent boys and girls
- Changes during adolescence or puberty and early marriage
- Antenatal care and nutrition
- Personal hygiene and contact Adolescent friendly health centers

In the reporting period, adolescent leaders organized 37,167 sessions out of 37,360 (99% of the achievements) on "Six Sessions" tailored by the LEAN project.

Activity 2.3.4: Demonstrations for clubs engaging the private sector

Adolescent clubs established nutrition sensitive gardening (on vegetable and fruit) at the community with the support from LSP and private company like AR Malik Seed company ltd. to improve nutrition knowledge and practices. Seeds and technology were received from LSP and private company. This enabled them to consume diversified vegetable and fruits and earn money from the sale of surplus.

In the reporting period, a total of 565 demo plots out of 527 (107 % of achievements).

Activity 2.3.5: Demonstrations on diet diversification for clubs and community

The demonstration was organized on diet diversity, knowledge sharing on micronutrients of vegetables and fruit, demonstration of cooking process, exhibition of all available food groups required for children and women at the community level. Government officials from Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Health and Family Planning, Women Affairs Office, Community Clinics and representatives of Local Government Institutions were present at these demonstration events. It was seen that organizing this event has a great impact in the community. Women in the community found an opportunity to learn about different types of local nutrition sensitive diversified foods and its cooking process.

Through this demonstration, participants were informed about the significance of incorporating a variety of nutrient-rich foods into their diets. This helped them to understand the importance of a balanced diet for overall health, particularly during pregnancy, lactation and puberty stage.

During the reporting year, a total of 691 demonstration events out of 672 (102% achievements) were organized by the adolescent clubs in three hill districts with participation from both adolescent boys and girls.

Activity 2.3.6: Support adolescent clubs to host awareness-raising events

These actions supported adolescents to grow as change makers in their communities to share lessons and best practices for targeted WASH and nutrition-related behaviours. The topics of the events were on adolescent's health, sanitation, and hygiene practices, diversified local food intake, and early marriage. This also enabled adolescents to develop their communication and messaging skills in public forums. The direct participation of adolescents in these events allowed them to adopt and apply acquired knowledge to positive behavioural changes. Local UP members, local village leaders, Headman, Karbari and nearest school teachers attended in these events.

During the reporting period, the adolescent clubs under the LEAN project successfully organized a total of 1053 awareness-raising events out of 1077, achieving 98% of the set target.

Activity 2.4: Establish multi-purpose information and service hubs in collaboration with relevant existing government services for CHT

Activity 2.4.1: Identify and train women entrepreneurs to establish WBCs

Women Business Center is a sustainable business model consisting of 5 women entrepreneurs in a group located at the community level. They run their small nutrition sensitive business and delivered nutrition knowledge to PLW, adolescent and wider community people for nutrition demand creation in three hill districts. They have been playing a transformational role becoming as women entrepreneurs from house wives. They are the real change maker.

LEAN project identified and trained 820 women entrepreneurs to provide nutrition information and delivering counselling services in remote areas using the sustainable Women Business Centre (WBC) model. The women entrepreneurs were trained on entrepreneurship development, business plan development, basic nutrition, telemedicine and eye screening (for 36 WBCs), computer/tablet operation, leadership, gender and community mobilization etc. Also 3 exchange visits were organized for women entrepreneurs

in Lakhimpur to gather learning from INCA project funded by USAID. They were well oriented on conducting community sessions with pregnant & lactating women, adolescents and hosting nutrition campaign at the community level. IT training increased a positive impact enabled them to gather and collect various information from searching internet, accessing email, doing flexi load business and helping community people having internet related activities.

Networking workshops were organized in each upazila (quarterly) and district (bi-annual) to strengthen networking among women entrepreneurs, boost up their business and establish linkage with service providers in year 4 and 5. A small committee with 5 members was formed who has been leading the networking platform. An action plan prepared by the networking committee in the workshop.

A total of 36 exit workshops were organized with Department of Women and Children Affairs, Union Parishad, Financial Service Providers, SMC and RFL Company Ltd to make mutual bond and collaboration for the continuation of their actions for the long run.

A total of 383 trainings were organized for women entrepreneurs out 376 (102% achievements).

Activity 2.4.2 Support women entrepreneurs to establish Women Business Center

The project delivered equipment (eg; solar, refrigerator, tablets, table - chair, growth monitoring tools etc), materials (flip chart, module and other SBCC materials) and working capital support to 164 Women Business Centers. A total of 155 Women Business Centers has been running their business on grocery items, WASH and DNI products, eye glasses & telemedicine services connecting with 3 district outlets, Social Marketing Company (SMC) and RFL company ltd. A number of 36 WBCs has been working with telemedicine services at the rural community level in year 5.



A mobile based application called “**Click Health**” used by WBCs connecting with professional doctor & community level patients. This enabled people in the remote locations to get doctor’s services without physical visit to Upazila Health Complex.

Another 36 WBCs started facilitation of screening of eye and sale of eye glasses in the three hill districts. The main purpose was to create access to affordable eyewear among the very remote and rural community people in LEAN working areas and selling affordable reading glasses to the consumers groups. The women entrepreneurs enhanced skills by receiving a two-day primary eye care and vision screening training conducted by the RGIL master Trainer.

In Barkal upazila, 5 WBCs started marketing of water filters. Since most of the people in this upazila drink water from spring or river, so the main objective of this work was to motivate the people of the village to drink safe water through filtration of unsafe and turbid water so that people stay healthy from various water borne diseases. In this regard, the Rangamati district outlet has been playing a key role in receiving water filter from the RFL company and sending these to the WBC level for sale to rural community people. Almost 200 filters were sold by WBCs in the upazila.

The telemedicine services were well accepted by the community people as it was easily accessible at the community level through WBCs. The patients would not go to the far distant hospital for the basic health services. Eye screening was useful for the patients at the local level and the patient could buy eye glass at the cheaper rate at the community level. Water filter business was successful and accepted by the community people as there is a crisis of drinking water. But the challenges were higher transportation cost and hilly remoteness that hindering frequent movement of women entrepreneurs and the community people for these activities.

A total of 105 solar system have been running in 105 WBCs for cold chain strengthening, mobile charging, flexi-load services and lightening.

A total of 164 WBCs were supported (100% achievements) by the project for running their nutrition sensitive business and community campaign on nutrition, hygiene and sanitation.

Activity 2.4.3: Facilitate WBCs to organize nutrition session for women producers' groups (Lactating mothers and Pregnant women)

The women entrepreneurs of Women Business Center conducted nutrition sessions among the Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) group members. At the beginning, the WBC members selected villages where they formed PLW groups. A group usually consists of 10-15 or above pregnant and lactating mothers. Each WBC member has their own PLW group (4-8) and among these groups they conducted sessions on the following topics every month:



- Antenatal care
- Postnatal care
- Newborn baby care and exclusive breast feeding till 6 months
- Breast feeding technic and breast feeding up to 2 years children, complementary feeding for 6 months and above children
- Child growth monitoring through GMP services
- Importance of cleanliness and hand washing
- Adolescent nutrition and care
- Role and support of family members (eg; husband, mother-in-law, brother-in-law and sister-in-law) in maternal nutrition and care during pregnancy and postnatal period.

Women entrepreneurs made a connection among PLW, adolescent girl, Community Clinic, Union Health and Family Welfare Center & Upazila Health Complex. As a result, target people

have been receiving health & nutrition services (like, pregnancy check-up, referral to Upazila Health Complex, received iron and folic acid tablets).

A total of 91,889 sessions were organized by WBC members for PLW and adolescents out 93,797 (98% achievements).

Activity 2.4.4: Facilitate community events hosted by WBCs

The WBCs played an important role in organizing community hosted events at the villages. The pregnant & lactating women, adolescent boys and girls, under 5 children, LSPs, producer group members and elder people participated in these community events. These events mainly focused on dietary diversity, complementary feeding of under 5 children, nutrition at puberty stage, hygiene practice and demonstration of proper cooking process. The participants learned on proper cooking practice, benefits of eating of diversified food and proper hand washing practice with great enthusiasm.

In the reporting year, a total of 2010 number out of 1964 (102% of achievements) of community events were organized by the WBC members.

Activity 2.4.5: Strengthen Farmer Information and Advice Centres/Union Digital Centres

A total of 35 workshops were organized at the Upazila level where 770 participants were attended in these workshops. During these workshops, officials from Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries served as Resource persons. They facilitated sessions aimed at providing guidance to frontline Government staffs stationed at their respective assigned upazilas. These sessions focused on the operations and utilization of Farmer Information and Advice Centers/Union Digital Centers, ensuring that field-level staff are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively serve farmers and rural communities. The workshop's participants were representatives from WBCs, LSPs, Chairman and female members of Standing Committees of Union Parishad.

Another activity was carried out for vaccination campaigns at the community level. In these campaigns, Union Livestock Officers played a key role to train members of WBCs and LSPs. Officers provided instruction and guidance for livestock vaccinations campaign for cows, chickens, ducks and other relevant species. Afterwards, a total of 78 vaccination campaigns were organized in remote locations by Upazila Livestock Department.

A total of 58 union centers were reached by this activity out 48 (120% of achievements).

B3. ACTIVITIES

Activity 3.1 Support small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs, and local service providers to enhance access to and production of nutritious foods.

Activity 3.1.1: Rapid local food/production/market assessment and identification of LSPs.

The activity has two segments, which are presented in the following:

(i) Rapid assessment of food production:

Rapid local food/production/market assessments were done in Year 2 and reported accordingly. Through the assessment, three value chains (vegetables, fruits, and poultry) were identified and selected. The cumulative progress for the whole project period was 100%.

(ii) Identification of local service providers (LSPs)

The project identified and capacitated 1,081 LSPs (33% are female). These LSPs were trained in nutrition-sensitive value chains, low-cost innovative and climate-smart agricultural technologies, business planning and local service provisioning. As a target to reach 101,000 producers, these 1,081 LSPs organized 101,554 smallholder farmers under the umbrella of 5,345 producer groups to promote nutrition-sensitive value chains and relevant technologies. The cumulative progress of this activity during the project period was 100%.



Activity 3.1.2 Analysis of Local Food Production & Market Assessments by PPPP.

The activity was accomplished by Year 3. During the whole phase, the project implemented 18 batches of workshops to validate the findings of rapid market assessment with the relevant stakeholders. The cumulative progress of this was 100%.

Activity 3.1.3: Mapping and selection of nutrition-sensitive value chains through the PPPP.

This activity was accomplished by Year 2. The project implemented 18 batches of workshops with the participation of related stakeholders and selected the potential nutrition-sensitive value chains to increase nutrition sensitive food production in the project areas resulting in the community people buying their required nutritious food from their doorstep. The cumulative progress in the project phase was 100%.

Activity 3.1.4: Development of skills training modules/manuals for local service provision based on capacity and need.

During the project phase, the project has implemented 44 training batches under this activity. The project developed and printed 26 training modules to build the capacity of local service providers, MSMEs, and front-line extension staffs on different technical issues and used these modules as ready reference book. In addition, the project provided 18 sets of digital devices (each set consists of one laptop, one multimedia projector and one internet modem) to 18 SPAs for capacity building of LSPs virtually and regular follow-up. The cumulative progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.1.5: Skills training for LSPs on nutrition-sensitive agriculture, business development, and finance for women's economic empowerment.

The project built the capacity of local service providers (LSP) to fill the gaps in nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices, financial and economic empowerment of women producers, and business planning to boost up nutritious food production in the project area. During the project period, the project organized 151 batches (02 days for each batch) of training courses for LSPs, MSMEs, early adopters, and other relevant stakeholders. A total of 3,021 participants (Female-1,217 and Male-1,804) attended the skill development training. Subject matter specialists from the relevant public (DAE, DLS, BARI, Banks, and NGOs) and private sectors facilitated these trainings as resource persons. Trained LSPs successfully promoted technologies in their field and disseminating those with the producers' groups, resulted increased nutritious food production in the project areas. The progress of this activity was 103%.

Activity 3.1.6: Matchmaking between producers and input and output value chain actors including financial service providers.

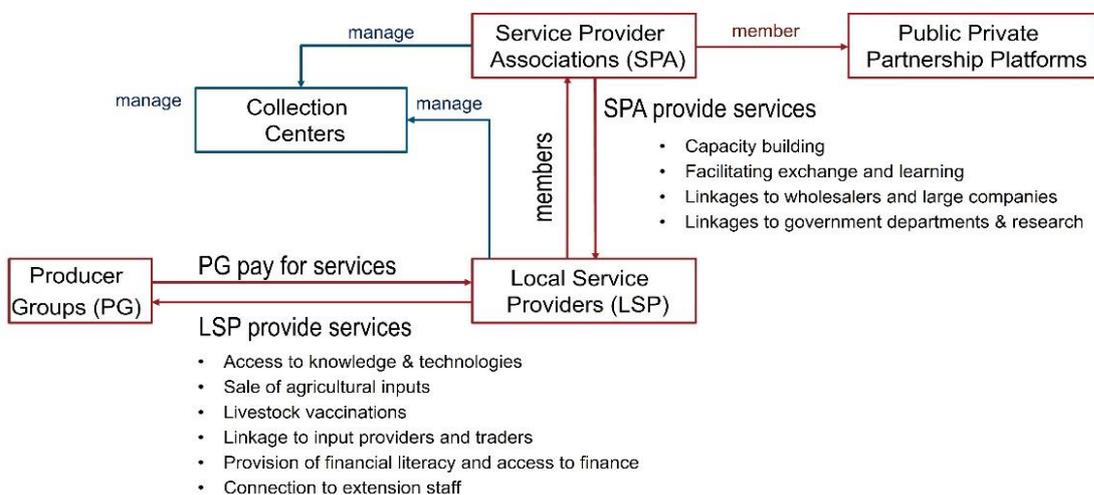
This activity was to build the capacity of producers on nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices with enhanced market linkages so that they can produce more nutritious food and sell surplus products at fair prices.

LSPs organized match-making sessions with producers for two purposes: technical capacity building of producers group on nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices; and linkages of producers with input and output market actors for getting quality agricultural inputs and selling surplus products at fair prices. During the project period, a total of 32,255 matchmaking sessions have been organized by 1,081 LSPs for the producer groups. Most of the producer group members individually participated on an average 1-4 matchmaking sessions. These matchmaking sessions played a vital role in disseminating nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and knowledge with members of the producer groups and supported producer groups in strengthening linkages with the backward and forward markets linkages in the selected nutrition-sensitive value chains. The LSPs also provided post-session accompaniment support to the producers and their groups during the implementation of learning. The progress of implementation of this activity was 102%.

Initially, the project subsidized fees for LSPs for organization and implementation of the match-making sessions. Gradually over time, the project contribution was reduced and the respective producer groups took over the responsibility of paying the fees of the respective LSPs. Through this process, the LSPs did not face any reduction of their income against their services. The project followed a gradual reduction approach in cost sharing for the organisation and implementation of match-making sessions, which created ownership within the system actors.

Through fostering selected value chains, and linking producer groups with input and sales markets, LEAN promoted the supply of target households and markets with nutritious food.

The main implementation mechanism was the introduction of Local Service Providers (LSP) who facilitated linkages among producers, public and private actors (including input and output market actors). Apart from that, the project facilitated the establishment of Service Provider Associations (SPAs) and Public Private Partnership Platforms (PPPPs). In this system, LSP receives fees/incentives from producers and market actors against the service. The system is incentivized for all the relevant actors (included LSP, producers, and input and output market actors) in this market system which indicates longer term sustainability.



Activity 3.1.7 Facilitation of multi-stakeholder joint initiatives to establish collection and sale points in production zones.

LEAN project strengthened market access of poor and smallholder farming households through establishment and operation of collection points in the strategic locations. The project provided small matching grant supports and was found effective for building these physical facilities of collection points. During the project period, a total of 85 collection points has been established and managed through the participation and collaboration of relevant



stakeholders. The collection points are operated by the Collection Point Management Committee (CPMC) and each CPMC consists of producers, traders, and LSP. The Public-Private Partnership Platform (PPPP) provided necessary guidance as and when necessary. The collection points largely contributed to remotely located last-mile producers to get access to the markets/buyers to reduce their transaction costs and save time significantly. The progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.2: Disseminate innovative low-cost nutrition smart technology and practices.

Activity 3.2.1 Knowledge, attitude, and practice (KAP) studies related to nutrition-sensitive agriculture, consumption behaviour, and nutritious food intake.

The broader objective of the KAP study was to identify gaps in knowledge, attitude and practice levels on climate change resilient technologies and methodologies, which directly or indirectly contribute to nutrition and gender-sensitive agriculture, value chain development and select suitable options to address those gaps in the context of CHT. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the project had to struggle to ground this study in Year 2 and it was deferred to Year 3. The project conducted two separate studies (the progress of this activity was 100%) and each study was carried out for specific 9 Upazilas. The KAP study identified contextual constraints with recommendations against the knowledge, attitude, and practices of CHT inhabitants related to nutrition-sensitive agriculture, consumption behaviour and nutritious food intake. The major recommendations from the KAP studies are as follows:

- Awareness-building training for the beneficiaries on knowledge, attitude and practice in line with nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices.
- Promotion of homestead production system of nutrition-sensitive agriculture commodities such as homestead gardening for year-round production of vegetables, fruits, and spices.
- Promotion of water-saving irrigation technologies such as low-cost drip irrigation.
- Promotion of low-cost innovative nutrition-sensitive agricultural technologies like mixed cropping systems, vermin-compost, sex pheromone trap, yellow trap, mulching, etc.
- Establishment of functional linkage of the producers and other stakeholders for effective collaboration from the government agencies to scale up their support services.

The project team has addressed the KAP study recommendations during the implementation of the project. The project has integrated the KAP recommendations with the existing interventions. Following the recommendations, the project introduced and disseminated low-cost innovative and nutrition-sensitive agricultural technologies (i.e., vermin-compost, sex pheromone trap, yellow trap, mulching paper, low-cost drip irrigation, natural breeding techniques of chicken, etc.) in the field. The relevant government line department and private companies actively supported for dissemination of those selected technologies. This activity was accomplished by Year 3 (September 2020 to August 2021).

Activity 3.2.2: Identification and selection of innovative, low-cost, nutrition smart and climate/DRR sensitive technologies:

The main purpose of the activity was to identify and select innovative low-cost, nutrition-sensitive, and climate-smart agriculture technologies to boost healthy, safe, and nutritious food production in the project areas. During the project period, the project implemented 18 batches of workshops with the participation of related stakeholders to identify and select potential technologies like vermin-compost, sex pheromone trap, yellow trap, mulching paper, low-cost drip irrigation, natural breeding techniques of chicken, etc. for the project area.

As for example, drought is the major natural hazard of the project areas for agricultural production, and it occurs almost every year. In this context, the project introduced a low-cost drip irrigation system and improved mulching system to combat the risk of drought incidence, which was useful during the project implementation years and increased the production of nutritious food during the drought period. This technology was identified through workshop with the project participants and related stakeholders and was accomplished during Year 2 and

followed in the subsequent year due to its good result. The implementation progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.2.3 Selection and training of early adopters and LSPs on selected technologies and methods enhancing nutrition outcomes:

The activity was to select and capacitate early adapters and LSPs to promote selected innovative low-cost nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart technologies within the producer communities in the project locations. Throughout the project period, the project implemented 65 batches of training through engagement of experts from the public and private sectors to the selected early adapters and LSPs on selected innovative climate-smart and nutrient-sensitive technologies. Implementation of these technologies reduced use of chemical agricultural inputs by the producers in the project locations and contributed to reducing risk health hazards. This activity also contributed in the promotion of food safety in fresh food items. This activity was accomplished by Year 4 and the progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.2.4: Trials, demonstration, and pilots on nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities:

The project disseminated proven low-cost, innovative, nutrition-sensitive, and climate-smart technologies through establishing demonstration, and piloting of proven technologies in the project locations. The project established demonstration and trial plots on selected innovative low-cost technologies in the strategic location for smoothly disseminating and sensitised the respective producers on the potential technologies. The front-line extension staffs of Government Line Departments and private



companies were involved in each step of the demonstration and trials to implement in consensus. The public extension agencies were linked with the selected early adopters while LSPs physically visited the demonstration or trial plots regularly to provide technical advice to the demonstration/trial farmers. Part of the demonstrations were established in collaboration with private companies (i.e., A.R. Malik Seeds, Ispahani Agro, AgroSal, etc.). During the project period, 628 trials and demonstrations were established. To establish these trials and demonstrations, the project followed cost-sharing modalities with demo farmers; on an average, the project shared 65% of the total cost, and the remaining 35% of costs were shared by the private company and or demo farmers. The project shared the results of the demonstration and trials with the wider community by organizing Farmers' Field Days (FFD) for each demonstration and trial. The progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.2.5 Design and development of post-training SBCC materials

This activity was finished by Year 4. To disseminate nutrition-sensitive techniques among the related stakeholders, the project printed and circulated 190,000 SBCC materials on different issues. These SBCC materials were published and distributed in the project areas in response to the demand from the local service providers and advanced farmers. The implementation progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.2.6 Development of extension guidelines and training modules for LSP for roll-out and scaling

This activity was accomplished in Year 4 and reported accordingly. The project developed an extension guidelines and related training modules for LSPs to demonstrate and disseminate climate-resilient and low-cost innovative nutrition-sensitive technologies and methodologies in the agriculture and livestock sector. These extension guidelines and training modules were used as a reference book for LSP, advanced farmers, and other relevant stakeholders to

promote technologies and extension services to farmers. The cumulative progress in the project phase was 100%.

Activity 3.2.7 Assessment of constraints and development of strategies for scaling and crowding in

The activity was to assess the constraints and develop strategies for scaling and crowding in project innovations and best practices. More specifically, this assessment revealed three significant points. These were as follows:

- Identified the major barriers/constraints to scaling up and crowding in project innovations/best practices in the context of CHT. Identified barriers/constraints for specific innovations/best practices separately.
- Suggested possible strategies for scaling up and crowding in project innovations/best practices.
- Suggested adjustments are required in the project strategies and interventions.

As per the assessment, it has been found that the following innovations and best practices have the potential for scaling up and crowding in:

- Formation and strengthening of producer organizations following the market approach by LSP.
- LSP business model to promote and strengthen value chains.
- Collection points to support last-mile farmers to get access to the market at competitive prices.
- Climate-smart technologies (vermin compost, sex pheromones trap, low-cost drip irrigation, etc.) to avoid the risk of climate hazards.
- Private sector engagement for innovations and scaling up following market approach.

Following the success of the project, through the successful operation of private companies like A.R. Malik Seeds, Ispahani Agro, AgroSal, etc., some other private companies (Lal Teer, Partex Agro, Babylon Agro, etc.) were found interested and expanded their operation in the project locations. The progress was 100%.

Activity 3.3: Strengthen horizontal and vertical alliances through matchmaking and establish and strengthen Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

Activity 3.3.1 Sensitization of district-level public and private stakeholders for PPPP.

LEAN project sensitized related district-level public and private sector stakeholders to strengthen horizontal and vertical alliances by promoting the public-private partnership platform concept in the project areas. During the project period, the project implemented 08 batches of workshops and sensitized the district-level relevant public and private sector stakeholders on the public-private partnership platform (PPPP) concept, so that they could contribute in forming and managing the PPPPs at upazila level. After the workshop, the participants internalized the thematic concept and contributed to organisation and smooth functioning of the respective PPPPs.

The Private-Public Partnership Platforms (PPPP) served to unite value chain stakeholders at upazila level to discuss opportunities and problems related to a specific value chain. This platform is an officially recognized extension method. The agricultural extension officer acts as convener of the meetings of the platforms. Respondents expressed doubts that these PPPPs would continue to function without the project's push. It has been observed that the Agricultural Extension Policy foresees Upazila Agricultural Extension Coordination Committees as the key forum for extension, which could overtake the functions of the PPPP.

This activity was accomplished by Year 3 and reported accordingly. The progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.3.2: Facilitation of PPPP launch and dialogue at sub-district level:

The activity was to sensitise the upazila-level public and private sector stakeholders on the public-private partnership platform (PPPP) concept and form upazila-level sectoral PPPP.

During the project period, the project organised 36 launching workshops in 18 upazilas to form 36 sectoral PPPs in the 18 upazilas (in each upazila, 1 Agriculture sector PPP and 1 Livestock sector PPP). In these workshops, the project facilitated the relevant government line department and private sectors to form sectoral Public-Private Partnership Platform in each upazila. After the workshop, 36 PPPs were formed for the agriculture and livestock sector.

But it has been assumed that considering the Agricultural Extension Policy foresees the government would give more focus on “Upazila Agricultural Extension Coordination Committees”. Most of the PPP members perform in both the committees. Therefore, the function of the PPP may take over by the Upazila Agricultural Extension Coordination Committees.

This activity was accomplished by Year 3 and reported accordingly. The progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.3.3 Development of strategies and action plans for food production and value chain improvement

The project facilitated PPPs to develop strategies and action plans for strengthening nutrition sensitive food production and related value chain improvement in the respective upazilas. During whole period, the project held 137 workshops in collaboration with the respective public agencies and private sector actors to support 36 PPP to develop their strategies. The PPP included the members from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Private Company representatives (A.R Malik Seeds, Ispahani Argo, ACI Limited, etc.), Traders, Input suppliers, LSPs, and farmers in the strategy development workshops. The agriculture sector PPPs developed their strategies following crop seasons while the livestock sector PPPs developed their strategies on half yearly basis. The progress of this activity was 101%.

Activity 3.3.4 Implementation of measures for market system and value chain improvement

Based on the prioritized strategies and action plan prepared through Activity 3.3.3, the project addressed the systemic constraints of the value chains through specific measures taken at the PPP level and implemented in collaboration with the private sector. During the whole project period, 116 events/specific measures were implemented by 36 PPPs. Among these events/measures, 100 measures were taken for value chain improvement, and the remaining 15 were implemented as part of exit workshops with SPA and PPPs to define strategies for continuation in the post-project period. The project took measures in collaboration with 602 LSPs to address some systemic constraints in the selected value chain (e.g.; addressing the lack of irrigation water and lack of market linkages in vegetable value chain, addressing unavailability of vaccine and lack of vaccination facilities in livestock value chain). In these measures, the PPPs facilitated the private sector to provide matching grants in cash and/or kinds. As part of it, the PPPs invited the private sector to come up with proposals to address constraints in the respective value chains. Approximately, the private sector and or beneficiaries shared around 35% to 40% of the total costs of the respective measures. The remaining 60% to 65% of the costs were shared by the project. The project phase progress was 97%.

Activity 3.3.5: Sensitization of PPP on sub-sector planning and programming for DRR

The activity was to sensitise the relevant upazila-level stakeholders on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) so that they can disseminate the knowledge and learnings among their clients to minimize the disaster risks. During the project period, 56 batches of workshops have been implemented. In these workshops, the project sensitised the upazila-level public and private sector experts on DRR and facilitated them to make their own plans. This activity was accomplished by Year 4 and reported accordingly. The progress of this activity is 100%.

Activity 3.3.6 Review and development of disaster preparedness and recovery programmes with regard to nutrition outcomes

Sub-activity A.3.3.6.1 Facilitate local communities and prepare village-based Disaster Risk Reduction Plans with especial focused on nutrition demand during pre and post-disasters.

The aim of the activity was to support communities to reduce the disaster risks through development and implementation of village-based Disaster Risk Reduction plans with a special focus on nutrition demand during pre-disaster, during-disaster, and post-disaster.

During the reporting period, with the project support, 3,248 village-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans (Khagrachari-972, Rangamati-1,304, and Bandarban-972) were developed. To integrate these plans with the respective union parishad, a compilation of village-based plenary reports was developed for each village and presented those with the respective Union Parishad. Based on the mitigation plan developed at the union-level sharing workshop, the project allocated about 100,000 BDT for each Union Parishad to provide support for implementing the mitigation plans.

In July 2023, flash floods and landslides occurred in the project area due to sudden heavy rainfall. As a result, the poor and vulnerable households faced massive damage to their livelihoods activities and settlements. The smallholder farmers lost standing crops in the field. Considering the situation, the project decided to provide early recovery support to 1,200 flood-affected households. Accordingly, the project provided cash grant support to 1200 affected households where each household received 5000BDT. The project documented district-wide DRR plans, DRR experiences of three districts and printed district-wide DRR reports to capitalize on the experiences and findings of the relevant stakeholders.

As per observations on the DRR plans, it has been observed that drought is one of the major disasters which hinders farming activity resulting a deficiency in food production and threatening household food and nutrition security. Therefore, the communities took multiple strategies to address the drought; such as use of low-cost drip irrigation systems, installation and use of community driven low-lift pumps for farming. Moreover, flood/flash flood also appeared as another major disaster which destroyed livelihoods activities significantly. Landslide usually damages the source of water from the spring. Therefore, the communities took strategies for tree plantation in the respective places. Frequency of thunderstorm increasing as alarming situation for CHT communities. To address this, the community-initiated palm tree plantation. During planning exercises, the communities took strategy on community base preparedness measures with support from respective union parishads and union disaster management committee.

Sub-activity A.3.3.6.2 Facilitate local community leaders, WBC leaders, LSPs, PGs, and adolescent leaders to integrate the village-level plans Disaster Risk Reduction Plans with Union Parishad's Disaster Risk Reduction plans.

The project organized union-level workshops to integrate the village-level DRR plans with Union Parishad's DRR plans. The Action organized 77 union-level DRR workshops (100% achievements) involving UDMC, LSP, WBC, local elites, religious leaders, etc., to integrate the village-level DRR plans with the respective union-level plans. In addition, the project organized 18 upazila-level DRR plans and related experience-sharing workshops involving relevant stakeholders, such as the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Project Implementation Officer (UAO), Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO), Upazila Livestock Officer (ULO), Union Parishad Chairman, Union Parishad Members, beneficiaries, LSP, etc. A total of 452 participants participated in these workshops, where 32% of participants were female. Finally, the project organized a national-level sharing workshop in Dhaka. The aims of the national level workshop were to share the achievements, findings, experiences, best practices, etc. with the national level stakeholders related to disaster. The Director General (DG) of the Disaster Management Department attended the workshop as chief guest, and the project director (PD) of the LEAN project presided over it. A total of 112 participants from relevant Government Departments, INGOs, national NGOs, Upazila Parishad, Union parishad, beneficiaries, WBC members, LSP, etc. participated and about 28% of participants were female.

Activity 3.4: Support MSME and service provider associations (SPAs) in nutrition-sensitive approaches, traceability, and peer control mechanisms.

Activity 3.4.1 Facilitation and orientation of Upazila level SPA and agri-business enterprise networks and associations (MSMEs).

The main purpose of the activity was to re-enforce nutrition outcomes through the capacity building of SPAs (apex structure of LSPs) and agri-business enterprises (called as MSMEs), so that intermediary structures could play a key role to mainstream nutrition sensitivity in farm production in hill districts. This initiative expanded and sustained the private local service provision, forward and backward market linkages in vegetable, fruit and native chicken production and marketing. In the project phase, the project held 164 batches of workshop against the original target 164. After the workshops, 18 upazila-level MSME networks were formed for better coordination and business expansion. The progress of this activity was 100%.



Activity 3.4.2 Training to SPAs and MSMEs on business planning and development and service provision for nutrition-sensitive agriculture.

The activity was to enhance the service delivery capacity and business portfolio (nutrition-sensitive agricultural technologies, business planning, financial literacy, etc.) of the SPA and agri-business network (MSMEs). During this reporting period, the project organized 19 batches of training for the representatives of SPA and MSMEs against the original target of 29. Due to the reduced number of staff members in the extension period, local political unrest, national election and, other unavoidable local factors, the project could not implement the remaining 10 batches of training.

Activity 3.4.3 Orientation training to SPAs and MSMEs on nutritious food production and consumption.

The main purpose of the training was to build the capacity of SPAs and MSMEs on nutritious food production and consumption so that they can disseminate that knowledge and learning to their clients to increase the production of nutritious food in the project area. During the project period, the project organized 20 batches of training against the target of 20. In the training, the project built the capacity of LSPs and MSMEs for nutritious food production and consumption. This activity was accomplished by Year 4 and the progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.4.4 Skills training to SPAs and MSMEs on farmer/agri-business advocacy and lobbying.

The trainings were facilitated to develop the capacity of SPAs and MSMEs for advocacy and lobbying. The project organized 12 batches of training against the target of 12. In the training, the project built the capacity of LSPs and MSMEs on advocacy and lobbying. This activity was accomplished by Year 4 and the progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.4.5 Orientation and skill training of SPA and MSMEs on market requirements.

The project built the capacity of local service providers (LSP) and MSMEs on traceability, production standards, and food safety to avoid food hazards and use the learnings in their current business. During the reporting period, the project organized 20 batches of two-day training courses for the selected LSPs and MSMEs. The total target was 18 batches of training but considering the field requirements, the project organized 20 batches of training. The project hired an external expert consultant to develop a training module and conduct the training. The facilitator followed a participatory approach including group work and learning by doing in the training. After receiving the training, the LSPs and MSMEs were successfully practising those technologies in their field, and they were disseminating those technologies with the farmers.

This activity supported farmers to avoid the risk of health hazards from produce and ensure healthy food production. The progress of this activity was 111%.

Activity 3.4.6 Peer learning visits between SPAs and MSMEs.

The main objective of the activity was to gain experience and knowledge on project approaches, the LSP model, innovative nutrition-sensitive technologies, income-generating methods by LSPs and MSMEs, organization development, and linkages with the public and private sectors. During the project period, the project organized 3 days long 19 batches of peer learning visits for LSPs and MSMEs. After the visits, LSPs and MSMEs integrated learnings into their business and enterprising activities. The progress of this activity was 106%.

Work package 5: A.3.5 Promote WASH and DNI markets.

Activity 3.5.1: Prioritization of economically and socially viable WASH and DNI products and services for supply chain improvement

The activity prioritised economically and socially viable WASH and DNI products for the project areas. During the project period, the project organised 36 workshops. Through these workshops, the project prioritized and selected required WASH and DNI products for each of the upazilas. This activity was accomplished in Year 3 and the progress of the activity was 100%.

Activity 3.5.2 Assessment of options for WASH and DNI supply chain development and product promotion

The broader objective of the assessment was to assess or develop options for promoting supply chains of WASH and DNI products in the project locations, so that the remotely located rural hill communities get their required products at their doorstep or closure proximity. Two separate assessments (each assessment included all 18 upazilas) were conducted; one was for WASH and another was for DNI supply chain development and product promotion. The result of the assessment supported the project to facilitate market actors to promote and enhance the supply of required WASH and DNI products through a better integration in the local market systems in the context of CHT. This activity was accomplished in Year 3 and the progress of the activity was 100%.

Activity 3.5.3 Orientation and skills training for SPA/LSP and front-line extension staff on WASH and DNI product promotion.

The activity was to make WBCs, LSPs, and frontline extension staff aware on WASH and DNI products, so that they could disseminate related information to the remotely located rural communities of the respective upazilas. Such information dissemination contributed to making rural communities confident with the required information for buying quality WASH and DNI products at the competitive price. The project hired an external consultant through a competitive process who developed the training module and conducted the training efficiently and smoothly. The assigned consultant involved a multidisciplinary facilitator team to make the training events successful. The facilitators team included doctors, public health experts, agriculturists, environmentalists, nutritionists, etc. The project selected LSPs, WBC members and front-line extension workers of both public and private sectors and provided them the required information and training on WASH and DNI product promotion. After the training, the LSPs, WBCs, and front-line extension workers raised awareness of mass communities on the WASH and DNI products and services available in the selected upazilas. During this reporting period, a total of 72 batches of training were organized (36 batches were for promotion of WASH products and 36 batches for promotion of DNI products). The progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.5.4 Matchmaking of suppliers and local retailers/business centres for the establishment of supply chains.

The workshop was to make a functional linkage among WASH and DNI product producers, local entrepreneurs, and WBC to develop plan and strategies to make WASH and DNI products available through improved supply chain in the project location, so that the hill communities get required WASH and DNI products at their closure proximity. During the project period, the project organised 36 workshops. This activity was accomplished in Year 3 and progress of this activity was 100%.

Activity 3.5.5 Establishment of local production and sales centres and skills and business development support for local entrepreneurs

The purpose of the activity was to incentivise local entrepreneurs to establish and run production and sales centres of WASH and DNI products in strategic locations. This intervention allowed rural/last mile communities to get easy access to WASH and DNI product markets in their village/nearby proximity. The availability of required WASH and DNI products with competitive prices through a well-functioning supply chain encouraged local consumers to increase the use of WASH and DNI products. During the reporting period, the project supported 50 local entrepreneurs to promote supply chain of 7 WASH products and 6 DNI products. The progress of this activity was 89%. Due to political unrest and local conflict, the project could not implement planned interventions in Bandarban district.

2.3. Describe if the Action will continue after the support from the European Union has ended. Are there any follow up activities envisaged? What will ensure the sustainability of the Action?

The action will be continued in Khagrachari district by implementing partner Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) as a part of follow - up actions where producer groups, advanced farmers, Women Business Centers, adolescent clubs, UNCC, union MSP will be engaged. Though facilitation by LEAN project, 22 government line departments learned on “**Multi-sectoral Minimum Nutrition Package**” set by BNCC and those departments will continue incorporation of nutrition in their planning and budgeting as well in CHT. Women Business Center, adolescent leaders & Local Service Provider (LSP) were capacitated by the project, and they have been playing a key role in sensitization on nutrition, social and behavioural change and diversified food production and marketing. They are the local people where women entrepreneurs & advanced farmers earning money from their small businesses and this is the incentive for them to continue promotion of nutrition sensitive small business, knowledge sharing and creating socio- economic changes at the rural level. Adolescent leaders (3000) are very vibrant in leading youth development and disseminating important knowledge with other adolescents as peer learning would be continued for long run. As all 3 DNCC, 18 UNCC and 77 union MSPs were activated and trained on nutrition sensitive programming by LEAN project and they will be able to continue nutrition sensitive planning and budgeting in coordination with BNCC.

2.4. Updated Log Frame

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Overall objective: To improve maternal and child nutrition in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)	OO 1: Prevalence of stunted children under 5 years old in Chittagong Division	40.80%	7.8% reduction	4% reduction (2023)	Household survey. Anthropometric data	No bias in data collected. No major disruptions to programme activities of e.g., weather patterns, floods, waterlogging, cyclone or outbreaks of pests and diseases, local and national political instability.
		OO 2: Prevalence of low BMI (Body Mass Index <18.5) among ever-married women age 19-49 years in Chittagong Division	10%	3.8% reduction	3% reduction (2023)	Household survey. Anthropometric data	
		OO 3: Prevalence of undernourished adolescent girls in Chittagong Division	62.50%	21.9% reduction	5% reduction (2023)	Household survey. Anthropometric data	

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							No major economic set-backs that affect consumer purchasing power and MSME profit margins.
Specific objective (s): Outcome (s)	Outcome - 1 Enabling environment and awareness created for improved and sustained pro-poor nutrition security service delivery.	OC 1.1 Multi Stakeholder Platforms (MSP) e.g., DNCC, UNCC in CHT are functional and advocated CHT nutrition agenda at national level	0	Y2-21% Y3-70% MTR-70% Y4-87% Y5-95%	Total :75% Y1-0 Y2-25% Y3-50% Y4-60% Y5-75%	MSPs annual plan. Meeting minutes	Risk: The stakeholders of MSP may not coordinate with each other or integrate each other or integrate nutrition committee's activity in their own departmental annual plan A Assumption: The stakeholders work according to NPAN2.
		OC1.2: Percentage of agencies prioritized allocation of budget for CHT in nutrition related area.	0	Y2-40% Y3-60% MTR-76.86% Y4-85% Y5-85%	Total:80% Y1-0 Y3-50 % Y4-70 % Y5-80%	Internal meeting minutes. Annual planning and review meeting minutes. Levy budget meeting minutes. Annual reports;	Risk: Individual line agencies authority for allocating nutrition budget Assumption: The Government priorities budget allocation and redistribution to CHT nutrition activities
		OC 1.3: DNCC and UNCC developed and/or revised their annual activity plan in cooperation with Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari Hill District Councils in line with NPAN2 and CIP2.	0	Y2-3 Y3-21 Y4-21 Y5-21	Total : 21 Y1-0 Y2-03 Y3-14 Y4-21 Y5-21	Annual reports. Annual activity plans	Risk: All planning process may not be finished on time due to any external or political factors Assumption: The DNCC and UNCC and line agencies prioritise nutrition as a national issue in their plan.

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
Outcome-2 Availability and consumption of safe and diversified nutritious food increased for poor pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent and children through value chain intervention	OC2.1: Prevalence of household food insecurity	35.60%	Y2-35.04% Y3-34% MTR-21.9% Y4-13.37% Y5-10.2%	Total : 25% Y1-0% Y2-34% Y3-31% Y4-28% Y5-25%	Annual Household Survey. Annual report	Risk: weather patterns, floods, disaster, waterlogging, cyclones or outbreaks of pests and diseases might disrupt production. Effect of major economic setbacks on household income and expenditure. Assumption: Farmers adopted improved technology and have access and afford adequate nutritious foods	
	OC 2.2: Percentage of women who consume 5 or more out of 10 food groups (MDD-W indicator) daily	52.7%	Y2-53.75% Y3-54.55% MTR-78.6% Y4-70.47% Y5-90.50%	Total : 63% Y1-0 % Y2-54% Y3-57% Y4-60% Y5-63%	Annual Household Survey. Annual Report. External evaluation	Risk: Unstable market price and unaffordability of nutritious food. Effect of major economic setbacks to household income and expenditure Assumption: Positive attitude to consumption of nutritious food groups (5 more out of 10 food groups) due to behaviour change communication	
	OC 2.3: Percentage of households practicing adequate hygiene practices for food preparation and consumption	52%	Y2-60% Y3-83.30% MTR 76.9% Y4-63.19% Y5-98.70%	Total : 67% Y1-0% Y2-55% Y3-59% Y4-64% Y5-67%	Annual Household Survey. Annual Interim report. External evaluation	Risk: Unavailability of water round the year Assumption: Households continued improved hygiene practices	
	OC 2.4: Decreased percentage of children		Y2-0% Y3-0% Y4-15.26% Y5-28.3%	Total 15% Y1- 5% decrease	Annual report. External evaluation. School Report	Risk: Natural disaster spread diseases	

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
		affected by infectious diseases.			Y2 -5% decrease Y3 -5% decrease Y4- 5% decrease Y5- 5% decrease		Assumption: Caregivers do hygiene practices and feed safe food
		OC 2.5: Prevalence of Children 6 – 23 months consuming a minimum acceptable diet (Meal frequency and diet diversity)	40%	Y2-41.72% Y3-43.5% MTR-69% Y4-77.94% Y5-92.80%	Total: 55% Y2-43% Y3-47% Y4-52% Y5-55%	Household Survey. Annual report External; evaluation	Risk: Un-stable market price and un-affordability of nutritious food. Major economic setbacks to household income and expenditure. Assumption: Increased women's knowledge, attitude and behaviour change will directly impact their children's diet and meal frequency.
		OC 2.6: Percentage of women engaged in local institution and decision-making power in family and social institution	2.10%	Y2-9% Y3-10% MTR-20% Y4-13.60% Y5- 24.70%	Total : 15 % Y1-0 Y2-5% Y3-10% Y4-15% Y5- Continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual HH Survey Annual interim report 	Risk: The current push for empowerment of women will be threatened by conservative local, cultural and religious undercurrents. Assumption: Male HH members respond positively to the project.
Outputs	Output-1 Effective governance system activated, strengthened.	OP 1.1: Number of Hill District Councils facilitating functioning multi-stakeholder platforms in line with NPAN2 and CIP2.	0	Y3-3 MTR-3 Y4-3 Y5- 3	Total : 3 Y1-0 Y2-3 Y3-3 Continue Y4-3 Continue Y5-3 continue	Platform formation; Workshop Report/ meeting minutes. Annual report External evaluation	Risk: The Hill District Councils are not responsive Assumption: Local political stability and continued prioritisation of nutrition sensitive services at the district Level.
		OP1.2: Number of GoB Line Department officials are trained on nutrition	0	Y2-84 Y3-564 MTR-564 Y4-766 Y5- 127	Total: 600 Y1-0 Y2-100 Y3-400 Y4-100 Y5-0	Evaluation report. Consolidated stakeholder orientation training	Risk: Trained person may not stay at their job station for a long time

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
		sensitive inter-sectoral programming.				attendance sheet. Annual report	Assumption: Stakeholders consistently attend and engage in training sessions.
		OP1.3: Number of traditional leaders and local government officials are trained on nutrition related activities.	0	Y2-6 Y3-1,085 MTR-1085 Y4-2966 Y5 - 1075	Total: 3000 Y1-0 Y2-200 Y3-1000 Y4-1800 Y5-0	Consolidated stakeholder orientation training	Risk: Major setbacks from conservative religious belief: particularly around women increased social, political and economic positioning. Assumption: Traditional institutions are consistently engaged in training session
	Output-2 Nutrition sensitive awareness, demand and behaviour change increased at community level	OP2.1: Number of women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under 5 reached by nutrition related interventions with EU support		Y2-37,185 Y3-44,010 MTR-44,010 Y4- 98,848 Y5- 52167	Total: 225,000 Y1-5000 Y2-40,000 Y3-80,000 Y4-80,000 Y5-20,000	Session attendance. Annual report	Risk: Pregnant Women and lactating mothers are not allowed by their families or communities. to attend an awareness session Assumption: Women and adolescent girls are not prevented from attending knowledge-sharing and training sessions at WBCs by male community members.
		OP 2.2 Number of pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls received information on nutrition and health services from WBC	0	Y2-37,185 Y3-46,703 MTR-46,703 Y4-47,086 Y5 - 37082	Total: 50300 Y1- 300 Y2-15,000 Y3-15,000 Y4-15,000 Y5-5,000	WBC serve register. Annual report	Risk: Pregnant Women and lactating mothers are not allowed by their families or communities to attend awareness sessions. Assumption:

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							Adolescents are enthusiastic to participate, and family members allow to attend sessions.
		OP 2.3 Number of adolescents trained on nutrition sensitives issues	0	Y1-874 Y2-874 Y3-18,000 MTR-18,000 Y4-48,326 Y5- 15,000	Total: 65500	Attendance sheet. Annual Interim report	Risk: Adolescents are not allowed by their families or communities to attend awareness sessions. Assumption: Adolescents are enthusiastic to participate, and family members allow to attend sessions
		OP 2.4 Number of student brigade activated	0	Y1-108 Y2-246 Y3-34 MTR-246 Y4-130 Y5- 63	Total: 360 Y1-40 Y2-100 Y3-100 Y4-100 Y5-20	Annual report. Student brigade formation record at school	Risk: The line department and parents-guardian associations do not cooperate with the school management committees and students. Assumption: School Management committees help the student brigades.
		OP 2.5 Number of women started selling inputs, outputs and services	0	Y2-820 Y3-820 MTR-820 Y4-820 Y5- 820	Total: 820 Y1-0 Y2-100 Y3-700 Y4-820 Y5-820	WBC register. Annual report	Risk: Women are not allowed by their families or communities to do business Assumption: Women does business from WBC
		OP 2.6: Number of peoples who participated in awareness sessions on proper handwashing	0	Y1-764 Y2-16943 Y3-29,077 MTR-29,077 Y4-48,326 Y5- 80,040	Total: 280000 Y1-0 Y2-16,943 Y3-28,680 Y4-140,626 Y5-93,751	Annual report	Risk: Women and Adolescents are not allowed by their families or communities to attend awareness session Assumptions: Women and adolescent

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							girls are not prevented from attending knowledge sharing and training sessions at WBCs by male community members
		OP 2.7 Number of nutrition sessions facilitated by adolescent	0	Y1-127 Y2-15801 Y3-10,371 MTR-10,371 Y4-6,783 Y5- 4,494	Total: 55000 Y1-0 Y2-15,000 Y3-15,000 Y4-15,000 Y5-10,000	Attendance Report	Risk: Adolescents are not allowed by their families or communities to facilitate the sessions.
		OP 2.8 Number of adolescents performed in nutrition events	0	Y2-2,490 Y3-3,280 MTR-3,280 Y4-2,385 Y5- 16520	Total: 20000 Y1-0 Y2-6,000 Y3-6,000 Y4-6,000 Y5-2,000	Attendance Report	Risk: Adolescents are not allowed by their families or communities to perform the events. Assumption: Adolescents are enthusiastic
		OP 2.9 Percentage of Child marriage reduced	0	New indicator Y4-28% Y5- 60%	Total: 50% Y1-0 Y2-0 Y3-0 Y4-50% Y5-50%	Annual report	Risk: Adolescent club may not get support from parents Family and social culture may encourage child marriage Assumption: Parents are sensitized to prevent child marriage Increased awareness against child marriage
Output-3 Nutrition-sensitive and climate smart value chains promoted.	OP3.1: Number of smallholder farmers have linkages with input market actors	0	Y2-12,046 Y3-42,468 MTR-42,468 Y4-54,094 Y5-100,015	Total: 101000 Y1-1,000 Y2-15,000 Y3-30,000 Y4-40,000 Y5-15,000	Annual household Survey; Annual report	Risk: Local and National political environment deteriorate. Severe outbreaks of COVID-19 pandemic Assumptions: Smallholder farmers have access to roads in good	

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							conditions. Traders continue to supply input. Social relations permit farmers and traders to organise themselves.
		OP 3.2 Number of smallholder farmers have linkages with Output market actors		Y2-12046 Y3- 42,468 MTR- 42,468 Y4-54,094 Y5- 100,214	Total: 101000 Y1-1,000 Y2- 15,000 Y3- 30,000 Y4- 40,000 Y5- 15,000	Annual household Survey; Annual report	Risk: Local and National political environment deteriorate Severe outbreaks of COVID-19 pandemic Assumptions: Smallholder farmers have access to roads in good conditions. Traders continue to supply input. Social relations permit farmers and traders to organise themselves.
		OP.3.3 Number of food insecure people receiving assistance through interventions support by the EU		Y4-23,715 Y5- 8407	Target 35,000 Y1-0 Y2-0 Y3-0 Y4- 25,000 Y5- 10,000	Annual Monitoring	Risk: Local and National political environments deteriorate. Severe outbreaks of COVID-19 pandemic Assumptions: Smallholder farmers have access to roads in good conditions. Traders continue to supply input. Social relations permit farmers and traders to organise themselves.
		Op 3.4 Percentage of LSP capacitated on nutrition sensitive production technologies		MTR-81% Y4-98% Y5- 99%	Target: 80% Y1-0 Y2-0 Y3-0 Y4-70% Y5-10%	Annual Monitoring	Risk: Local service provider mind set change to other opportunities Assumption: Public extension

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							service provider and research agencies are positive for building private sector service provider Large private companies positively view promotion of local service provider
		OP 3.5 Percentage of LSPs developed their knowledge and skills on market linkages and established network with backward and forward market including private company		MTR-44% Y4-54% Y5- 82%	Target-50% Y1-0 Y2-0 Y3-0 Y4-40% Y5-10%	Annual Monitoring	Risk: Local service provider mind set change to other opportunities Assumption: Public extension service provider and research agencies are positive for building private sector service provider Large private companies positively view promotion of local service provider
		OP3.6: Number of Smallholder farmers adopt innovative, climate smart and agro-ecological production technologies after receiving guidance from LSPs	0	Y2-10,000 Y3-42,468 MTR-42,468 Y4-38,675 Y5- 17,345	Total: 101000 Y1, 1000 Y2- 15,000 Y3- 30,000 Y4- 40,000 Y5- 15,000	Annual Household survey; Annual report	Risk: Unstable market price and un-affordability and availability of technologies. Assumption: Farmers are ready to invest on innovative, climate smart technologies and agroecological
		OP3.7: Number of Smallholder farmers increase income by 15%	0	Y2-10,125 Y3-42,468 MTR-42,468 Y4-16,876 Y5- 9,129	Total: 60,000 Y1-750 Y2- 11,250 Y3- 16,750 Y4- 20,000 Y5- 11,250	Producers Survey; Annual report; External evaluation	Risk: Unstable market price and non-affordability with major environmental shocks that could significantly affect production. Assumption: Demand for nutritious food is high in local

Intervention Logic		Indicators	Baseline	Current Value	Target	Sources and Means of Verification	Risks / Assumptions
							and national market
		OP3.8 Number of MSME s increase their business turnover by 10% due to strengthen function of respective value chain		Y4-120 Y5- 55	Total: 200 Y1-0 Y2-0 Y3-0 Y4-160 Y5-40	MSME survey; MSME register book.	Risk: Unstable market price and non-affordability with major environmental shocks that could significantly affect production. Assumption: Demand for nutritious food is high in local and national market
		OP 3.9: Percentage of local rural markets have availability of competitively priced, diversified and nutritious foods (5 food groups)	Rangamati- 59.4% Khagrachari- 90% Bandarban- 90.5%	Y2-81% Y3-98% MTR-98% Y4-98.88% Y5- 100%	Total - 90% Y1-0% Y2-82% Y3-84% Y5-86% Y5-90%	Rural market survey; Annual report; External evaluation	Risk: Environmental shocks that could affect crop production and raise market prices. Unstable market price and non-affordability Assumption: Local demand for nutritious food is high
		OP 3.10: Number of Smallholder farmers increase their own food production in nutrition sensitive value chains by 20%	0	Y2-10,125 Y3-42,468 MTR- 42,468 Y4-39,195 Y5- 18,125	Total: 101000 Y1-1,000 Y2- 15,000 Y3- 30,000 Y4- 40,000 Y5- 15,000	Annual Household Survey; External evaluation	Risk: Farmer's production hampered due to natural calamities Assumption: Access to inputs and services such as water, fertiliser, transportation, etc.
		OP 3.11: Number of smallholder farmers who receive access to financial services	0	Y2-1,332 Y3- 5, 000 MTR-5,000 Y4-6,000 Y5- 9,623	Total: 31000 Y1-0 Y2-1,000 Y3-5,000 Y4- 10,000 Y5- 15,000	Annual Household Survey; Annual report; Financial institutions' record	Risk: Changes in policies and profitability of MFIs and other Finance Institutions. Assumption: Interested MFIs are available

2.5 Explain how the Action has mainstreamed cross-cutting issues such as promotion of human rights,⁷ gender equality,⁸ democracy, good governance, children’s rights and indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability⁹ and combating HIV/AIDS (if there is a strong prevalence in the target country/region).¹⁰

The project substantially mainstreamed the cross-cutting issues where access to rights with dignity was ensured in case of receiving services by under-nourished under 5 children, pregnant and lactating mothers from Department of Health and Family Planning and Community Clinic. Impoverish smallholder farmers received inputs and services for their agriculture production from Department of Agriculture and Livestock through the project initiatives.

Gender equality was maintained in participation, decision making and leadership of women in small business development (100% women), Local Service Providers (33%), increasing agriculture production; market linkage (50% women), & promoted women members of Union Parishad (UP) as nutrition change makers. Adolescents and their parents were sensitized on negative effect of early marriage and community theatre programs were held for mass awareness among community people to reduce child marriage in CHT.

Good governance was ensured through promoting bottom-up approach from union level Pusti Committee (MSP at union level) to upazila and district level nutrition coordination committee where community people’s participation at Union Parishad was enormous and they received different kind of safety net (like maternity, disability & old allowance etc.). Different indigenous groups (Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Bawm, Mro etc) were targeted throughout the project period where environmental sustainability (eg; climate smart agriculture technologies like vermicompost, sex-pheromone trap, drip irrigation etc) was the core of the project. The project participants enjoyed the environment for freedom of choice and expression and this is key for the community development.

2.6. How and by whom have the activities been monitored/evaluated? Please summarise the results of the feedback received from the beneficiaries and others.

The project activities were monitored at different levels. At the field level, these were monitored by Upazila and District team. On a regular basis, they monitored on going interventions and provided backstopping support to the beneficiaries & other target audiences. At district level, there were 4 Monitoring Officers and they did monitor and evaluation of the field activities (eg; target vs achievements, documentation at the field level, verification of the progresses through online tracker etc). Data Management Specialist and MRM Coordinator were checking overall quality of the data, did consolidation and updating of log frame.

Based on the feedback received from beneficiaries on the template of small business planning, the project customised and made simple format; therefore, it was useful for the beneficiary to utilize. Working capital to women entrepreneurs & solar systems were delivered at the remote locations based on the feedback and needs raised by the target community people. WASH materials and equipment’s were given to 111 high schools upon receiving request from School Management Committee. ICT tools (like laptop, modem and projector) was delivered to Service Provider Association (SPA) based on need and feedback from Service Provider Association (SPA) that enabled them to conduct agricultural sessions with far located smallholder farmers. Union level “**77 Pusti-Committee**” was formed in accordance with the key stakeholders’ comments and feedback and this has been very useful to ensure a bottom-up nutrition governance mechanism. Headman and Karbaries trainings on nutrition were

⁷ Including those of people with disabilities. For more information, see ‘Guidance note on disability and development’ at https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-guidance-note-eu-staff_en

⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/toolkit-mainstreaming-gender-equality-ec-development-cooperation_en

⁹ Guidelines for environmental integration are available at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/economic-growth/environment-and-green-economy/climate-change-and-environment_en

¹⁰ Please refer to EC Guidelines on gender equality, disabilities, etc.

conducted directly by BIRTAN, some indicators were revised and added in the log frame, sessions on early marriage and women's engagement were included in the community orientation curriculum as per suggestions of ROM Mission.

2.7. What has your organisation or any actor involved in the Action learned from the Action and how has this learning been utilised and disseminated?

The technical knowledge and learning on **NPAN-2 of Bangladesh** has been utilized by 22 Government Line Departments and union level multi-stakeholder platforms in nutrition planning, budgeting and capacity building training of other Government officials in Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban district. Acquired learning of women entrepreneurs on small enterprises were being shared in the Women Entrepreneurs networks at upazila and district level. Learning on basic nutrition at puberty stage was disseminated by adolescent leaders as peer learning to other adolescents at the community. Social and religious leaders transferred their learning on basic nutrition, hygiene and sanitation to mass people at the community. Advanced farmers (Local Service Providers) have been playing a key role in dissemination of learning and knowledge on climate smart agriculture technologies and marketing knowledge with other smallholder farmers at the community level. The organizational key learnings were utilized (for example; based on learning, radio messaging intervention was converted into sessions by social and religious leaders which were found very effective, & promotion of moringa production by the project beneficiaries as it was learnt as super food) in ongoing project interventions from year 2 to end of the project. The learnings were disseminated through round table discussions, photo exhibition, partners meetings, national level DRR workshop and national level project closing workshop.

2.8. Please list all materials (and number of copies) produced during the Action on whatever format (please enclose a copy of each item, except if you have already done so in the past).

A number of learning materials were produced with hired expert consultants and those were utilized in conducting staffs training firstly. Then, these were used in organising training for women entrepreneurs, adolescent leaders, students at school, Local Service Providers, Local Service Provider Association, representative of multi-sectoral platforms at Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and District level stakeholders. Training materials were distributed to the training participants after conducting the training. Some visibility materials were distributed to the key stakeholders (like FPMU, BNNC, Government Line Departments at district and upazila, Union Parishad & partners). Please find the [link](#) for the materials.

2.9. Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above € 60 000 awarded for the implementation of the Action since the last interim report if any or during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the name of the contractor and a brief description on how the contractor was selected.

There were no contracts (works, supplies and service) above € 60 000 awarded for implementation of the Action in the reporting period.

3. Beneficiaries/affiliated entities and other Cooperation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the beneficiaries/affiliated entities of this grant contract (i.e. those having signed the mandate for the coordinator or an affiliated entity statement)? Please provide specific information for each beneficiary/affiliated entity.

The LEAN project has been leading by United Purpose with 2 other technical partners (The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation) and 3 implementing partners (Integrated Development Foundation, Caritas Bangladesh and Jum Foundation). United Purpose was also responsible for technical backstopping for Social and Behavioural Change Communication whereas Nutrition Governance was technically supported by GAIN and Climate Smart and Nutrition Sensitive value chain development part was technically supported by Helvetas. Three implementing partners implemented project at 3 districts (Caritas Bangladesh in Bandarban, Jum Foundation in Rangamati and IDF in

Khagrachari). There were a functional and effective relationship between beneficiaries and affiliated entities in planning, execution, monitoring & evaluation of the project's interventions. On regular basis, monthly (Project Implementation Unit's meeting), quarterly (Project Steering Committee's meeting) and annual meeting (with all staffs) were among all partners and stakeholders to review the progress and prepare next Action Plan for field level execution. The project worked to achieve the set milestones successfully as one program approach led by United Purpose considering one LEAN team where dedication and team spirit was high. The relationship among beneficiaries, implementing partners and technical partners was very friendly and conducive in conducting community hosted events, sessions, day observation, and training etc.

3.2. Is the above agreement between the signatories to the grant contract to continue? If so, how? If not, why?

The agreement between the signatories will not continue as the agreement was for the period of the project. But all partners will explore for any future potential opportunities to complement with the results of the project as a part of follow-up actions.

3.3. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action ?

The LEAN project recognized the importance of state authorities and their role in creating an enabling environment for smooth implementation of project activities. The project established close cooperation with 22 Government Line Departments. It also established good relationship with Chittagong Hill Tract Regional Council (CHTRC) and got approval on 24 December 2018 for implementation of the project in Chittagong Hill Tract. On 20 June 2019, the project signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh National Nutritional Council (BNNC) to facilitate Nutrition Governance at district and upazila level. The MoU was signed with NNS in 2019 to supplement the goal of NPAN2 of Bangladesh in reducing malnutrition, ensuring adequate nutrition for mothers, children and adolescents using SBCC resources in CHT. The project has also good relationship with Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN). The SBCC materials of IPHN was adopted in the LEAN project. The project had been closely working with 3 Hill District Councils, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Department of Youth Development (DoYD), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Department of Livestock (DoLS) & Department of Education for smooth running of the project activities on regular basis.

3.4. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate(s) (if any): United Purpose as led organization submitted project progress report to FPMU and Regional Hill Council, Rangamati on monthly basis.
- Contractor(s) (if any): A total of 8 local partner organizations were engaged through a “**service agreement**” for accelerating community mobilization at 8 upazilas in year 2. They were AKS, KOTHOWAIN, ALO, SAUS, TAUNGYA, SIWP, BNUF & AA.
- Final beneficiaries and target groups: There were a professional and functional relationship established with project beneficiaries (eg; PLW, adolescents, advanced farmers and smallholder farmers), Headman, Karbaries, and religious leaders.
- Other third parties involved (including other donors, other government agencies or local government units, NGOs, etc.): As part of co-finance, Form for Renewable Energy, Electric Aid & Bishop Appeal supported for installation of solar systems at Women Business Centers, Allain Nesta contributed in Blue School concept, Philip Henman Trust & Island Reach supported in strengthening Women Business Centers, Eurofins Foundation contributed in behavioural change aspects in Khagrachari district.

3.5 Where applicable, outline any links and synergies you have developed with other actions.

LEAN project was connected with Bangladesh Initiative to Enhance Nutrition Security and Governance (BleNGS) project led by World Vision International, Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO) project led by CARE Bangladesh, Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO) project led by Cordaid (previous ICCO) and Suchana; Ending the Cycle of Undernutrition in Bangladesh project led by Save the Children. The progress, challenges and learnings were shared reciprocally. Coordination was maintained with Bandarban Agriculture & Nutrition Initiative (BANI) project, Partnership for Resilient Livelihood in CHT (PRLC), Agriculture and Food Security Project (AFSP) - III project in Chittagong Hill Tracts executed by Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID - CHT), UNDP Bangladesh, Nutrition Smart Village Project implemented by Anondo in Khagrachari and Our Life Our Health Our Future project funded by Simavi Netherlands to avoid overlapping and playing complementary role in improvement of nutrition throughout the district. There was a strong connection with the Meeting the Undernutrition Challenge (MUCH) project led by Food and Agriculture Organization for aligning food and nutrition policies and strategies like; National Food and Nutrition Security Policy of Bangladesh (NFNSP), the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) and the Second Country Investment Plan on Nutrition-sensitive Food Systems (CIP2) in implementation the project.

3.6 If your organization has received previous EU grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EU grants).

The target group was not same for the previous grant received from EU.

3.7 How do you evaluate cooperation with the services of the Contracting Authority?

The services of the Contracting Authority were excellent as they have been responding our queries on time. They were found very positive in dealing with any kind of problem and challenges. We found an enabling environment in working with them where we could share our problems with them easily. It was an amazing teamwork to achieve the goal of the project.

4 Visibility

How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on the EuropeAid website? If so, please state your objections here.

United Purpose and other consortia partners undertook all communications and visibility actions in line with the requirements of the “general conditions applicable to European Union-financed grant contracts for external actions”, Article 6, Visibility, in order to ensure visibility of the EU financial contribution for the actions.

Together with partners, the LEAN project developed the Communication and Visibility Guideline which guided all the visibility activities during the project period.

The project developed a [webpage](#) (in English) and a Facebook page of LEAN project. The project regularly interacts with its audience through Facebook page. An online photo exhibition was held in LEAN and United Purpose Bangladesh Facebook pages. Posts of the online exhibition were also boosted to ensure wider circulation of the messages. Link of the exhibition can be found here ([United Purpose Bangladesh](#)).

Case stories were collected throughout the project implementation from exemplary community leaders and beneficiaries to share the successes of the program with others community, stakeholders and EU. The project also published three booklets compiling the success stories.

The project printed branded folders, notebooks, caps, pens, desk calendars, training materials, standee, pen drive, banners and posters. Visibility was ensured in line with approved communication visibility plan (CVP) highlighting the support of the EU and written 'Funded by the EU' beneath EU logo. Link of the above branded materials can be found here.

Two number of video documentaries were produced on LEAN project's interventions results and impacts. The overall objective of the documentary was to showcase LEAN project's goal and achievements in programme areas. In the documentary it was clearly mentioned that the funding came from the EU. Please find the documentaries in the following links: Documentary - 1, and Documentary – 2.

The LEAN project organized a photography exhibition at the Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts in Dhaka. The exhibition aimed to demonstrate the project's interventions and key successes in improving maternal and child nutrition in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to a broader audience of stakeholders. The event stood as a testament to the community's unwavering commitment to positive change and sustainable well-being. Coverages of selected media outlets can be found here (The Daily Observer, DBC News).

The project also organized a series of television talk shows on the leading national TV channel of Bangladesh "Channel – 1". Talk shows can be viewed here (First episode, Second episode). The qualitative study was conducted by hired consultant in September - December 2023. The details are in the link.

The district, upazila and community events which were published in print and electronic media were branded in accordance with the EU and consortia visibility plan.

The project doesn't have any objection regarding publication in EuropeAid website.

5 Location of records, accounting and supporting documents (Link or Table to Be Added)

Please find the link of the location of records, accounting and supporting documents for each beneficiary and affiliated entity entitled to incur costs.

Name of the contact person for the action:



Sriramappa Gonchikara

Country Director

United Purpose Bangladesh.

Location: H# 26, R# 28, Block-K, Banani Dhaka, Bangladesh

Date report due: 30 June 2024

Date report sent: 27 June 2024