

SPRING

(Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally)

Background:

SPRING works to improve maternal and child nutrition. In collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, SPRING uses strategic partnerships, targeted technical assistance, and innovative approaches that address the underlying causes of malnutrition to help drive down rates of stunting in resource-poor households along the country's coastal belt. It is helping drive down rates of stunting through strategic partnerships, targeted technical assistance, and innovative approaches that address underlying aspects of malnutrition in Bangladesh.

Helen Keller International (HKI) and Save the Children (SCI) are taking the lead in scaling up programs in Bangladesh.

Project Objectives:

Goal: to improve the nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under 2 years of age.

Objective 1: Scale up promotion of the Essential Nutrition Actions and the Essential Hygiene Actions within the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, and in collaboration with non-governmental (NGO) health and agriculture projects.

Objective 2: Enhance the capacity of frontline health and agriculture workers within the MOHFW and MOA, field and peer facilitators, and community groups to deliver quality nutrition services and counseling.

Objective 3: Increase household access to and utilization of diversified foods through farmer nutrition schools (FNS). **Objective 4:** Enhance project learning and sharing.

Geographical Coverage: Barisal & Khulna divisions (40 upazilas)

Implementation partners: Banchte Shekha (BS), Community Development Centre (CODEC), Dak Diye Jai (DDJ), and Development Organisation for the Rural Poor (DORP) as the local level implementing partner NGOs.

Project duration: March 01, 2012 - May 31, 2016 in Bangladesh (globally: October 01, 2011 - September 30, 2017)

Funded by: United States Agency for International Development



Target
Groups



Pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under two years of age.
PLW from two lowest wealth quintiles in the project's target area in case of implementing the Farmer Nutrition School (FNS).

Major Interventions:

SPRING trains health and agricultural workers from within the GOB and from nongovernmental organizations to counsel 1,000 days households (households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age).

SPRING establishes community-based farmer nutrition schools (FNS) to promote the production of nutrient-dense vegetables, fruits, and animal source foods at the household level incorporating ENA and EHA into modules on vegetable gardening, poultry rearing, and fish production in order to link food production with improved nutrition and hygiene practices.

Major Achievements:

SPRING/Bangladesh has trained more than 500 supervisory health workers, more than 4,000 frontline health workers, almost 1,000 agricultural extension workers and more than 8,000 community peer facilitators on ENA and EHA.

SPRING/Bangladesh has established 6,421 FNS groups, supporting 126,255 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under two.

SPRING/Bangladesh has established 6,421 Community Nutrition Champions.

Major Challenges:

- To work in large geographic areas (40 upazilas in 5 districts of 2 divisions)
- Making it 'stick', notably continuation of SPRING introduced activities by the GoB agencies

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“This training was quite different. The most effective thing for me was the counseling technique, which is very relevant to my job.”

- Jesmin Sultana, community health care provider (CHCP)

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