

## WHAT'S AHEAD

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## NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK 2018

## EDITORIAL

The second issue of our bi-monthly newsletter comes at a time when we have ended our participation in the National Nutrition Week 2018, a community-wide celebration across the country and the 'World Health Day', an occasion to raise international awareness about a specific public health concern.

The 'National Nutrition Week' observed throughout the country from 23- 29 April with the aim of accelerating the speed of public awareness and nutrition development. The theme of the National Nutrition Week for 2018 is "Nutrition must be considered if we think of food".

Other, the 'World Health Day' celebrated this year with the theme 'Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere' on April 7. The occasion intended to focus on the principle so that all people should be able to realize their right to the highest possible level of health.

To mark the days, World Vision have chalked out the elaborated programmes including, discussion meetings, rally, awareness session, nutrition fair, debate competition for

children and disseminating nutrition-related message at household levels etc. in the areas where it works in at community levels.

Health and nutrition are like the two issues, those which related each other closely. In line, this could rightly be said that – today's nutrition is tomorrow's health. Nutrition is an issue of survival, health and development for current and succeeding generations. Child born underweight have impaired immune function and increased risk of diseases in their later life. Malnourished children tend to have lower IQ and impaired cognitive ability, thus affecting their school performance and then productivity in their later life. However, Bangladesh made substantial progress in health and nutrition in the few decades, with the proportion of underweight children falling from 43 per cent to 33 per cent, and the level of child stunting falling from 51 per cent to 36 per cent. The infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 65 per 1,000 live births in 2004 to 38 per 1,000 live births in 2014. The under-five mortality rate (U5MR) also dropped from 88 to 46 deaths per 1,000 live births over the same period. At this level, Bangladesh has achieved the

Millennium Development Goal 4 target – 48 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2015-ahead of time.

World Vision's activities in the sphere of health and nutrition are based on the rights of individuals, with the aim of addressing their changing needs at different stages of their lives. The activities have been designed in the context of, Health population and Nutrition Sector Dev. Program (2017- 2022) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).

As improving the nutritional status of the population is imperative for national development. Thus, time has come to create a moment so as to improve nutrition at the individual level. Thus, series of convergent and well-coordinated actions in different sectors are required to be undertaken in the mission mode approach to address this big network problem of malnutrition.

**References:**

*1. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014*

**Saibal Sangma**  
Director-Communications



## World Vision celebrates National Nutrition Week 2018

Files from : Md. Mezanur Rahman

World Vision Bangladesh observed National Nutrition Week 2018 from April 23-29 by organizing nutrition fair, debate competition for children, discussions and rallies in all 26 Area Program Office areas in which World Vision works in. The events were attended by local-level government officials and people from different walks of the community including women, lactating mother, adolescent, elderly family members, community support group and community group, community leaders, faith leaders and teachers.

World Vision has played a significant role in raising awareness and promoting essential nutrition and hygiene



NEWS FROM THE FIELD

actions, and small-scale food production for a more nutritious diet at household levels under its 5 I Area Program Offices across the country.

In Bangladesh, World Vision is working to support the Government

of Bangladesh to scale-up the use of the essential nutrition actions and essential hygiene actions all the way to the frontline the access to quality health and nutrition facilities and practices.

## Technical Summit 2018 showcased the progress of World Vision's new program development approach

Files from : Chowdhury M.Tashfik-E-Habib

The 'Technical Program 2018 Summit' organized by World Vision's Program Development and Quality Assurance team on 11 and 12 April, at BRAC Learning Center, in Dinajpur showcased the World Vision's new program strategy, its so far and best practices at community level. In order to get maximum benefit and impact from our child-centered community development approach, this summit committee engaged the key technical and program staffs and from World Vision Office across the country to participate in open floor discussions and showcased the progress that Bangladesh has made in the program design, monitoring and implementation. Among others, Tony Michael Gomes, Director- Technical Program and Chandan Z. Gomes, Director, Program Development and Quality Assurance (PDQA) attended the summit and spoke on the occasion.



Terming the summit as a big platform for all technical staff to reflect on World Vision journey to LEAP 3 program, they focused on to identify and develop an effective and sustainable plan to move forward

towards our strategy goal.

A total of 52 staff from World Vision national and regional field office took part.

## World Health Day 2018 observed

Files from : Md. Mezanur Rahman



This year, World Vision Bangladesh has observed the global health awareness day 'World Health Day' in 35 of its working locations as elsewhere in the country on 7 April with due importance.

"Universal health coverage: Everyone, everywhere." was the theme of this year's 'World Health Day'.

The main objective of the observation was to create mass awareness among the people to realize their right of health at the highest possible level.

To mark this day, World Vision Bangladesh in collaboration with government and non-government organizations chalked out elaborated programmes like rallies, discussion session, seminars, household level health related messages dissemination by community promoters and community facilitators etc.

Around 36,892 people including community leaders, pregnant women, lactating mothers, community based organizations, village development committee, urban neighborhood development committee were reached through the events.

UNIVERSAL  
HEALTH  
COVERAGE:  
EVERYONE,  
EVERYWHERE



## NEWS FROM THE FIELD



## World Water Day 2018 celebration

Files from : Subrata Michael Rozario

On 27 March, World Vision Bangladesh celebrated World Water Day, 2018 under its Mirpur U-Dip Aea Program Office at Beguntula Slum in the City. Other implementing partner organizations namely Dushtha Shastha Kendra (DSK), Nagor Daridra Basteebasir Unnayan Sangstha (NDBU) and Nagorik Seba Foundation also observed the occasion with due importance in collaboration with World Vision. Main events of the day featured art and

debate competition for children, drama, discussion session and a colorful cultural program performed by World Vision's child forum children. Distinguished guests included key representatives from the implementing partner organizations, local government officials from Dhaka Water Supply and Sewage Authority (DWASA) and senior leaders from World Vision.





## Young Talent Development Program 2018

Files from : *Rana Dipankar Mazumder*

From 23-25 March, 49 youngsters of the forth batch of World Vision's Young Talent Development Program (YTDP) had the opportunity to enjoy a three-day intense experience and orientation session held at the Bob Pierce Conference Room, Dhaka. This training program, organized by the People and Culture Division, allowed participants to get to know about World Vision. National Director, Fred Witteveen and Sharon Anthony, Director, People and Culture Division were present at the program and encouraged the young participants with their inspiring and motivational speech.



World Vision's Young Talent Development Program is geared towards offering workplace exposure to fresher, qualified individuals within

the World Vision, in line with their field of study to help ensure that they are better prepared and qualified for full-time employment.

## National Disaster Preparedness Day celebrated in Bangladesh

Files from : *John Dibakar Roy*

On March 10, the National Disaster Preparedness Day (NDPD) was observed across the country with emphasis on expediting disaster preparedness programmes among the people and making them well equipped for lowering the risk of natural calamities.

The theme of this year's National disaster Preparedness Day is 'Disaster Preparedness round the clock brings sustainable development'.

World Vision organized activities to celebrate NDPD jointly with the Government, INGO, Fire Service & Civil Defense (FSCD), schools, other partners and stakeholder at both national and field levels.

At national level, World Vision Bangladesh participated in a week-long fair held at Osmani Smriti Milonayaton, Dhaka organized by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and Department of Disaster Management (DDM). The honorable Disaster Management and



Relief Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya was present as chief guest in the inaugural session.

Later, guests visited different stalls including stall of World Vision where materials related to disaster preparedness were displayed.

Also, at local level, World Vision chalked out elaborated programs under its 16 Area Program Office at Bogra, Dinajpur, Takurgaon, Nilphamari, Barisal,

Morelgonj, Bhaluka, Dhamoirhat, Kalmakanda, Biral, Birganj, Kaharol, Hathazari, Kamafulli Urban, Chittagong and Kamlapur. Activities included holding colorful rallies, discussion meeting, art and essay competition for children, simulation and quiz competition.

About 5650 community people including children took part.

## Bangladesh Flood Response project launching workshop in Jamalpur

Files from : Sakhawat Hossain Sarker

On 5 April 2018 World Vision Bangladesh and Unnayan Sangha jointly hosted launching workshop of “Bangladesh Flood Response Project” in Jamalpur Funded by Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH) Germany, the project underlines its commitment to meet immediate and inter-mediate needs of flood affected families and children in Islampur and Dewangongj sub district under Jamalpur district of Bangladesh.

The main objective of the event was to sensitize national level government officials, different stakeholders and policy makers about the implementing strategy and approach of the project linking up with Government's respective departmental interventions. Multi sectorial stakeholder such as public representatives, development



professional, government officials and media personnel were present in this workshop.

Mr. Ahammed Kabir, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jamalpur District as chief guest addressed the program. In his speech he stressed on proper beneficiary selection from the flood

affected areas to achieve the utmost goal of the project. Among others, Gutam Roy, Civil Surgeon-Jamalpur, Dr. Md. Nurul Islam, District Livestock Officer, Niranjon Bondhu Dam, Deputy Director-Family Planning were present as special guest.



Hosting Program Visitors

### World Vision New Zealand's Porfolio Manager visited World Vision Bangladesh's Pirganj Area field

Files from : Sadon Das

Amanda Weaver, Country Portfolio Manager, WV New Zealand visited Pirganj AP from 29 and 30 April 2018. At the welcoming session the LEAP3 journey of the AP, selection of TPs and CESP, challenges and overcoming strategy, PNS/grants opportunity, a success story, achievement of TPs and CESP within 6 months etc. were shared with her. During her visit she also explored PD/Hearth programs, activities and plans of Village

Development Committee, impact of Ultra Poor Graduation Program, activities of child forum and impact of C4D etc at Pirganj.

At the concluding session she appreciated all AP staff for nice contribution and hardship in promoting child wellbeing and suggested to work more intensely with partners for remarkable coverage in the field and proper utilize of the limited resources.

### A high-level government officials team visited World Vision's program

Files from : Xavier Sku

A four-member group of high official visitors from 'Access to Information (a2i) program under the Prime Minister's Office, visited World Vision's program under its Muktagacha Area Program Cluster Office, in Mymensingh, the northwest part of Bangladesh on 24 April. The visit aimed at exploring and learning about World Vision's program strategy on local value chain programme at community level. The visiting team met with 25 program participants from 'Shyampur Jogonnathbari Vegetable Producer Group', supported by World Vision under its Muktagacha Area Program since 2014 and learnt about the participant's views regarding the program. This



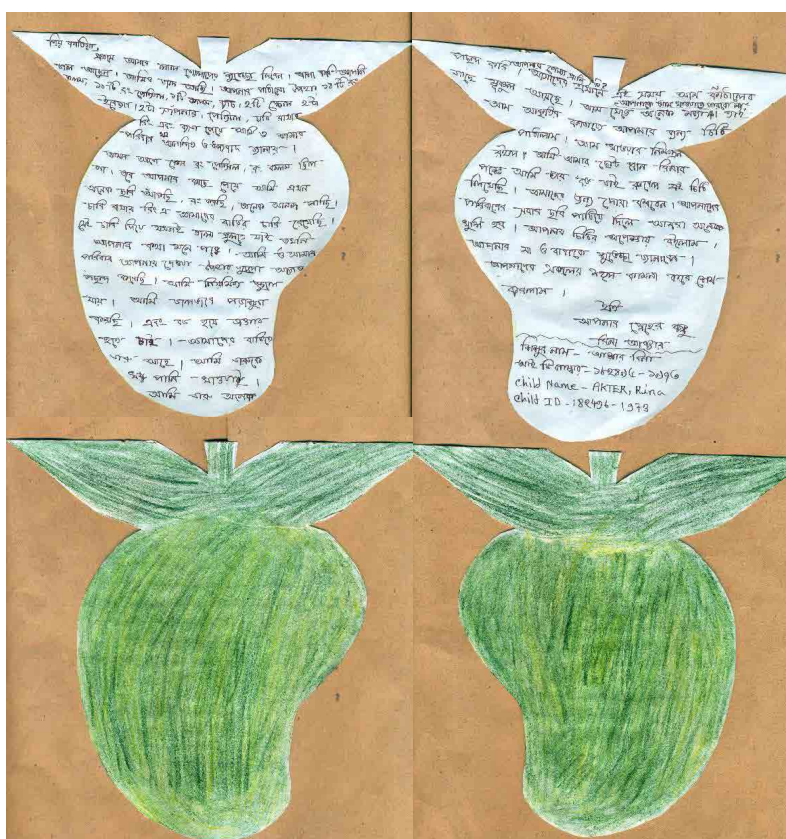


also intended to observe how World Vision is supporting the marginalized farmers in ensuring improved livelihood and their sustainable development through its livelihood development program. The team spoke and stressed

importance on proper accounting of cultivation expenses and also keeping standard cultivation method including using fertilizers. Recommendations also included to focus on Agri-Portal and to involve the necessary ICT tool for the

community people for the effective and successful implementation of the planning. Dr. Makhan L. Dutta, Technical Program Manager – Livelihood, along with other staff from the program, accompanied them in this visit.

## Rina got the first position in 'January Letter of the Month Competition'



Rina, a seven-year-old registered child from Ghoraghat AP has won the 'January Letter of the Month Competition'. The letter was recognized the best because of the way of expression of Rina's emotions into words inside the innovative and magnificent designed mango shaped drawing. The letter was truly conversational as it creates a strong connection between the child and the sponsor. The letter was also appreciated for keeping the authenticity of the context.



## Voices from the field : Together for better health



Shajida, 25, a Community Health Facilitator from a World Vision supported Women, Young and Adolescent Space (WAYCS) at Balukhali Makeshift area, says, "When we found that any child is malnourished or severe acute malnourished then we refer the child to nearby centers, which are providing nutritional support for these children. Those nutritional foods items like peanut plum recover malnutrition. And, if required the children are also referred to the medical centers to get necessary support."

"I feel uncomfortable to breastfeed my child in public. But here, we have got a very private place to breastfeed our children. I can now breastfeed when my child when he needs," says Amena, a 30-year-old woman. She is one of the among 36,00 lactating and pregnant women who comes and attend sessions in Women, Adolescents and Young Child Space (WAYCS), set up by World Vision in Balukhali Makeshift Area, one of the nine locations where World Vision works under its Myanmar-Bangladesh Refugee Crisis Response Program, in Cox's Bazar.







Rokiya, 9-year old, finds some comfort at the World Vision child-friendly space near her tent—one of nine that World Vision runs in the refugee camps. About 2,000 children attend these centres each week.

In the CFS, children joins in activities: in-formal education, hand wash & personal hygiene, health and nutrition awareness, rhymes in brumes language English learning, story-telling, playing with other children and create friendship among them, drawing, parents, emergency preparedness awareness against cyclones and other natural disasters.



24-year-old Humaira along with her youngest daughter one-year-old Shahera at World Vision's Women Young child and Adolescent space (WAYCS) in Burmapara. "Shahera has lost weight and for the past five days she has been having diarrhoea. I went to the World Vison's WAYCS and I was told that my child has very low weight.They gave me a slip to get nutrition and health related advices from the health centre. I was advised to feed Suji( Semolina) to my child and received some packets of Suji from the center. I have learnt that, Suji for babies is one of the easiest and most nutritious foods. It is easily disgestive and tends to be filling in the tiny stomach." says Humaira.



## IMPACT STORY

"I feel so proud when people give my reference as a successful girl among the villagers," says 24-year-old Nasima, who is now a role model and a change agent against child marriage in her community. As she sits alongside her parents and recounts her story she showed her boldness against child marriage. Now she is the pride of her community.

"The girls who are interested for higher study I will take responsibility of them." She added saying, "The role which World Vision played to support me, I will do the same for my community girls. That's my dream. I am grateful to World Vision for bringing hope in my life."



### A Girl Towards Victory

Story by Lipy Mary Rodrigues

"She was only 14", said Nasima, "My father forced me to get married before completing school." Child marriage led her only sister choked her dream at her tender age." Nasima, 24, a former sponsored child of World Vision who has been able to escape from the same destiny is inspiration of many girls of her own community.

Nasima a girl from a remote village of Tangail district now lives in the Capital city, Dhaka by her own earning while taking preparation for fulfilling her long desired dream, to be a first class Government employee of this country. Though USD 76 that she earns by teaching is not sufficient to live a standard life in the fast running city, she is sometime sending money for her parents too.

"Still I facing challenge in terms of earning as my father is bound to stay home due to bone diseases." It's Nasima and her mother who hold the wheel of the family including education of two brothers and treatment cost of her father.

"They could not realize that a girl child also can bear her own as well as her family. They felt me kind of burden. So they tried to get rid of me as early as possible by forcing me to marriage. But I was strongly motivated not to be married at that time. I was determined that anyway I have to complete my study." Nasima continues, "I had a dream to be establish, self-earner by hook or cook. It led me today to be a graduate."

Nasima has just completed her graduation from Rajshahi University, one of the renowned public universities of the country. "I always said to my mother I would not need any money for schooling from you. Mainly World Vision played a big role behind. It gave my courage and inspired me to become bold," says Nasima with gratitude. She continues, "World Vision helped me to mold my dream. And it's economic support also was my strength. Moreover, I got stipend from school. As I was regular to school, as well as good in result my parents could no longer hinder my study at the midway."

"I am lucky that I could escape my own child marriage." says Nasima proudly.



## BLOG

by Al-Amin Bepary, a Youth Forum leader



Al-Amin Bepary, a Youth Forum leader from Bangladesh attended the Commonwealth Youth Forum in London in April. He is also a former President of the Ghashful Child Forum, supported by World Vision Bangladesh and Dhaka City Youth Forum.

In his speech he raised the question; why the Commonwealth Secretariat classifies 18-29 year olds as "Commonwealth Youth", but young people aged 15-18 are excluded from the Commonwealth Youth Forum in London.

I was very excited and delighted to have my first visit in London, Britain's capital. London is one of the greenest cities in United Kingdom. Over 300 languages are spoken in London and London has hosted Olympic Games three times.

The most exciting thing I have experienced in London was the weather as the warmth is welcomed here by ignoring the cold winter. I was amazed and thrilled to explore London Ice, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Underground Station, Victoria Coach Station, Water Loo, Hyde Park, Oxford Circus, and Oval's Stadium in London.

The people and culture of London are very much different from Bangladesh. Though technologies have been used almost everywhere in London, still anyone can find the letter box in front of the houses and at the street side. British people are very much health conscious and love to roam and exercise in the park. It is remarkable that there are many restaurants in London. Michelin-STARRED (a much-coveted award for any top chef)

restaurants have made London a culinary world hot spot. We enjoyed delicious cuisines of Italian, Indian, Mexican, Lebanese etc. I was surprised to see that young people here can create self-employment opportunities by showing their talents such as playing different kinds of instruments and playing different types of games which can be a good example for the youth of our country also.

There was a noble vision for my visit to London which was to join the Commonwealth Youth Forum. I feel proud that I have attended CHOGM2018 as a representative from Bangladesh where hundreds of youth leaders from different countries of Commonwealth participated. We were honored to meet Prince William, MR. BORIS JOHNSON, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Singer Ellie Goulding, Commonwealth Youth Ambassador Prince Harry, Meghan Markle, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Bill Gates.

We attended plenary sessions including prosperity, security, fair and

sustainability. In those sessions we identified our social problems and chalked out the solutions. We shared our experiences to the Commonwealth Youth Forum. We raised our voices on behalf of our youth people. We discussed about child violence, child and youth mental health, child rights and protection, child labor and unemployment of youth.

It's important to build cross-culture connections and networks, to mobilize young people to conduct youth-led initiatives and influence decision making, ensuring that their voice is heard in the future. It's a space where young people from different countries, cultures and religions come together to reaffirm our common values and shared views. These will enrich our knowledge and skills, so we can work towards a fairer, more secure and more prosperous future.

I think that the Youth Forum is an opportunity to represent the young people of my country, exercise our right to have an opinion and help make our voices heard.



# How faith communities can play a central role in achieving SDGs

Mridul Toju, National Faith & Development Coordinator



The sun has set on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has dawned. The new global goals represent a timely shift away from the MDGs, which measured progress against blunt averages that masked growing gaps both within and between countries and communities.

The SDGs are a progressive approach to development—a multi-sectoral, rights-based, people-centered approach that knits together diverse global efforts to transform the way development is delivered.

Critically, none of the SDGs can be achieved in isolation. We cannot address gender equality by 2030, if we do not end gender inequity and violence. Climate change and poverty are inseparable. Wrapped around it all is health—which must be treated as a fundamental human right. The SDGs require all of us—governments, multilaterals, the private sector, civil society, and faith communities—to build strong connections between efforts to address health, injustice, inequality, poverty, and conflict.

In recognition of the importance of these relationships, collaboration with different faith-based organizations, faith communities and faith leaders are seen as crucial to the work of the World Vision.

Faith leaders are often among the most influential members in a community. Their beliefs and values can inspire entire communities to care for and love one another. And more, they could play an important role in changing and challenging the social, physical, emotional and spiritual issues those impact children, their families and communities. In line, in Bangladesh through its global advocacy 'It Takes Me' campaign, for example, World Vision worked with faith leaders of different faiths and 200 faith leaders participated in the campaign, those who are now actively playing advocacy role to promote the campaign.

More, they are central to development work and the promotion of human rights, they are making positive contributions towards poverty alleviation and have been remarkably effective in societies where religion is predominant. Pursuant this, World Vision has therefore also invests in engagement of teachers, social workers, police and legal experts, health workers and other professionals in local contexts with

faith leaders. School teachers, for example, are seen as important interlocutors, as they are often faced with the issue of under-aged children being forced by their parents to get married.

Other, the SDG 16 calls for ensuring Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Like countries, in Bangladesh where child abuse, early marriage and child labour are the most common scenario, World Vision is working with faith groups to encourage communities to leave out from these harmful practices and to support children for their full potentials and development. This issue is addressed through our ongoing community development programs and special initiatives carried out under Channel of Hope and Celebrating Families Programmes.

While for World Vision, our Christian faith is central to who we are and we serve every child in need that we possibly can. We partner with faith leaders throughout the world, equipping them to meet the needs of their communities. We hope and believe that this trust and partnership will continue to play a key role in achieving the SDGs and leave an opportunity for strong branding of the organization, resource acquisition and sustainability of World Vision's work in communities.

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