



Bangladesh

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY SITUATION

In 2022, Bangladesh grappled with a complex nutrition landscape. Post-pandemic challenges disrupted food access and healthcare, while the mid-2022 floods worsened conditions for women and children. Economic and socioeconomic disparities as well as urbanization compounded the situation, leading to unequal nutrition outcomes and causing both undernutrition and obesity. Sanitation and water access, especially for the urban poor, remained inadequate. The Demographic Health Survey indicated a 7% reduction in childhood stunting from 2017 to 2022. However, acute malnutrition increased from 8% to 11% during the same period.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

Nutrition International partnered with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to implement vitamin A and zinc supplementation programs, along with maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition interventions. We also collaborated with the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education to deliver school-based adolescent nutrition programs.

To ensure access to fortified foods, we worked with the Ministry of Industries and salt millers to implement the Universal Salt Iodization program, and with the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and rice millers for the distribution of fortified rice through social safety net programs. Additionally, Nutrition International provided technical assistance to the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council for multisector nutrition policy and governance.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Contributed to the development and distribution of the National Vitamin A Plus Campaign (NVAC) Management Guidelines to all government facilities across the country. Following this, an NVAC eLearning platform was launched to build the capacity of key personnel, while reducing the requirement for in-person training and the associated management costs.
- A sex- and gender-based analysis focused on maternal and adolescent nutrition was conducted in two districts to examine gender equality barriers and opportunities.
- Nutrition International actively contributed to the development of operational guidelines on nutrition interventions for out-of-school adolescents at the community-level, integrated within health systems.
- The comprehensive design of the multisectoral nutrition project Adopting a Multisectoral Approach for Nutrition (AMAN) was finalized through collaboration with the government, development partners and key technical stakeholders.
- Technical assistance was initiated to support the development of the Multisectoral Urban Nutrition Strategy and the Operational Plan for Implementing Nutrition for Growth Commitments.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



10M
additional people reached
with adequately fortified rice



5.8M
additional children received
two doses of vitamin A



1.2M
newborns protected from iodine
deficiency disorders by ensuring
the adequate iodine status of
their mothers



320K
cases of diarrhoea treated with the
recommended course of zinc and
low osmolarity oral rehydration salts



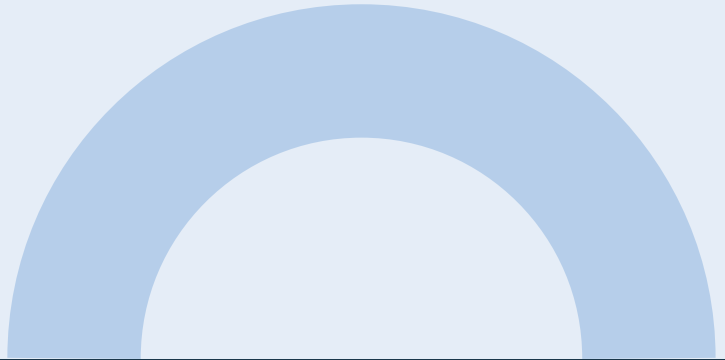
210K
adolescent girls received the
recommended scheme of weekly
iron and folic acid



102K
adolescents received nutrition
education



74K
pregnant women completed four
antenatal care visits



KEY EVENTS

- At a dissemination event for the Nutrition of Working Women (NoWW) project, Nutrition International, NNS and the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association signed a memorandum of understanding to extend their joint commitment to promote workplace nutrition in readymade garment factories until March 2027.
- A dissemination event was held to highlight the results and achievements of the 18-month long COVID-19 nutrition response for pregnant women project that was funded by Nutrition International's emergency response grant.
- Nutrition International, NNS and Bangabondhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University signed a memorandum of understanding to support 'Nutree', a digital platform that provides nutritional information to all demographics, enhancing awareness of their nutritional status and requirements.

NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International received a CAD \$6M two-and-a-half-year grant from Global Affairs Canada to implement the AMAN project that focuses on host and local communities in Cox's Bazar.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nutrition International is committed to deepening engagement and offering technical support to government departments, research institutions and partners in Bangladesh. Together, we will work to increase investments in nutrition, integrating it into sectors like social protection. For our existing interventions, we will continue to aid governments in strengthening nutrition governance and program implementation. In 2023, we will develop concept notes prioritizing urban nutrition, social safety nets, micronutrient supplementations and out-of-school adolescents' interventions. Additionally, we will aim to create opportunities for sustainable nutrition integration across various sectors and regions.