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Strengthening Governance for Better Nutrition, The Role of Prabir Kumar Chakma



Prabir Kumar Chakma has been the chairman of Laxmichari union in Khagrachari district of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for the last five years. Through the activity of European Union funded Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project, Prabir learned the importance of infrastructure development to support positive nutrition and wellbeing and increasingly recognizes the need for sufficient budgetary allocation within the union council to achieve this.

Since the LEAN project started working in Laxmichari Upazilla in 2019, Prabir has been participating in the project keeping a focus on nutrition related activities in his union council. He has also worked to make an effective governance system for nutrition programming which has supported an enabling environment and increased awareness amongst his colleagues on the issue. A key area of focus within this has been improving maternal and child nutrition in CHT.

In addition to this advocacy, Prabir has supported LEAN staff to organize activities like cross learning events and helped advance women leaders within traditionally male-dominated governance structures. He is also a regular participant of the Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee (UNCC) programme, and plays a vital role in LEAN projects events related to nutrition sensitive awareness, demand, dynamic community level behavior changes and to increase nutrition within local food production activities.

Prabir explains that this is largely the first time he had been oriented on demand analysis and budgeting and had never before been shown Government Guidelines and Regulatory Policy on the subject. Prior to this training, the union council secretary prepared the budget and he only signed it. However, after extensive training from LEAN, Prabir is confident in proposing and formalizing budgetary allocations which he is using to increase nutrition programming in his union and advance the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN 2) and Second Country Investment Plan (CIP 2).

For all of his new knowledge and experience on budgeting, planning and nutrition, Prabir expresses his gratitude to LEAN project and LEAN staff. He hopes that this project will become successful, and promises he will cooperate to accomplish the goal, so that no one is left behind when it comes to nutrition.

