



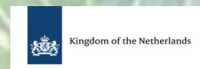
Funded by the European Union



Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition

# LEAN Newsletter 2021

February



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**Dear Friends and Colleagues,**

As the Project Director, it is my pleasure to share the progress of the Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project which is being implementing in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

While Bangladesh has made significant progress in improving nutrition in line with MDGs, the three CHT districts are lagging behind due to many reasons. It is to address these challenges and improve the nutritional situation of these three districts that the consortium partners have undertaken this project with funding from the European Union. The overall objective of LEAN is to contribute to improved maternal and child nutrition in CHT.

Over the last year, the COVID-19 pandemic has had enormous impact globally, including in the project areas of LEAN. Due to the pandemic, the government of Bangladesh limited people's movement as well as all sorts of activities. In spite of this serious pandemic and necessary lockdowns, all the frontline staff and central level staff of LEAN project adopted alternative approaches and kept the activities going. As a result of this; most of the project activities continued. I would therefor like to thank all of LEAN staff for their dedication and endless effort to keep the work continuing. Their hard work helped the project enter into its third year smoothly. The dedication and hard work of LEAN project staff give me hope that all planned work of year 3 will be completed despite whatever challenges we face.

Thank you and please enjoy this description of the LEAN activities.

Md. Rafiqul Islam  
Project Director

## Union level MSP: First ever in Bangladesh

For the first time, union level multi stakeholder platforms (MSP) for nutrition, have been formed in the Chittagong Hill Districts. This is not only first time for hill district, but also in Bangladesh. There have been 72 MSPs formed in 72 unions in CHT. The union level multi stakeholder platform is comprised of traditional leaders like, Karbari, Headman, Union parishad chairman, Union parishad member, School teacher, Local elites, Government officers, and Private sector stakeholders, who were also included in this committee.

This platforms will act as a bridge among Upazila level Nutrition Coordination Committees, Upazila Parishads, Hill District Councils, local government institutions, community leaders and community people. Through this process, nutrition demand will be reached at upazila to district and up to national level and the Bangladesh National Nutrition Council, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts. UNCCs have been created as an opportunity to strengthen linkages among Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Hill district council to achieving nutrition outcomes in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

Before LEAN interventions, nutrition actors formed different committees in various forms, most without any community level input. They did not do any nutrition related activities especially on nutrition sensitization and

specific awareness.

To achieve national nutrition target indicators outlined in the 7<sup>th</sup> five year plan and SDG 2030, Bangladesh government has approved 10-year (2016-2025) Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2) in 2017 and grounded it through the Upazila level and District level Nutrition Coordination Committees. These two committees are characterized by multi-stakeholder inclusion which aims to engage all three types of traditional institutions in CHT (Karbari, Headmen, and

Circle Chiefs) along with the Hill District Councils. The Union Nutrition Coordination Committees are a vital linkage between the upazila and district committees and will ensure better coordination and community ownership.

These sentiments have already been expressed by the Headmen and Karbaries who say they feel improved ownership of nutrition development

in their communities. The UNCCs are also enabling nutrition needs assessments and close coordination with Union Parishad planning processes to ensure they incorporate nutrition activities. This advocacy will be further carried into the Hill District Council planning sessions and beyond and is a key part of ensuring the LEAN project's governance work.



## D NCC Committee of Khagrachhari has inspected the activities of the LEAN project in Guimara

District Commissioner, Pratap Chandra Biswas and District Nutrition Coordinating Committee President inspected the LEAN project working area at Hafchari union, Khagrachhari Hill District. They have visited the activities of the adolescent club to create nutrition sensitive awareness

at the community level. Guimara Upazila Nutrition Coordinating Committee and District Nutrition Coordinating Committee had an exchange of views on an event, after that the team inspection visit was conducted. Along with members of district committee, the Secretary of District Nutrition Coordination Committee and Khagrachhari District Civil Surgeon, Dr. Nupur Kanti Das, were present on the occasion.



## Nutrition fair organized at Rangamati

This month, a nutrition fair was held at Tulaban high school grounds in Rangamati Hill District. The chief guests was the honorable Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Baghaichhari Upazilla. The Principal of Kachalong Govt Degree College, Upazila Secondary Education Officer, and UP Chairman, The President of Tulaban SMC was also present in this programme. The Fair was presided over by the Headmaster of Tulaban high school. WBCs, LSPs (Agriculture & Livestock), Adolescents, Students and the Health department all set up stalls and participated in this event which was attended by students and community peoples from the community who gained knowledge on nutrition, sanitation and hygiene.



Handwashing station has been set up in Shantal para at Khagrachhari Hill District. The platform has a space to put buckets, Jerrycan beside the tank. This place is in front of a house and next to a tea stall and a walkway. The household is planning to install a motor to pull ground water. Then they will be able to supply the tank water for public use. On the right, we see an adolescent girl cleaning her hands on a established wash station. LEAN has establish more than 3,500 such handwashing stations across CHT to date.



**Dulal Mia**, a Local Service Provider (LSP) and producer from Khagrachhari Hill District is happy to be harvesting the first cabbage of the season from his field. In this season, he produced and used his own vermicompost as part of organically fertilizing his fields!



**LEAN project** organized an event at Jitendra Para, Panchari Upazilla, Khagrachhari Hill District on adolescent's health awareness, nutritious food and iron supplementation, hygiene promotion, prevention of child marriages and dowry giving.

## LEAN household registration process is started

The LEAN project has begun household registration activities. The main objective of this household registration process is to identify target beneficiaries. Through this process, the team will collect data from 210,000 households, reaching 82000 pregnant and lactating mothers, 100,000 children and 100,000 adolescents. Data supervisors have been trained in Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban to make this initiative a success. After this training they will train other data collectors for continued follow up.



## Private Local Service Provision in CHT

Promotion of “Private Rural Service Provision” on the basis of the identified service gap between the farmers and the line agencies (public sector, NGOs and private sector) lead to emerge to intervene as service provision model in Bangladesh. The scope of services by GOs, Private sector and the NGOs at local level can be improved.

Along with government organization public and private organizations also working to deliver services to producers.

Considering this situation, the local service providers (LSP) are an ideal model for sustainable service provision to local farmers.

"Private Local Service Provision" is the way in which efficient quality services are made available to people in their own communities using local resource persons with advanced skills and knowledge. Due to limited access to technical services for poor producers, LEAN project has applied the concept of private local service provision in Chittagong Hill Track (CHT).

The concept relies on the idea that farmers have capacity and interest to pay for local services and aims to provide good quality services that meet producers' expectations and that are available at an affordable price.

Under the LEAN project, the communities first identified 652 local service providers (LSP) who received 3 days of training as well as a 3 day refresher from public and private sector experts. At the beginning, most of the LSPs provided their community services on a voluntary basis and free of service charge in the areas of agriculture and livestock. The LSPs progressively became aware of the potential demand from producers

and their willingness to pay for services. Then after some days they start to collect service charge for giving quality services. A large number of LSPs have since started to offer skilled services (selling inputs and/or technical services) in addition to their regular advisory services (e.g. business planning, seed selling, seedling selling, organic manure, spraying, vaccination, treatment etc.). This has led to a significant expansion of their market share and income. So far, now almost 100 LSPs are engaged in selling services to the communities. A real local service market has emerged and continues to expand in different domains.

Finally, with the support of LEAN Project, the private sector has actively entered into the market. It supports the expansion of LSPs by providing technical training and facilities to access in quality inputs. Furthermore, the private sector has regularly used them as local input sellers with the added value of advisory services to expand their business. From the beginning, the challenges of promoting local service provision has exceeded its objectives, resulting in an impressive emergence of dynamic self-initiatives by LSPs. The increasing participation of the private sector and line agencies will help these activities to become more sustainable.



## Result-3 connecting Social Marketing Company (SMC) with LEAN

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) has a contributory role towards positive nutrition and is a key component of LEAN's behaviour change programming. Towards this, LEAN is connecting Social Marketing Companies (SMC) with LEAN supported entrepreneurs (SPAs, WBCs and LSPs) to make WASH products available across CHT.



## Bhutto Tonchonga, an example of good producer

Bhutto Tonchonga is a proud example for his community through cultivating nutritious vegetables and selling them for a fair price. Many in his community cite his name as an example of a good producer.

There are more producers like Bhutto in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT); those who have benefitted through

Leadership to Ensure Adequate Nutrition (LEAN) project.

Bhutto belongs to the Tonchongya community in Rangamati hill district. Before getting acquainted with the LEAN project, his crop production was very low because

of poor seed access. He could not sell his crops because of limited access to relevant value chains and competition with larger producers.

In such a helpless situation, the LEAN project became a blessing to him. With the help of LEAN staff, he learned about good seed storage and identification. He collected good quality brinjal, flat bean and nut seeds from seed vendors.

Across his 33.5 decimal land, Bhutto cultivated all those crops. He also get primary knowledge and

technical support from the government agriculture office. He was oriented on methods of cultivation, ways to prevent crop diseases and related knowledge on agriculture practices that matches his local area.

Thanks to this support, Bhutto was able to invest 20,000 taka in his land for maintenance and cultivation of crops which grossed him 30,000-35,000 in income. His net profit after deducting all expenses is about 10,000-15,000 taka.

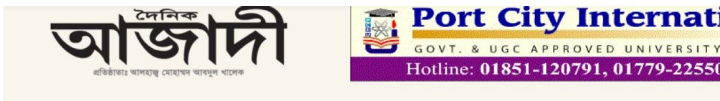


Due to the diligence of the LEAN staff, the local value chains for crops like the ones Bhutto grows, are becoming very strong in his area. Through these linkages, local service providers (LSP) collect those cultivated crops from him, pay him a fair price according to market value and

crop quality. After that, the LSPs sell these nutritious products to Rangamati. Through all of this process Bhutto is very happy now and thankful to LEAN staff and the European Union for the project and for helping him bring changes in his livelihood. He hoped that little by little LEAN project will make a big change in his community, if the flow of the work continues this way.



News played an important role in publicising the LEAN project's objectives, outcomes, impact and achievements. To continue this trend of publicity, LEAN Project has published its activities in local newspapers at various times. With this, the promotion of lean project has increased in Chittagong Hill Tracts.



খাগড়াছড়িতে পুষ্টি কমিটির চূড়ান্তকরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত

খাগড়াছড়ি প্রতিদিন | বুধসপ্তাহের, ২৬ নভেম্বর, ২০২০ at ১১:৫৬ অপরাহ্ন



খাগড়াছড়িতে জেলা পুষ্টি সমন্বয় কমিটির বার্ষিক কর্মপরিকল্পনা বিষয়ক চূড়ান্তকরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়েছে। মঙ্গলবার সকালে জেলাপ্রশাসকের সম্মেলন কক্ষে আয়োজিত সভায় সভাপতিত্ব করেন জেলা প্রশাসক ও জেলা পুষ্টি সমন্বয় কমিটির সভাপতি প্রতাপ চন্দ্র বিশ্বাস।

এসময় প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে বক্তব্য রাখেন বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় পুষ্টি পরিষদের মহাপরিচালকসহ ডা. মো. খালিলুর রহমান। বাংলাদেশ পুষ্টি পরিষদের সহকারী পরিচালক ডা. ফারজানা রহমান, বাংলাদেশ পুষ্টি পরিষদের মনিটরিং ও মূল্যায়ন কনসালট্যান্ট মো. নিজাম উদ্দিন বিশ্বাস। জেলা পুষ্টি সমন্বয় কমিটির খসড়া পরিকল্পনার উপস্থাপন করেন জেলা পুষ্টি সমন্বয় কমিটির সদস্য সচিব ও সিভিল সার্জন নুপুর কাজি দাশ। পরে উপস্থাপিত পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে মতামত প্রদান করে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় পুষ্টি পরিষদের মহাপরিচালক। এসময় সরকারি-বেসরকারি বিভিন্ন সংস্থার প্রধান উপস্থিত ছিলেন।

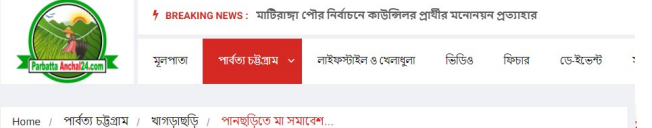
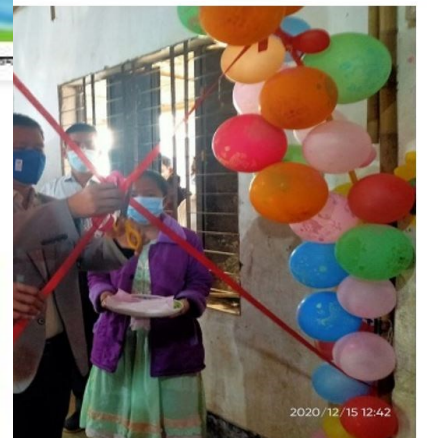


পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রামের মানুষ পুষ্টি হচ্ছে

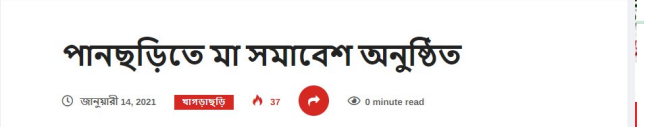
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টুকটাকি দাদুর দূর্বীরণ চিন্তিত জেঠা পাহাড়



আমাদের ডিডিও/এখানে ক্লিক



প্রথম প্রিয় কাউখালী দেশের ধরন লাইফ স্টাইল বিনোদন অর্থনীতি রাজনীতি খেলার মাঠ প্রযুক্তি

ইউনিয়ন পর্যায়ে পুষ্টি সমন্বয় কমিটি গঠন ও পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন কর্মশালা অনুষ্ঠিত

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খাগড়াছড়ি

পুষ্টি কমিটির সভায়

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সদস্যদের তর্কিত ব্যাপী 'উদ্যোক্তা ও সূত্র বাসী উন্নয়ন বিষয়ক প্রশিক্ষণ' ২য় ব্যাচের

Mourning the loss of our esteemed colleague and friend, OSIMONG MARMA

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of our friend and colleague LEAN M&E officer, Osimong Marma.

He passed away unexpectedly 1 February, and

will be sorely missed by everyone of LEAN project. Osimong was highly respected by both colleagues and community people and will be missed immensely by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him.

We offer Osimong's family and friends our most heartfelt condolences and sympathy at this difficult time.

