

COVID-19 RESPONSE REPORT



Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome (JANO)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

JANO	Joint Action for Nutrition Outcome
CSG	Community Support Group
HWS	Hand Washing Station
UHC	Upazila Health Complex
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
FWC	Family Welfare Clinic
HH	Household
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
ANC	Antenatal care
PNC	Postnatal care
CC	Community Clinic
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
UNCC	Upazila Nutrition Coordination Committee

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

People reached through COVID-19 response interventions

878,269 

Total

422,056 

Male

456,213 

Female

123,114 

Adolescent



584,410 People received registration support for COVID-19 vaccination



5,753 CSG members oriented on the disinfecting process



552 Thermal scanners distributed to different institutions i.e., schools, Community Clinics, UHC, & UNO offices



289 Waste buckets and disinfection sprays distributed to the Community Clinics, FWCs, and sub-centers



14 HWS established at Community Clinic premises

331 schools provided with safety materials for safe school reopening



Demonstrated hand washing process to **284,394** HHs

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS



100,000 COVID-19 vaccination cards distributed to Civil Surgeon Offices



4,913 posters/leaflets disseminated to sensitize the community

584,400 (52% women) people supported in registering in *Surrakkha Apps* for COVID vaccination



8 street awareness campaigns organized at Upazilla level



61,500 Students viewed JANO Facebook-based education sessions



Community level awareness through loud speaker in all

64 Unions



INTRODUCTION



This report summarizes the COVID-19 responses of the JANO project in seven Upazilas of Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts. During the pandemic situation JANO volunteers and staff reached out to the targeted areas and raised awareness through various activities on COVID-19 prevention, following the protocols set by the World Health Organization (WHO), Institutes of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research (ICR), and Ministry of Health and Family Planning.

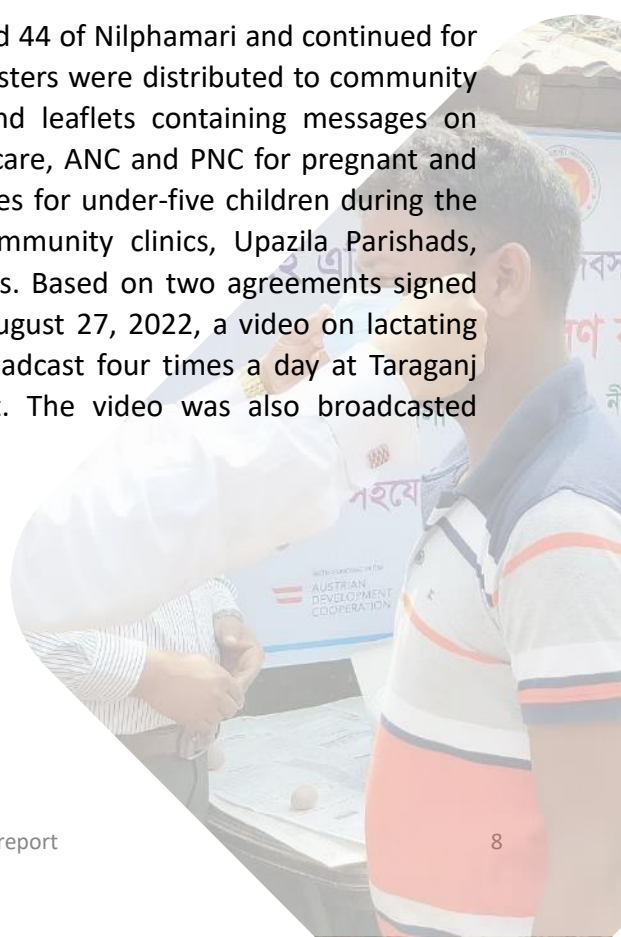


RAISING AWARENESS BY RISK COMMUNICATION



JANO volunteers reached 284,394 HHs in 64 unions of Rangpur and Nilphamari to raise awareness among pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescents. Through courtyard sessions and live demonstrations, 11.21 lakh individuals (52% women and 14% adolescents) including PLW, married adolescents, caregivers, and other members were educated on the use of masks, hand sanitizer, and the importance of hand washing and maintaining social distance.

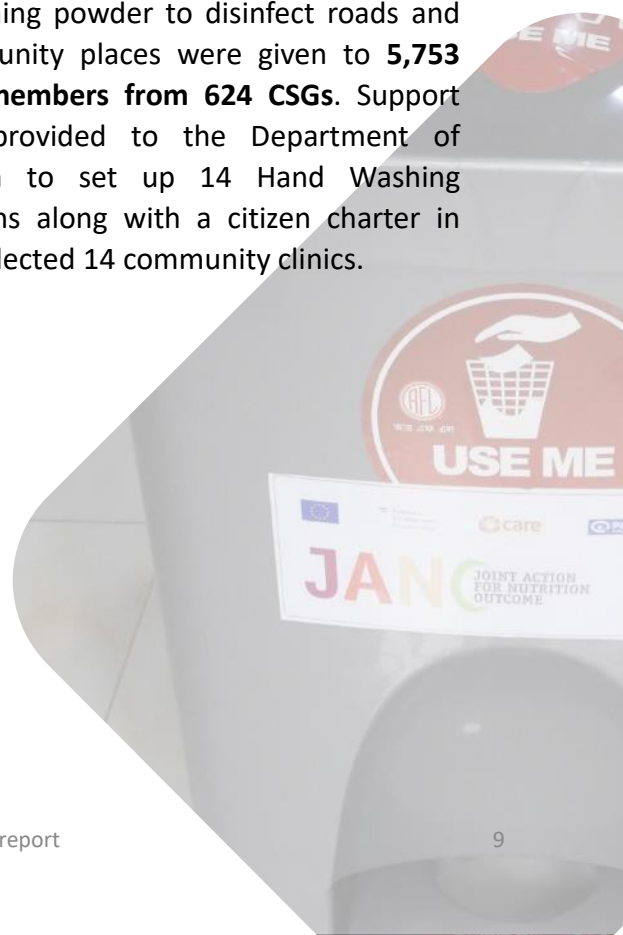
Miking was carried out in 20 unions of Rangpur and 44 of Nilphamari and continued for four days. A total number of 4,953 leaflets and posters were distributed to community people and institutions in 64 unions. Posters and leaflets containing messages on children's food and nutrition, breastfeeding, childcare, ANC and PNC for pregnant and lactating mothers, and food and nutrition messages for under-five children during the COVID-19 pandemic were distributed in the community clinics, Upazila Parishads, Upazila Health Complexes and in the communities. Based on two agreements signed with cable operators, for 30 days beginning on August 27, 2022, a video on lactating mothers and their COVID-19 precautions was broadcast four times a day at Taraganj and Kaunia Upazilas under the Rangpur district. The video was also broadcasted nationally through national TV channels.



DISTRIBUTION OF PRODUCTS



The project also distributed waste buckets, four spray bottles, and four kilograms of bleaching powder to each of the 212 Community Clinics, 57 Family Welfare Centres, and 20 Sub centers in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts. To facilitate the detection of COVID-19 patients, 552 Thermal Scanners were distributed (208 to Community Clinics, 330 to schools, 7 to Upazila Health Complexes, 7 to Upazila Nirbahi Office) at Rangpur and Nilphamari. Orientation on the use of hand spray machines and bleaching powder to disinfect roads and community places were given to **5,753 CSG members from 624 CSGs**. Support was provided to the Department of Health to set up 14 Hand Washing Stations along with a citizen charter in the selected 14 community clinics.



SUPPORT GIVEN TO ACADEMIC VENTURES

A rapid survey findings of JANO revealed that about 83% HHs had smartphones and among them 25% HHs had an active Facebook account. Based on survey analysis, the project created a Facebook page and uploaded education sessions for the students. The aim was to bring the students into a study circle and continue their studies at home during the pandemic. Through the JANO Facebook page, 43 tutorial sessions were conducted covering five core subjects — Math, Bangla, English, Social Science, and Science. For this initiative, 20 schoolteachers were trained, and each prepared a 20-minute video on their respective subjects. JANO School Volunteers shared the Facebook page, along with the Government initiative “*Ghore Boshei Shikkha*” to 115,240 students (51% girls). The JANO Facebook page has garnered 61,500 views to date. Besides, JANO volunteers consulted with families who have students in grades six through ten, and those who have television, about the importance of class-based teaching routines and classes through television, and encouraged students to participate in television sessions and share the Facebook link of the classes with other students.



115,240 (51% girls) students received Facebook and government shared educational links from JANO

Safety materials provided to **331** targeted schools in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts for safely reopening

43 tutorial sessions uploaded to the Facebook page on five core subjects

To support School Management Committees (SMC) in reopening schools after an 18-month closure, JANO distributed essential reopening materials to 330 schools — water buckets, mugs, floor cleaners, detergent powder, spray bottles, mops, sanitary napkins, school reopening guidelines, and a leaflet for soapy water and chlorine solution preparation. These materials helped the SMCs to safely reopen the schools.

SUPPORT TO GOB AND ITS VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS

584,400 (52% women) people supported in registering in *Surrakkha* Apps for COVID 19 vaccination

Support provided for better targeting for COVID 19 Safety Scheme

Vaccination campaign organizing support provided to GoB

100,000 COVID 19 vaccination cards provided to Civil Surgeon Offices

The JANO project provided support to district and Upazila level—government offices to implement government-taken COVID 19 awareness-raising, safety and security, and food security programs. Eight street awareness sessions were organized at the Upazilas, 1,000 masks were distributed, posters and leaflets were handed out, and messages on COVID-19 prevention were disseminated through miking. The awareness programs were inaugurated and facilitated by the high officials i.e., Mayor, district commissioners, Civil Surgeons, etc.

To help underprivileged people, the JANO project volunteers and frontline staff supported the Upazila administration and UNCC for better targeting of vulnerable people and distributed food packages to 1,526 pregnant women, lactating mothers, and other individuals in the project unions. Each package contained rice, potatoes, soybean oil, lentils, chickpeas, salt, onions, and sugar.

In close collaboration with the health department, the frontline staff and volunteers of JANO facilitated Vaccination Camps and ensured people's registration for COVID-19 vaccines. At the Upazilas, some Field Officers were members of the Vaccination Committees. In the community, JANO volunteers organized an awareness campaign on the vaccination and registration process and registered 584,400 people (52% female) in *Shurakkha* apps for vaccination in seven Upazilas. The project also provided 100,000 Covid'19 Vaccination Cards to the Civil Surgeon Office, Nilphamari district.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND LESSON LEARNED



Community feedback

70% of the villagers said that they have received information on COVID-19 from JANO volunteers and frontline staff. The villagers expressed their satisfaction with JANO's initiatives, as the volunteers demonstrated hand washing methods, raised awareness through events, supported better targeting of Union Parishad social safetynet beneficiary identification and the vaccine registration process, and provided on-time information on COVID-19. It was also found that 67% of adolescents attending online classes were made aware of them through JANO volunteers.

Lessons

- The existence of volunteers and frontline staff in the community helped project management quickly organize and conduct awareness campaigns.
- Specific guidelines developed by the government helped frontline staff to quickly interact with the community.
- Quick adaptation of nutrition-sensitive messages during COVID-19 helped participants to learn and grow vegetables at home, which helped them to avoid the marketplace and mass gatherings
- Country-wide lockdown delayed regular procurement processes but the project alternatively procured some essential items from available local sources.

Pictures of some interventions



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