



# SPRING/Bangladesh

## Background

Despite significant improvements in undernutrition in Bangladesh in recent years, stunting remains at the high rate of 36 percent.<sup>1</sup> A wide range of efforts is underway by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and other stakeholders to improve nutrition outcomes in Bangladesh. Through its Feed the Future and Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths initiatives, the U.S. Government is at the forefront in support of the GOB's efforts.

## What We Do

The Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally (SPRING) project is a six-year USAID-funded Cooperative Agreement that strengthens global and country efforts to scale up high-impact nutrition practices and policies and improve maternal and child nutrition outcomes. The project is managed by JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc., with partners Helen Keller International, The Manoff Group, Save the Children, and the International Food Policy Research Institute.



Photo: Ahsan Khan/USAID

## Our Work

SPRING/Bangladesh conducts activities in 40 *upazilas*, or sub-districts, in the USAID Feed the Future zones of influence of Barisal and Khulna divisions. We train health and agricultural workers from within the GOB and from nongovernmental organizations to counsel 1,000 days households (households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years of age). This training develops workers' confidence and capacity to provide guidance on the essential nutrition actions (ENA) and the essential hygiene actions (EHA) at a variety of contact points, from community clinics to home visits. We also provide state-of-the-art technical support to help prevent stunting and maternal and child anemia in the first 1,000 days.

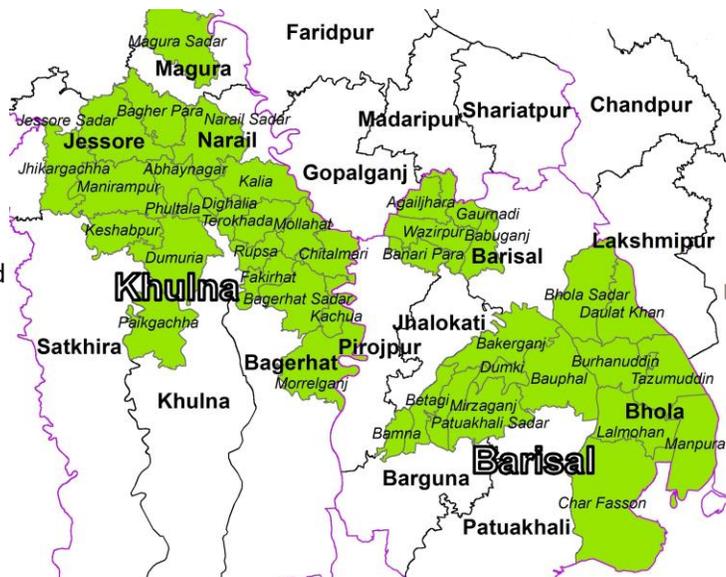


Figure: SPRING/Bangladesh's 40 upazilas

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Mitra and Associates, and ICF International. 2015. *Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014: Key Indicators*. Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: NIPORT, Mitra and Associates, and ICF International.



Photo: SPRING/Bangladesh

## Farmer Nutrition Schools

SPRING/Bangladesh has established community-based farmer nutrition schools (FNS) to promote the production of nutrient-dense vegetables, fruits, and animal source foods at the household level. We incorporate ENA and EHA into modules on vegetable gardening, poultry rearing, and fish production. By emphasizing small “doable” actions, we give FNS participants the knowledge and skills they need to link food production with improved nutrition and hygiene practices, including exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, and consumption of a diversified diet.

Since its inception, SPRING/Bangladesh has established 6,421 FNS groups, supporting 126,255 pregnant and lactating women and caregivers of children under two.

## Support to the Government

Since May 2012, SPRING/Bangladesh has trained more than 500 supervisory health workers, more than 4,000 frontline health workers, almost 1,000 agricultural extension workers and more than 8,000 community peer facilitators on ENA and EHA.

## Partnerships

Our primary partner is the GOB. Through the GOB, we work with the Directorate General of Health Services (especially the National Nutrition Services and Community Based Health Care), the Directorate General of Family Planning, and the Department of Agricultural Extension.

We have also partnered with other USAID-funded projects, such as the Aquaculture for Income and Nutrition Project, the Livestock and Nutrition Project, the Horticulture Project, the NGO Health Service Delivery Project, and SHIKHA, as well as other groups such as Alive & Thrive, FAO, and UNICEF.

## For More Information

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