



# FACT SHEET

## Aquaculture: Increasing income, diversifying diets, and empowering women in Bangladesh



### Introduction

In recent years carp polyculture systems in Bangladesh have demonstrated that both protein and key nutrients can be produced on a massive scale with minimal climate impact.

In this project WorldFish will support the sustainable growth of this extremely important aquatic food system to become a safe source of food for a growing population, providing important nutritional benefits to both women of reproductive age and young children.

WorldFish will partner with NGOs, the private sector and government to drive systemic change within the aquaculture sector to support sustainable private sector development, using a market systems and consumer-led approach.

### Project goals

#### 1. Increased productivity and diversity of fish production systems

Work with Local Service Providers and over private sector actors to introduce knowledge and technologies to impact on carp polyculture, including micronutrient-rich small local fish.

#### 2. Improved smallholder access to quality inputs and services

With the private sector enhance access to quality seed (including genetically improved seed), feed, markets and credit.

#### 3. Improved market linkages

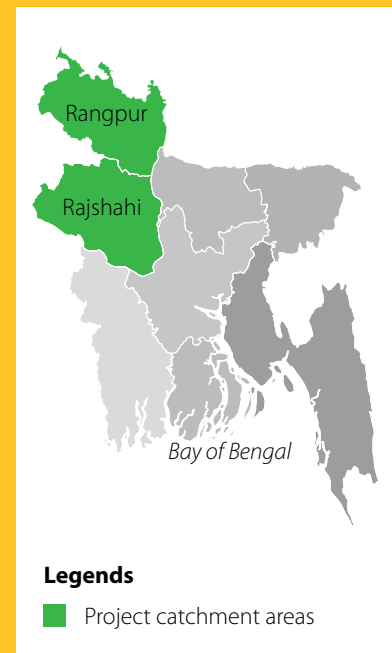
Facilitate better market access, strengthening of women's and other organizations, development of new fish-based products and improve fish value chains through appropriate interventions.

#### 4. Improved dietary diversity and consumption

The focus will be on increasing fish production and consumption (in rural & urban populations) to support better nutritional outcomes, in particular for vulnerable members of society such as women and young children.

#### 5. Women's empowerment

All aspects of the project will be envisioned through a gender lens, to maximise opportunities for empowerment of women on small holder farms and throughout fish value chains.



#### Donor

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

#### Partners

Local and national governments, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners, including local service providers

#### Duration

November 2018 to December 2022

## Background

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Fish is the main source of animal protein in Bangladesh, contributing 60% of the total consumed. By 2025, the country's population will exceed 174 million and models indicate that its per capita fish consumption is likely to increase to 30 kg by 2030, nearly double that of 2010 (18 kg). To meet that demand, the total fish supply will need to reach almost 5 million metric tonnes per year.

This project is focused on the divisions of Rangpur and Rajshahi in Bangladesh, (population 34 million, 24% of the country's population), where poverty and undernutrition remain high, particularly among women and children.

## Project components

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Using science-based recommendations, to support and further develop the sustainable growth of carp polyculture in north-west Bangladesh, this project aims to provide a fair and inclusive system through empowerment of women and development of sustainable business models throughout the fish value chain.

This project supports the development of a food system that resolves two key trade-offs in the sustainable development goals; (SDG1) increasing income without depleting resources and (SDG2) producing protein and nutrients at scale with minimal impact on climate change.

Increasing women's empowerment through the production of fish is a key pathway through which the nutrition of women, as well as their family members, will be improved. The project is particularly important from a nutrition-sensitive perspective.

Within the target divisions, WorldFish will partner with large local NGOs to ensure large scale reach of the program by incorporating fish nutritional values into their existing social behavior change communication and nutrition messaging. As the new messaging will become part of the NGOs national messaging system, its impact will be at scale.

Within the target divisions, WorldFish will strengthen partnerships with private sector businesses, investors and government. This will help develop profitable value chains and potentially modify policy frameworks to create a conducive environment for increasing fish production and private sector investment.

This investment in Bangladesh builds on the emerging opportunities of expanding markets for sustainable aquaculture. The project will enhance the supply of sustainably produced, diverse fish species from small-scale producers, where women will be gainfully engaged and empowered as a key factor in increasing income for fish livelihood dependent households.

WorldFish will investigate the use of a range of digital solutions and develop virtual networks to support adoption of fish farming technologies, provide nutritional messaging and activate business development at scale.

It is anticipated that this range of innovative activities will result in system level changes to fish farming and its value chain in Rangpur and Rajshahi, that will have implications for WorldFish activities, both elsewhere in Bangladesh and globally through other programs in its Aquatic Foods portfolio.

## Acknowledgments

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