



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



Cover photo by Noor Alam

Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity

Quarterly Progress Report: January – March 2020

April, 2020



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Executive Summary

During this quarter implementation activities were highly restricted in the aquaculture & nutrition activity. At the end of the previous quarter the implementing partner was served with a cure notice which included a moratorium on new partnership formation (no new partnership awards were made during this reporting period), and midway through this quarter the covid-19 virus led to a nationwide lockdown which prohibited all gatherings of more than a few people so few activity-supported training or events took place.

Internally, however, there was considerable progress on remedial action in response to the cure notice, and all milestones required for lifting the cure were achieved in this reporting period.

The slowdown due to Covid-19 began in the middle of this quarter as WorldFish took action to minimize risk to beneficiaries, partners, and staff before any official direction from the government of Bangladesh (GoB) or USAID.

- All farmer training was postponed
- Practical demonstrations and farmer field days were postponed
- School sessions and community awareness events were canceled
- Regular monitoring and data collection stopped
- Consultant field activities were suspended

The lockdown is causing problems in the fisheries sector in Bangladesh. The restricted movement of vehicles, road closures, blockages, and check points prevented farmers from selling fish and buying inputs which resulted in lost revenue as well as reduced production of spawn, fry, fingerlings, and food fish.

Interruptions in aquaculture services, access to inputs, delivery of goods, and transport to market have combined to reduce incomes and over-accumulate populations of fish in ponds and fry/fingerlings in nurseries. Some fish hatcheries are closed.

At the time of this writing, WorldFish-Bangladesh is conducting a telephone survey of 100+ market actors in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence to gather more specific data.

Activity management is planning to approve no cost extensions for almost all current partners.

Before the lock down, partner activities were progressing well. This brief report summarizes this activity.

Activity Description

The USAID Feed the Future Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity (BANA) is intended to foster sustained, positive aquaculture sector growth through an inclusive market systems approach. BANA is a five-year PIO activity (2018-2023) implemented by WorldFish with funding of \$24.5 million. Of this, \$8 million is reserved for sub-grants.

BANA sustainably improves the livelihoods of fish farmers and other aquaculture market actors by applying a market systems approach through which BANA joins with the private sector to identify solutions to systemic obstacles and the partners then test the solution via activities funded through the sub-grants and significant co-funding.

BANA focuses on improved nutrition through more productive aquaculture and has strong cross cutting elements of environment, youth, and gender which are inculcated into sub-grantees.

Activity Goal, objectives, and Targets

BANA's goal is to achieve inclusive aquaculture sector growth through a market system approach. The objectives are:

- Increased productivity of aquaculture production systems.
- Strengthened aquaculture market system, with particular attention to expanding opportunities for women and youth.
- Increased awareness and adoption of nutrition-related behaviors, with a particular focus on women and youth.

Life of activity targets are:

- 400,000 men, women, and youth in the ZOI have improved access to better quality aquaculture inputs, services, and/or market channels
- 30% expansion of investment by the private sector in the ZOI in aquaculture production and market related to inputs and services (e.g., seed, feed, production/market related information, technology, etc.)
- 30% increase in productivity from ponds and ghers in the ZOI
- 20% increase in the number of households adopting improved nutritional practices (consumption of nutritious food, dietary diversity and hygiene practices)

The Market Systems Approach

BANA uses a market systems approach to achieving its objectives. In this approach to development, there is no direct delivery of services, but rather the intent is to discover and replicate practices which overcome obstacles to lasting improvement. These obstacles might lie in any aspect of the aquaculture industry-- in fish health and feeding, certainly, but also in transportation, finance, or marketing.

The market systems approach understands that both the causes of and solutions to market obstacles are known to the market actors. That is, farmers want to grow more food, people want higher incomes, and processors want to reach new customers, but they face difficult challenges. They might have tried to overcome the challenges and fallen short or they have never tested possible solutions for lack of resources.

Virtually all program activities are done through sub-grants to mostly private sector enterprises and professional associations. In the ZOR, however, there are few private partners with sufficient capacity to engage in USG funded activities so most of BANA's work in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban is done through conventional sub-grants to NGOs.

Geographical Focus

BANA works in the Bangladesh Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZOI, consisting of 21 south-western districts) and the Zone of Resilience (ZOR, two districts in the southeast affected by the Rohingya situation).

IRs, Sub-IRs, and Cross-cutting Programs

Sub-grants are the activity's only vehicle for delivering service; there is no direct delivery. During this reporting period no new partnership agreements were signed due to the cure period moratorium.

IR 1. Increased aquaculture productivity

Sub-IR 1.1. Increased availability of improved fish seed

The activity focuses on hatcheries and nurseries under this sub-IR, and these sub-grants are among the activity's smaller sub-grants. Hatcheries and nurseries are almost all small businesses, and their needs rarely include significant investments.

During this quarter, four partner hatcheries successfully completed their interventions, and all deliverables and targets were met. This quarter, BANA began crowding in the lessons learned by making a video documentary focusing on the recipe for success of a small hatchery business to demonstrate to other hatcheries.

Three new partner hatcheries, signed last quarter, started their activities to promote 'Better Management Practices' (BMP)-- a range of operational and production topics in bio-security, transportation, and handling. BMPs specific to tilapia breeding began with three more hatcheries to minimize the production of inferior quality spawn and reduce pest and disease outbreaks in this important species. The goal of BMP is to increase yield and farm incomes.

In the reporting period, the selection of 195 seed agents, 12 technicians, 5,232 farmers were completed but other capacity building sessions could not take place due to the

outbreak of covid-19. Forty LSPs (local service providers) were engaged as a seed agents by the partner hatcheries to underpin the market promotion of their product lines.

For GIFT (genetically improved farm raised tilapia), the goal is to introduce this fast growing variety in Bangladesh, and this quarter two partnership applications were developed. BRAC Enterprises and the Bhola Hatchery are coordinating on the cohort breeding hatchery system to supply quality mixed sex tilapia seeds as broodstock for commercial multiplier hatcheries and on to grow-out farmers. This global WorldFish program will also include at least two hatcheries outside the ZOI (funded by WorldFish).

Carp GIP

The dissemination of the high yield variety (HYV) of rohu generation-3 moved forward this quarter with the writing of a Memorandum of Agreement with BRAC. In the MOA it is agreed that the G3 rohu will be raised at the BRAC facility in Magura in addition to WorldFish Talbaria facility in Jessore. BRAC will also preserve improved varieties of silver carp and catla. At Talbaria, meanwhile, construction of a semi-portable carp hatchery began and should be completed by the end of April. All breeding and sampling continued as planned this quarter; tagging and stocking was completed.

Sub-IR 1.2. Increased availability of affordable quality feed

BANA has two significant sub-grants in this sub-IR. Spectra Hexa and Victor Feeds are each testing variations of local service providers and how improved technical assistance can increase sales of feed and improve on-farm performance. Spectra Hexa Feeds Ltd is working on the Mega feed school concept and Victor Feeds Limited is working on aquaculture extension service through LSP. Both partnerships are intended to improve the availability and access of quality fish feed for smallholder farmers.

Spectra Hexa completed its sub-grant on January 31. They established 51 Mega Feeds Schools in seven districts (Khulna, Satkhira, Jashore, Barishal, Patuakhali, Barguna, and Bhola), and in this reporting period their training reached 635 farmers in 19 trainings, 1,325 via 18 farmers field days, and another 11,955 through 94 video shows organized by their dealers at the schools.

They also added seven essay competitions and seven debate programs for "student fish farmers" at the high school and college level on the growth of aquaculture in Bangladesh and its impact. Mega distributed 1,000 copies of the guide on "Farmers Support Guide on Aquaculture technology based on BMP".

Victor Feeds has been providing extension services through LSPs along with new smaller packages of fish feed by establishing 14 service centers and 53 sub-service centers. They conducted capacity building training for 352 market actors and 1,606 farmers (male- 513 & female- 1,093).

KNB Agro Industries is a partnership in the works. This another LSP-focused intervention, it will include testing of different micro feed formulations using locally sourced feed ingredients and will distribute through its ten associated feed companies.

Aiming to promote floating feed with local ingredients as a means to increase the profitability of small & marginal fish farmers, the aquaculture & nutrition activity is also consulting with interested feed mills to develop and produce new floating feed with competitive lower prices for sale through LSP feed dealers.

Sub-IR 1.3. Increased adoption of improved pond management practices

To improve farm output, BANA has four active sub-grants: Fishtech, GreenDale, United Agro Fisheries, and Eon Animal Health Products Limited.

Fishtech is strengthening aquaculture service by operating a private fish health lab in Khulna to serve fish and shrimp hatcheries as well as the larger commercial farms throughout the central ZOI. During this reporting period, they completed the recruitment of international consultant to set up the lab, but onboarding is delayed due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

The EON Animal Health partnership started in February to strengthen aquaculture services for smallholder farmers through proprietary retail points and existing distribution channels (a vertical integration model) in 32 Upazilas in seven ZOI districts. During the reporting period, EON completed the recruitment of key staff as 38 sales and marketing staff completed orientation on the business model, activities, and project plan. EON has established four of its targeted total of ten retail points through agreements with vendors.

The partner GreenDale is introducing 'GreenDale Service Centers' (GSC) to provide training and technical assistance to fish farmers in the ZOI. 16 of the planned 20 are now operational, and in this reporting period 156 more farmers received services from these GSCs. This quarter, GreenDale conducted 150 technical sessions for fish farmers (2,904 total with 468 female) and four lead farmer trainings on aquaculture technology and BMP for 104 lead farmers (11 female). They also conducted transportation management training for 48 fingerling traders (*patilwala*) and sold 3,598 unit (kg/liter) of aquaculture medicinal products in the reporting period to 3,800 farmers.

United Agro Fisheries (UAF) is building a business to supply natural carp pituitary glands (CPG) domestically to replace chemical variants and imports to ensure quality fish seed production at the hatchery level. In the reporting period, UAF had total sales of BDT 3,497,950 (about \$41,600) domestically and \$18,390 exported. This is only a very slight increase over last quarter because UAF has already reached capacity in a very successful partnership. UAF conducted 15 refresher trainings for the 316 CPG harvesters (nine women) and research activities on comparison testing are continuing in BAU under the supervision of Professor Dr. Md. Mamnur Rashid, but a planned video documentary has been delayed due to the covid-19 situation.

Following last quarter's co-creation solicitation on effective aquaculture machinery, Alim Engineering has been selected to promoting cost-effective machinery for the aquaculture sector in ZOI. LSP inclusion will be one of the core components of this business model, and the plan is to develop 50 LSPs to ensure value-added service for farmers. Around 2,500 farmers will be reached in this partnership.

Moving forward, the activity issued a solicitation to find a provider of financial management services to hatcheries, nurseries, and fish farms.

IR 2. Strengthened aquaculture value chains

Sub-IR 2.1. Increased market linkages

The activity has one sub-grant in this sub-IR; to build linkages between farmers and producers, Pranti has good quality ready to cook (RTC) fish products and is pursuing certification via the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), an agency under the Ministry of Industries.

Regrettably, in the last quarter, WorldFish grant management staff had reason to investigate Pranti's procurement practices and assigned an external auditor to investigate. After a thorough investigation and looking at the potential of the business model, the COP decided to continue the partnership under strict financial oversight conditions-- conditions the partner refused to accept, and the partnership was ended.

In the interim, Pranti had selected 1,000 farmers who will provide quality table fish with higher prices in comparison to traditional market rates. They provided training to 627 farmers (168 female) in the past quarter. Due to the end of the partnership, it is unclear if Pranti will continue to receive fish from these farmers.

Sub IR 2.2. Increased engagement of private sector in aquaculture markets

At present, the activity has one sub-grantee under this sub-IR to build market systems, Bank Asia.

During this reporting period, Bank Asia made a fast start to extend collateral-free credit services to small holder fish farmers. The market systems aspect is to modify agent banking to include digital payment options for loan repayment. This quarter, 80 market actors had been reached through three district level meetings, and 63 input retailers already opened their account as merchant with Bank Asia. Within the sub-grant tenure, 100 input retailers will be established as merchant and each merchant will refer at least 10 farmers for this loan package.

Unfortunately, they had to stop their field implementation due to COVID-19 situation, but project staff is keeping in contact with the retailers to open merchants account and

provide verbal orientations on roles and responsibilities. A contingency plan is also being prepared to create a plan-B scenario to achieve project's time based milestones.

Sub IR 2.3. Improved enabling environment for inclusive growth in aquaculture

There is one sub-grant activity under this Sub-IR: the Bangladesh Shrimp & Fisheries Foundation (BSFF).

During the reporting period BSFF began development of a fish pharmacology course curriculum and conducted a series of workshops for input into the draft curriculum for farmers, dealers, and retailers-- in all, 764 participants. These activities arose out of an ongoing series of regional consultation meetings and key informant interviews for a total of 61 participants.

In this quarter, the activity also issued a solicitation to identify potential partners to conduct large scale trial of food traceability in aquaculture via block chain.

IR 3. Improved nutrition related behaviors in rural households

Sub-IR 3.1. Improved nutrition awareness and practices

Under this sub-IR the nutrition team is working with a NGO, Shushilan, to implement nutrition-sensitive aquaculture activities.

Shushilan conducted 1,064 sessions of community level training on aquaculture, homestead gardening, dike cropping, basic nutrition, and hygiene. The training was suspended on March 21 due to outbreak of covid-19.

With the sudden onset of the virus, Shushilan added efforts to raise awareness of the virus and how people can protect themselves. Shushilan managed to get smaller groups together in the week before the lockdown and, while maintaining good social distance, organized 153 community sessions for 2,848 female fish farmers. They organized 20 school sessions with debates and quiz competitions where 1,473 students participated on the topic of "nutrition as the foundation for development". They also disseminated messages on covid-19 at in-school sessions for 145 school students.

In addition, Shushilan organized three monthly meetings, three *upazila* level nutrition coordination committee meetings, 306 *shushomoy* group meeting (follow up meeting of farmers in wards), and one MEL training on real-time monitoring.

The development of two nutrition videos (nutrition-sensitive pond polyculture and fish in the first 1000 days) are in progress, but field level shooting has been postponed due to the outbreak of covid-19. An infographic on small fish in complementary feeding is in process.

A partnership solicitation is underway to find a publisher for a fish based recipe book. The idea is to endorse the book with a celebrity chef who can advocate for the inclusion of fish based recipes in daily meals.

Sub-IR 3.2. Improved access to diverse and nutritious foods

The NGO partner Shushilan made follow up visits to 3,060 farmers to whom they had distributed orange sweet potato (OSP) vines and five types of vegetable seeds (bean, bottle gourd/pumpkin, spinach, spinach, red amaranth) to be cultivated at pond/*gher* dykes. The fish farmers also sell these vegetables for added income. Shushilan had also intended to distribute *mola* broods and carp seeds to the 3,060 households in March and April, but due to covid-19 this activity has been delayed. They will establish demo ponds when feasible.

The aquaculture activity is working closely with potential partners to make ready to eat (RTE) and ready to cook (RTC) fish product more available in the market. The activity team received seven inquiries and is moving ahead in co-creation with two: CHHIP Food BD and Golden Harvest Limited. The activity team conducted a series of in-person meetings with the companies to refine their business ideas-- to promote RTC and RTE fish products and access new market segments.

Cross-cutting Program Areas

Gender

Shooting of the 26-episode series *Mecho Tota Gecho Bhoot* has begun, and the series will premiere on 17 April. The 20-minute episodes run until mid-July, twice a week (Friday and Saturday at 2:30pm and 9:30pm) on Duranto TV.

The central character, Tota, loves to eat fish, and most of the episodes contain some activities or scenes with fish. Messages include the benefit of eating fish, functions of different types of food, and special care for pregnant and lactating mother as well as challenges to gender stereo types such as boys and girls playing together and harvesting fish as exclusively men's work. This program could be a strong tool for social behavior change. In the current context of covid-19, the hygiene practices promoted in the series are quite timely.

At the end of each episode there is quiz. Viewers send their answers in via text message. Here is one:

'What happens when you eat fish?'

- a) Helps for proper physical growth
- b) Helps for mental growth
- c) Helps for good sleep at night
- d) Helps for mental and physical growth

At the time of this writing two episodes have aired, and there were 18,909 and 21,879 unique telephone numbers responding in the quizzes. The total audience is estimated at over 50,000 per episode; the aquaculture & nutrition activity will include viewership questions in its annual MEL indicator survey to refine the estimate.

Training of trainers (TOT) on gender and youth inclusion in USAID programming was provided to the staff of two new partners this quarter, Tahzingdong and GRAUS. Twenty six staff in these two sessions learned to facilitate community training at for farmers and their spouses. Trainings planned for March and April have been postponed due to the covid-19 situation.

Shushilan observed International Women's Day in four *upazilas* with 397 participants (61 men and 336 women) plus 1,121 participants at union level programs (146 men and 975 women). In the union programs, 51 successful women were recognized for their contributions to their families and communities. International Women's Day was also observed at WorldFish to promote a gender equal and healthy environment for WorldFish staff.

A call for proposals was published for gillnet marketing to women and for engaging women in aquaculture businesses per the workplan.

Youth

To implement the positive youth development (PYD) approach in BANA, 181 young people were identified as active in aquaculture in ZOI and ZOR and selected to work on developing an approach to fostering a youth business model the activity can replicate. In Barishal and Jessore, small meetings with community youth groups were held with potential entrepreneurs to understand their business ideas and needs. Unfortunately, the covid-19 lockdown stalled this effort.

Environment

The aquaculture activity has been working to develop guidelines on *Safe Fish Feed Production* and *Safe Fish Seed Production* with emphasis on environmental compliance, fish health, bio-safety, and food safety issues.

A basic training-workshop on *Environmental Compliance – the USAID Way* was done in February for 32 new personnel both from WorldFish and 11 sub-grantees. The workshop focused on developing a common understanding of the importance of environmental compliance and climate risk management for sustainability, USAID requirements, and the scope of environmental compliance and CRM so that they can execute the activity's EMMP.

The Zone of Resilience

In the ZOR five sub-grant activities are in operation in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban.

In Bandarban, the NGO Graus brings improved aquaculture to rural areas, conducts training to increase nutritional knowledge and practices, works to enhance fish and vegetable production to address malnutrition, and has activities to increase incomes for women and youth. The NGO Tahzingdong works to increase yield and incomes in aquaculture by increasing the availability of fish seed, improves nutrition by enhancing fish and vegetable production, and increases incomes by establishing market linkages.

There are two NGO partners in Cox's Bazar. Coast Trust provides aquaculture support to small holders and dry fish producers to increase incomes, raises awareness of nutrition and hygiene, reduces health hazards to consumers by increasing the availability of pesticide-free dry fish in the market, and develops market channels for dry fish products. Protyashi focuses on inclusive aquaculture for geographically and socially challenged and financially insolvent rural areas, enhances the availability of fresh water fish among rural people, and works to fill nutrition gaps and provide income opportunities for rural people especially women, youth, and adolescents. The sub-grant to COAST Trust and Protyashi will be finished on 30 April and 14 May. Considering the covid-19 pandemic, no-cost extensions will be made to complete activities.

BANA has only one private sector partner in the ZOR because the ZOR is not well developed commercially. Chittagong Meridian Agro Industries is increasing production at hatcheries and farms, establishing a tilapia brood stock, operating demonstration ponds, and improving live fish transport. The sub-grant to CMAI finished on 31 March; close-out data is forthcoming.

During this quarter, the partner organizations Protyashi, COAST Trust, GRAUS, Tahzingdong, and CMAI in ZOR organized 440 training sessions for beneficiaries on basic family nutrition, gender, vegetables cultivation, leadership development, life skills, and tilapia nursery and grow-out farming. A total of 7,666 beneficiaries (male-2,849, female-4,817) attended the trainings.

	Training topic	Batch (#)	Participants (#) according to sex			Participants (#) according to age		
			Male	Female	Total	15-29 = Y	30 and above=A	Total
1	Basic family nutrition 1 & or 2	176	978	1521	2499	343	2156	2499
2	Gender	156	1635	2437	4072	811	3261	4072
3	Vegetable cultivation	94	135	643	778	127	651	778
4	Leadership development	6	0	133	133	13	120	133
5	Life skills development	6	53	80	133	133	0	133
6	Tilapia nursery and grow-out farming	2	48	3	51	13	35	51

	Total	440	2849	4817	7666	1440	6223	7666
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COAST Trust also works with local government, and during this quarter there were four sessions with government officials-- *upazila* Fisheries Officers, *upazila* Agriculture Officers, and officer from the health department and women's affairs office-- in Teknaf, Pekua, and Sadar of the Cox's Bazar district.

The sub-grantees also celebrated International Women's Day, and COAST Trust participated in a trade fair in Cox's Bazar where they demonstrated a few fish drying technologies-- and organic method, the improved fish drier, and the net *macha* technique-- dry fish entrepreneurs, traders, buyers, and consumers.

The aquaculture activity's Senior Environmental Specialist provided training to the two new partners, GRAUS and Tahzingdong, on environmental compliance, and the activity's finance and grants team provided training on Fraud Prevention & Compliance. 29 staff from GRAUS and Tahzingdong have received training. The MEL team facilitated a training program.

A team of officials from USAID's Bureau of Food Security visited beneficiaries, fish ponds, vegetable cultivation on pond dikes, and local homesteads in Hindupara in Cox's Bazar in March. The team observed activities and interacted with women farmers to understand their production, consumption, and income at their fish and vegetable farming as well as hygiene practices, basic nutrition, and gender issues.

Since mid-March 2020, field movements of partner staff were restricted due to the covid-19 pandemic and all field activities were postponed.

Project Management

Activity Management

After 20 months of activity implementation, the aquaculture activity was significantly short of its objectives and goals. Implementation was not in alignment with the award agreement in that the sub-grant component was not engaging large numbers because sub-grant awards were behind the target and not well focused on productive partnerships. The market systems development unit did not have a technical leader, and spending on headquarter's staff and short-term travel had created budget pressure.

During this reporting period, all milestones for improvement were met.

#1 -- "How the 75% of the targeted results of FY2020 should be achieved by WF by June, 2020."

In the first quarter of the activity's year three, the aggregate number had already reached 54% of the target for three years from 14,256 to 71,051

unique individuals. This was 54% of the target for three years. By June, 2020, the number is projected to be 102% of the 2020 target.

#2 -- "What actions have been taken to submit a grant approach in conformity with the activity goals and objectives (which) demonstrates how the activity will reach its targets?"

The year three plan includes 32 targeted partnership solicitations. Leaning heavily on co-creation activities and targeted invitations to apply, the activity is using the findings from 12 stakeholder consultation workshops-- six focused on IR 1, six focused on IR 2, and two focused on IR 3.

#3 -- "a detailed plan outlining the changes in the organogram including new staff by February, 2020"

All staff changes were completed by the end of February, 2020.

- Seven out of ten market systems development staff were replaced.
- A new Manager - Market Systems was hired.
- The DCOP was replaced.
- The new DCOP was relocated to a field office.
- Four Senior Market Systems Specialists are placed in Dhaka.
- Four Market Systems Specialists are placed in field office.
- A Senior Program Manager was hired to lead cross-cutting efforts.

#4 -- "a revised plan and budget for travel, STTA, and studies"

Headquarter's LOE is reduced by 72%, STTA is reduced by 73%, and travel for STTA is reduced by 82%.

#5 -- "a plan for filling the activity's four regional offices with competent and experienced staff and very few market systems professional positions in Dhaka"

The DCOP has been relocated to the activity's largest field office and a market systems specialist is now in every field office. The number of market systems specialists in Dhaka has been reduced, and the quality of field market systems staff has been greatly improved with half of the market systems team now placed in field offices.

Grants and Finance

The activity utilized a total of \$1,150,556 in the second quarter of year three and the total accumulated expenses are recorded at \$8,442,421 which leaves an available budget balance of \$16,015,775 as of March 31, 2020.

There were no new sub-grants signed within the reporting period. To date, the activity has signed thirty three sub-grants with a total value of \$5,286,381 including sub-grantees' cost share. Among these thirty three sub-grants, four have closed and four were terminated. An accumulated actual expense of \$2,312,810 was recorded as of March 31, 2020.

Category	LOP Budget in USD	Year 1 Actual in USD	Year 2 Actual in USD	Year 3 Actual in USD	Cummulative Expenses	Budget Balance
	(Feb '18-Jan '23)	(Feb-Sep '18)	(Oct '18-Sep '19)	(Oct '19-March '20)	As of March 31, 2020	As of March 31, 2020
Direct labor	5,474,565	414,022	926,710	535,843	1,876,575	3,597,990
Fringe benefits	1,765,430	131,311	294,843	182,907	609,061	1,156,369
Consultants	288,593	-	70,998	58,311	129,309	159,284
Supplies, equipment and operating	1,570,245	153,671	478,943	133,965	766,579	803,666
Travel and Per-diem	419,507	51,841	206,295	85,274	343,410	76,097
Other Direct Cost	2,753,016	112,324	695,954	168,281	976,559	1,776,457
Sub grants	8,049,508	-	1,274,492	1,038,318	2,312,810	5,736,698
Total Direct Cost	20,320,864	863,169	3,948,235	2,202,901	7,014,305	13,306,559
Indirect Cost	3,657,756	155,370	710,682	396,522	1,262,575	2,395,181
CGIAR Sharing fee	479,572	20,371	93,178	51,988	165,538	314,035
Total Cost	24,458,192	1,038,910	4,752,095	2,651,411	8,442,417	16,015,775

Monitoring Evaluation and Learning

Dry fish production is a potentially important sector, and the aquaculture & nutrition activity completed a survey of dry fish entrepreneurs in the ZOR this quarter. The baseline survey covered 100 dry fish entrepreneurs to explore changes between the traditional small scale businesses and the improved dry fish processing business being promoted by the partner Coast Trust. Data cleaning, processing, and analysis are expected to be completed in May.

To capture the learning from all activities and widen knowledge sharing internally, the activity began a series of webinars this quarter. Team members deliver short presentations and Q&A to spread what they learned in training sessions, workshops, meetings and field visits. This is supplemented by a WhatsApp group named 'BANA Team Communications'. This app has proved very popular among BANA staff as we share regular updates, good photos, articles, thoughts, and links during telework due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Before the lockdown, the MEL team organized two trainings for NGO sub-grantee staff in ZOR and ZOI. It covered entering training recipients' data into the activity MIS platform using tablets. A total of 1,640 training events were created and 28,689 trainees data (7,966 unique head count male 2,123 female 5,843) were uploaded in the system during the reporting quarter.

The MEL team continued routine data quality assessment including training monitoring, spot checking, and desk checking this quarter. 19 training events were monitored during this reported quarter, and field observations were shared with sub-grantees. The MEL team also visited 45 farmer households (supported by the NGO partners) to receive their feedback on interventions. The MEL team also supported the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting plans for the NGO sub-grantees and provided technical assistance on data collection and profiling and using the online data collection platform and tablets. 871 farmer profiles were completed during the reporting quarter.

The MEL team also visited households to cross-check the collected data and shared field observations and necessary feedback to the program team as a part of data quality

assurance. The MEL team updated the performance measurement matrix for FY2020 in March.

The MEL team met with USAID's GIS team three times this quarter to discuss measuring activity, unique identifiers of every beneficiary for USAID follow up, and building on previous work. The aquaculture activity continues to lead GIS related activities across WorldFish-Bangladesh to unify the databases and 30 years' of experience. BANA intends to focus on certain localities for intensive work in the future.

Communications

A solicitation and co-creation process for media companies (community radio & newspaper) moved forward this quarter. Focusing on improved nutrition through aquaculture, the plan is to foster a syndicated column and / or radio program to disseminate information across the ZOI, ZOR, and the country. Partnerships with media producers and advertisers are expected.

The comms team finalized three photo stories (safe fish production and marketing, nutrition sensitive aquaculture, and carp pituitary gland collection and marketing) this quarter. Due to the lockdown, a video shoot on nutrition activities and story collection and photo documentation trip have been postponed.

Before the lockdown, the activity delivered training and TA on developing and branding communications materials to Coast Trust, Prottayshi, Tahzingdong, Graus, Duronto TV, and Bank Asia.

Acronyms

BANA	:	Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity
BDT	:	Bangladesh Taka
BFRI	:	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
BMP	:	Better Management Practices
BSFF	:	Bangladesh Shrimp and Fish Foundation
CGIAR	:	Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centers
CLA	:	Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting
CoP	:	Chief of Party
DCoP	:	Deputy Chief of Party
DoF	:	Department of Fisheries
GIP	:	Genetic improvement program
GSC	:	GreenDale Service Centers
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
ICT	:	Information, Communications Technology
IR	:	Intermediate Result
LSP	:	Local Service Provider
MEL	:	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
SBCC	:	Social and Behavior Change Communication
USAID	:	United States Agency for International Development
ZOI	:	Zone of Influence
ZOR	:	Zone of Resilience