



1. Project Data:		Date Posted : 02/06/2003	
PROJ ID: P009496		Appraisal	Actual
Project Name: Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project	Project Costs (US\$M)	67.4	65.7
Country: Bangladesh	Loan/Credit (US\$M)	59.8	59.2
Sector(s): Board: HE - Health (90%), Central government administration (7%), General agriculture fishing and forestry sector (2%), Other social services (1%)	Cofinancing (US\$M)	None	
L/C Number: C2735			
	Board Approval (FY)		95
Partners involved :	Closing Date	12/31/2001	06/30/2002
Prepared by :	Reviewed by :	Group Manager :	Group:
Roy Jacobstein	Ridley Nelson	Alain A. Barbu	OEDST
2. Project Objectives and Components			
a. Objectives			
<p>The Project was intended to initiate development of a national nutrition program (NNP) whose long-term goal was to improve nutritional status, particularly of women, adolescent girls, and children under five, so that malnutrition would eventually cease to be a public health problem in Bangladesh. The Project's three intermediate objectives were: (1) national capacity building; (2) community empowerment for action against malnutrition; and (3) to achieve measurable nutritional impact in Project areas.</p>			
b. Components			
<p>The Project had three components: (1) National Nutrition Activities (\$20.6 million), with sub-components: Program Development and Institution Building (\$3.1 million), Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Development (\$4.8 million), Strengthening Existing Nutrition Activities (\$6.8 million), and Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (\$5.9 million); (2) Community-based Nutrition (\$39.1 million); and (3) Intersectoral Nutrition Program Development (\$7.6 million).</p>			
c. Comments on Project Cost, Financing and Dates			
<p>Final actual Project cost was 97.7% of Appraisal estimates. The Government met 94.8% of its appraisal cost commitments (\$7.11 million of \$7.5 million). The Government levied income and VAT taxes on NGO contracts, which slowed implementation at times</p>			
3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives:			
<p>The Project quite successfully achieved its development objective to achieve measurable nutritional impact in Project areas. The Project also was fairly successful in promoting community action against malnutrition. The Project was least and negligibly successful in building national capacity, including promoting intersectoral linkages, an ambitious, complex and difficult task.</p>			
4. Significant Outcomes/Impacts:			
<p>Severe malnutrition in Project areas was reduced from 13% to 0.9% and moderate malnutrition was reduced from 32% to 16.4%, declines of 92% and 49% respectively. Low birth weight in</p>			

Project areas was reduced from 40% to 18%. These noteworthy achievements exceeded ambitious Project targets (though the reliability of the programmatic data may be open to question, not all of the achievement may have been due to the Project, and an Endline Evaluation is pending). The practice of exclusive breastfeeding in Project areas, a good proxy for household/community level knowledge and practice rose from 10% to 41%. The Project successfully engaged a large number of community-level groups in implementation, which resulted in almost complete involvement of Village Nutrition Centers (80%), Community Nutrition Centers (80%), and Women’s Groups preparing supplementary foods; this participation of NGOs as key partners and implementers was a pioneering feature of the Project. Sanitation, antenatal pregnancy care, pregnant mother’s eating habits and postpartum vitamin A supplementation were all considerably higher in Project areas than in control areas.

5. Significant Shortcomings (including non-compliance with safeguard policies):

Intersectoral Nutrition Program Development did not occur. Institutional development, particularly on the Government side (as opposed to community level institutions) was only modest. Despite strong Government commitment, the institutional and managerial framework for the Project was suboptimal. The placement of the Project Office outside the implementing agency (The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) reduced sustainability and “mainstreaming” prospects. Development of an MIS lagged, and it was never used to provide feedback to the field. Coordination between NGO and Government was often problematic.

6. Ratings:	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev.:	Modest	Modest	
Sustainability:	Likely	Likely	
Bank Performance:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Borrower Perf.:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Quality of ICR:		Exemplary	

NOTE: ICR rating values flagged with '*' don't comply with OP/BP 13.55, but are listed for completeness.

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability:

1. A well-conceived, well-proven, relatively simple and straightforward set of core nutrition interventions—growth monitoring of young children, attention to nutritional status of pregnant women, preparation of food and micronutrient supplementation—can be quickly implemented and can have an impact on severe malnutrition in a relatively short period of time.
2. Using community-based and international NGO’s as significant implementation partners is feasible and can be of great value in controlling costs, circumventing weak government capacity and enhancing sustainability.
3. Action should be taken early to see that contracts with NGOs are not taxed by the Government.
4. Good baseline data, representative indicators and the use of control as well as intervention areas enable a project to document its results in a meaningful and objectively compelling manner.
5. Acting upon operations research findings to effect optimal programmatic change is feasible and useful.
6. Intersectoral coordination/involvement in a sector-specific project is difficult, requires a great deal of continuing work, and may or may not be worth the effort; i.e., it is not automatically a desirable and efficacious thing.
7. Careful timing of scaling-up of a successful project to a more ambitious program is key to achieving institutionalization of activities and sustainability, and such successful initiatives should be well-consolidated so that premature expansion and diminished wider impact does not occur.

8. Assessment Recommended? Yes No

Why?

9. Comments on Quality of ICR:

The ICR is exemplary and complete throughout. The text is well-written and internally consistent. The analyses are sound, focus on the important aspects of the Project, and are buttressed by data and balanced judgment. The evidence cited is convincing. The Lessons Learned section is robust and useful.