

HEALTHY MOTHERS AND HEALTHY BABIES IN BANGLADESH

FEBRURAY 28, 2018

SUMMARY:

All micronutrients are received free of cost from Vitamin Angels and distributed to the poor free of cost. However, with its extension of the program to large areas of the country and growing numbers of partner NGOs, PEP needs some financial assistance. The value of micronutrients to be distributed to the poor for 2018 is \$191,653 and in 2019 \$309,974.

Together with provision of vitamin-A, anti-worm medicine and multivitamins for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under-5 years old, there is continuing education in the local communities about proper assistance to mothers and newborns. 64 young women and men from PEP's 1,666 village working area spend 25% of their time in distributing the medicines and educating the local population. Funding is needed for their part payment, for training the partner NGO staff, for support services from the Dhaka office, clearing and forwarding the medicines from the airport and seaport.

CHALLENGE:

240 babies die daily in Bangladesh; of these 110 do not get breast milk within one hour of birth. An estimate shows that in 2011-12, about 160,000 child deaths could be avoided by reducing chronic malnutrition (stunting) while about 150,000 child deaths could be averted by reducing acute malnutrition (wasting).

36% of those who are born on time are low-birth-weight babies (less than 2.5 kg.). The average weight gain for pregnant mothers in Bangladesh is 4.7 kg. in rural mothers and 5.7 kg. in urban mothers. Both of these values are below the desired level of 8-9 kg. LBW babies in rural areas are about 46.7%.

The intellectual development of children is correlated with their nutritional status; any type of under-nutrition in the first two years of life interrupts normal brain development and thereby perpetuates lasting damage.

SOLUTION:

Vitamin Angels of Santa Clara, California began a partnership with PEP in 2014 to distribute vitamin-A capsules, multivitamins and anti-worm medicine for children under-5 years old and multivitamins for pregnant, nursing mothers. Child care education accompanies the micronutrient distribution.

Besides distributing these micronutrients to its own 64,695 poor families of 1,666 villages in 9 sub-districts of Bangladesh, PEP has extended this assistance to 23 partner NGOs in 2018 with 15 more to be added in 2019.

In 2018, PEP and 23 partner NGOs will provide vitamin-A capsules to 15,000 children and albendazole to 73,000 children. 12,960 pregnant and lactating mothers will regularly receive multivitamins.

For Rohingya refugees, 5,000 under-5 children will receive vitamin-A, 5,000 under-5 children and 12,000 six-year plus children will receive de-worming tablets and 3,000 pregnant and lactating women will get 540,000 doses of multivitamins.

In 2019, PEP and 38 NGOs will provide vitamin-A capsules to 34,500 children and albendazole to 130,000 children. 25,800 pregnant and lactating mothers will receive regularly multivitamins.

LONG-TERM IMPACT:

Child blindness among the rural poor will be greatly reduced, the percent of low-birth-weight babies, stunting and wasting of young children will also be reduced significantly in the rural areas covered by PEP and its partners. Likewise, mothers and the poor communities in general will gain awareness for the vital importance of simple activities within their control, such as mothers nursing the babies within the first hour after birth to feed them the colostrums.

With reduction of malnutrition and anemia among mothers and babies, the intellectual development impairment presently damaging the children's futures will be resolved, increasing the human capability of future generations of the rural poor.

BUDGET ON "HEALTHY MOTHERS AND HEALTHY BABIES IN BANGLADESH" FOR 2018

Sl.	Particulars	USD
1	Payment per year for 64 workers @ 25% total salary	\$26,000
2	Yearly cost for Dhaka Liaison Office staff	\$4,875
3	Meetings with PNGOs (30 persons per meeting): \$200 x 2	\$400
4	Training of 15 PNGOs @ \$75 x 15	\$1,125
5	Monitoring of 38 PNGOs by PEP & reporting	\$1,500
6	Medicine delivery expenses from port (airport & sea): \$155	\$155
7	Transporting medicines and travel cost of staff @ \$30 per month x 12 months	\$360
8	Workshops for PEP's staff in four districts \$200 x 4	\$800
	Total	\$35,215