



Ensuring Sustainable Nutrition for Mothers and Under-Fives:
Community-led MMS, ENAs & WASH in Africa, Asia, and Latin America

Project Brief (April 2023)

THP Global Alliance for Sustainable Nutrition (GASN)?

The Hunger Project (THP) Global Nutrition Initiative is a five-year strategy; which aims to combat undernutrition in women and children across communities, regions, and nations by empowering local communities to adopt multiple micronutrient supplementation (MMS), practice seven essential nutrition actions (ENAs), and implement water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) strategies.

THP has been laying the groundwork of this project with funding from the Latter-Day Saint Charity (LDSC) in order to reach 966,000+ people in Bangladesh, Benin, Mexico,



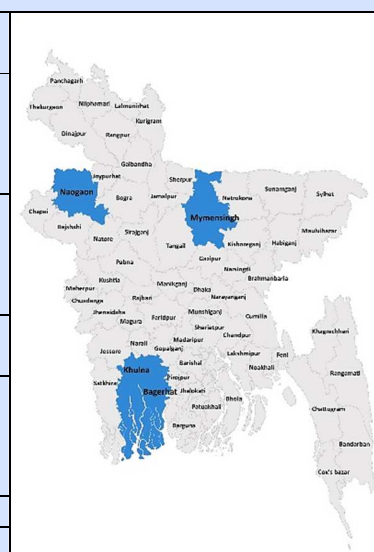
Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia in 2023. In the upcoming years, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Malawi will also be included in this initiative.

Duration of this initiative

March 2023 to February 2028

Working areas in Bangladesh

Division	District	Sub-district (Upazila)	No. of Unions	Union's Name
Rajshahi	Naogaon	Patnitola	11	Akbarpur, Amair, Krishnapur, Ghoshnagar, Dibar, Nazipur, Nirmail, Patnitola, Patichara, Matidhar, and Shihara
Mymensingh	Mymensingh	Mymensingh Sadar	7	Kustia, Bhavkhali, Ghagra, Dhapunia, Char Ishardia, Char Nilakhia, and Khagdahar
Khulna	Bagerhat	Shamkhola	4	Dhanshagor, Khontakata, Rayenda, Southkhali
		Fakirhat	8	Betaga, Lakhpur, Piljanga, Fakirhat Sadar, Bahirdia/Mansa, Naldha, Mulghar, Subhadia
	Khulna	Botiaghata	2	Botiaghata, Jolma
3 Divisions	4 Districts	5 Upazilas	32 Unions	



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Project rationale

- Currently, 828 million members of the human family experience chronic hunger on a global scale. These people are primarily women and children. Shockingly, 149.2 million of the children under the age of 5 (under-fives) are too short for their age (stunted), while 45.4 million are too thin for their age (wasted).¹ Bangladesh is one of the top 30 nations where widespread chronic hunger contributes to malnutrition.²
- Anemia during pregnancy in an undernourished woman is attributed to unfavorable birth outcomes such as preterm birth, low birth weight babies, and undernourished children.³ According to estimates, more than 40% of pregnant women suffer from anemia in Bangladesh.⁴ Therefore, it is essential to improve women's nutrition if we want to prevent childhood undernutrition.⁵
- Where preterm birth and low birth weight babies have been at high risk of developing childhood undernutrition,⁶ Multiple Micronutrient Supplementation (MMS) to pregnant mothers has been shown to reduce the risk and severity of preterm birth and low birth weight compared to no nutrient intervention and/or no iron and folic acid supplementation.
- Also, improvements in growth, anemia, and numerous micronutrient deficiencies in children under five have been demonstrated using a special MMS formulation.⁷
- Nutritional adequacy with sufficient quantity and quality of a variety of foods is still important, but it is lagging in many Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) like Bangladesh; because of access and financial issues. Due to this scarcity, MMS is a crucial, necessary, affordable, and supplementary intervention to enhance pregnancy and delivery outcomes among pregnant and lactating mothers.⁸

- In order to ensure health and nutrient

“The scale and consequences of undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia in adolescent girls and women are being overlooked and under recognized by families, society, governments, development and humanitarian communities, research and academia, media and the private sector. Unless decisive action is taken, we will collectively continue to fail adolescent girls and women, and jeopardize the survival, growth, development and well-being of their children”- UNICEF, 2023

absorption, THP in Bangladesh will reach 5,100+ pregnant women and 800+ undernourished children under-fives with MMS, directly and 5,04,247 populations indirectly with the ENAs, and WASH during the years 2023–2024.

- Expectant mothers and under-fives of target communities will both receive MMS under the brand names **Matrikona** (মাত্রিকোনা) and **Pushtikona** (পুষ্টিকোনা), respectively. The regulatory body of the Government of Bangladesh has already approved and adapted both MMS formulations.
- Throughout the project cycle, a comprehensive, gender-focused, and community-driven approach will be implemented, which continues to be the cornerstone of THP's SDG union strategy.

Ultimate goal

Transformation to a nutritionally self-reliant healthy community.

Long term impact

The long term (five-year and beyond) impact of the Ensuring Sustainable Nutrition Project is that all children grow up healthy and well

¹ [WHO, 2020](#)

² [World Hunger Index, 2019](#)

³ [Engidaye G, 2019](#)

⁴ [World Bank, 2019](#)

⁵ [UNICEF, 2023](#)

⁶ [Vir SC, 2016](#)

⁷ [Cornelius MS, 2005](#)

⁸ [The Lancet, 2022](#)

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nourished, enabled to reach their full potential and that women have access to full nutrition throughout their lifespan.

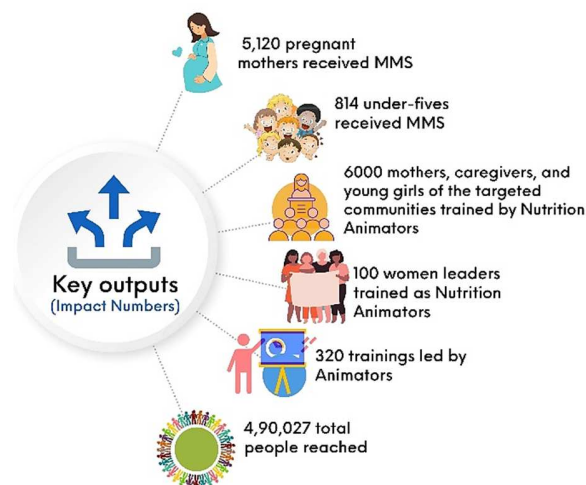
Outcomes

- Increased uptake of MMS among women;
- Improved access to and absorption of micronutrients among under-fives;
- Increased dietary diversity among women;
- Increased access to safe water and sanitations.

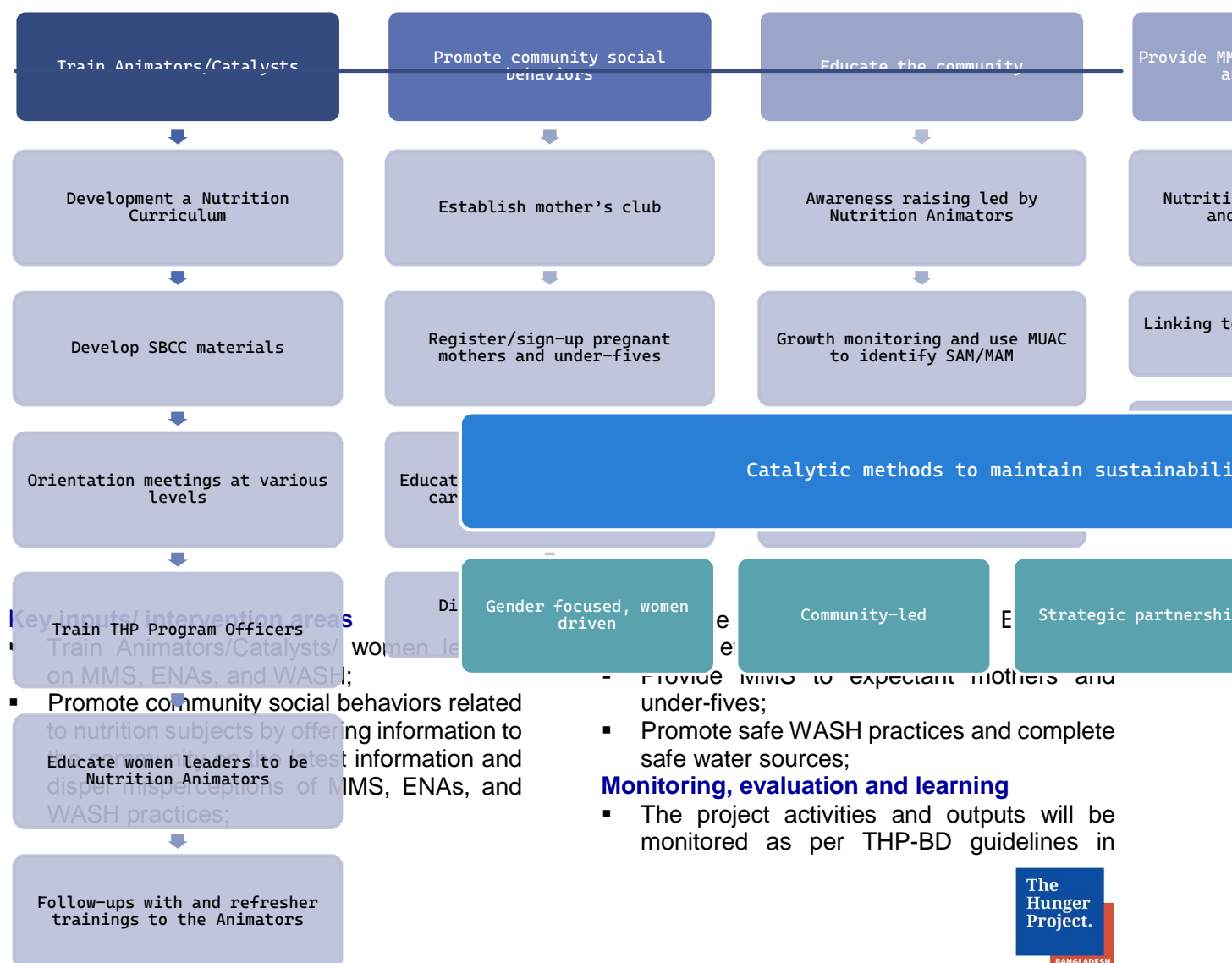
Intermediate outcomes

- Community know-how and access to MMS—rapidly and sustainably;
- Community know-how and needed resources in place to implement the seven ENAs;

- Community know-how and access to infrastructure for excellent WASH.



Intervention strategy



Key inputs/intervention areas

- Promote community social behaviors related to nutrition subjects by offering information to women leaders to be best information and Nutrition Animators

- Provide MMS to expectant mothers and under-fives;
- Promote safe WASH practices and complete safe water sources;

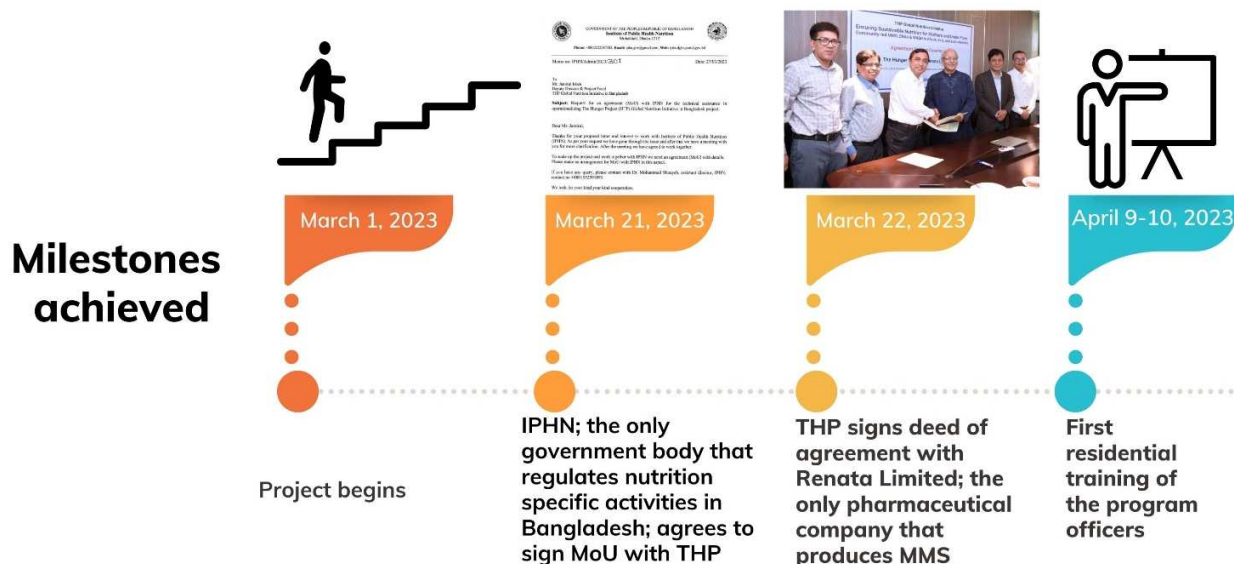
Monitoring, evaluation and learning

- The project activities and outputs will be monitored as per THP-BD guidelines in

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compliance with THP Global Monitoring and Evaluation Systems. The nature of the monitoring system will be participatory and community based. The monitoring of the activities will include regular collection of information, validate data, preserve photos, observation of events, and interview with trained participants, etc. Three levels of monitoring will be done with the participation of community, Region and National Offices. Based on the indicators we intend to collect real time data, two different forms to collect monitoring data for LDSC nutrition activities will be rolled out: 1) a general monitoring form and 2) a nutrition assessment & referral form.

- This project will continue to use cutting-edge MEL procedures to ensure that we transform the evidences gathered into meaningful and enduring change. This will monitor development, direct adjustments, and record unforeseen consequences (positive and negative). Most importantly, this will evaluate how the project will affect people's lives both now and in the future through uptalking the MMS as an urgent need. The government's acceptance of MMS in national nutrition policy and/or operation plans will be ensured by active monitoring and oversight of local government entities.



Project governance and learning

Overall, the project is looked-after by THP global team. The team comprises representatives from various sectors like project oversight, MEL and technical support, partnership development and guidance, grants and contracts, and procurement. The Country Director, Program Director, Director of Finance and Administration, and other members of the core staff play crucial advising roles in to the project in Bangladesh. A Team-lead, a Co-lead, a Technical Expert, Procurement & MEL Managers, Training Experts, Regional Coordinators, Nutrition Focals, Union Coordinators, and Nutrition Animators oversee field-implementation of the project.

The team will collectively work from and refine the project learning agenda through in-country efforts, as well as regular convening of multi-country teams for reflection, dialogue and knowledge capture. It will also convene expanded learning forums that may include the project donor, expert guests, and other stakeholders who can contribute to and benefit from these facilitated learning gatherings.

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