

Empower a Woman - Empower a Community

BGD-SYM-EWC-P02



Central Northern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment

Year 2 Budget \$20,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 22

JUN 23

Overview

Bangladesh has a population of 163 million people. 25% of people are living below the national poverty line and those living in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged. Rural areas are prone to frequent flooding often damaging crops, houses and infrastructure and spreading disease. This project aims to transform and equip rural communities by improving literacy through functional education (FE), economic empowerment and encouraging behavioural change. It focusses particularly on women, and their families, who are landless and illiterate. Self-help groups (SHGs) provide the structure for a range of development activities such as literacy and basic arithmetic, saving schemes for income generation activities (IGAs) and learning about important social and environment issues. Thirty children will also be integrated into mainstream education through pre-school support.

Impact for January - June 2023

10

Training for functional education graduates



Since completing the course and forming SHGs, the women have participated in awareness sessions and practical training in areas such as health, nutrition, child safety and caring for the environment. Training topics rotate through a 3-year cycle.

Preschool education continues

30 children currently attending the pre-school and are provided with books and learning materials. 6 monitoring visits have taken place in the last 6 months. Children and their guardians have been encouraged to establish regular study habits, practice good hygiene and be aware of health safety guidelines.

30



675

Income generation and regular savings



Of the 60 existing groups, 18 are inactive due to COVID and migration. The 42 remaining groups were recently assessed and audited – they all passed. Weaker groups are given extra guidance. They are depositing savings regularly with \$18,000 being saved in the last 6 months by 706 members across the groups. A great achievement! 675 group members have taken up income generating activities, rearing cows (203), goats (133), ducks/chickens (159) and 180 members are running small businesses or other endeavours.



Nilufa's Story

I am 48, a mother of three and educated to 8th grade before marrying. My husband is a farmer whose daily income is insufficient to support us. When staff recommended I join the FE class, I jumped at the opportunity. Since completing the course and forming a self-help group, I have learned so much about social issues and household finances. With my first loan I bought two goats. After selling them for a profit and repaying my loan, I bought a cow with a second loan, which I am repaying by selling the milk. I also started a clothing business and am raising chickens. My family is doing so much better now.



Thank you for making a difference