

Saving and growing together

BGD-FIA-SGT-P01



Southern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment

Total Budget \$15,500

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

OCT 20

SEP 21



Overview

More than 50% of the population in Bangladesh live below the poverty line and those living in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged. This project aimed to create 72 Self Help Groups (SHG) for saving money to generate capital and to invest in small business to earn additional income and sustainably overcome poverty. These 1300+ men and women meet weekly in their groups and receive training in economic development, agriculture, food security as well as gender and justice issues. Our partners are committed to building trust and confidence, disability inclusion, trying new things and learning from others, strengthening people-to-people links and ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance at all levels.

Objectives



72 SHGs formed & trained

Impact

72 SHGs and 8 apex Village Development Foundations (VDF) were formed, comprising 1384 women and men. The total savings generated were BDT 2,191,315 (\$34,230) and \$21,875 was distributed to 531 members as loans.



Capacity & awareness building

New income generating activities (IGAs) are running, training in leadership, managing SHGs, community economic development and health and hygiene as well as capacity building in advocacy for child, gender and disability rights.



A community role model

Ripa comes from a farming family and is a keen learner, achieving outstanding grades at her government school. She is also very aware of the need to help others. Our partner ran a workshop at her school on health, gender equality and the rights of children, the first time she and many adolescent girls like her had heard this taught. They were also educated on menstrual hygiene and the use of sanitary napkins and since then Ripa has been a strong advocate for these practices that promote healthy living. She is a role model to her community in so many ways.



Life change

- Long-term wellbeing and a model of change that is driven by transformation from within, especially in terms of gender balanced participatory leadership
- Self-Help Group members engaged in economic activities, have improved food security, social awareness and skill development, and increased income sources.
- Members educated on climate change impact and disaster risk reduction

