

Empower a Woman - Empower a Community

BGD-SYM-EWC-P01



Central Northern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 Budget \$20,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 21

JUN 24

Overview

Bangladesh has a population of 163 million people. Almost 25% of the people are living below the national poverty line and those living in rural areas are particularly disadvantaged. The area is highly 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 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 July - December 2021

200 8 month functional education course for 200



women, forming 10 groups, has commenced and members are progressing well. They are now onto the second course book and learning simple numeracy. 10 teachers also received training on functional education.

Preschool education for 24 children started

with COVID-safe measures in place. The children have received books and learning materials. 24 monitoring visits to the preschool (3-4/month) have maintained the high quality of care and teaching.

24



10 10 SHGs established for the 200 women



enrolled in FE course. 20 trained groups have started savings activities (Tk. 20 per week) and been provided with savings books, registers and loan books.

Capacity building of 60 existing SHGs

and 4 community based organisations (CBOs) helps strengthen management processes and practices in areas of compliance, business development, reporting, IGAs, communication, advocacy and networking. Groups also address social and cultural issues such as child marriage, dowries, hygiene and health and drug awareness.

- Primary health education, eye care and maternal child health care is also provided to the community.

60



Anoara's Story

When 56 year old Anoara Begum was widowed, her family was plunged into poverty, having insufficient land to cultivate. Her vision had been blurry for years but she could not afford any treatment and it made daily chores difficult. After attending the free eye clinic she had a cataract operation and was given new spectacles. Everything is now so clear, even things in the distance! Anoara was able to enrol in a functional education class and sewing training. Now that her vision is much better, she is earning an income, is respected in the community and her family is doing well.



Thank you for making a difference