

## Building our Future Together

BGD-FIA-BFT-P01



Southern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment

Budget \$31,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

APR 22

MAR 23

### Overview

This project focusses on the rural poor of Bangladesh who are particularly disadvantaged. It aims to strengthen the 72 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and establish them under the oversight of Village Development Foundations (VDFs), which will be registered with local authorities. This will help deliver a sound capital base to invest in small business and income generating activities. VDFs will be trained in leadership, management, communication, advocacy and financial capacity to empower them as agents of social change, to initiate business and build capacity of SHGs, including fostering their access to government resources and disability support services. The 1300+ SHG members meet weekly for training in economic development, agriculture, food security, gender and justice issues. The project also aims to organise children/youth into clubs promoting health, sport, recreation, leadership and education in child rights and protection.



### Minara's Story

Minara Begeum lives in a village with her husband (a farmer and occasional woodworker) and her three sons who are day labourers. During the rainy season they have no work. Minara joined a SHG a few years ago, becoming an active member and role model for the group. She has taken out four loans to start income generating activities such as duck/chicken/goat rearing. Her most recent loan helped her purchase a cow which will increase her family income through milk sales and also meet their nutritional needs. Other village members have been inspired by her example.

### Impact for April - September 2022



#### 72 Self Help Groups (SHG) were assessed

36 are performing strongly, 10 are emerging and the remaining weaker groups will be merged with others to achieve a strong field of groups across the board. 258 SHG members have taken out loans in the 6-month period to start businesses in chicken and duck or fish rearing, paddy cultivation and various small businesses.

#### Village Development Foundations (VDF)

100 (70 F, 30 M) VDF and SHG leaders received training in capacity building, social competence and leadership. 50 of them met with government and local civil representatives, which helps to establish good relationships.



#### 15 Linkage and Advocacy

15 elderly or disabled people have been assisted with obtaining government allowance cards - this work is ongoing. Training on disability rights, inclusion and child protection and advocacy on prevention of child marriage is planned for the next reporting period.

#### Social Clubs (SC) for Child Advocacy

4 new social clubs for adolescents were formed to help raise awareness of child rights, child labour and gender-based violence. 100 SC leaders received training.



Thank you for making a difference