

Empower a Woman - Empower a Community

BGD-SYM-EWC-P02



Central Northern Bangladesh



Economic Empowerment

Year 1 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 July - December 2022

200 8 month functional education for 200 women



from 10 SHGs has now finished and has given them the skills to write their name and address and do simple numeracy. Group activities and training is ongoing and enables women to develop their skills over time.

Preschool education for 30 children continues

at the preschool in Nobbochor Area. There were 6 monitoring visits over the report period. The high standard of care and teaching continues, with all students graduating (5 A grade, 20 B grade and 5 C grade). Well done to them!



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The 10 SHGs established for the 200 women



enrolled in the FE course meet on a monthly basis and are putting regular savings aside. Group members save a monthly average of \$1.45. 360 monitoring visits have been carried out for all groups, including newly established ones.

Capacity building of 60 existing SHGs

and 5 community based organisations (CBOs) continues to strengthen management processes. Two training sessions were held in the area of audit and assessments.

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- Loss of some staff and limitations to group monitoring due to COVID have meant a number of groups are inactive. These are being investigated to ascertain their future viability.



Bedena's Story

I am a mother of four children, ranging from 21 to 28, but due to our poverty my children were married before they finished school. We had no assets other than the little plot our house is on and a small amount of land for cultivating. My husband did not earn enough for adequate food and clothing, let alone education. After joining a savings group and education course, I gained a lot of knowledge and awareness and was trained in several income generating activities. I took out a loan for my husband and purchased an auto rickshaw and my son bought a bike from the income. They now earn around \$284 per month.



Thank you for making a difference