



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES:
Change STORIES of
World Vision in Bangladesh

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We hope that we may continue to call upon the expertise of these and other valued colleagues in the year to come.

Foreword

World Vision Bangladesh is happy to share this fourth version of its story book – ‘Connecting Communities: Change Stories of World Vision Bangladesh’ telling of the impact and results of WVB’s work in Bangladesh amongst the people and communities that we serve throughout the country by these small stories.

These real life stories tell of transformation and hope in the lives of children, families and communities, and how World Vision Bangladesh is moving towards the realization of achieving the ‘Wellbeing of all children’ in collaboration with its partners from both home and abroad.

This volume contains fourteen short tales of achievements by children and their determination to become high achievers by overcoming all odds and obstacles in their lives.

It is our earnest hope that readers will find this story book inspiring, exciting, and encouraging as real life stories of transformation and change in lives of children are narrated by their own words.

World Vision Bangladesh is happy to be part of this journey.

Fred Witteveen
National Director
World Vision Bangladesh

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Akhi's returning to school again

Story by:
Monoshi Patwary

At the age of going to school, Akhi, 15, was working as a housemaid. She looked at her school going friends with eyes full of despair and thought if her family would ever overcome the crisis and she can start education again.

Once upon a time Akhi also used to go to school. But a terrible accident changed everything. Her father was a rickshaw-puller and her mother was a housemaid. One day, while pulling rickshaw he got a terrible accident. The consequence of the accident was really bad. Its treatment was expensive and lengthy. Their family was not able to bear the huge cost. So, Akhi's father had to take rest in bed for a long term. Her mother was working as a housemaid but left her to take care of her father.

Due to this situation, Akhi, her eldest sister and youngest brother had to stop their studies for poverty. Then, Akhi took a job as maid where her mother worked earlier and tried to meet up their minimum needs with her earning. But the job was hazardous for her and very often the house owner misbehaved with her.

“***I will continue my education to be a doctor. says Akhi in bold voice.***”

A partner organization of “Empowering Working Children Project” named as “Tarongo” announced a sewing training course for girls aged 14 to 18 years in the community. Akhi heard this opportunity and applied for this training program. She was not only selected as a candidate for the sewing training course but had performed really well in the 4 months and 15 days long training. She has been rewarded with a sewing machine after completing the course successfully. So, she could earn money by making clothes and financially support her family and side by side she could also continue her study.

Now, Akhi earns monthly Tk 500 to 800 (USD\$ 6 to 10). And, its great news that the physical condition of Akhi's father has improved a lot and he is now working in a shop where selling fire wood and getting Tk. 3500 (USD \$ 45). And, her mother joined her previous job instead of Akhi.

After quitting the job Akhi has been admitted to her school again and doing really well in the class. Last year, Akhi has received grade A in her final exam. She was very happy to get the result. She shared with eyes full of dream, “I will continue my education to be a doctor”.

Now, her younger brother studies in Grade 3 and her eldest sister works at home and learns sewing from Akhi.

“I am very grateful to EWC (Empowering Working Children) Project, World Vision Bangladesh and Tarongo Office (Partner of World Vision) for their support towards our family especially for Akhi which has taught our daughter a new way.” expressed Akhi's mother.

Akhi also expressed about her another wish, “If possible I will readmit my eldest sister in school because without education there is no success in life”.



Moving towards a healthy life

Story by:
Jefiraj Dolon Kubi

Kabita Rani is a poor inhabitant of Muktagacha Upazila, one of the remote areas in Mymensingh district. Her husband Nirranjan Chandra is a daily wage earner, having limited income to feed and maintain his family healthy. Kabita Rani was registered under Community based Positive Deviance/hearth program in World Vision's project in Muktagacha South ADP during 2008 as a mother of a malnourished child. At the time of registration her four years old daughter Rupa was found in the worst condition of health, looking very weak and severely malnourished.

"I have two children. I often feel myself helpless to feed my children properly because my family lacks resources and has not sustainable source of income. As a mother, I always remain more concerned about my children's health rather than my own", said Kabita. "I also did not have adequate knowledge about breast feeding and also child parenting.", she added.

“ We are enjoying three meals a day, even can buy and pay educational and other necessary expenses for my children. says Kabita. ”

In the PD-Hearth sessions she was provided with hands-on learning on preparing porridge with low-cost locally available nutritious vegetables for her daughter Rupa and about the best usage of the food as well as about good basic health practices.

After one month of her participation at PD/hearth nutrition program, her daughter's paleness was substantially reduced. Rupa is now a happy and active kid, benefiting from good health and nourishment.

By the time, Kabita appealed for her daughter and got herself enrolled in sponsorship program. Rupa is now twelve years old and is studying in grade seven in a local school. As a registered child, she is supported by educational materials, blanket, jug, mosquito net etc.

But, Kabita's hardships did not end yet. It became more acute, when she became mother of her second child Dipto, who is now five-year old and a participant of World Vision led Early Childhood Care and Development center (ECCD) under Muktagacha ADP.

As two of Kabita's children were attending World Vision's program, she also joined in a development group functioning under its economic development project in 2012. She attended capacity development training on livestock rearing conducted by the ADP and received a cow as input support after successful completion of the training.

"The training was like a blessings to me and turned into a good success for us", explained Kabita.

Kabita articulated in a joyful manner that "Now I feel quite better and all worries have gone away. I am very happy because our financial condition is now much improved than before I can take care of my children and husband with better food and other daily necessities".

She cherishes a dream to buy land and build their own home there. She as well dares to dream for higher education of her children.



Growing vegetables at home enhances health and incomes

Story by:
Susomay Mankhin



“We passed our days in miserable condition. We couldn't manage our expenses without debt from others”, says Manota Rani, a successful woman entrepreneur of homestead gardening business from Bosnova village of Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila, the northern part of Bangladesh.

It was two-year back, when Manota and her husband had to struggle a lot with their three young daughters to have at least one-time meal. They even did not have any social dignity as they were poor and vulnerable with only five decimal of land for their dwelling house and no cultivable lands. Manota's elder daughter Bithi, 8, is a registered child of World Vision and studies in grade I in a local government primary school at Bosnova village. “Sometimes I went to school without eating food, but now I am going to school with having meal and my parents can provide us foods as well as clothes and pen, pencil and school tiffin, so I am happy very happy.” said Bithi, Manota's eldest daughter.

“Manota said, 'I don't need to look behind. I also want to continue my family development through vegetable cultivation and cow rearing. I am very grateful to World Vision for its support.’”

That time, World Vision's project in Thakurgaon Area Development Program (ADP) extended different income generation opportunities for the ultra-poor households through its community development program. Manota joined in a solidarity group supported by World Vision's Thakurgaon ADP in 2014 and started her journey with World Vision. In the same year, she attended a training facilitated by the Department of Agriculture Extension and received seeds for highly nutritious vegetables of pumpkin, bottle guard, red amaranth and other seasonal vegetables as input support for her homestead garden.

Soon, she started her vegetable garden in a borrowed land and began to produce a large amount of vegetables which helps the family to meet its food requirements, as well as adding to their dietary diversity. After three months, they produced a plenty amount of variety of vegetables and earned profit of BDT. 7,000 [USD 90]. She was able to quickly repay the loan to the moneylender, earn enough for her family's daily needs, and pay their children's school tuition.

“With the assistance of training and input support from World Vision, we cultivated variety of vegetables in the same land.

Before, we did not know that. We ate vegetables if we had the money to buy them. But now, we can get them from our home gardens. Our land has changed a lot with the program which made us happy.” said Manota's husband.

Manota also participated in a livestock rearing training conducted by World Vision and received a heifer as input support. Now, she gets 1-1.5 liter milk from the cow which she sells in the nearby markets after own consumption and earns BDT 45-50 [cent 57-64] per day. With the profit of their homestead business she repaired her house and installed a tube-well to get safe drinking water for her family and children. Even more, she started a saving scheme in the solidarity group and is depositing BDT 1,200 [USD 15] per month for saving money for their children's future for sending them to higher education. She is also planning to expand her vegetable cultivation business and expecting more profit from livestock rearing. She is also assisting others with her best efforts and skills to start their own vegetable garden. And many of them have also come up with success.



From sponsorship to success

Story by:
Biplab Clement Mondal

In a small village in Dinajpur district Habiba lives along with her parents and three sisters where most of the families depend on agriculture farming as their main livelihood option. Her father who is a daily wage earner is the sole bread earner to maintain large six-member family. They only have a piece of land for their homestead.

Habiba is now eight years eleven month old and studying in Grade 3 in a local school. She is enjoying her study and wants to be a teacher in future. But all these were not so easy for Habiba even a couple of years ago. She even could not think that one-day she can again start to go to school, which was stopped as her parents were unable to pay their educational expenses. As a result, Habiba along with her elder sisters were pulled out of their school. As their mother also had to join with her father to labor in other's agricultural lands, Habiba and her sisters had to remain at home doing all household

“ We never get marriage our daughter before 18, rather we will make them well educated for their bright future.” says Habiba's parents. ”

chores. Her elder sisters were always so upset for this situation. At that time, World Vision's project in Biral Area Development Program came as the light of hope in their life. Habiba enrolled in World Vision's child sponsorship program under Biral Area Development Program in 2010. As a registered child, Habiba received blanket, mosquito net, jug, educational materials etc. through sponsorship management project. She also shared her things which she receives from the ADP with her elder sisters so that they can continue their study.

More, as a part of World Vision's child sponsorship program, the ADP arranged skill development training for parents of sponsored children to support them for sustainable livelihoods and increased income through receiving useful skill training and income generating opportunities. And so, Habiba's mother also received livestock rearing training and was assisted with a cow as input support after successful completion of the training. The milk is now the main source of protein and nutrition. More, income from the sale of the rest of the milk helps her to contribute in family expenses. Habiba's mother says that, 'My youngest daughter is suffering

from malnutrition. So, having milk everyday help her to get well and healthy soon'.

ADP also supported Habiba's family with providing a household sanitary latrine. Habiba says, 'I am happy that I don't need to go outside any more, now we have own toilet. It's more comfortable for me to use and safe from diseases.'

More, as a sponsored child family, Habiba and her parents attended various awareness gathering, workshop, seminar and training on different issues related to social, and right based issues.

Through the child sponsorship program, World Vision also gave Habiba's family the opportunity, guidance and support to improve the food self-reliance status through improved home gardens, nutrition training and increased community participation in development. "Long live wWorld Vision and we pray and hope that they will continue to work for long time to bring sustainable development for the poor and helpless people in the community", said Habiba's parents smilingly.



New beginning of Mina Bibi

Story by:
Endricus Murmu

“It makes me sad when I recall the past days of my life. My husband was the only earning source. So, it became quite impossible for him to bear all the expenses of the family with his poor income.” says Mina Bibi with a deep breath. Mina Bibi, 37, along with her husband Md. Afshur Ali, 45 and her only 13-year-old child Santo is living in a small village under Tanore upazila. Md. Afshur Ali earns wages by working as an agriculture farmer in other’s field. Their son Santo is studying in grade 5 in a local school. Mina Bibi hoped to educate her child, so that, one day he will be grown up and mitigate their family crisis through his earning and they will live with dignity in the community like others. But, her wish to educate her son was diminishing day-by-day due to their financial hardships. Finding no other way she tried to find out income generating source but failed.

“**Surely I can bring back our happiness through a secured financial status if I can continue this profitable duck rearing initiative which is now a pave of making good money by selling eggs every day in local market. expressed Mina Bibi**”

“My son was continuously being deprived from his basic needs like good food, clothes and treatment. Because of this vulnerability villagers also disgraced us.” said Mina.

In 2016, she has been selected as a beneficiary of poultry rearing training hosted by Tanore ADP, World Vision Bangladesh. She has participated in a three-day training facilitated by Upazila Livestock Officer that helped her and later she came to know how to make good duck rearing scheme. Right after the training, she was supported by World Vision with 33 ducks to start the business. Later, she also purchased another two ducks. Now she is rearing 35 ducks and among them 12 ducks lay eggs. Everyday she collects at least 12 eggs and sells those in local market. She can now earn BDT 7,000 (83.13 US\$) per month which really makes her proud and has brought back her confidence.

She spends 30% money of her income for the betterment of her children’s education, health and treatment.

She has collected 765 eggs and earned 6,885.00 BDT from source of only duck rearing initiatives. She is very thankful to

World Vision for their cooperation and support to her. Community people are also encouraged to take duck rearing business as their small scale income generation activities as they are witnessing her success.

“Surely I can bring back our happiness through a secured financial status if I can continue this profitable duck rearing initiative. I also want to expand my duck rearing initiative so that I can have good profit and make better contribution for my family as well as my child” Expressed by Mina Bibi.

Now I am confident enough to secure a sustainable livelihood through poultry rearing.” says Mina Bibi smilingly. Terming duck rearing as a profitable small scale business for women, Mina Bibi continued and shared that she would like to expand her poultry business. The business, “I think”, continued Mina Bibi “can have good profit and better contribution for my family and children as well.”



Well-known women in the village

Story by:
Md. Mohsin Ali

Kulsum Begam is a well-known tailor to all villagers now. Everybody knows where her house is just because of her popularity which she earned by her hard labour and fine delivery of each items she stitches.

Kulsum, the mother of two children lives with her husband in kishamotdogachi, a village under Nilphamari district. As, her husband was the only earner of the family. So the income was not sufficient to bear all the expenses of the family. Kulsum says, "Earlier it was very difficult for us to continue education of my children. We needed to face a number of various difficulties to handle everyday."

“

My children love me very much. All villagers know me as a success woman for my sewing and treat me with respect" says Kulsum Begam.

”

Kulsum now has overcome the miserable situation. From Nilphamari Sadar ADP she received a three months sewing training that changed her life. After that, she started practicing tailoring at her community and now has become the financial contributor of her family. "I am now beginning to build my business career and plan to develop my skill in this field in order become more proficient." says Kulsum Begam, "Now I am so much confident in my job and am able to independently support in my family." he added.

She is doing regular income from her business. She is earning at least US\$ 50-60 per month which helps her to bear the expenses of education of children and medical care of the family. She has taken 15 decimal land as lease where her

husband is cultivating rice. Now the family can meet the nutritional needs. The couple also repaired their dwelling house with 5 decimal of land which they took as a loan. Not only that Kulsum is saving some money every year for two years. The condition of the family is much well-off than before.

Kulsum Begam feels better to earn regularly from her sewing business. She says, "I am so much delighted to see my children to grow healthy and with smile. Though it was a great challenge for us to provide support to my children, now I feel comfort to face this challenge successfully".

"Now I am so much confident in my job and am able to independently support in my family." Kulsum says happily.



Samirun, a successful women entrepreneur

Story by: Shabir Hussain

From her childhood she is well acquainted with the scourge of poverty. For many days, we went to sleep in starving”, recalls Samirun. Also due to extreme poverty, Samirun couldn't continue her study after Grade 5 and got married at her early age. Soon after her marriage Samirun got involved with her household chores at her in-laws house. During that time, she had a scope to work with one of her neighbors, who offered her some sewing works. The work was to fix button holes, buttons and hooks manually. Through these works, she could earn a very little amount, of 100 taka (\$1.29) per month.

In the meantime, World Vision under its Dhaka Shishu ADP conducted a beneficiary selection survey and selected Samirun as one of the beneficiary. Then she received “Functional Literacy” and “Development Education”. Literacy & Development Education training is to identify the ultra-poor household for its financial literacy and developed education programme.

“

I feel empowered, when I earn money and can spend it for the wellbeing of my child. I do not want my child to work hard like me, but I will provide education to award her a better future, Samirun says.

”

She later joined in a CBO and participated in different skill development trainings including primary health, food, nutrition, personal hygiene, parental care and tailoring training conducted by World vision in partnership with Dhaka Ahsania mission. Everyday Samirun had to walk long 5 km from her home to attend the training. She completed the training successfully and received a sewing machine from World Vision Bangladesh.

She also receives skill development training from World Vision's Urban Value Chain Project.

With the encouragement from her husband and neighbors, she also enrolled in CBO's “Mini Garments Project” and received “Garment Machine Operation” training recently from a local training institute, funded by World Vision. Since her engagement with CBO in 2006, Samirun continued saving small amount day by day, which totals a handsome

amount today taka 17664(\$230). She wants to spend this money for the education of her two children.

Now Samirun lives in a small slum in Dhaka city with her husband Md. Jalal and two children, daughter Sumaiya Akter Mim, 13, reading in grade 2 and 2-year-old son, Siyam Hossain. I want to buy an electric sewing machine and grow my business by opening my own tailoring shop”- says Samirun.

Samirun started her tailoring works at home, which has resulted to her increased income by earning 3,500-4,000 Tk (USD 44-50) per month. Through fundamental education training, she now has improved her reading and writing skills. All these has turned Samirun a caring mother and also an empowered woman and a role model to other women in her community.



Suma's success in poultry farming

Story by:
Sunil Kumar Mridha

My future plan is to establish a small poultry farm with 1500 hens and continuing chicken production for a regular income source of my family'. says Suma Akter, 22, a housewife living in a village of Mymensingh Sadar Upazila.

Though Suma Akter knew that for better growth and development children need nutritious food like egg, meat and milk, but she and her husband Md. Nasir Miah, 35, could never afford those foods for her child. As Md. Nasir Miah works as an assistant of a mason and his little monthly income which is BDT 4500 –5000 (US \$ 58 –64) is really not enough to meet up all the family needs. They had no alternative source of income also.

“**Suma akter said with a big smile, “My dream is to educate my children with higher education.”**”

But, when Suma Akter got selected as a beneficiary of Sundor Jibon (NICE LIFE) project her life started to change. She received a seven-days training on goat and poultry rearing from the project. From the training she not only learnt how to breed, feed, take care and manage the goat and poultry hens and chicken, but also the marketing, preparation, preservation, storage, consumption of animal based food. After completing the training successfully she received 15 chicken of Sonali breed, 3 goats along with 5 month's food, one goat stall and one poultry shed on March 2015.

Earlier she couldn't feed her children an egg per day but now she gets 8 eggs per day on average from 13 hens. After fulfilling the nutritional needs of the children she sells the rest of the eggs. She is also producing chicks by native chicken. Her husband also helps her in selling by carrying these eggs and chicken to the local market. By selling the eggs and chicken she buys meat and fruits for her children as these are also important to meet the nutritional demand. She also got this knowledge from the training provided by the NICE LIFE. Now, her children are becoming healthy and fit.

Suma Akter was strategic to enhance the poultry business. So she implemented all her learning she received from the training in her work. At first, she bought more Sonali pullet with the money she got by selling 8 goats worth BDT.32000 (380 US\$) and started Sonali pullet rearing in her small homestead area. And, after investing the money twice her net profit was Tk. 8990 (106.76 US\$). Now, it is the third time she is investing and her expected profit is BDT.9958 (106.76 US\$).

She also added, “the NICE LIFE project has taught me how to change my life by poultry farming. Now I have some practical knowledge on poultry rearing and also some knowledge on health and nutrition that I have gained from training sessions” She is very happy because she can vaccinate her chickens, can rear chicks for pullet production. She also can do marketing as well as keep record for her mini poultry farm.

Her daughter Santa Akter, 6, goes to school and she bears the expense without any struggle. Besides providing nutritional food to the children, she is also saving money. Till now her savings is BDT.12000 (142.50 US\$).



Women of Chantinali: The pioneer to change

Story by:
Shantanu Kumar Saha

“Rita hardly could speak in front of strangers. Even she does not have any education, only can write her name. But now she is speaking boldly with the Union Parishad Chairman and Members for her rights.” says Chandana Mali, 22, a facilitator working for EVPRA project at Chantinali.

Rita Mali, 35, is the inhabitant of Chantinali, a small village of Joypurhat district. World Vision is working there through Establishing Vulnerable Peoples’ Rights and Access to social safety net programme since 2016. The total population of the village is about fourteen thousand. 50 per cent of them are from ethnic minority and the rest are from non-ethnic minority groups. Economically 80 per cent people of Chatinali are most vulnerable and their lives mostly depend on working as day labor where a substantial proportion of the population having access to very limited assets as well as employment.

“ **Poli Mali the third daughter of Rita, a student of Grade 6 says, “Now we can eat rice in each meal and we get khata and pen timely.”** ”

Rita’s family also belongs to the most vulnerable one. Her husband Nikhil Mali worked in a saloon at Chatinali Bazar and earned very minimum to maintain his six membered family including 4 daughters. Moreover, suffering from peptic ulcer for last two years, most of his earning was spent for his medicine. So Rita look for a work tirelessly. But it was very challenging to get a job especially for Rita as working spaces for women were limited at her community. Besides, due to lack of enough skill and education, her employment opportunity was limited and did not get any sort of protection from government. In the meantime, her family could not manage two time meals a and could not provide any support for her daughters with educational expenses and even with tiffin at school.

Rita recalls, “When my husband was seriously sick we had to sell our last piece of land, our house for his treatment. We took shelter at other’s land, even spent several nights under open sky.” Holding her tears she keeps saying, “Most of the days we had no money to buy food for my daughters. Almost every day I had to beg or borrow rice from neighbors.” Life was inhuman and intolerable for each one of them. But situation started to change when World Vision stepped at her door through EVPRA project.

This project is advocating with respective Social Safety Net Programmes departments and public representatives in order to reach SSNP entitlement by the most vulnerable

and ethnic minority as it is their constitutional rights. It also intends to create mass awareness on rights and access to SSNPs and basic human rights.

After being a member for the first time Rita came to know about Social Safety Net Programmes a set of public measures, which a country provides for its citizen to protect from economic and social hardships.

Primarily EVPRA project prepared a capacity building plan for the CSO at Chatinali to empower them and trained their members to become more capable and skilled for effective communication and negotiation with local government officials for their entitlement. Rita is one of the lucky CSO members who consequently getting the support from EVPRA project through mentoring, involving with different awareness and other capacity building events. As a result, she is now well-educated on SSNPs entitlement, policy and procedures. All members including Rita are indeed capable to claim their entitlement to the service providers that is one of the objectives of the project.

Accordingly Rita Mali also was advised to go to union chairman and to claim her entitlement. In February 2017, Rita Mali went to Aolai Union Parishad chairman Mr. Abdur Razzak Mondal and told her vulnerability and claimed her entitlement for SSNP services. For the first time Rita stepped out to claim on her constitutional rights, with a hope of life for her children.

She was able to explain the UP chairman boldly that she is eligible for SSNP services. Finally the Chairman was abridged to give her opportunity of Food For Work service (40 days employment generation activities). Then Rita enlisted with 40 days employment generation activities for two terms.

In this support of 40 days employment generation programme, for 10 days, she is earning BDT.1750 (20.78 US\$) in her hand and depositing BDT. 250 (2.97 US\$) in her bank account as savings. Rita is really happy with this income. She can spend money to give support for arranging three times meals for her children. She is delighted to think that she can provide money for tiffin and other educational expense of her 4 daughters as could not do it before. Rita is hopeful that she will be very soon able to clear her family loan too.

Story from EVPRA project funded by EU - European Commission



EDUCATION



Dreaming to be a police officer

Story by:
Mintu Biswas

“It was so tough for me to work 6 to 7 hours daily” says a 16-year-old girl Toma. She lives in a village under Kishoreganj Upazila with her parents and siblings (one brother and three sisters). Her father is a small entrepreneur in Kishoreganj Bazar and her mother is a housewife.

When Toma was in grade 3, she was pulled out from her school due to financial crisis. Then, she managed a job as a house assistant to support her family needs. “I was not allowed to have leisure time and I even never bothered about that!” said Toma in deep sorrow.

One day she heard about WW’s non-formal education programme”. She expressed her interest to her mother to get enrolled in the programme and finally enrolled in the NFE programme run by Natun Jiboner Asha Project of WVB. Toma was very promising and

“**Toma smiled and said, “My mother was always beside me and I am fully confident that I will become a police officer and serve the country with love.**”

showed her excellence with good result. She promoted in third cycle after gaining grade-A in examination. Toma is very much enthusiastic to study more and more. She is also a good reader and a good singer. Her classmates and the facilitators also love her very much. While studying in the NFE centre she used to continue her work as a maid side besides her study as she was required to support her family. But the house owner was bit relaxed that time as he was positive about Toma’s study.

In the parents gathering session organized by the project her parents got orientation on the negative effects of child labour. Project facilitators also regularly visited their house and talked with her parents on the importance of education. So, her mother was very much positive to send her daughter to NFE center regularly.

After completion of her study in Kamarpara NFE center she pursue her higher study in grade 9 in Kishoreganj Girls’ High School in 2015. In 2017 she appeared in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination and obtained GPA-5 (Grade Point Average). And now, Toma dreams to be a police officer.

Since her father is a seasonal fruit business man. So the project provided seasonal fruit like: Banana, Apple, guava to him as input support. By this support her father earned money and supported Toma to continue her study. “Thanks World Vision Natun Jiboner Asha, because I could not dream of becoming a police officer, if they did not support me” said Toma and greeted World vision smilingly.

Story from Natun Jiboner Asha project funded by WV Germany



Musleha scripts a success story in dairy farming

Story by:
Shajal Ignatius Gomes and
Hirok Gomes

A stay-home mother of two children, Musleha Begum is a dweller of a rural community of Bhaluka Sadar Upazila of Mymensingh district, situated in mid-northern part of Bangladesh. She belongs to a poor family without sufficient land for cultivation and access to any source of income. While struggling economically and socially, she found rays of hope when she met Hasna, a World Vision's facilitator works in her community. She told Musleha about World Vision's non-profit group based program that works at local level to improve life of residents as well as women empowerment.

Then, in 2006 she joined a World Vision supported development group under its project in Bhaluka Area Development program. Gradually she flourished herself in a quite bigger forum and joined 'Shathi Bohumukhi Somobay Sommitte', a Community based Organization (CBO) assisted also by World Vision in 2011. At present, the CBO has a total savings of BDT 7,00,000 [USD 8750] with per head savings of BDT 3500- 4000 [USD 44- 50]. All of the CBO members together bought a piece of land and has constructed their CBO building there.

“As a household cook and mother, I feel proud as I can serve three-time meal to my kids and family members.” says Musleha

Recently, in 2014 Musleha joined Hasna Hena Krishi Mohila Unnoyon Dol, a development group working in Kachina village, in one of the working areas of World Vision's Bhaluka Area Development Program. While started, World Vision extended guidance and other necessary technical support to the group. After then, the ADP extended capacity building support to the group member through conducting different trainings on small scale trades like homestead gardening, poultry and livestock rearing, sewing etc. to enhance their sustainable livelihood and social protection.

In addition, Musleha and other group members also took part in different orientations programs on child rights, disaster management, nutrition, proper water, sanitation and hygiene practice, safe motherhood and birth registration conducted by the ADP. Musleha also received several capacity building opportunities on homestead gardening, poultry rearing and sewing training including livestock farming training provided by World Vision.

She felt very confident on herself and started livestock rearing business with the cow which she received as input support after the training. After one year, the cow gave birth of a heifer and she handed over to the other member of the group as per the training condition, She again had a heifer and sold the heifer at BDT 92,000 [USD 1150].

At the same year she took a loan from CBO and started a grocery shop. Now she earns BDT 12000 (142.20USD) per month as net profit from the shop.

From this income she can now contribute to the cost for children's education and other household expenses. She feels proud because she can now serve three times meal to her kids.

“It won't be possible for us to survive if we did not get support from World Vision. They make us aware about women friendly economic opportunities like livestock farming to change the way of our living” said Musleha smilingly.

“Being a part of World Vision’s programme is the milestone for my economic and social empowerment. And so I am able to contribute in promoting my family and social harmony” recalls Musleha proudly.

As the future looks bright, Musleha continues to dream for higher education of her children who wants to be a doctor in future. She newly constructed her dwelling house with improved sanitation and safe drinking water facilities. Besides, she is cultivating fish in her own pond and now able to meet nutritious diet for her children and family. Musleha also explained that, “Social harmony in her village has also been increased. This has become only possible because of WV’s programme to empower community women like her. Thus in turn resulted in increase social interaction and mutual trust among men and women in the community.” says Musleha.

Story from Bhaluka AP funded by WV Germany



EDUCATION



Kohinur means diamond

Story by:
Nelson Nokrek

“I could not control my tears when I heard the good news of my result.” shared Kohinur, 16, a registered child of Nazirpur ADP. Kohinur was born in an extreme poor family where there are many challenges for growing up in life. Her father is a daily wage earner and the only bread earner of the family. But that income was too meager to maintain the expense of her study and family also. As the insolvnt condition has always been a challenge for her, this as well as interrupts her regular study and also made her sad. By that time, his father heard from a WVB community volunteer about World Vision’s child Sponsorship Programme. Then Kohinur became registered under Sponship programme of Nazirpur ADP.

“ Participating in the World Vision programs I learned much about child rights and child protection issues. I am greatly encouraged to continue my study.” said Kohinur

Being in Sponsorship Project, Kohinur was admitted in school and was grown up through participating in World Vision’s activities. Before getting engaged in Sponsorship Project Kohinur’s family members were not much aware about education, safe drinking water and cleanliness. She said, “Participating in World Vision programmes I have learnt much about child rights and child protection issues. Now also feel happy and encouraged to continue my study” Her father also expressed his feeling, “We are really fortunate that we have been saved from the vulnerable

condition and now are happy lives.” “We also had the opportunity to receive different awareness and capacity buidling training provided by World Vision.” he added. “The enormous progress of my daughter is a great contribution of World Vision. Really we are grateful and thankful to the sponsor and Nazirpur ADP of World Vision.” he continues, “Kohinur is now studying in grade six in a local high school. She also secured a good result in per Primary School Certificate (PSC) exam with GPA-5. She dreams to achieve a great success in future.”

Story from Nazirpur AP supported by WV France



The real soldier of agriculture

Story by:
Shubash Joyder

The proverb, “God helps those who help themselves” has come true in the life of Md. Abu Bakkar Siddik, a member of Integrated Crop’s Management Committee and as the father of World Vision’s Registered Child Emon. 16 July 2017 is the most memorable day of his life. In this day he was awarded as a bronze medalist and received the award from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for his best SME entrepreneurship for developing agriculture business

In 2010, he along with 24 small farmers were included in the ICM Committee members and received training on climate sensitive crop cultivation, Integrated Crop Management and local value chain. They got a power tiller, net, vegetable seeds GI cable, fertilizer as input support. The training has opened his eyes and a new way of livelihood for him also. He with other ICM members started cultivating vegetable in unused land which remained under tidal water throughout the year. The land also

“*“I dream that the unemployed youth including girls will be interested in agriculture and I will try my best to draw their attention.”*”

blessed him in every season. They also established a good business relationship and market network with local government, seed and fertilizer dealers and market actors as well which also help them to move ahead to the next step of success.

He says that his struggles started from his childhood. After completing his SSC exam, he was supposed to stop his education because of poverty. Finding no other way, he had gone to the honorable Minister of Environment and Forest Mr. Anwar Hossain Monzu. After hearing his misery and seeing his eagerness to education, the Minister admitted him to the local Govt. College without any expenses. When he was studying in BA, he gone to Chittagong and took a job as packing man in a garments factory. But he did not stop his education. He continued his study by himself after his duty. After completing his education, he joined as senior teacher in a local madrasa (religious school). The remuneration (1735/- or 21.43\$ dollar tk only) he got was not enough for him for

leading a seven members family. So he started farming in his leisure. But it was very tough to cultivate in his area because of the salinity of the soil and tild water that overflowed the land. Moreover SIDR destroyed his cultivable lands with the saline sea water. So when he was trained to cultivate using the new technology ‘hanging beds’ using the unused land he got huge success. He is also providing e-service to the community farmers using the mobile technology. Abu Bakkar has become a role model among farmers in course of time. “I am really very happy, even I can’t express my feeling in words. My dream has come true”, said Abu Bakkar, “I am very grateful to my family members, World Vision Bangladesh, Upazila Agriculture Extension Department, local journalists and the ICM Committee members for their kind support to me”. Abu Bakkar, the father who once struggled to feed full meal to his three children after the SIDR, is cultivating field after field with food grains for hundreds of children in his area.