Progress Report

entrust foundation

Women Rising from Poverty

BGD-SYM-WRP-P01

Central Northern Bangladesh

Economic Empowerment

3 Year Project: Oct 2024 to Sept 2027

Budget Year 1: $29,000

Overview

Bangladesh, with a population of 163 million, faces significant poverty, especially in rural regions where nearly a quarter of the population lives below the national poverty line. Frequent floods in these areas cause severe damage to homes, crops, and infrastructure, and increase the risk of disease. This project supports and strengthens rural communities by advancing literacy through practical education, establishing self-sustaining groups, promoting economic growth, and encouraging shifts in behaviour for long-term improvement.

Impact for October 2024 - September 2025

41

All women in the 41 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have received literacy and numeracy training

They sustain themselves through member savings and internal lending - reducing dependency on external funds - and are maintaining regular audit and reporting systems.

20 latrines were constructed this year

ensuring that 125 family members can utilize them to uphold hygiene standards. 50 timber and 500 fruit saplings were distributed amongst members as part of the effective enviromental management program.

20

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The 41 SHGs belong to 5 Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

4 CBOs are now officially registered with the Dept of Women Affairs, ensuring access to govt resources and legitimacy. CBOs conduct their own meetings, maintain documentation, and report independently. They now manage their own savings, income-generating activities (IGAs), and community initiatives without direct project support. 25 leaders were trained in management, audit, communication and reporting.

Determining community needs and targeting the most vulnerable households

A socio economic baseline survey among 3000 households, social mapping and FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) in 7 villages identified key community assets, resources, and challenges. Secondary data related to education, healthcare and employment.



Anesa's Story

“I have gained new skills being part of an SHG and have found a way to move from poverty to stability. Now, we live with dignity and hope."

Anesa’s life was marked by hardship, poverty, and limited opportunities. Her early marriage to a struggling farmer and subsequent early pregnancies left her physically weak due to malnutrition and poor healthcare. Her minimal education and lack of financial literacy made it difficult for her to contribute to the family’s income. The scarcity of resources meant they could not save money, trapping them in a cycle of poverty. They started a vegetable garden with her first loan, then invested in a cow which has had 3 calves. Steady income provides nutritious food, a cleaner home and pays for their children’s education.

Thank you for enabling hope in hard places