



entrust foundation

Progress Report

BGD-CUP-UAG-P02 Bangladesh
Reporting Period: July 2019 to June 2020

Children's Uplift Program

Budget: \$24,600. Fully funded.

The Project:

Our partners provide holistic support and training for women who are street based sex workers, at risk of being trafficked and survivors of sexual trafficking. Their vision is to see women and their children who have been victims of exploitation and/or are living in street situations develop holistically, help each other and return to society. This project assists with the expenses of running a hostel for at-risk girls. These girls were living on the streets prior to contact with our partner. At the hostel, the girls are able to complete their schooling and are provided with a caring and supportive environment in which to live.

Outcomes and Impact:

- 15 girls aged between 8 and 17 were accommodated in a safe and loving environment and were supported in their holistic development.
- 13 girls were admitted to formal schooling – 5 transitioned successfully to government schooling, the other 8 progressed well at the local Baptist school. 2 girls undertook vocational training courses.
- An additional 'house-mother' was recruited in January 2020 to physically and mentally care for the girls. This enabled the much needed monthly one-on-one counselling sessions to increase to fortnightly.



COVID19 Update:

The COVID19 pandemic created new anxieties and traumas as well as fear and hopelessness amongst the girls. Schools closed when the country went into lockdown so the girls did their lessons through a national TV channel. They became more involved with the cleaning, gardening, cooking and generally caring for one another at the hostel.



Fun activities and close monitoring has encouraged them and kept them busy during this frustrating time. Although they couldn't see their friends or venture outside, they were grateful to be in a safe place with 'family' instead of living on the streets.

Sharika's father died when she was 5 years old. Her mother was mentally ill and her younger brother physically disabled. Hunger and uncertainty were daily companions. Her mother forced her to work as a housemaid and beat her badly. She then took Sarika to the Mazar where she was sexually exploited. Sarika was taken to our partner's night shelter and then joined the hostel. She struggled emotionally and academically. Staff supported her with counselling and vocational training options. Sharika enrolled into a 6-month Beauty Course and enjoyed learning to cut and style hair, do facials, body massages and henna. Her dream is to one day work in an old age home and take care of people who are lonely. *Name changed

Thank you for your part in providing support to 15 vulnerable girls.