

# Kushtia Community Development

Country: Bangladesh

Category: Development and relief

Project number: 98226

Need Jan 08: \$35,721

Update from Project Managers, Joel Weathers and Jewel, Feb 08

This project will assist in developing underprivileged peoples of Bangladesh through adult literacy training, formation of cooperative savings groups, preventive health training Traditional Birth Assistant training and training farmers to use more effective and profitable agricultural techniques. There is a strong emphasis on sustainable development so that beneficiaries do not become economically dependent on the project.

Seven new cooperative savings groups are now up and running in the Kumarkhali area. All the members are now able to read and write and function as a self-sustaining group without dependence on the Community Development Project (CDP). In the Machpara area, teacher training for the literacy program has recently finished and 12 new literacy classes were started.

We are also excited to report that in the Kumarkhali area 45 goats have been distributed to

cooperative members for additional income for their families.

Lily Khatun, a member of the Rushpa cooperative group, is one such recipient. Her husband is a rickshaw-puller who earns a daily income of around 110BDT (\$1.80 AUD). Lily took her first loan from her CDP cooperative group in order to buy a small cow to raise and later sell at a significant profit. During her involvement with the CDP, Lily has learnt to read and write and with the income from the cow, will be able to send all three of her daughters to school. Recently Lily has been raising a CDP goat and its two kids, which Lily will sell. With the profit from the goats, Lily's family will finally be able to purchase land on which to grow vegetables.



Lily with the CDP goat and some of her kids!



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PO Box 42 Penshurst NSW 2222 Tel: (02) 9580 1422

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Contact: Juanita Manahan - Project Promotions Manager [simaid@sim.org.au](mailto:simaid@sim.org.au)