

File form: 617 Final Report for the Eagle Foundation – June 2022

Emergency food assistance for destitute people in Meherpur District, Bangladesh

Funds received: 15/12/2021

Amount of grant: GBP 22,523

Conversion rate: Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 115.21 Bangladesh Taka (BDT) (16.11.21)

Total number of beneficiaries: 300 households (1,500 people)

Expenditure: GBP 22,523

Background

Aside from the medical consequences of Covid-19, there has been a huge social and economic toll. IMPACT has supported partners around the world to provide food parcels to families struggling financially when they could not work due to restrictions and were at real risk of hunger. We are very grateful to the Eagle Foundation for making this this work possible in some of the poorest communities of Meherpur District in Bangladesh.

Meherpur is an agricultural district in the northwest of the country. It is bordered by the India to the west, and by the Bangladeshi districts of Kushtia and Chuadanga to the east. The most recent Poverty Map of Bangladesh (compiled before the pandemic) indicated pockets of 'very high' poverty levels, especially in Gangni Upazila [Upazila is an administrative sub-unit of a district], where part of this project was based. The impact of the pandemic has been sharply felt amongst the poorest people: *'Covid-19 has affected so many people in Meherpur. In the villages we support, most of the people earn their living by farming and running small businesses, or working as day labourers. So many lost their jobs during the pandemic. In addition, there is now the rising prices of essential items that is causing small earning families many difficulties in rebuilding their lives.'* – IMPACT Bangladesh.

Report on activities

IMPACT Bangladesh has worked in this region for over two decades, establishing a thriving network of 245 Mothers' Clubs with 5,390 members. These monthly meetings are held at village level in the most under-resourced areas. It is through these forums that IMPACT Bangladesh was able to identify and reach families who could benefit the most from your emergency feeding programme. Vulnerable households with a disabled member or female head, were prioritised.



Table showing the Relief Distribution among the Mothers' Club Members:

Name of Upazila	Name of villages	Number of families benefiting
Gangni	Chowgacha, Dhormochaki, Saharbat, Nowapara, Raypur, Dhankhola, Koshba, Kathuli, Dhola Khal, Gopalnagar	150
Meherpur Sadar	Pirojpur, Doforpur, Bilkhola, Amjhupi, Chandbil, Hijuli, Gopalpur, Khoksha	150
TOTAL		300

The food packages contained basic food items, with the aim of providing emergency essentials to last each family up to three months and included rice, potatoes, lentils and cooking oil. Soap was also included with each package and Covid-19 health education messages were promoted during food distributions.

'Local young students and school teachers helped at each distribution point, so that the food relief could take place without any chaos.' – IMPACT Bangladesh.



Case Stories as reported by IMPACT Bangladesh

'Moyna (33) was married when she was 16 to a man 14 years her senior. She was born with a physical disability, which was the reason for her early marriage to a much older man who was a widow with two children. They had two children of their own but a tragedy hit the family when Moyna learnt that her husband was suffering from cancer. After two years, he died and she was left to care for four children, it was so difficult for her being physically disabled. She started working as a domestic help but lost her job because of the Covid-19 pandemic and had to take loans to make ends meet. Now that people are starting to live a normal life again, Moyna is once again earning a living. But repaying her loans is taking its toll. She barely manages to afford three meals for herself in a day.

Moyna is an IMPACT Mother's Club member at Meherpur Sadar Upazila. Just when she was trapped in debt, we announced the distribution of emergency food packages and Moyna was selected for the food relief.

The sign of happiness she had in her face could not be expressed in words. She had tears all over her face. Quoting Moyna, "I am overjoyed after receiving the food parcel. I cannot express how much I had suffered during the quarantine days. I thank IMPACT for the support."



'Shahida (30) married at the age of 14 years and is a member of a Gangni Upazila IMPACT Mothers' Club. She lost her father at a young age, which is why her mother had to marry her early. After her marriage, she was ill but later gave birth to a healthy boy, who is now 11 years of age. Her husband worked as an electrician but at work, he was involved in an accident and he lost his life after getting an electric shock.

This has caused sadness over the whole family. In addition, the burden of meeting the everyday expenses has been hard to bear. She managed to earn a living by sewing clothes and working as a domestic help. During the days of Covid-19 pandemic, when she was having endless troubles in her life, a new tragedy has hit her fate. She was diagnosed with a breast tumour. The cost of her treatment and everyday expenses were becoming quite unbearable for her. But Shahida did not give up. She continued to sew clothes and earn some money to meet her daily expenses. When we announced food package distribution for our Mothers' Club members, Shahida was selected. She became so happy after hearing the news of the relief. After receiving the parcel Shahida said, "I can have some proper food after so long. This will really support my family. I thank IMPACT for this initiative."



'Shima (25) lives in Gangni upazila. Being born in a large family, Shima has always lived in poor conditions and could not afford to continue her education after grade 5. Shima was born with physical disability and cannot work to earn a living. The Covid-19 pandemic has really burdened her family. Her father, who is a day labourer, is the sole earning member and he was already finding it difficult to meet the daily requirements of the family. Shima feels sad for not being able to help her father in any way. Recalling the days of the pandemic, Shima said, "We all prayed for the nightmare to end. There was no food at home. Father could not go to work. My younger siblings cried out of hunger. My mother could manage some loans

from the neighbors. But that was not enough." When Shima heard that her name had been selected for the food package distribution, her happiness knew no bounds. She became happy knowing she will be of help to her family in some way. She cried after receiving the parcel. She said, "I am so glad I can provide the food to my family members. They will be happy after receiving the parcel."

Poly (28) is a widow from Amjhupi, Meherpur with two daughters aged 12 and 5, one is disabled. To manage a living for the family when her husband died, she started working as a day labourer in the paddy fields.

During the pandemic, when the nation was forced to be in quarantine, Poly faced great hardship. There had been days when she had to borrow food from her neighbors. While describing those days, Poly cited "I do not know how I passed those days. My daughters were crying out of hunger. I did not know where to seek help. So I ran into one of my neighbors, who was kind enough to lend me some food." After the cease of quarantine, Poly started working again. But she had loans to repay now. We selected her as one of the members of beneficiaries for the distribution of essential food packages. Poly was excited to have received the package. She thought it was a blessing amid all the troubles she was having in life. She said, "I am so happy I have been selected to receive the dry foods. I cannot explain how much of a relief it is for me. My children can have some good food to eat."



Thank you for making such a difference to the lives of people who continue to rebuild their lives after the devastating economic impact of the coronavirus restrictions and are now feeling the pressure of unprecedented inflationary pressures. *‘These food distributions have been a sigh of relief for the vulnerable families’* – IMPACT Bangladesh.

Expenditure:

	Unit cost (per family, per month)	Budget 3 month supply for 300 families	Expenditure 3 month supply for 300 families
Emergency food assistance parcels	23	20,700	20,700
<i>30 kg rice</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>14,400</i>	<i>14,400</i>
<i>Potatoes</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1,800</i>	<i>1,800</i>
<i>Dal (pulses) 3kg</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2,700</i>	<i>2,700</i>
<i>Cooking oil 2 litre</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>900</i>
<i>Soap</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>900</i>
Logistics and transportation		750	750
Sub-total	-	21,450	21,450
Project Management @5%		1,073	1,073
Grand total	-	22,523	22,523

Exchange rate based on 1 GBP = 115.21 Bangladeshi Takas (16.11.21)

Letter of independent verification:

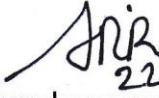
Date: 22.05.2022



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that, IMPACT Foundation Bangladesh (IFB)-Meherpur programme has been working in Meherpur district since 2007. Lately, the Meherpur programme has successfully completed a food relief distribution project for the Covid-19 pandemic affected poor population. The food parcels distribution took place In Gangni and Meherpur Sadar upazila. A total of 300 poor families (150 from each upazila) were benefitted from the project.

I wish IFB's success in future endeavors.


22.05.2022

Name: Assaduzzaman Ripon

Designation: Upazilla Nirbahi Officer

Meherpur Sadar, Meherpur