

The Voice of Friendship



Ms. Tanjima Mahjebin
Age: 41 years
District: Sunamganj
Female UP Chairperson and beneficiary of the SHARIQUE project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"The project has helped me to develop my leadership capacities and help me to actively participate and conduct activities of Union Parishad, e.g. participatory plan and participatory budgeting etc. I can play an active role in the decision making process of the Union Parishad as well. In my personal life, I am running a good business with my family. My economic condition is better than before. I want to work more for women's empowerment in the society."



Mr. Khandaker Mohammad Zaman Hossain
Age: 31 years
District: Comilla
SGS Bangladesh Limited

"I work at SGS Bangladesh Limited. My working with this company is immensely helping me to develop my professional competencies. It has also helped me to improve my current economic conditions. On this special day, I look forward to continued friendship and collaboration between Switzerland and Bangladesh."



Mr. Abdul Munaf
Age: 56 years
District: Rangpur
Farmer and beneficiary of the Katalyst project co-funded by Switzerland

"With the help of the project, I have adopted less expensive but better method of pest control to protect my crops. Now I get better quality crops but less wastage. My income has increased and I can take care of my family better. Soon I will be able to save enough money to buy my own land. I thank the Government of Switzerland for providing us this much needed support."



Ms. Bandana Rani
Age: 37 years
District: Rajshahi
Female Upazila Vice Chairperson and beneficiary of the SHARIQUE project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"As a Female Upazila Vice Chairperson, I am recognised and honored for my work in the society. Both the citizens and the government officials equally value my opinions and suggestions in regards to local issues. In future I wish to become an Upazila Chairperson. I want to ensure proper education for my children. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government and people of Switzerland for their support to the wider people of Bangladesh."



Ms. Precila Rodrigues
Age: 26 years
District: Gazipur
Nestlé Bangladesh Limited

"It is indeed a great experience to work with the Nestlé Bangladesh Limited. This job has helped me to avail a better living standard. The overall experience of working with Nestle Bangladesh inspires me to employ my best efforts. This is a performance based organization which enables employees to develop platforms for their future career. I am feeling proud to be trusted and respected in this company. I highly value the relationship which I have developed with Switzerland through working with the Nestlé Bangladesh Limited."



Ms. Sabina Yasmin
Age: 18 years
District: Tangail
Local entrepreneur, beautician and beneficiary of the project implemented by the Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) and co-funded by Switzerland

"After graduating from CMES, I set up a small gar-

ments business and started to earn around BDT 1,200 per month. Later, I started my second business venture; I opened a beauty parlor in my village. It was not an easy job at all. I had to face a lot of obstacles but eventually I overcame all those problems. Now I am successful in both the business and people have lot of respect for me. I can support my family. In years ahead, after finishing my formal education, I want to set up a modern beauty parlor in my district town. Thus, I will set an example for other women and inspire them to believe in self-empowerment. In our school we often discuss about the Swiss encouragement and support to our project and I am always moved by the interest of visitors from Switzerland."



Ms. Salma Khatun
Age: 34 years
District: Sunamganj
Project Officer, Sharique project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I started working with SHARIQUE project as a Field Facilitator in a partner NGO in 2006 and I joined the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation as a Project Officer in 2009. I have developed my professional skills and capacities specifically on local governance and I perceive this as an excellent development- in my career and also in personal life. I want to keep working on local governance issues and in future I want to see myself as a consultant/ resource person on this subject."



Ms. Rohini Alam
Age: 30 years
District: Dhaka
Nestlé Bangladesh Limited

"Being a working mother, a fine balance between work and family is very important for me. At Nestlé, I feel I can balance both and consequently benefit from the sound socio-economic status. Being able to contribute towards the family definitely fuel economic empowerment and personal satisfaction. This job gives me a more secured life and I always feel right at home here. When I think of Switzerland, I think of precision, stability, landscapes of serene beauty and mouth-watering chocolate!"



Ms. Jahanara Begum
Age: 40 years
District: Bogra

Farmer and beneficiary of the Katalyst project co-funded by Switzerland

"Previously, I was a day labourer. I used to work for other people in their land. Then Katalyst provided me with the knowledge and technical support to become a maize farmer myself. Now I grow my own crops and sell them for a better living. I can now spend more money on food, shelter and education for my children. Now, I also have a greater voice in family affairs and can make decisions about the use of family earnings. I also have savings now. Next season, I plan to take a bank loan to expand farming of maize. Thanks to this project, I have transformed myself from a day labourer to a farmer."



Ms. Most. Redya Begum
Age: 45 years
District: Sunamganj
Rural Entrepreneur and beneficiary of the SHAMRIDDHI project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I have received training from the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation on agricultural enterprise development. Gradually, I have started different income generating activities. Today, I am earning BDT 14,000 per month from a number of ventures: beef fattening, duck rearing and vegetable cultivation. I proudly say that I have graduated myself and my family out of extreme poverty."



Mr. Sagar Bhowmick
District: Dhaka
Nestlé Bangladesh Limited

"Nestlé Bangladesh Limited has given me the opportunity to shape my career in a prosperous way and has created an atmosphere where I can flourish and nourish my talent. In comparison with current socio-economic status of the country, I find myself in comfortable position to support my living. NBL has provided me with a road full of learning, challenges and recognitions. Walking along that road, I can see a secured future where I can perform at my best. Being part of a company of Swiss origin, I respect this collaboration between

Switzerland and Bangladesh. I hope that this cooperation will continue to grow further."



Ms. Amena Akter
Age: 19 years
District: Tangail
Beneficiary of the project implemented by the Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) and co-funded by Switzerland

"At CMES I have taken sewing lessons. I started to earn already during my training period and contributed to my family. Thus, I became an asset for my family, not a burden. In the past, it was very difficult for my parents to make both ends meet. After graduating from MES, I launched my own garments business and renovated my house with my earnings and leading a better life. Today I am earning around BDT 6,000 7,000 per month and saving some money as well. The project has played a big role shaping my life positively. I am grateful to the project and for the Swiss Support."



Ms. Nokesh Das
Age: 36 years
District: Sunamganj
Local Service Provider and beneficiary of the SHAMRIDDHI project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I received livestock services training from the project. Now, I provide livestock services (training, treatment, vaccination etc) to the community people from my own livestock service center. As a professional Livestock Service Provider, my present income is around BDT 12,000 per month. I started my business with only BDT 20,000. However, my current investment is BDT 300,000. I want to become an expert Local Service Provider and offer my services particularly to the poor people."



Mr. Tausif Abdur Rahman
Age: 24 years
District: Cox's Bazar

Nestlé Bangladesh Limited

"This job has provided me a respected social status, economic security and a great learning opportunity. It has opened up a new horizon for professional and personal development. Switzerland has always been a model amongst the nations, and it brings great pride to be involved or even associated with Switzerland through one of their leading companies."



Ms. Chaina Khatun
Age: 24
District: Kushtia
Farmer and beneficiary of the Katalyst project co-funded by Switzerland

"In my village, previously, we did not have access to information about modern farming techniques. Katalyst informed me about the Grameenphone Community Information Centres. They also helped me to use the centres and acquire knowledge on improved farming techniques. These new techniques have helped me to double my profits. I used the additional income to buy a cow and invested

some money in my farm. Now I have been growing more profitable crops such as garlic, banana and wax gourd. Now, when I need any new information about crop cultivation, I go straight to the community information centres."



Most. Asiron Nesa
Age: 49
District: Rangpur
Jute craft entrepreneurs and beneficiary of the SHAMRIDDHI project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I received training and other support from the project and stated my own business. Now, around 29 families are directly associated with my production house and showroom. I had started my business with BDT 6,000 only. My present working capital is about BDT 200,000. In the years ahead, I wish to export my products abroad. I thank Switzerland for its support."

Heartiest Felicitations On Swiss National Day

from

Switzerland-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry



ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGY LTD; AAMRA RESOURCES LIMITED; ASSL TEXTILE; ARIFS (BD) LIMITED; AEGIS INTERNATIONAL; ABB LIMITED; CREATIVE ENGINEERS LTD; DAFFODIL TRADING HOUSE LTD; DOHATEC; GIANT GROUP; HASNAT ENTERPRISE; HABIB BANK AG ZURICH; HOLCIM CEMENT (BANGLADESH) LTD; M. H. TRADERS, M/S. TEXTTOOLS AGENCY LTD; M&H INFORMATICS (BD) LTD; NOVARTIS (BANGLADESH) LIMITED; NEW ASIA LTD; NESTLÉ BANGLADESH LIMITED; PANALPINA WORLD TRANSPORT (HOLDING) LTD. BANGLADESH; R.H. CORPORATION; ROCHE BANGLADESH LIMITED; SGS BANGLADESH LTD; SWISS COLOURS BANGLADESH LTD; SYNGENTA BANGLADESH LIMITED; SANOFI-AVENTIS BANGLADESH LTD; SECURE LINK SERVICES BD LTD; SACO WATCH COMPANY; TUTELAR OIL SERVICES CO. (PVT.) LTD; TEXXIT BD; TEXTILE ASSOCIATES LTD; W & W GRAINS CORPORATION; WÄRTSILÄ BANGLADESH LTD; XIN BANGLA FABRICS; ZUELLIG PHARMA BANGLADESH.

