

The Voice of Friendship



Dr. Nusrat Hasan
Age: 34 years
Novartis (Bangladesh) Ltd

"This employment has given me confidence and a new perspective towards life. My social and economic position has certainly improved through this job. Now, I can support my family better which makes me even more confident in my personal and professional life. I aspire to achieve the career goal I have set; I want to be a role model for my fellow colleagues and others working in the pharmaceutical marketing industry of this country. In this regard, my association with Novartis and Switzerland is very important to me."

AFIP project. I have extended the size of my nursery from 60 decimals to 250 decimals. I have donated saplings to 140 peoples of my locality and all my achievements show that I am financially in a sound position. In 2008, I received the Prime Minister's award on National Plantation Program which in return brought respect and honor for me and my family."



Mr. Partho Protim Das
Age: 37 years
District: Bogra
Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited

"I started my career in this company as a Customer Service Officer. Zuellig Pharma strongly believes in meritocracy. Over the past 6 years, my performance has been very much appreciated in this company. I am now promoted as a Branch Manager.

This employment has provided me with a steady income and a career perspective. Coming from a small town and middle class family background, this job has positively changed my life.

Switzerland is renowned for its pharmaceutical industry and its relentless focus on quality. I am grateful for the opportunity to be exposed to both. I hope our company sets an example for other investors!"



Mr. Md. Mohsin Ali
Age: 31 years
District: Tangail
Project Staff and beneficiary of the project implemented by the Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) and co-funded by Switzerland

"I came from a poor family. My parents could not afford spending for my education. I went to CMES school to develop technical skills. After graduating in carpentry trade, I joined CMES in 1996 as a Teaching Assistant. Today, I have a modest earning. I can take care of my family. My children go to schools. Besides, I also have bought a piece of agricultural land and renovated my old house. I also have a plan to set-up a carpentry workshop in my locality equipped with modern machinery. Today, it gives me immense satisfaction to teach my students at CMES school and see them changing their lives through skills development. I am with CMES for a long time. All these years, I have witnessed how Swiss development cooperation has helped many people in developing their skills."



Sreemoti Minoti Rani Das
Age: 32 years
District: Nilphamari

Rural Entrepreneur and beneficiary of the SHAMRIDDHI project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I have received skill development & business management training on cotton craft product development from the project. Now I am a full time 'center in charge' of a rural production center. I want to ensure proper education for my children. Soon, I will build a house for my family and buy 50 more sewing machines for the production centre."



Ms. Tamanna Tabassum Rahman
Age: 25 years
District: Dinajpur
Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited

"When I started my career at the Zuellig Pharma Bangladesh Limited, it was a big transition for me. Since then, it has been an excellent opportunity and a learning experience to work for this multinational company in a multi-cultural environment. As a young Bangladeshi woman, I see this job as a great stride towards empowerment. It has given me confidence, financial independence, and furthermore the opportunity to pursue further education. Switzerland has always been a very friendly and proactive development partner of Bangladesh. I also admire the entrepreneurial talent of the Swiss population, for they have set up some of the most recognized brands of today's world. I hope, like Zuellig Pharma, other Swiss firms will also consider Bangladesh as a potential destination for profitable investment."



Md. Ataur Rahman
Age: 41 years
District: Sunamganj
Regional Coordinator, SHAMRIDDHI project (Sunamganj Region); implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"I have been involved with the Swiss Government supported projects for last ten years; I spent six years in a partner organisation in different capacities, then I joined HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation-Bangladesh in 2008 and now I am holding a management level position of the project. At present, I am very happy with my financial status. I pay a considerable amount of income tax to the government each year! I

would like to continue my career in the development sector of Bangladesh and contribute more for people."



Ms. Shahida Khanam
Age: 38 years
District: Suruj, Tangail
Project Staff and beneficiary of the project implemented by the Centre for Mass Education in Science (CMES) and co-funded by Switzerland

"When I first joined CMES as a Senior Gender Teacher, neither my husband nor I was financially solvent; it was difficult for us to make both ends meet. However, my working at CMES on Gender program had raised my awareness and capacity and built self confidence. Now, I consider myself empowered- both financially and socially. I draw a decent salary and look after my family needs. I can now help my husband and relatives as well. I want to continue my service with CMES and help creating employment opportunities for the youth and adolescents. I highly appreciate the support of the Swiss Government which has positively changed the lives of many women in Bangladesh."



Mr. Nakibur Rahman
Age: 29 years
Novartis (Bangladesh) Ltd

"Working at Novartis is in a single word 'rewarding'. Novartis provides a working environment, where developmental needs of associates are strongly taken care of through training, development & empowerment. The employee oriented culture, supported by the compensation and benefits offered, has helped me to attain better lifestyle and ensure socioeconomic security. In Bangladesh, the very word 'Swiss' is synonymous to 'quality' and 'elegance'. Working for a Swiss company is hence a matter of pride and honor. I

keenly wish to carry this association forward."



Mst. Nazma Begum
Age: 36 years
District: Rajshahi
Nursery Owner and beneficiary of the Agroforestry Improvement Partnership (AFIP) project; implemented by the HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and funded by Switzerland

"Earlier, I used to live from hand to mouth. Then, I received training from AFIP project. Thanks to my continuous effort of past fourteen years; I have expanded my nursery from 3 decimals to 198 decimals. With the income from the nursery I have stated other business as well. I have received many awards at sub divisional level for my contribution in agricultural sector. I am thankful to

the Government of Switzerland for their support."



Dr. Ripon Kumar Paul
Age: 37 years
Novartis (Bangladesh) Ltd

"My association with Novartis has been rewarding as well as full of learning. This experience of working in this company has given me the opportunity to further develop my skills, acquaint with latest developments in the pharmaceutical industry and ultimately get closer to my career goal. Certainly Novartis will support me in this endeavour. It is really a matter of pride to work in a Swiss company that cares and invests for its people. This association has also opened doors to many opportunities."



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