



BANZAid Projects

VISION

A world without poverty and oppression

MISSION

Working to transform communities for the poor and marginalised

PURPOSE

Supporting partners in developing countries; creating awareness in New Zealand about aid and development issues

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Chandpur Total Community Development Centres—Bangladesh

BANZAid is partnering with Baptist Aid to support a unique project of Total Community Development Centres (TCDC) in 12 villages in the Chandpur District of Bangladesh. These centres are based around self-help groups providing :

- Adult Literacy – literacy is a basic skill to help people take control of their own lives.
- Children’s Education – children from poor families need help to enter the government education system.
- Economic Development – the first step is group savings schemes, then help them to use their savings to start earning them money.
- Community Building through basic healthcare and discussion of issues like basic human rights, gender, care for the environment.

Each centre has a trained community development team, led by a Christian husband and wife Bangladeshi couple who make their homes in the village to be with the local community.

It is an ‘incarnational’ model for development. Peter Reid, a Carey Baptist student who visited the project in February 2012 writes

“Collectively, the TCDC staff have a strong idea of how the Bible speaks to their work. They are “sent” people, people who love, and imitators of Jesus. I asked for people to share their thoughts on the connection between the Bible, Jesus,

development and being with the poor. Most of the responses were about Jesus - his life and example. They talked about Jesus spending time with the poor, and healing those who were sick. One of the staff drew attention to Jesus’ attitude: ‘Jesus came to us, and he washed our feet.’ ... another saw their whole vocation as having a Biblical basis. Just as Jesus spoke of sending and being sent, ‘Baptist Aid is sending us’ he commented.

... an incarnational model for development: Just as Jesus spoke of sending and being sent, "Baptist Aid is sending us,"

“These ideas are reflected in their practice. They take opportunities to show love practically, and are doing the hard work of building relationships over time - typically with Muslim and Hindu people.

“The approach that the team takes shows professionalism and diligence. But as well as being a job, it is clearly more than this for the TCDC staff. They spoke with conviction. Their grasp of the Biblical basis for their work seems to motivate them. One stood up to explain: ‘God loves us, and we are loving the people’.”

The project is recognised by the New Zealand Government Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) for NGO projects and has support to March 2014. BANZAid raises NZ\$33,000 per year for the project, and the SDF contributes a further NZ\$220,000 per year.

These groups are a highly effective way to alleviate poverty. It is estimated that each of the 12 village centres will directly impact over 250 local people and up to an estimated 1000 through its networks.



**Baptist Aid—
'giving life in
all its fullness'**



**PROJECT
GOAL:**
*Sustainable
development of
rural Bangladesh
villages*

Our Partner—Baptist Aid

Total Community Development Centres are designed by Baptist Aid, the aid and development arm of the Bangladesh Baptist Church Fellowship.

Their vision is for 'a Bangladeshi society based on moral and ethical values, free from poverty, injustice and oppression with equal opportunity and sustainable livelihoods for all people' - 'giving life in all its fullness'.

Baptist Aid already have several TCDC programmes in other parts of Bangladesh. This project will focus on 12 villages around the town of Chandpur.

The Chandpur district is an area of Bangladesh that has seen New Zealand Baptists involvement for over 100 years. We no longer have Kiwi families living in Chandpur, but the TCDC project will bring a new level of partnership with the local community.

Chandpur TCDC is a Baptist Aid project. They set the project up, and are responsible for running it. BANZAid's role is to equip and support them to do the work.



Project Structure and Goals

PROJECT GOAL: Sustainable development of rural Bangladesh villages, measured by identified improvement in the following social, economic and environmental indicators.

OBJECTIVE 1: Education and Literacy

Pre-School & Child Tutorial: children of project participants gain a good educational start through the pre-school and child tutorial programmes. Currently 861 pre-school and child tutorial children are enrolled, which will increase to a target of 960.

Adult Literacy: project participants gain confidence and skills in basic literacy (reading, writing, numeracy).

The Literacy groups are the foundation for the rest of the project activities. Currently there are 1372 adult self-help group members. This will grow to 1920 over the next year.

OBJECTIVE 2: Economic Development and Livelihoods

Savings and Loans: establish savings and credit facilities for group members. Activities include training in savings, loans and repayments, leading to implementation of savings based loans.

Livelihood Skills: participants gain livelihood knowledge and skills through training in a

range of potential income generating activities.

OBJECTIVE 3: Primary Healthcare

Participants experience better personal and community health through health education teaching on disease prevention, nutrition, hygiene, clean water, sanitation, and mother / child health.

Project activities include safe water supply; improved sanitary toilets; and re-excavation of ponds for human use and for income generation through activities like fish cultivation.

OBJECTIVE 4: Human Rights & Gender Equality

Participants gain awareness of human rights and gender equality issues leading to better village practices.

OBJECTIVE 5: Care for the Environment

Participants learn about environment issues and practices for their villages including conservation; pollution reduction; waste minimisation; composting and recycling.

OBJECTIVE 6: Partner Capacity Building

Build the capacity of Baptist Aid as the Partner organisation through training and mentoring activities, so that they can better handle project design, management and reporting requirements for internationally funded projects.

BANGLADESH—Context for Project

Bangladesh is always in the news for a disaster of one sort or another.

It is one of the poorest countries of the world, with a high population density, political instability and frequent natural disasters. The geography of the country makes it prone to cyclones and flooding. Poverty is made worse by political instability, and high levels of corruption.

The last decade has seen significant progress, but it is still estimated that over 60 million people are below the US\$1.25

per day absolute poverty line.

Bangladesh has joined the global market, getting into the export manufacturing industry - mainly garments for the European and United States markets.

Bangladeshi expatriate worker remittances are one of the highest sources of foreign exchange with an estimated 6 million Bangladeshis working in the Middle Eastern countries.

Rural Bangladesh still lags behind the rest of the country.

Chandpur, where the TCDC project is located, is in the delta area. The district is subject to annual flooding, with villages

close to the river experiencing significant erosion every year. The floods are welcomed as they bring fertility to the fields, and are important for this rice and jute growing area.

Key Statistics:

Population: 150 million +
Area: 144,000 sq km (about half the size of New Zealand)
Religions: Muslim 86%, Hindu 13%, Christian 0.5%, Other 0.5%
Literacy: 43% of those over the age of 15
Per Capita GDP: US\$1400 (NZ GDP in 2006 was US\$24,400)



Stories from the Villages

Seeing the Light

"My name is Piara Begum. My husband, my 2 elder sons and I were all illiterate. We had never read a book or written anything. We didn't feel any shame, because we didn't know the value of education. After joining the TCDC development group and 8 months of adult literacy, I learnt a lot about many things.

"I enrolled my youngest son in the TCDC Pre-School. After completing 2 years he has entered the local government primary school. He is very bright. He receives help with his homework from the TCDC Child Tutorial Program. I am very happy with that."

Water of Life

"There was no safe drinking water in our village. We had to carry drinking water from more than 1.5 km away. Sometimes we collected water from a nearby pond. As a result my family was often sick. We didn't have enough money for medical treatment.

"Then the Chandpur TCDC project installed a deep tube well in our area, only 400 m from my house. Now I collect our daily drinking water from there, and there is no longer illness in my family. I spend more time with my children, which used to be spent carrying water". Rina Khatun

Becoming Self Reliant

My name is Fatema Begum. I am about 40 years old, and married with 4 boys and 3 girls. When

the opportunity came I applied for the TCDC project sewing training. After training completion, I bought a sewing machine. Now I make all my family member's clothes.

I also take orders from other village people and it is helping to increase the income of my family. I have already made the TCDC pre-school uniforms. My husband is happy with my sewing business, as it is making money to support our large family.

Learning to Care

My name is Faijunnesa. I live alone with my 5 year old granddaughter and my only earning source is my small vegetable garden. When I heard about the project I was interested and so I joined in a group.

I began to learn many things about different aspects of life. One topic was the 'natural environment'. I learnt that we should keep the environment clean and to do so, we have to dispose of our household waste in a proper way. Learning this, I dug a hole behind my house and from then on, I put my kitchen and green waste in that hole. Then I learnt that I can use this naturally made compost as fertilizer for my garden.

My vegetables are now very healthy and green and I make a profit. The best news is that others have followed my example and have also started using their own compost for gardening.





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BANZAid Funds

Humanitarian action to help the poor has always been a Christian imperative. However a concern to have a more focussed approach to development issues led to the formation of BANZAid as a separate department within *tranzsend* in 1997. One of the advantages of doing this was to enable access to wider funding sources, and in particular the aid money that is available through the NZ Government Aid Programme (formerly NZAID).

Since 2007 BANZAid has received Aid Programme funding for the projects in the following table (these are cumulative totals, not including staff and administrative costs underwritten by *tranzsend*).

The donations of individuals, churches and church based trusts are essential to enable us to set up the projects and to gain the approval for the Aid Programme funds. BANZAid wishes to acknowledge this support and to thank all those who have contributed.

Project	NZ Government	Other donors	Total
Chandpur TCDC, Bangladesh	\$737,464	\$137,905	\$875,369
Satittoa Primary School, Samoa	\$225,000	\$275,000	\$500,000
Bangladesh Rural Solar Lighting	\$177,557	\$150	\$177,707
Total	\$1,140,021	\$413,055	\$1,553,076

* Full accounts available from the *tranzsend* national office, P O Box 12149, Penrose, Auckland

Find Out More about Global Poverty

Visit the BANZAid website for more. More about the projects that BANZAid is supporting. More news of current issues in development. More resources about development.

The **Projects** section of the website has information on our projects, both current and past. Here are real stories and photos from the people who benefit from the work that we are doing.

The **News** section has our own news stories, and also feeds from the Bangladesh media and from global development media.

The **Resources** section of our website is for people who want to know more about the issues of global poverty and development. This is a place where you can find articles on the issues, and links to statistics and analysis of what is being done around the world. Here you will find:

Articles - this section has articles on a variety of development issues. We aim to look at the issues from a Christian and Biblical perspective.

Downloads - there are three sections of downloads: **Documents**: reports from our projects, and basic documents about BANZAid policies and projects; **Study Materials**: downloadable documents on some of the hot issues in development, such as the impact of corporate tax evasion in the developing countries and the impact of the financial downturn; **Videos**: downloadable videos that you can use in your youth group or Church.

Photos - here are albums of photos from our projects. These will be regularly updated as we get new photos.

Videos - view videos here, both the ones that are available in the downloads section and others on poverty issues.

Links - the list of links starts with other Baptist organisations. We then have links to other sites with a Christian approach to development issues, before going on to a range of wider organisations, both New Zealand and international. Included here are some news sites, covering both current disaster situations and also relevant news of development issues.

New material is regularly added to the website. When new material is added we promote it with our email newsletter, to which you can subscribe through links on the site, or send us an email asking to be added to the list (info@banzaid.org.nz).



www.banzaid.org.nz