



Photo: Rachel Corner/Oxfam

YOUR POSTCARD

FROM BANGLADESH

POOR COMMUNITIES LIVING ON RIVER ISLANDS IN BANGLADESH ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO FLOODS. OXFAM IS HELPING THEM TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR FUTURE DISASTERS.

"It's difficult during the floods. We can't move around from house to house. We can't eat. We can't go to market. Our cattle suffer. Our children get diarrhoea and other diseases ... they can't drink the polluted water, they can't go to school. We eat less when there is a flood ... some days we only have one meal.

"Since we've been growing chillies we've been suffering less during the flood. We sell them and we can save money ... I can use [the money] to spend on food and clothes for my children, and also on school for my daughter. The money goes towards the family and eating better food.

"For about one year I've been receiving training from Oxfam ... I've learnt how to plant the seeds, how to pick chillies, how to dry chillies on [a] tarpaulin ... Since the training, I cultivate my land properly.

"We learned about disaster, to store dry food and important papers. I raise the cattle shed. We raise the level of our house. Keep dry wood high up. I make and store a portable cooker. I gradually save money for when the flood comes. I know now that I don't have to suffer during the floods.

"Before I was unaware — now I'm aware. After the training we learned all these things and we are living a better life ... Before we could maybe eat once or twice a day. After doing all the trainings and meetings we could eat three times a day and live in peace. Now there are no problems with the flood.

"I want to do something for my daughters in the future. I want to give them a proper education, and get more land so I can grow more chillies."

JOYGUN ISLAM
Gabgachi, near Gaibandha,
northern Bangladesh



FAST FACTS

Capital: Dhaka

Population: 163.6 million (CIA, 2013)

Area: 143,998 sq km (CIA)

Currency: Bangladeshi taka

Major languages: Bangla (official) and indigenous languages

Major religions: Muslim 89.5%, Hindu 9.6%, other 0.9% (CIA)

Life expectancy at birth: women 70 years, men 69 years (WHO)

Population living below the national poverty line: 31.5% (UN, 2010)

Carbon emissions: 0.3 tonnes per person (UN)

People lacking access to safe water: 32 million (WHO)

People with no access to sanitation services: 76 million (WHO)

People dying from diarrhoea disease each year: 30,000 (UNICEF)

Oxfam's areas of work: disaster risk reduction, building resilience, gender equality, violence against women, women's leadership and empowerment, livelihoods, humanitarian response, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security



www.oxfam.org.au/education



OXFAM
Australia