



## Country Profile

# World Vision

# Bangladesh

Bangladesh had existed as an independent state only since 1971, yet its national character dates to the ancient past. The land is shaped by two great rivers, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, which join in central Bangladesh to become Padma.



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**Geographical location:** Northeastern part of Southeast Asia, bonded by India in the west, north and the northeast and Myanmar on the southeast and the Bay of Bengal on the south.

**Land Area:** 147, 570 sq km

**Climate:** Sub-tropical monsoon

**Population:** 125.7million

**Language:** Bangla (Bengali), English

**Religion:** 88.3% Muslim, 10.5% Hindu, 0.6% Buddhist, 0.3% Christian

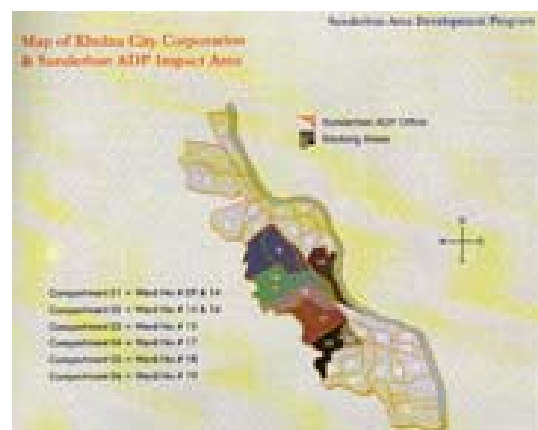


## Sunderban Area Development Programme (Project BGD-168531)

### Project Overview

Sunderban Area Development Programme (ADP) was started in 1997 with an objective to improve the living conditions of the poor people in the ADP, and to help them achieve self-sustainability. The ADP is located at Khulna City Corporation, under Khulna district town.

The population of the community under Sunderban ADP is about 25,000. Some 6000 men, 7000 women and 6000 children benefit from this programme.





Mothers and children taking nutritional supplementary food

## Health

Health is one of the acute problems that contribute to poverty significantly. Some of the concerns for health issues in this community are:

- ✗ Malnutrition (more women and children affected)
- ✗ HIV/AIDS
- ✗ Safe drinking water

50% of the pregnant women do not get proper health service due to social reasons. As a result, more under-weight babies are born in the community, which can

In response to the Health issues, World Vision through Sunderban ADP has implemented some of these programmes:

- ✗ To provide safe drinking water for the ADP.
- ✗ To install at least one tube well for every five families in the program area. Since 1997, World Vision Sunderban ADP along with the participation of local community has installed nearly 440 tube wells. Now the water borne diseases are under control and no evidence of child death due to dehydration in the ADP area.
- ✗ To provide basic sanitation education to the community on a regular basis.
- ✗ To set up for malnourished women and children to educate them on nutrition values and the preparation of nutritional supplementary food.



Education for illiterate women in the community

## Education

In general, the children are sent to school, but for a few years at the beginning. A good number of children dropped out of school in grade 3 or 4 to help their parents at fieldwork, or find other source of income for the families.

The Bangladesh Government encourages their people to be educated in schools. Therefore, World Vision aims to assist the community by:

- ✗ Building educational institutions such as schools
- ✗ Manpower development such as teachers' training and education, and supplies of teaching materials.
- ✗ Education assistance such as coaching classes for students who are weaker in studies.
- ✗ Vocational education/skills training for adolescent boys and girls who are not keen on studies. For instance, sewing/poultry training and motor car driving course.
- ✗ Education for illiterate adult women.

## Economic

Our vision is to make the impact area into poverty free community. With this vision, it is important to identify the basic needs of the society and addressed those properly. A survey is completed to gain an overall view of the present situation along with a long term planning with the community's participation so that the community can address their problems by themselves.

- ✗ Development Groups (DG) which involves a group of community members were started.
- ✗ The DGs helped to facilitate income generation activities such as:
  - Management and leadership training
  - Accounting classes
  - Tailoring classes
  - Cow and Poultry rearing
  - Driving lessons
  - Soap and candle making classes

As the community people are trained in various activities, they will be able to earn a living and provide for their families. More importantly, this will also increase their confidence and self esteem, and help them to realise that they can play a part in improving the environment of their community.

