

Quality Education for Deprived Children in Northern Bangladesh

(Project description and status, December 2018)



The little ones listen attentively to the classes in the preschool (Northern Bangladesh, @NETZ e.V., 2018).



Rural schools do not have proper learning tools (Bangladesh, @NETZ e.V., 2015).



Good lessons are fun (Bangladesh, @NETZ e.V., 2015).

Bangladesh – A country with potential: More than 160 million people live in an area twice as large as Bavaria. 80 % live less than a meter above sea level. The ever-increasing water levels caused by climate change are already endangering crop yields and regularly cause severe flooding. Although the country has developed positively in economic terms, 2.6 million children still do not have access to school education. Generally speaking, the majority of young people in public schools hardly learn to read, write and to do algebra properly.

Especially the north is neglected: The poorest regions of the country are at the border to Assam/India, our main project region where the infrastructure is insufficient and flood control lacking. Outside agriculture, there are hardly any job opportunities. Many religious and indigenous minorities, who are severely discriminated, live here. Just under 45 % of adults are able to read and write – even less on remote alluvial islands. Hardly any government support reaches the region.

During periods of political unrest and natural disasters, many people flee across the border creating further conflict potential. Four million immigrants, mostly Bengalis, might be classified as stateless by the Assamese government and therefore may lose access to state benefits. As with the Rohingyas in the South, potentially a major international conflict is unfolding.



School meeting in the morning (Bangladesh, @NETZ e.V., 2018).

10 Euro

Per year ensure quality education for one child

Our Project

Quality Education for 18.000 Children

60 Schools Equipped with Learning Materials and Books

240 Teachers Trained and Motivated

For many years, our partner NETZ has focused on Bangladesh and implemented many successful projects with local partners. We have closely cooperated with NETZ e.V. for four years already.

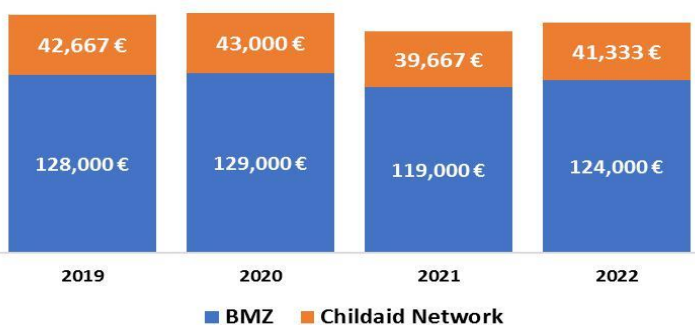
Children suffer from hunger - Good education is rare: On average, children from extremely poor families get less than 80 % of the required calorie intake. A long walk to school becomes challenging, and it impedes concentration during class. Especially girls are not allowed to go to school if it is far away. In many cases, families do not have the money for school materials and the children’s labour is needed at home or in the fields.

As a consequence, after grade 5, 80 % of children are not able to read newspaper headlines or solve simple algebra operations. Inadequate training and the frequent absence of teachers contribute to this. Classes are often crowded with 50-80 students. Those who can afford it send their children to private schools.

Our new project – Quality education for everyone: With experienced and capable partners, we want to provide access to high qualitative pre- and primary school education for 18.000 children in 60 schools in Northern Bangladesh. Many of these children live in extreme poverty. We support the schools comprehensively with social workers and through the purchase of teaching material and books. The training of teachers improves the quality of class-room instruction and strengthens their dedication. With the help of child-friendly teaching methods, especially under-achieving children get extra help.

Early childhood education for the smallest: In a one-year pre-school program children are optimally prepared for regular primary school classes. Our experience from other project areas demonstrates that attending a pre-school sustainably improves school success and significantly reduces school drop-out rates. The Bangladesh government has declared its readiness to pay for the facilities after the end of the project.

Organizational improvements: Only 20 % of the schools have functioning school management committees (SMC). Often parents do not know about their responsibilities and rights. Within the frame of an advisory program, SMCs are established and trained in all schools, so they can ensure regular attendance of students and teachers and take up advocacy work to enhance local government’s support for the schools.



In total, the school quality project requires funds of 666,667 € in 2019-2022. Each Euro from Childaid Network is quadrupled by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). We are looking for sponsors for Childaid Network’s share of 166,667 € over the next four years.

Please partner with us in ensuring quality education for deprived children in Northern Bangladesh and thus helping them to a better life.

December 2018, Project Coordination Childaid Network, Cynthia Dittmar and Dr. Maria Decker