A New Ray of Hope

SIL **Bangladesh** helps

communities

achieve

their

development

goals

while

retaining

their

Ethno

linguistic

identities.

At the beginning of 2017 I was a bit concerned after attending an event with the Kurux community who live in Rangpur district, in northern Bangladesh. It was a program evaluation event. The participants were keen to know whether we would be working with them again, but their questions made me feel worried and embarrassed. We assured them that we wanted to work with them but explained that it depended on funding.

A year later, in the middle of 2018 we got good news about funding for a new project with six language The children who attend are enjoying themselves and communities: Mahle, Kol, Koda, Koch, Hajong and Kurux. We were excited about the new activities. The

focus is on the basic needs of children, including their rights to health, education and family life. Children in these communities often get sick from diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, scabies, pneumonia or worms. Many are also suffering from malnutrition. Sometimes they do not attend School because there is no school close to their village.

There is a lack of awareness amongst parents about how to keep their children safe. It is not uncommon for parents to leave their children at

home while they are working in the fields. Instead of attending School, the children play unattended, which can put them in danger.

Children in these communities are often lacking in confidence.

....SPECIAL COMMENTS

we hope the project will be a great platform for their growth in the future.





For more information on **topics mentioned in this newsletter**, please go to .

http: http://www.silbangladesh.org/

SIL BANGLADESH LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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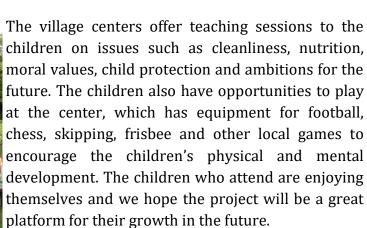
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A New Ray of Hope...cont'd

The main activities of the project started with a community survey and health screening of the children. We hired a local health worker to examine the children's health, checking their weight, height, vaccination record, eyesight and any visible health problems including malnutrition, scabies, worms and anemia. We then launched a nutrition program, establishing 16 centers in different villages where children aged 3 to 12 can come and eat a nutritious meal three times a week. The menu rotates to include fish, meat, vegetables, eggs, rice and dhal. The food is cooked by

mothers who have attended an awareness session about how to preserve the nutritional value of the food. The aim is that the mothers will continue to practice what they have learnt at home, helping to eradicate malnutrition among the community's children.



Written by: Shanta Maria D' Costa.

... SNAPSHOTS ... WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THIS MONTH

August 9, 2018: Rally and Awareness Raising program on Child rights with Kurux community.

August 11-13, 2018: MLE School visit, discussion meeting on the occasion of Indigenous Peoples Day 2018. Advocacy & Networking Seminar on Indigenous Peoples Rights with Govt. Officials in Sherpur.

August 12-13, 2018: Orthography discussion meeting and Material Dev. (partial) with Kurux community.

August, 2018: Nutrition Program with lesson delivery and Learning Corner among 5 communities.

August 14-16, 2018: MLE School visit, GNG visit with Kol Community.

August 11-16, 2018: Koch, Kol and Mahle communities visit to see our context by an Intern.



