

## RECEIVING GOVERNMENT AID

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their Ethno linguistic identities.

"This is the first time we are receiving government aid!" was the reaction of one recipient from the Kurux community living in the northern part of Bangladesh in the district of Rangpur. As before, there was wrong information about this indigenous community at the government offices. It mentioned that only 1% indigenous people are living in this area. Therefore, the community was deprived of all the facilities allocated by the government for them. Many brilliant students had dropped out of school for lack of Stipend. Many students had to skip school in the rainy season because of not having an umbrella, a bicycle, etc. People were living in houses in a state of disrepair run-down houses because of poverty. Later on, a few development NGOs provided leadership training but, it was not effective. Then SIL started working with this community in 2017. They started the Generation Next Group (GNG) in the villages. In this group, the members focused on the rights and government facilities allocated for the indigenous communities by the local government. They made the community people aware of these things and started advocacy with the local government officials. Through these communications and the establishment of a good relationship with the community, the community started receiving the benefits. GNG group members joined the Indigenous Development Organization. They surveyed the community for the first time and presented the information to the District Officer through the Upozila Officer. At this time, they found that there are 45,000 residents



in 35,000 families; where more than 1,200 are students. The local officials sent the information to the Prime Minister's Information Centre.

In that year, 100 indigenous students got Stipend. The next year 200 and in this year the highest number of community people have gotten Government Aid, and its 200 students

## ...SPECIAL COMMENTS

I believe many of your children are studying to a higher level by their own efforts. These youths are taking steps to upgrade their villages. I wish those the best to fulfil their goals by making their villages model villages. I also hope that, someday one of them will be a government officer like me.

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

Aug' 2020 - Staff Orientation  
and PRA Training .

Aug' 2020 - PRA Survey.

Aug' 2020 - Self Resilience  
Work (2nd Phase).

For more information on **topics mentioned in this newsletter**,  
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## RECEIVING GOVERNMENT AID..... Cont'd

received education materials, 100 got an education Stipend, 28 students got a bicycle, and 10 families got a total of 220,000 taka (BDT) for repairing their houses.

There was a huge gathering at which

many high-level delegates were present. In his speech, District Officer Ahsan Habib said, 'I am wondering to know about this Kurux community people. They are so gentle, humble, and honest. I am overwhelmed by the welcoming greetings and ceremony you do from your culture. I believe many of your children are studying to a higher level by their own efforts. I heard that one, from a family where his father was an alcohol producer, has completed (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) MBBS. Another girl is studying in university. These youths are taking steps to upgrade their villages. I wish those the best to fulfil their goals by making their villages model villages. I also hope that, someday one of them will be a government officer like me. Next year, I will try to increase the allocation amount for this area.' At the end, he distributed sports equipment to 10 indigenous organizations. This is a massive achievement for our community.

We hope that, in the future, we can enjoy more benefits and our rights through upgrading the relationship between the Government officials and the community people.

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