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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR IIRD BANGLADESH APPOINTED



Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of the Board of IIRD Bangladesh, has announced the appointment of Ranjaneshwar Halder as Executive Director.

Mr. Halder comes to IIRD with an impressive history of non-profit management. He completed his Masters in Development Management from the Asian Institute of Management, Manila, Philippines and Cost and Management Accountancy from the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh. He also passed Banking Diploma (1) of the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh.

Prior to joining IIRD, Mr. Halder served as Head of Administration and Finance at John Snow, Inc. (1999 – 2007). Previously, he served Oxfam Uganda as Program Manager (1997 – 1998), Oxfam Bangladesh, as Admin and Finance Manager (1995 – 1997) and at BRAC, as General Manager/Finance Manager (1985 – 1994). He has also worked as a consultant to DFID, NORAD, BRAC, BRAC University and NGO Forum for Drinking Water and Sanitation. He is married and has two children.

We are grateful to Dr. M. A. Mannan, who served IIRD as Executive Director from 2005 until this past May. Dr. Mannan has returned full time to his research position and works at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS). Under his leadership IIRD grew in size and stature. We wish him well.

YOUR GENEROSITY CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE AND HOPE TO THE RURAL POOR. PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A FRIEND OF IIRD TODAY.

EMPOWERMENT



Winter 2008

IIRD: Empowering Bangladesh's Rural Poor to End Their Own Poverty

GROWING WITH OUR PARTNERS

IIRD HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE YEARS SINCE ITS FOUNDING. IIRD HAS GROWN TO ENCOMPASS 11 WORK AREAS, HAS A PRESENCE IN 1500 VILLAGES AND SERVES 500,000 PEOPLE, A TESTAMENT TO THE SOUNDNESS OF THE MODEL.

We are in troubled times in so many areas today. IIRD is threatened by a loss in income that endangers some of its most successful programs. The following list is an accounting of our stewardship of your past gifts.



- Over 800 kilometers of roadsides have been planted with timber and mulberry saplings. Fifteen of the poorest families own 60% of the timber trees on each kilometer and receive the corresponding income from trimming the trees yearly and harvesting them within 20 years.



- The silk industry employs approximately 6,500 people including those who plant, nurture and pick the mulberry leaves.



- ALMOST 50,000 FAMILIES HAVE BEEN HELPED TO START AGRICULTURE, VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CULTIVATION PROJECTS.



- 72,400 children have completed the IIRD primary school program and 85% of those have continued their education through the government school system.



- An extensive marketing system is being developed to market goods produced by IIRD's poor. Over 1,000 families have been newly engaged in fish cultivation, with increased yields of 6 - 7 times what was possible before IIRD's intervention.



- A TISSUE CULTURE LAB HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED PRODUCING 63 METRIC TONS OF DISEASE-FREE POTATO SEED AND IS WORKING TO PRODUCE SWEET POTATO SEEDLINGS.

- Since 1990, an average of 5,000 individuals per year has received healthcare treatment and extensive health education.

- IIRD LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY REARING PROGRAMS HAVE PROVIDED INCOME AND NUTRITION TO SO MANY. IIRD HAS PROVIDED 12,458 COWS, 4,742 GOATS, 25,000 POULTRY BIRDS, AND 663 LARGER BROILER REARING UNITS.

- 9,403 bicycle rickshaws have been made available to the poor as small business ventures.



- At present, 25,000 families are involved in micro credit programs.

- 40,605 FAMILIES HAVE GOTTEN SANITARY LATRINES, PRODUCED BY THE POOR AND 1,927 PURE WATER TUBE WELLS, AND 80 ARSENIC-FREE WELLS HAVE BEEN SUNK.

- MORE THAN 17,500 HAVE BEEN HELPED TO ACCESS LAND THROUGH FUNDING TO DE-MORTGAGE THEIR LAND OR LEASE NEW LAND. 783 HAVE BEEN RESETTLED ON 140.11 ACRES OF PURCHASED LAND.

- 9,700 families have received tin roofs and/or siding.

IIRD PARTNER PROGRAMS AT RISK

A CALL TO ACTION

Our poor are now at risk from a new kind of danger. The unstable economy worldwide, particularly in the US, has caused a slow down of charitable donations on which they must depend. IIRD is not immune. In the next several months, programs will have to be cut and employees lost. Please, if you are able, consider a donation to support any of the at-risk programs listed below.



ROADSIDE TREE CARETAKERS

are the support system for the environmental, lumber and silk industries. Workers include the infirm, elderly or disabled, who would otherwise have to depend on the charity of their neighbors. They plant and nurture the small saplings that will produce the mulberry leaves required for silkworm rearing, the wood for heating and cooking, the mature trees that protect the roads from erosion during the monsoons, and provide building materials for many businesses. Without funding, we risk losing saplings planted along 62 miles of roadsides and 142 poor will be out of work.

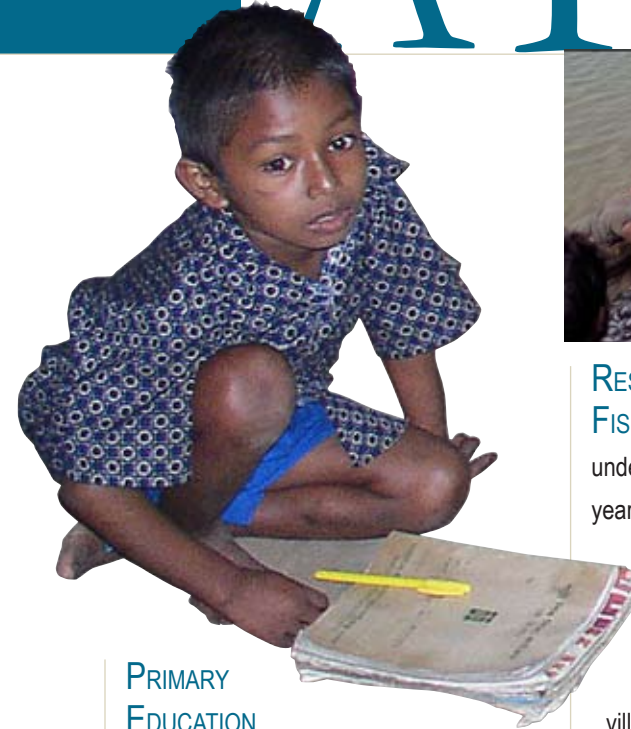
MICRO FINANCE has played a role in helping the poor to plan and implement their pathway out of poverty. Women's Groups in each village learn about money management, asset building, savings and loans.

Fifteen years ago Rehela had no homestead land. Her family of four lived in a thatched hut 15 feet by 8 feet. After joining IIRD, she qualified for a loan of Taka 3,000 for income generating activities and took training as a weaver in the sericulture program. Over the years she purchased 7 decimals of land, was trained in vegetable cultivation, bought furniture, and sent her son to school. Now she can arrange three meals a day, sleeps in a well secured house and leads a far better life.



COTTAGE INDUSTRIES are small businesses involving mostly people who work at home. IIRD supports many cottage industries from agriculture to poultry rearing to the larger community industries like silk production.

Nobiton, a widow, is an example of an IIRD entrepreneur. Fifteen years ago, Nobiton lived in a small thatched house that leaked and was in poor condition. Her family was often hungry. After receiving training in silk rearing and women's leadership development, she started rearing silkworms for IIRD's silk industry. With her earnings she now owns a second tin house devoted to silkworm rearing which has provided her with the funds to buy more land, improve her house and secure her family's future.



PRIMARY EDUCATION

Education means hope for the future of Bangladesh. It is essential to the uplifting of the rural poor. IIRD schools nurture minds, stimulate imaginations and encourage students to look beyond their world. It takes just two years to develop their curiosity and love of learning. Without funding, the foundation for these children will be too weak for most of them to succeed in the government schools and many will end their education.

IIRD HAS PROVIDED 72,400 CHILDREN WITH THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLING.



RESETTLEMENT VILLAGES AND FISHERIES Unproductive land, underwater six or more months of the year, is bought and redeveloped as fisheries. The earth dug out to construct the lake creates an embankment around the perimeter on which resettlement villages are built. Families who maintain the fishery and homestead receive a deed to the property after 10 years.

Ten years ago Sobura and her family of four were landless, hungry and without much hope. As an IIRD development partner, they moved to a land resettlement project. Her husband was trained in fish cultivation, she received tin sheeting for a family home and applied for a micro loan to purchase a cow and fruit trees. Today, with an income from the fruit trees, cow, and fish, Sobura's family is eating well and on their way to a secure future. Without funding, Sobura and 197 other families face a loss of fish production and greatly reduced income.

OUR STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION Without trained staff to implement the programs that benefit so many families, IIRD could not begin to accomplish all that it does. Our organization's measurable success is based on the very crucial system of field social workers who live in the villages and visit each family regularly to make sure that individual plans for success are supported and their progress is maintained. We cannot lose staff and maintain IIRD's superior level of interaction and support.



THE COST FOR 142 TREE CARETAKERS FOR 6 MONTHS IS \$106.00 PER CARETAKER.
142 GIFTS OF \$106.00 OR 75 GIFTS OF \$200 OR \$15,000

MICRO FINANCE LOANS FOR SIX MONTHS
250 GIFTS OF \$50.00 OR \$11,200

THE COST OF TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR SIX MONTHS
100 GIFTS OF \$67.00 OR \$6,700

THE COST TO PROVIDE A SECOND YEAR FOR 85 AT-RISK SCHOOLS
85 GIFTS OF \$750.00 OR \$63,750

LANDLESS RESETTLEMENT & FISHERY ACTIVITIES FOR SIX MONTHS
230 GIFTS OF \$100.00 OR \$23,076

STAFF SALARIES \$23,927 MONTHLY - ADMINISTRATION \$2,941 MONTHLY
107 GIFTS OF \$250.00 OR \$26,868