

Outreach Abroad

Supporting rural and urban development projects in Christ's name

Summer 2015



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Update on the Children's Challenge

THANK YOU

Last autumn children and other groups across the UK collected knitting patterns, needles and wool. Everything was sent to Kyenjojo in south west Uganda in East Africa for a group of women who have been taught to knit by Christine Kyalimpa, the wife of Pastor Paul Kyalimpa.



Christine with all the boxes of wool, needles and patterns

THANK YOU TO SMILE INTERNATIONAL!

We are grateful to SMILE International who included the parcels in one of their container shipments. After a long journey by sea and train everything arrived in Uganda in March. On 14th April Paul collected all the boxes from the SMILE depot in Kampala. He took them by road to Kyenjojo where Christine was delighted to receive them.

THE WOMEN GET KNITTING!

It was not long before Christine, Basemera, Tumusime, Tusemerirwe, Kakuliremu Rose Mary, Kemigabo and Kakuliremu Salome were all hard at work knitting. They plan to send two ladies to Kampala to be trained as "Trainers of Trainers" or ToTs. When they return to Kyenjojo they will train women to teach others. Many women will be able to make knitted garments for their families or to sell so they can buy food for their families.



Where Christine and her ladies are situated in Uganda

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE KYENJOJO AREA

The people in this area all live by growing family food on their own land which may be as small as two tennis courts or as big as two football pitches. As the children grow up they share the land so each generation has less land. Many people do not know about sustainable agriculture so the soil gets poorer every year and the harvest gets smaller. Sometimes the rains fail and at other times the rain is so heavy that it washes the topsoil away.



The women are thankful

Cover picture: Girls in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh attending the Duaripara Family Centre.

by Theo Lambourne

AIMS:

- Women in the churches will teach knitting skills to their neighbours and friends outside the church.
- By selling what they make women have another means of earning money for their family.
- They hope to get some knitting machines so they can teach women how to start and run their own business.
- They aim to offer knitting skills to girl students at Agaaba Memorial Skills Training Centre.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For the two who are being trained in Kampala this summer to become "ToTs"
- For the provision of four knitting machines
- For the costs of training the girls at Agaaba
- For the effectiveness of church ladies reaching out in love in Christ's name to their community through teaching knitting



Some of the ladies knitting

FINALLY...

Finally Paul has sent this message to us: *"The women are thankful to Operation Agri in the UK for this timely support to enable women to learn new skills which will in turn help them meet social, spiritual, financial and physical needs in their families and in the community."*



Paul receives the wool at the SMILE depot

Children's page

By **Janet Streeter** – friend of Operation Agri

ast time Oppy was in BANGLADESH.

To find out where he has travelled this time
| rearrange these letters: **RAACUING**

Oppy is in this time.

The puzzle below spells out the name of a Christian organisation dedicated to improving the health of communities in rural areas of the country Oppy is visiting this time.

Clue: go to <http://operationagri.org.uk/oa/Nicaragua.html>

[illegible]
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & \textcolor{brown}{M} & & & \textcolor{brown}{M} & & \\ \overline{4} & \overline{3} & \overline{13} & \overline{20} & - & \overline{4} & \overline{3} & \overline{6} & \overline{22} & \overline{6} & \overline{20} & \overline{17} & \overline{9} & \overline{25} & & & & \textcolor{brown}{H} \\ & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & \overline{13} & \overline{16} & \overline{20} & \overline{1} & \overline{4} & \overline{9} & \overline{6} & \overline{22} & \overline{11} \end{array}$$

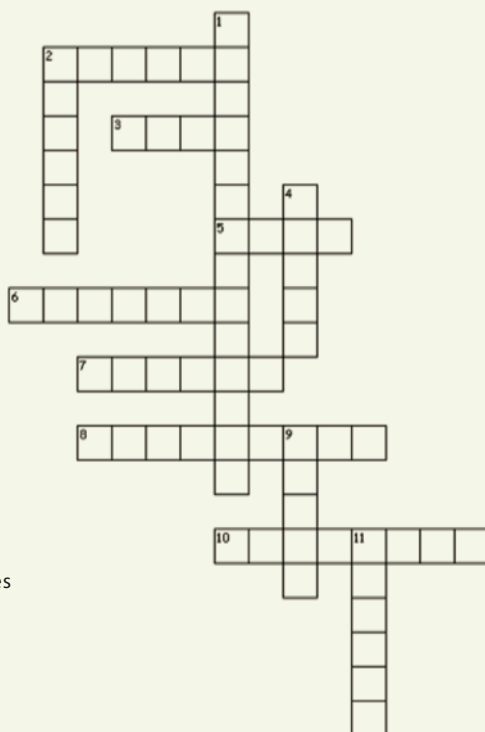
Looking towards Harvest time see if you can complete this crossword – all the answers are vegetables.

ACROSS

2. Often goes with salt
3. They grow in a pod
5. National emblem of Wales
6. Usually roasted
7. Orange coloured
8. Sometimes on the cob
10. Often called 'green trees'

DOWN

1. Grows on a long stalk
2. It has eyes!
3. It has a face!
4. You can have Green, French or Broad varieties
5. It has a long life!
6. It has a long life!
7. It has a long life!
8. It has a long life!
9. It can make you cry
10. It has a long life!
11. Sounds the opposite of hot



Youth Page

Richard, Steph, Tom and Sam Beales
– friends of Operation Agri

At the time of writing, Nepal has been in the news because of two devastating earthquakes in April and May leaving nearly 9,000 people dead as well as hundreds of thousands of people injured and homeless. Experts say it will take years to rebuild Nepal's fragile economy.

Nepal has a flourishing tourism industry but faces problems of deforestation which damage vital animal habitats. Most of the population depends on agriculture and the United Nations estimates that about 40% live in poverty. Foreign aid is vital to the economy and Nepal is heavily dependent on trade with India. (Source: BBC).

HOW IS OA HELPING THE PEOPLE IN NEPAL?

Operation Agri is supporting two projects in Nepal. One is Triveni Community Health and Livelihood Programme in East Nepal. The project is part of the development arm of the Nepal Baptist Church Council. About 605 households with a total population of 3,400 are being helped. Most homes are built from clay tiles, bamboo, wood and mud.

Their problems include lack of safe drinking water, poor sanitation and lack of income earning skills. With the support of Operation Agri good progress has already been made by the team:

- Monthly health classes are conducted by trained Health Workers and simple medical treatments are delivered. In the past year 164 people in the community have been trained in health awareness including personal hygiene, environment, sanitation, balanced diet and malnutrition, communicable diseases and women's health issues.
- Tailoring training has been provided to a group of women, some of whom have set up a tailoring shop in the centre of their village. Fifteen women have been trained and 10 more are to be trained.



...FOCUS ON NEPAL – FACTS

Area:	147,181 sq km (56,827 sq miles)
Population:	31 million (UN 2012)
Capital City:	Kathmandu
Language:	Nepali
Major religions:	Hinduism, Buddhism
Main exports:	Carpets, leather goods, jute goods, grain
Life expectancy:	68 years (m), 70 years (f)
President:	Ram Baran Yadav
Prime Minister:	Sushil Koirala

- Livestock training has been provided to 33 participants. This focused mainly on goats but help was also given with buffalos and other cattle. Veterinary training is also provided (a 5 day course).
- To help with income generation training in mushroom growing is proving to be successful.
- Five Savings and Credit Groups have been set up and help is provided for participants to keep simple records.
- It was planned to construct 80 new toilets linked to individual households but such was the demand that 120 were completed benefitting 607 people in this locality. The community now has an improved mindset on sanitation.
- Water conservation activities and tube wells have been provided and local people are reported to be very encouraged by progress in this project work.

HOW IS OA HELPING THE PEOPLE IN NEPAL?

Pray for the country's leaders, local community leaders, people involved in Operation Agri supported projects and the Christians in Nepal. Pray that they will have wisdom, courage and strength.

Give financially to the projects which Operation Agri supports in Nepal.



Prayers for Sri Lanka

In this issue we are concentrating our prayers on three countries in special need, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, with which Operation Agri has strong links.



Sri Lanka: Serendib / the pearl of the Indian Ocean / paradise Isle / the Wonder of Asia

Sri Lanka formerly known as Ceylon was once a British colony, famous for its tea and before that its coffee. It received independence on the 4th of February 1948. It was not long ago when the late Lee Kwan Yew, founding father of Singapore, looked to Sri Lanka as an example for development. However over the last several decades the island has seen war, conflict, political upheavals and repressive regimes that have made many leave its shores looking for greener pastures. Sri Lanka is a land that on first sight reflects itself as on the path to progress and one of the more orderly nations in South Asia, but inside is deeply traumatised and economically hugely indebted. What happened to this paradise isle?

On the 8th of January 2015, Sri Lanka saw the dawn of a new political era. The 'Guardian' described the change of power and political culture as a miracle! Under the promise of an era of good governance and a limiting of executive presidential powers, the newly elected President Maithripala Sirisena sought to move Sri Lanka towards a brighter future.

We thank God that crucial amendments to the constitution were made despite serious concerns that they ever would. The passing of the nineteenth amendment to the constitution saw the powers of a powerful Executive President being clipped and a more accountable system introduced.

Our prayer for Sri Lanka:

- Pray that the amendments will go a long way to eliminating the risk of abuse of power and bad governance.
- Pray that there is continuity of good governance, forgiveness in the sight of God, and leaders who are God fearing.
- Pray that sanity will prevail and that the political leaders and legislators will act for the long-term benefit of the country rather than for narrow aims related to their political parties.
- Pray for the upcoming general election that people will vote with discernment and that the direction on which this nation has been launched will continue through all attempts otherwise. So let's join together in prayer to see Sri Lanka rise to realise its full potential.

Let's make it the true wonder of Asia.

By **The staff of Leads**,
our partner in Sri Lanka



and Bangladesh



God of Justice, Mercy, and Compassion, we pray for the people of Bangladesh

You call us to pray and work together to build your kingdom in the hearts and lives of all humanity.

We give thanks for the Christian Church in Bangladesh that seeks to make your name known, and demonstrate your love as they work among people of all faiths and needs. Inspire us to come alongside our brothers and sisters to support them in this work.

Give us a heart of compassion for the poor and voiceless of that country, so that we are challenged to pray, give and actively support the good work done in your name.

We pray for the children of Bangladesh that all may have the opportunity to be educated and to have a better life.

We pray for the empowering of women who suffer in family and community situations that can often be abusive.

We pray for justice and better treatment for those who find themselves at the mercy of unjust employers.

We pray for resolving of political tensions that cause disruption for the country as a whole, and practical problems in people's lives.

Empower us Lord to rightly respond and play our part in the work of your church.

In Jesus name, Amen!

By **Gwen Millns**, Appeal Resources

Hope from Hobbies

Theo has been wood turning for some years and he has now made over 120 pens from about 20 different, mostly recycled, woods including apple (neighbour's tree), camphor (recycled table from Kenya), chestnut (friend's tree), Elgon olive (recycled 1974 shipping crate from Kenya), iroko (recycled science laboratory shelves), mahogany (recycled window frames and Victorian kitchen worktop), oak (recycled floorboards) and Pine (recycled 1903 church pew).

The pens are made in two styles;

- a slimline pen which mostly women seem to prefer and
- a more chunky European style pen which is mostly favoured by men.

They all have gold plated components with "Cross" pen type refills (available from stationers).

Theo sells his pens for £10 each (in a plastic or card case) or £11 each (in a velvet presentation

case) and the great news is that for every pen Theo sells £5 goes to support vital OA projects which are enabling people to access food, education, clothing and medicine. Things we often take for granted are made possible for the world's poorest people thanks to the projects enabled by Operation Agri and Theo's pens.

If you would like to purchase a pen for yourself or as a very professional gift for someone please email Theo for further details.

Theo Lambourne – OA Trustee

Theo.Lambourne@btinternet.com

*Mahogany slimline
in plastic case*



*Euro chestnut in
velvet case*



Prayers for Nepal



The situation in Nepal after the recent series of major and minor earthquakes needs little introduction in these pages.

Operation Agri has been assisting development work in Nepal since the 1980s, including a project which was at the epicentre of the first major quake and currently with projects run by MCDS (see our web site). Like many of our supporters we have followed the traumatic events in that country with our prayers and great concern.

Whilst our limited finances do not allow us to become involved in direct relief support, we have followed the activities of BMS World Mission and are grateful to them for permission to use their resources to cover this disaster and to seek prayer for the tremendous work being done by BMS and other agencies to bring relief and rehabilitation to that needy country.

“Earthquakes are traumatic. They take lives, cause injuries and destroy buildings. They also inspire knowledgeable and experienced people to step in and help. That’s what happened in Nepal during the weeks following the earthquake. BMS workers and partners are and will continue to help destroyed communities to heal – now, and long after the cameras have gone.”

Praise and Prayer Pointers

- Give thanks to God for His presence with the people in their suffering. May they be comforted by this knowledge.
- Give thanks for the swift response BMS and many other partners were able to make. Relief grants were immediately made available. Many BMS personnel are on hand in Nepal to bring support to partners. Assistance with recovery was quickly implemented.
- Praise God for the response of donors in this country and elsewhere which has made the work of rehabilitation possible – a need which is very much ongoing.
- Pray for the immediate needs of the people in remote areas of Nepal. There have been shortages of food, water and shelter. As tents are gradually replaced by more permanent cover, pray that wisdom will be given on how to help the neediest first.
- Seek God’s wisdom for those who are responsible for long term decisions and actions to help this needy nation recover. The danger of famine and disease is real in these circumstances. Supplies of seed are needed in the critical planting season for those who lost theirs in the earthquakes.
- Remember the bereaved parents and orphaned children in this tragic situation. Many families will be struggling to cope with their loss of loved ones and property.
- Pray for BMS personnel as they continue with their assigned duties as well as helping with the needs of the people who God has called them to serve.



Response Form

I enclose a personal gift towards the work of Operation Agri:

£

I enclose a gift from our church/organisation towards the work of OA:

£

Please send me the "Outreach Abroad" magazine by post every 3 months:

Yes/No

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Full Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Rev/Dr

Church or Organisation

Address:

Post Code

Gift Aid Declaration

Operation Agri BMM

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made:

☐ today ☐ in the past 4 years ☐ in the future

Please tick all boxes you wish to apply.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Please notify us if you: want to cancel this declaration/change your name or home address/no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Donor's details (in addition to those above)

giftaid it

Signature

Date

Standing Order Form

To support Operation Agri BMM regularly by standing order, please complete the details below,
IN BLOCK CAPITALS and return this form to the OA Administrator

My Bank Details

To: The Manager,

Bank Name

Bank Address

Postcode

Sort Code

Account No.

Account Name

Please pay to Operation Agri BMM at:

Bank of Scotland, Direct Business Accounts,
Pentland House, 8 Lochside Avenue,
Edinburgh, EH12 9DF

Sort Code: 12-20-29, Account No: 00142961

the sum of

£

starting date

and every *

month / quarter / year

until further notice from me in writing

This order *

is in addition to / replaces

my previous instructions relating to this charity

Signature

Date

* Strike out words that do not apply

Please send this form to Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX.
Any cheques should be made payable to 'Operation Agri BMM.'

Operation Agri BMM is registered in England and Wales as a charity, no. 1069349. Tel. 020 8803 0113.

Spotlight on an Operation Agri Partner

Choosing to Serve in Rural Nicaragua

By Dr. Laura Chanchien Parajón

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2



Dr. Laura at work

Community Health Workers like Maria, and many others like her, I am now aware that my “choice” to go to Nicaragua was one of privilege, and not sacrifice. I can leave and return to my suburbia at any time but the girls and women in Nicaragua do not have that choice. They are making great sacrifices to serve their

A TOUGH CHOICE OR NO CHOICE AT ALL?

Maria Delgado (*name changed*) lives in a difficult to reach mountain community in Nicaragua, and is one of the community health promoters with whom I have the privilege of working. When she decided to become a health promoter she had to make a terrible choice – follow her dream to be trained as a promoter to help her community or listen to her husband who threatened to leave her if she became a promoter. As a promoter, she has saved the lives of countless numbers of children and mothers in her community, yet her husband left her a single mother.

In 2001, my husband, a U.S. trained internist and preventive medicine physician, who is originally from Nicaragua, asked me if I would work with him as a medical missionary in Nicaragua. As the child of immigrants who left Taiwan to seek a better life in the U.S. It was initially hard to make the choice to leave my “American Dream” suburban physician lifestyle, however, after meeting inspirational

communities – inspiring me to choose to serve alongside them towards the day when all women and girls can truly choose to follow their dreams.

THE PURPOSE OF AMOS

In Nicaragua, where poverty is concentrated in the rural areas, poor children are three times more likely to die of completely preventable and treatable illnesses such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, and neonatal sepsis. We believe that our challenge in global health is to search for empowering and effective ways to reduce these health inequities so that the poorest people do not suffer needless death and disease. My father in law, the late Dr. Gustavo Parajón, always said, “A doctor in Nicaragua should not be a doctor, but a teacher to share our knowledge, and help others to serve.”

It was in this spirit of sharing our knowledge and training others that we founded the Christian non-profit making organization AMOS Health and Hope in 2007 to work

with others and use empowering approaches to address health inequities. Throughout the years, we have helped to train and build a network of rural health promoters who carry out evidence-based interventions such as pneumonia and diarrhoea case management to bring down child mortality rates. At the same time, the health promoters share hope and help build community strengths so that communities can become organized to help their neighbours, and help save lives.



A teaching session

AT THE HEART OF AMOS

At the heart of the AMOS ministry is relationship and love – starting with a relationship with Jesus, our example and inspiration for serving the least of these. We are grateful for the many relationships we have in the communities we serve, with churches, with individuals and with organizations like Operation Agri. Since starting as medical missionaries in Nicaragua in 2001 Operation Agri has accompanied,

encouraged, supported and prayed for us! Operation Agri provided us with the funding necessary to help us grow and thrive as an organization, helping us to think big and grow smart, and today AMOS has over 80 staff and community health workers who contribute to improving the health and well being of poor and marginalized populations in Nicaragua. Our goal is to continue serving in Nicaragua to contribute to developing a model of empowering community-based healthcare and knit together a network of relationships, love, people and organizations like Operation Agri, who choose to stand with the poor and the marginalized to improve their the health and well being.



Graduation

Over the Christmas/New Year period in 2014/5 Richard Durrant and Fiona Smith had a holiday in Uganda and were able to visit TWO of the projects supported by OA.

Uganda

1 The Beersheba project in Mbale is run by Oasis Uganda and OA funding has supported the establishment of self help groups which is just one aspect of all that the Beersheba Project is doing for the people in that area. This is their report.



Scovia and her stall – Beersheba

BEERSHEBA PROJECT (23 DECEMBER 2014)

We were met by Alex Toolo, Health and Wellbeing Manager, and the compound guard, being joined later by Mary Mugaba, a community worker who has worked with the Village Savings and Loans Associations for several years. The visit included a tour of the project's compound, visiting a savings and loans group meeting and spending time with some of the members to learn about their businesses.

A WORKING COMPOUND

This covers a fairly large area and includes several buildings, the farming area and a children's play area. Pre-school classes are being run here and the aim is to provide primary classes in 2016. The farming area is used to train local people in better farming methods and to educate them about different crops that can be grown successfully in the region and to encourage farmers to use manure on their crops from their own cows. This has been so successful that the project no longer gets enough manure donated from the local people as it is all being used on the individuals' farms! Crops include tangerines, groundnuts, beans, peas, sweet potato, bananas, matoke (a cooking banana) and passion fruit. They are currently experimenting with coffee plants – grown up on the mountains nearby – which require a lot of shade. The project will often supply small plants and seedlings to the local

people as they are more resistant to the local conditions than the mass produced seedlings sold in Kampala or given out by the government. People involved in this area of the project increase their confidence and self-esteem.

SAVINGS AND LOANS SPELL SUCCESS

Mary and Alex explained the history behind the Village Savings and Loans Associations. The project had initially given goats to villagers but this approach wasn't successful. There are now several groups who meet weekly and save money. Recently, one of the groups had a serious problem with one of their members and came to Mary for help. With support from her supervisors and Alex, Mary worked with the women and encouraged them to resolve the issue themselves. This involved taking the issue to the regional court. This approach has been successful and the women in that group now have more confidence in themselves. Encouragingly, the group member with whom they had the problem is still a member of the group.



The women's savings group – Beersheba

Mary had arranged for us to attend a local savings group meeting that afternoon. This group meets every Tuesday and had 'cashed up' the previous week in preparation for the holidays (Christmas). Mary hadn't thought they would be meeting and saving as it was Christmas week, however, the women had brought money to save. There are strict

a Visit

'rules' around the groups. Every member **MUST** attend the meeting unless they give a 'proper' reason, and there are fines for being late – as we found out! There is a record book (ledger) for the group and each individual woman has a pass book. Women put money into their individual savings 'account' and also into an

emergency fund (used, for instance, when a family member passes on or has to go to hospital). The women are then able to take out loans on which interest is paid, except loans taken from the emergency fund.

Many of the women wanted to show us what they had achieved so we visited several of their businesses including a banana cooling storehouse, hairdresser and 'hotel,' and several stalls selling fruit, vegetables, matoke, groundnut paste and powder, and dried fish.

2

In early January Richard and Fiona visited SDKF (Setting Development Keeping the Foundation) and spent some time with Dennis Ssettaala the SDKF founder seeing something of their Vocational Training work.



Sewing on the tailoring course – SDKF

SDKF VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND DESIGN PROJECT (7 JANUARY 2015)

The SDKF project office and training rooms are located by the side of the Northern Bypass on the edge of Kampala, opposite the slum area (Kisalosalo – 'the edge') with which the project has links. The project started in 2007 and Dennis told us it has received funding from Operation Agri since 2008. It includes courses in hairdressing, tailoring and computing, all lasting 3 to 4 months. Following attendance on a course, some people are able to take out a loan from the project to help set up a business.

SUPPORTING THE YOUNG

The courses are aimed at young people who have dropped out of school for various reasons and/or have been orphaned as a result of parents dying of AIDS and/or those who have the HIV virus themselves. Often their level of English is poor. Initially the age range was set at 14 to 18 years old, but now they accept those aged up to 20 years.

The project has links with local community leaders and the church which recommends young people to the project. All young people are interviewed before being accepted onto a course. This is in order to try to identify the most vulnerable and those for whom training will help 'bring the whole family out of poverty.'

SKILLS FOR LIFE

We saw both the hairdressing and tailoring courses which mainly attract girls. There were many young women and girls at the hairdressing session and a mix of young men and women on the tailoring one. The tailoring project recently began an initiative whereby they make washable sanitary pads for girls in the community to buy for a small sum of money because girls were dropping out of school when their period starts. The hope is that this will enable, and encourage, more girls to stay at school.



Hairdressing and beauty room and students – SDKF

Learning for Life in Bangladesh by Marisa Rawlins – OA Trustee



Girls at the SHED school singing

The Operation Agri 2015 appeal focuses on Bangladesh. In a country where literacy is low education forms a big part of the two Operation Agri sponsored projects – the first empowers indigenous women in Rajshahi district through saving and setting up small businesses and the second is a girl's education project in Duaripara, Dhaka.

Many young people in the UK have recently been sitting exams. In an educated society with equal opportunities for children, their worries focus on whether they have studied enough to attain the right results. Imagine yourself sitting on the bus to school when

getting to classes. These situations are very real for some children in Bangladesh.

LOW LEVELS OF LITERACY

Literacy rates are low in Bangladesh but they are improving. Sadly, this year the country experienced political unrest due to protests by Bangladesh's opposition BNP party. Strikes, attacks and transport blockades, particularly in Dhaka, disrupted daily life. The girls attending the Duaripara family centre in Dhaka already face challenges in the slum by exposure to sexual exploitation and bullying, poor water and sanitation issues. The centre offers a safe environment for girls to access education and to learn life and business skills through creative teaching methods. This work is much needed to decrease the vulnerability of women and girls to commercial and sexual exploitation, by creating new opportunities and access to choices.



Sonia (right) and a friend

angry protestors block the road and a firebomb hits the bus causing an explosion and panic. Change the picture, you are in a remote village where the journey to school on bumpy roads takes over an hour, then monsoon rains cause floods and prevent you



Duaripara girl learning the alphabet

Sonia: "Now I have gained self-confidence, I have become smart. I have become aware of rights as a child, as a girl!"

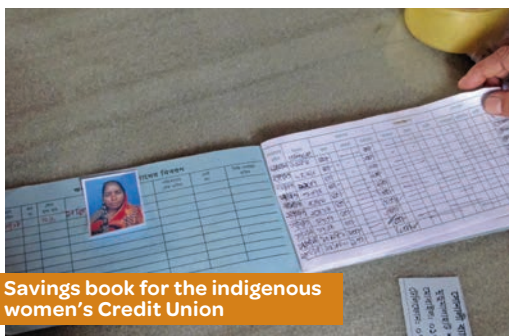
A FUTURE DESPITE UNREST AND DISRUPTION

The girls' exams were postponed because of the unrest and they have only recently been able to finish them after a long gap caused by the strikes.

One Mother told us "For boys, life is not very difficult, but for girls it's not easy. I passed my life with unhappiness and suffering, but my daughters should be happy and successful. Operation Agri has helped me for their education and lessened my burden. I was able to start a business to improve their lives, please pray for me."

SELF-HELP GROUPS, A SCHOOL AND SUCCESS

Over 250 miles away in Rajshahi, a rural district in the North West of Bangladesh, our partner organisation SHED (Social Health and Educational Development) runs a women's empowerment project. Women join self-help groups and an Indigenous Credit Union. Through regular saving they are able to take out small loans and set up businesses.



Savings book for the indigenous women's Credit Union



Rajshahi woman receiving a loan

Sonamoni uses a second loan of 10000 taka to cultivate a vegetable garden.

The project has established a small primary school in Chinashow Village. The indigenous families come from the Santal and other tribes, some of poorest in the area.

Families are too poor to send their children to the government school and parents have little or no literacy. School journeys take a long time and are especially difficult when heavy monsoon rain causes roads become impassable. The children speak indigenous languages and attending the Government school, where students speak Bengali, can lower their confidence. The SHED school has increased from 43 to 100 children and they are extending classrooms and adding benches for the new pupils. The three teachers come from the local community and teach in the local language. The children study Bengali, English, Maths and sing Bangla songs, recite poems and stories.

Sathi has a gentle and attentive nature. Her parents are illiterate and sell their manual labour doing agricultural work. They are hopeful the school will give her a bright future and better choices.



Our 2015 Appeal

...Building a Better Future in Bangladesh

When we think of Bangladesh we often associate it with, flooding, garment factories and widespread poverty. It is all that and also one of the most densely populated countries in the world and these combined factors present a multitude of challenges. Operation Agri has always sought to help those most in need and our 2015 Appeal focuses on **Bangladesh**.

We journey from the inspirational Duaripara Family Development Project, a girl's education project in Dhaka in the most congested city in the world, to an indigenous women's empowerment project in the serenity of the paddy fields of rural Rajshahi.

This is a wonderful journey which takes us to education, economic advancement and making life better for the girls, women and local communities. We will be asking you to be part of this exciting project. Watch out for the Operation Agri 2015 Appeal and become part of a community which supports: **Building a Better Future in Bangladesh – our 2015 Appeal**.

Marisa Rawlins – Operation Agri Trustee

To order the Appeal Pack contact Malcolm Drummond, Operation Agri, 361 Firs Lane, Palmers Green, London N13 5LX
Tel: 020 8803 0113

Email: admin@operationagri.org.uk
Cheques payable to 'Operation Agri'

Order by credit card or download resources:
http://operationagri.org.uk/oa/Appeal_Pack.html

