

People – Actions – Results Annual Report 2005

Dear Readers,

in the year 2005, we have together achieved a lot in Bangladesh. We have succeeded in supporting 51,396 people in total, by helping them to lead a life of dignity.

- ? For example, 7,065 ultra-poor families have succeeded, through our programme „Enough Rice for a Lifetime“, to create an existence for themselves and to procure their own livelihood.
- ? 3,305 children and young adolescents learnt to read and write with our help and support.
- ? Furthermore as part of the campaign on basic human rights and child marriage information was disseminated to 430,804 people

What constitutes NETZ and makes it special?

- 1. The closeness to the people at the grass root level:** We know their situation in the villages and the causes of the poverty very well. We have been working closely with Partner Organisations situated in Bangladesh for the last 17 years.
- 2. Solidarity, with a difference:** We guarantee that we are able to reach the poorest population and help them build self-help structures for themselves. Through this they can overcome poverty in a sustainable manner.
- 3. Integrity:** We employ efficient and transparent methods of working. The 'Central Institute for Social Questions, Germany (Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen) audits NETZ's work comprehensively and certifies the proper use of private donations given to NETZ.

All the positive changes in Bangladesh have been possible only through the financial support and the enormous voluntary work of our people from Germany. Therefore we would like to thank our friends and supporters with all our hearts! You tie the knots, out of which NETZ for Bangladesh is constituted. Each thread and each knot are valuable.

Only together will we be able to eradicate poverty. Please continue putting in your personal contribution to it!

Thank you very much

Ingo Ritz
Executive Director

In Bangladesh and in Germany

We voice our protest against poverty

NETZ is a part of the campaign „Make Poverty History“. Parallel to the worldwide Live-8 Concerts, on July 2, 2005, we had organised one of the biggest actions in Germany, in Wetzlar.

Dear Activists in Wetzlar,

from Berlin I would like to congratulate you on your super action – to collect signatures on a 1.5 km long white band made up of 1000 bed sheets tied together, with the inscription 'Make Poverty History' – is a great achievement.

Through this you too articulated, along with thousands of people from 72 countries, that we shall not accept the ultra poverty of hundred million people around the world.

Herbert Grönemeyer, Berlin 3. 7. 2005

Basic Needs

The basis of development: Food Security, Health and Education

Hunger and necessity have many reasons. Clearly the causes and the effects keep moving in a vicious circle. One, who has not had the chance to go to school, earns very little. One, who has very little money, cannot feed his family. One, who has hunger, is often sick. And one who is enfeebled and undernourished cannot display his or her skills to the full. Therefore NETZ campaigns for people, who never learnt to read and write, who would never be treated by any doctors and people who go hungry to bed every night. The poorest should have something to eat, clothes and access to health facilities and education.

For Ultra-poor People: Enough Rice for a Lifetime

In 2005, NETZ has...

supported Hazara from the village Tetullia. Even a year ago she had barely managed two meagre meals per day, for herself and her daughter, which constituted little rice and a bit of green-leaves from the plants growing along the streets. She was a cast away in the village. She was never invited to any celebrations. No one lent her out even the smallest of things, since they knew Hazara would never be able to pay back anyway.

Today she looks self-confident at the camera. She has shown us all. In our **“Extreme Poor Women’s Development Project”** she was trained in animal husbandry /cattle breeding, and then a small credit in the form of a cow. Along with that she also has hens and seeds for a fruit and vegetable garden. She has nearly paid back her loan. Now each day there is some milk – and for the things she sells, she gets rice and lentils. She does not need to send her daughter hungry to bed any longer.

NETZ is lead manager and donor of “Extreme Poor Women’s Development Project”. NETZ is responsible for the coordination of

- ? overall accounting and finance monitoring
- ? activity and impact monitoring and reporting
- ? consultancies and capacity building for the implementation including staff employment, baseline survey and selection of target group.

Health Facilities for Mother and Child

In 2005, NETZ has...

supported the initiative of the village-groups in their own region to improve the health and hygiene facilities. They installed tube-wells and built latrines. For example the children learn, how they can stay healthy by just washing their hands. The mothers also practice hygiene methods, and pay attention toward healthy nutrition and let their children be vaccinated. Midwives assist with precautionary methods, provision and childbirth.

Primary Education

Shodai goes to school. His fourteen-year-old brother and his parents work for a pittance, and they want for once that Shodai live well.

In 2005, NETZ has...

funded the start of 30 new primary schools. Since only education can pave the way out of poverty. Ongoing classes in 40 schools were supported.

Training

In 2005, NETZ has...

made it possible for 98 young woman to take a vocational training. With their knowledge of computer and bookkeeping they are now fit to assist with developmental work. For their assignments in the villages they have also learnt to ride a motor-bike.

Projects for Basic Needs 2005: An overview	Who has received Support?
Extreme Poor Women's Development	
Facilitation and establishment of self help structures for ultra-poor families.	7,065 mothers from ultra-poor families participate.
Investments for their assets in 2005: 1,385 families have cows 1,027 families breed goats 325 families have poultry farming 1,017 families cultivate crops 1,378 families have small business. 3,100 fruits trees have been planted 1,978 fruits and vegetable gardens have been sowed.	In total around 28,280 family members in Chuadanga, Gaibandha and Netrakona Districts.
Non-formal Primary Education	
Classes in 70 schools	2,302 children in 3 Districts
Health Awareness and Primary Health Care	
107 village groups work for the improvement of health and hygiene facilities.	1,953 committed villagers in Cox's Bazar District
104 children group participate in information dissemination	2,007 children participate
315 hygienic latrines have been installed	315 families
15 tube-wells constructed	15 village communities
Child birth and provisions	Through 75 midwives
Training	
In computer applications and management of developmental work.	98 young women from disadvantaged families.

Human Rights

All Human Beings have Rights: Together we shall fight for it.

Lawlessness makes poor: Child marriage, cheating one out of one's land, dowry or corruption plunge thousands of families into poverty each year. Especially the rights of women, young girls and minorities are spurned.

We empower the disadvantaged and give them professional support, so that they can implement their rights.

A Child must be allowed to be a Child

It is a breach of every law that even now more than half of the girls in Bangladesh are married off before their 18th birthday. From one day to another they become wives – some by the time they are 12 years old. The results: no time for school, early pregnancy, health that keeps weakening, adolescent mothers end up with many damages. Their children come to the world undernourished.

In the year 2005...

the "Adolescent's Empowerment Project" supported by NETZ has prevented 46 arranged child marriages immediately.

Moreover the project tackles the problem at the root: through an all inclusive information dissemination in the whole area for adolescents, parents, other opinion makers like village leaders, marriage registrars, doctors and teachers.

Girls from the poorest families are the most vulnerable to be married off early. A vocational training and having their own livelihood are effective ways to prevent it.

Destitute people should receive their rights

To have rights and to execute one's rights are two completely different things. Above all for people who are powerless. We empower them, since human rights are valid for everyone.

In 2005, the...

"Programme for Human Rights on Community Level" supported by NETZ has assisted 2,002 village people of 12 Districts to claim their rights.

The programme has trained 5,365 women and men as human rights activists at village level. They take up intervention methods for cases of violence against women and organise counselling for the victim of human rights violation.

Projects for Human Rights 2005: An Overview	Who has received Support?
Adolescent's Empowerment Project	
Facilitation of 40 youth groups and information dissemination among them on rights, adolescent period, health and hygiene	852 girls – and their families
50 alphabetisation and information dissemination courses	1,003 girls – and their families
Training in tailoring, embroidery, bamboo work or batik	56 girls, who needed intervention from early marriage
Campaign against the consequences of child marriage	In 44 Unions
Monthly meetings with local opinion leaders	Teachers, village or leaders, marriage registrar and Muslim religious leaders.
Human Rights on Community Level	
Human rights activities in 12 districts	In 73 Unions
Training of 5,365 men and women as human rights activists, 443 Union council members made aware of the rights.	133 acts of human rights violation prevented, 1,887 people assisted in the village courts and arbitral procedures.
815 theatre shows by human rights theatre groups.	Information dissemination for 427,731 audiences.

Rapid Relief Response

Fast, committed and effective

October to November is a time of suffering for the poorest of the Northwest Bangladesh. There are no daily-wage jobs in the fields. In autumn 2005 the situation was drastic: All food reserves from the last harvest had been used up. Out of desperation the people ate weeds and animal fodder. Dysentery epidemic, which was really dangerous for children, kept spreading.

Our **Monga-Aid** gave the people reasonable jobs, not alms. They filled up the yearly flood-gauge with mud, as a protection against future inundation. More over mothers, who had to take care of their children on their own, received our aid.

Rapid Relief Response 2005: An Overview	Who has received the Aid?
Cash for Work for Monga affected People	
Work and income	2,460 starving families with approx. 9,840 members
Land-filling of flood gauge	536 huts, 23 schools, 25 public places.

Networking and dialogue

for combating Poverty and Human Rights

Demand for a better political system

From Union Parishad Members in Bangladesh to EU Representatives in Brussels, NETZ espouses for better politics: the poorest 20% of the population should get their rights and repression of human rights activist should be exposed. Through NETZ their demands find an ear in Germany and Europe.

7 working days per week, upto 14 working-hours daily for 3.25 Euro weekly-wage. This is how the seamstresses work in Bangladesh to produce shirts and trousers for the German Market. The earning is indispensable for their life.

In 2005, NETZ has...

advocated for better working conditions in the textile industry – through the „Clean Clothes Campaign“. Public awareness and constant dialogues resulted in the change of attitude of Tchibo Company in 2005. Fired workers were taken back and social standards are now audited.

NETZ connects people

Active in Germany – effective in Bangladesh

The poorest in Bangladesh need friends in Germany who voice their concerns. It is only honest and precise information that leads to solidarity. This is valid for the general public as well as for the political policy makers.

Action „Make Poverty History“

In Wetzlar NETZ has organised the longest white band of Europe for the international “White-Band-Day”. It stretched from the top of the cathedral spire and went all the way through the town centre with the inscription “Make Poverty History”. Finally the band landed in Berlin exhorting people to the reality that every day 24,000 people over the world were dying as a consequence of hunger and starvation. The worldwide action against poverty demands for intensive and better developmental cooperation activities, a fair trade worldwide and an abatement of debt of the poor countries.

For Children as for Adults

Lectures, exhibitions and project weeks in school, One-World-Initiatives and church communities offer a perspective into the hard reality of life in Bangladesh. Through these the aim of United Nations to reduce the worldwide poverty by its half by the year 2015 has become conspicuous. Thereby NETZ has been able to reach directly more than 1,700 people in 2005.

Young Volunteers in Bangladesh

12 young German people took part in our work in Bangladesh in 2005 as volunteers. They came back after their 11-month voluntary work changed and evolved. They got the chance to see the world through the perspective of the people, who till then surfaced only statistical data, as an anonymous mass of the poor of the world. They implement the knowledge gathered through those experiences in the presentations and events in schools and colleges that they organise after their return to Germany.

Documentary Film “Farewell from Cooking and Crying”

Women working their way out of poverty received start capital and training through the project „Enough Rice for a lifetime“. The camera focusing on their eyes clearly articulated that they have come a long way from cooking and crying. This DVD is available all over the Germany from the state distribution office.

Documentary Film: „When Shodai learns, it is loud“

The film immerses children into the life of the eight-year-old Shodai. The camera accompanies him from his early morning washing at the tube-well to his school. It can get very noisy there at times, since all his classmates along with him are there with ardent zeal. Two NETZ volunteers U. Krüger and B. Hill have directed the film.

The Magazine NETZ

is the information source about Bangladesh in German. The themes in 2005 were: “Close to skin – Fashion made in Bangladesh”, “Water”, and “Right to Nutrition”. Shodai is all over the colourful children’s brochure “Our world is your world”. Along with it, there is also a special supplement for educationalists / pedagogues.

Bundling together Energy for the Bangladesh Forum

NETZ attaches importance to the fact that, for its work in Bangladesh, it must cooperate with other organisations and work together with them to advocate for more justice. Organisations like Amnesty International, Bread for the World, Misereor and Church Development Service (EED) collaborate with the Bangladesh Forum. In year 2005 NETZ had been assigned along with the coordination of the network to engage in dialogue among others with Members of the Parliament and, Representatives of EU, from the Ministry of Development and Foreign Affairs Ministry in Germany.

NETZ

Partnership for Development and Justice

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