

**ALL
WE
CAN**

Every
person's
potential
fulfilled

Walking together

Winter 2024 Newsletter



A brighter future...
for women in Liberia, Bangladesh and beyond



Dear first name,

As we approach Christmas, my thoughts and those of my colleagues are with people around the world who are facing hardships, including those millions of people globally who have had to flee their homes in search of safety.

It's a time of the year to reflect on our place in the world, to consider our purpose, and to recommit ourselves to our vision of seeing every person's potential filled...

We dare to be hopeful in the face of great inequalities and uncertainties by working with dedicated partners around the world who are doing so much to seek solutions and fighting for justice. In this edition of *Walking Together*, I'm glad to be able to share some of the incredible stories from our friends at The Self-Help Initiative for Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) in Liberia, whose focus on developing sustainable futures based on entrepreneurship is an inspiration to us all and should encourage innovation in our own communities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity throughout the year. We're proud to be unique in the locally-led way we collaborate with partner organisations, and your openness to how we work means that we can continue to develop resilient organisations for years to come. Your contributions make such a difference and will support lasting and sustainable change.



David

David Thomson
Chief Executive Officer



An update from Cox's Bazar

The Rohingya refugee crisis remains one of the world's most urgent humanitarian emergencies. There are almost a million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. 750,000 of those who sought safety following an increase in violence in Myanmar seven years ago are still living in limbo, with limited opportunities for safe resettlement.

The majority of the Rohingya live in Cox's Bazar, on the border of the two countries, which is the largest refugee camp in the world. What started as an immediate humanitarian crisis has now become a situation which requires longer-term solutions. This includes improving the prospects for the future of the Rohingya, such as through building skills to foster self-reliance and providing support for lifelong learning.

We have been supporting BNKS (Bolipara Nari Kalyan Somity), a local humanitarian partner working with displaced families. Their mission is to create opportunities for participation in socio-economic development activities, improve access to education for children and adolescents, and to raise awareness with community

members on issues such as health, nutrition, child protection and livelihoods.

Your support is so much more than just a one-off fix, it is an investment that allows our partners to respond to crises and provide support where it is needed most.

£6

£6 could equip a teacher in Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp with teaching supplies, such as stationery.

£9

£9 a month could help provide an annual teachers' training session on the new curriculum.

£20

£20 a month could provide 48 children in Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp with a school bag, water bottle and umbrella each year.

Fatema's story

My name is Fatema Begum, I am a 24-year-old resident of (Cox's Bazar Refugee Camp) and I came to Bangladesh in 2017 after fleeing Myanmar with my family.

Upon settling in (Cox's Bazar), I entered into an arranged marriage with a man who already had four children, becoming his second wife. Despite having two children of my own, I harboured a childhood dream of attending school and finding employment, aspirations that my family had never supported. In Myanmar, I briefly attended a Madrasah (a place of study).

My journey took a positive turn when I crossed paths with staff collecting names for potential learners for education sessions through the Self Learning Kit (SLK). Excited about the prospect of studying from home, I eagerly enrolled as I had been waiting for this opportunity since my childhood. Now I can finally learn English and Burmese.

Commencing my SLK studies in 2020 during the pandemic, I diligently balanced my household responsibilities, dedicating time to SLK practice with regular support from volunteers and facilitators. In a short period, my commitment and intelligence allowed me to proficiently recognise the alphabet.

During sessions, when facilitators inquired about the motivation behind my studies, I consistently responded that 'I want to be a



'I want to be a teacher like you. I want to earn money for my family and support them.'

teacher like you. I want to earn money for my family and support them.'

Progressing through SLK Phases 1 & 2, I was able to successfully complete my studies. Presently, I work as a day guard, responsible for listing the names of community volunteers. I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to fulfill my childhood dream, and I am excited at the prospect of being an inspiration to other women in my own community. I want to encourage them to pursue education and take pride in their accomplishments.

Through your generosity, we're able to fund important work that makes education programmes available to women like Fatema.



Tailoring my own future

My name is Yamah, I am 31 years old and I am a former student of the SHIFSD Institute in Liberia.

I grew up in Johnsonville and after high school, I had nothing to do. I heard about the SHIFSD Institute because of my sister-in-law. She was in school doing adult literacy classes and she invited me to go to her graduation ceremony. At the ceremony, I saw the beautiful clothes the students were wearing, the ones who had been studying tailoring for six months, and I said to them, 'did you make these clothes yourself?'. They told me they had as a result of their tailoring course and so I went away to discuss the possibility of joining the tailoring classes with my father. He said I could go and register and so I began training as a tailor.

I attended the beginner programme then advanced to the intermediate programme.

When I graduated, I went away and began sewing at home, so that I could work for myself. I began getting business from locals in my community, to work on blouses or suits. I would make between three hundred and five hundred Liberian dollars and was finally doing something for myself. I continued to increase my work until I could afford to have my shop.

The tailoring programme changed my life. Being able to start my tailoring business has provided me with the money to feed myself. It has helped me to go to college because I have been able to pay for my tuition and travel because of the money I have earned through tailoring. It has also allowed me to help me pay for my daughter's education.



'Now I can stand on my own and live by what I have learned.'

school and fashion house one day. Without tailoring, I would not be the way I am! I value that so much and I want to use that and do something with it. I want to lead where people will follow. A place where I can have my own tailoring school and teach many people and bring them into the shop. I don't have the money right now for this, but I am working towards it.

Because of SHIFSD and the tailoring programme, I am changed. I am not depending on people for everything. Now I am able to say, 'I can do this for my daughter', instead of 'can someone please help me with this? My daughter is graduating, can someone please help me with her fees?' I am able to do it all by myself because I am not dependent. Now I can stand on my own and live by what I have learned.

It means so much to me that I am a businesswoman, I can make money and get myself through hard times. Because of my business, I am also able to assist others in my community. Someone will say, 'I need this' and I'm able to help. Having a business helps you to be good in your community and it makes you feel important. It means that people can come to you and you can help them. People know that they can count on you, always. I feel proud that I am able to give back to my community.

I am currently studying public health at college, but my dream is to open a tailoring

Through your donations, we're able to support organisations like SHIFSD and women like Yamah to fulfil their potential.

£7

£7 a month could support monthly awareness sessions for parents on issues of health, nutrition and child protection.

£24

£24 could provide entrepreneurship skills training for a woman, like Yamah, in Liberia.

£79

£79 could provide a climate smart agriculture awareness event for a community.

My gift to All We Can



Service user number: 691213

Your vital ongoing support helps make all of the incredible impact that you have just read about possible. By making a gift today, you will help ensure that All We Can and its partners around the world are able to help even more people realise their full potential. You can also make a gift online at allwecan.org.uk/walkingtogether

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