

Empowering women

Climate change continues to disrupt lives, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable communities worldwide. The rural village of Kurigram in Bangladesh is no exception. Once a thriving farming community, it has now become one of the most disaster-prone regions in the country.

Khaleda Begum has lived in Kurigram for most of her life as a farmer. She shares her home with her husband and four daughters but has struggled to meet their basic needs. Like many others in her community, life was difficult, and she was married at a young age. When asked to describe her experiences, she shared, *"I cannot describe my suffering."* Due to climate change, the small livelihood her family once had through farming has been destroyed, leaving her desperately searching for ways to provide for her family.

Our Christian Aid partner, Aid Comilla, stepped in to support Khaleda by enrolling her in an e-commerce training programme—an opportunity for her to learn new skills and gain business training to build a sustainable income through her craft. Aid Comilla is committed to empowering women, training them to become **'change agents'**

who establish their own businesses and inspire others to do the same. Through their programmes, they provide women like Khaleda with training, equipment, and financial support for business start-ups. Most importantly, they teach digital literacy, equipping women with smartphones and guiding them on how to set up online shops to market their products.

Khaleda successfully completed the training and now sells handmade beaded bags both within her community and online. She has learned how to maximise sales as an online entrepreneur, expanding her reach beyond her local area which she never imagined possible. Since then, she has been encouraging and mentoring other women to join the programme and develop their own businesses.

To date, Aid Comilla has trained over 580 women through this initiative, with the goal of reaching



Khaleda Begum with her beadwork after receiving e-commerce training. Aid Comilla/Christian Aid

5,000 women in the coming years. We celebrate this incredible progress and remain committed to supporting many more women, giving them the opportunity to transform their lives—just as Khaleda has. She now has a new source of income and a sense of pride being able to provide for her family's basic needs. She is committed to growing her business and become a positive role model for her daughters.

Thank you for your continued support in equipping women to become agents of change.

Prayer points

- Pray for staff at Aid Comilla for strength and wisdom as they continue to empower women to become change agents.
- Pray for the women who have started their business that God will bless the work of their hands and make their businesses flourish.
- Pray for God to continue protect the community in the wake climate related disasters.