

ENTREPRENEURS
OF BANGLADESH

Uncovering Bangladesh's Hidden Entrepreneurial Gems

Stories that really matter



Powered by  **LightCastle**
Partners



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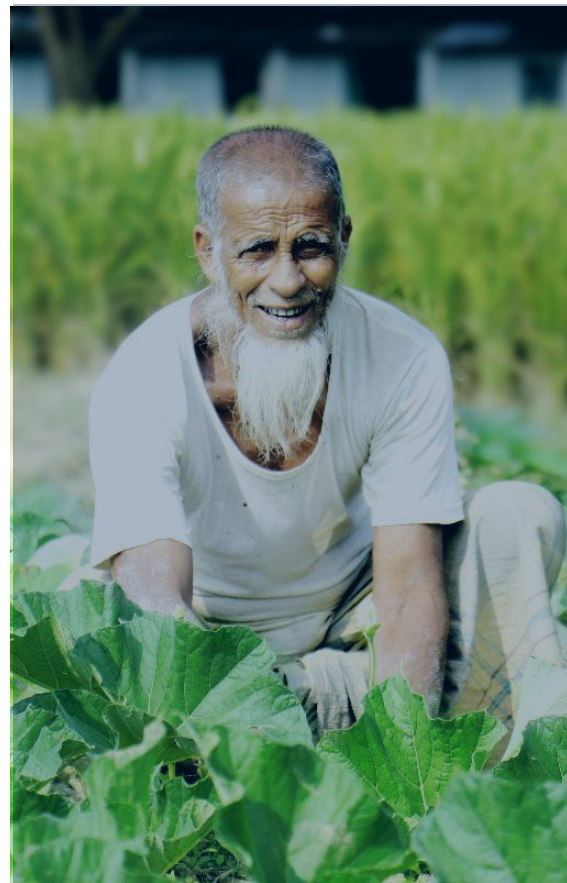


Entrepreneurs of Bangladesh

Entrepreneurs of Bangladesh is a storytelling platform by LightCastle Partners that celebrates the unsung heroes of Bangladesh - rural entrepreneurs! These hardworking individuals have played a pivotal role in driving growth and prosperity in our communities, yet their efforts often go unrecognized.

On our platform, we are dedicated to showcasing the inspiring stories of these entrepreneurs and giving them the recognition they deserve. From their struggles to their triumphs, we believe that every story deserves to be heard.

Scan the code
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website ►



MSME Landscape in Bangladesh

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector is a critical driver of economic growth in Bangladesh. Based on recent statistics, the sector comprises approximately 7.8 million MSMEs ¹, directly employing around 20.3 million people ², and contributing roughly 25% of the country's GDP ³. Furthermore, the MSME sector plays a vital role in the manufacturing industry, contributing to an impressive 40% of its overall output ⁴.

In addition, it is important to note that the MSME sector has significant potential for further growth and development. By providing access to capital, training, resources, and improving infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, the government, development organizations and the private sector can work together to unlock their potential and drive additional economic growth and job creation in Bangladesh.



7.8 Mn

Number of MSMEs ¹



20.3 Mn

Contribution towards employment ²



25%

Contribution towards GDP ³



40%

Contribution towards manufacturing output ⁴

Source:

(1) National Economic Census 2013, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

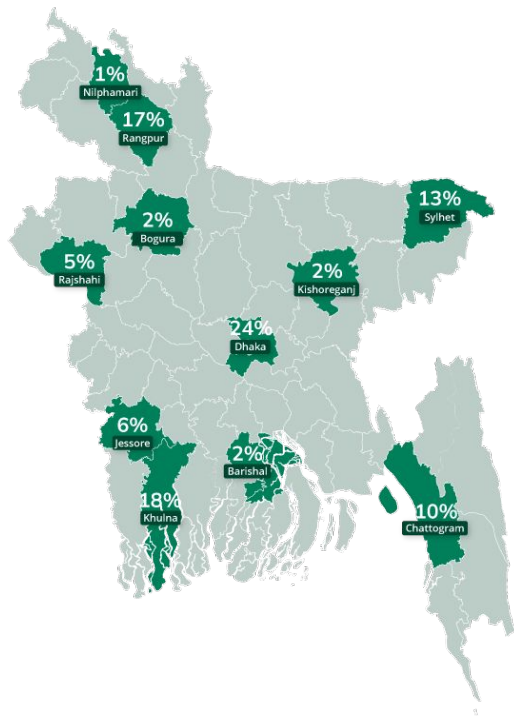
(2) IFC - Business Pulse Survey: Impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs in Bangladesh, 2020

(3) SME Foundation, 2018

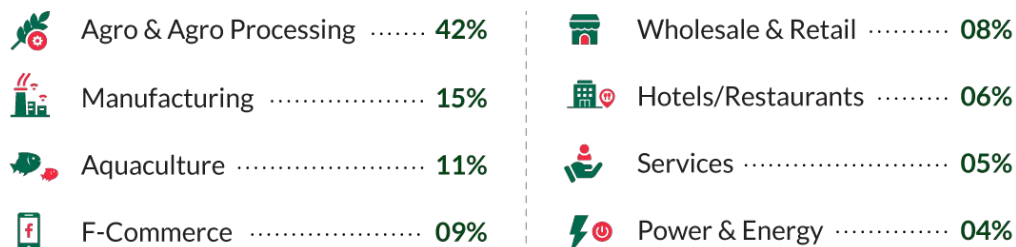
(4) National Economic Census 2013, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

LightCastle's Contribution in the MSME Landscape:

LightCastle's Footprint



Top Industry Coverage



Gender-wise Breakdown of MSME Owners



LightCastle's Contribution in the MSME Landscape:

One of LightCastle's core missions is to promote and facilitate inclusive growth for all. To achieve this mission, LightCastle, till date, has collaborated with 150+ development partners & private organizations to uplift the MSMEs from their root level.

At LightCastle Partners, we are proud to have empowered over 1500+ MSMEs by providing them with a range of essential services. Our expert team offers comprehensive business development consulting, knowledge enhancement training, and support services for Access to Finance (A2F) and Access to Market (A2M).

MSMEs are the backbone of our economy, and we are committed to helping them grow and thrive. Our tailored services are designed to meet the unique needs of MSMEs across a diverse range of industries, enabling them to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.

Supported by Partners & Donors:



The Unsung Heroes



How Raising Quails Launched My Entrepreneurial Dream



Romana Akter

Name of the Enterprise
Nasir Koyel Khamar

Year of Establishment
2020

Industry
Poultry Farming

Region
Kamalganj, Sylhet

My passion for raising animals helped launch my entrepreneurial journey when I was very young. Once I finished my SSC, I noticed that most of my friends were getting married, and I did not desire that for myself. Never wanting to be known as anyone's daughter or wife, I always wanted to establish my own name. I informed my older brother that I wanted to do something, and he suggested that I start researching quail farming.

I wasn't really sure what I needed to accomplish at first, but after speaking with family members, elders, and other farmers, I launched my business in 2016 and gradually increased its scope. I was introduced to iDE in 2021, which helped me improve as a business. My current goal is to expand my company and offer additional poultry items like chicken and ducks, and I want to make sure that my birds are of the highest caliber. Through my experience, I hope to be able to connect with common Sylhet females and encourage them to take the first step toward freedom.

“Remember, success is not always measured in monetary terms. It's about doing something you're passionate about, creating something you're proud of, and making a positive impact on the world. It's about being true to yourself and following your dreams.

A Woman's Journey in the Leather Industry



Engr. Tania Wahab

Name of the Enterprise
Karigar- TAN BD

Year of Establishment
2008

Industry
Leather

Region
Dhaka

Since I was a child, I've always been drawn to the world of leather goods. As a Leather Technology major, I knew I wanted to make my mark in the industry and do something different. But the road to success was never easy, especially as a woman who wasn't from the area.

I started small, with just a second-hand sewing machine and a tiny workspace. It wasn't easy, but I persevered and slowly built up my leather goods brand, focusing on corporate gifts and never compromising on quality. Even when it meant turning down profits, I knew that maintaining my commitment to quality was crucial.

My hard work paid off when I landed a huge order from British American Tobacco, Bangladesh, and my business started to take off. Now, I have big plans for the future. I want to make TAN a household name and purchase my own factory space. It won't be easy, but I'm not one to give up on my dreams. My journey serves as a reminder that no matter who you are or where you come from, you can break barriers and chase your dreams.



Perseverance is key to achieving your dreams.

Holding On Through the Struggles



Rezaul Karim Chowdhury

Name of the Enterprise

ROOZ

Year of Establishment

2016

Industry

Leather

Region

Dhaka

I was born and raised in Hazaribag, where the leather industry used to flourish. Even though my family was never involved in this business, I found myself fascinated by it from a young age. In 1984, I worked at a buying house to learn about the industry. However, in 1986, my father passed away, and I had to leave the buying house to support my family.

I worked in an advertisement firm until 1997 then I returned to the leather business. During this time, the tannery shifting began, and the overall leather business in Bangladesh took a hit. However, my interest in leather goods grew when I secured an order from Japan, and I started my own business, Rezaul Karim & Company, in 2016, with my wife's support. It was a struggle, but we managed to establish our company without taking any bank loans.

Just as we started doing well, COVID-19 struck, and we had to face the cancellation of confirmed orders from Japan and Canada. It was a massive blow, and we still struggle to this day. But, I couldn't bear to let go of my employees, and I paid them even when the factory was closed. We supplied to the local market, but it wasn't enough.

I still hold on to my business, and my plan is to delve into the exporting world and expand my business. If I have more investment, I can do this work more efficiently. I am hoping to get more work and keep holding on through the struggles.



Starting a business is not just about making money, it's about creating a legacy that will impact generations.

A Journey of Triumphs and Setbacks



Md. Faruk Hossain Lintu

Name of the Enterprise
Pure Wood Furniture

Year of Establishment
2013

Industry
Furniture

Region
Rangpur

I never imagined that my life would be filled with so many ups and downs. My business, Pure Wood Furniture, was my dream, and it took me ten long years to make it a reality. It all started with selling tree logs and other raw materials. However, after facing a lack of sales, I decided to go into furniture production.

In the beginning, I was frightened to deliver customized orders, but the positive feedback gave me the courage to keep going. My business was steadily growing until the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020. My factory and showroom had to shut down, and I had to let go of some of my employees.

It was a challenging time, but thankfully, I had the support of my diagnostic lab to keep my finances afloat. Through the B-SkillFUL project, LightCastle Partners has helped me learn new things, focus on marketing, and reduce raw material wastage.

Through sheer determination and support, I have been able to keep my business running, and I have hope for the future. I know that one day, my business will reach new heights.

“ Life is a journey with challenges, but perseverance and hard work can help us overcome them.

From Stranded to Thriving: A Twist of Faith



Foyjur Rahman

Name of the Enterprise
Yeasin Nursery

Year of Establishment
2021

Industry
Horticulture

Region
Sylhet

I used to work as a service provider in Qatar before the pandemic hit and I had to return to Bangladesh. But soon after, I lost my job due to the virus's widespread impact. I was stranded and didn't know what to do. That's when I decided to start a nursery business, utilizing whatever savings I had left. It was a risky move, but I was determined to make it work.

Despite facing fierce competition, I put in a lot of effort to research consumer demand trends and offer a wider range of services and goods. I wanted my nursery to stand out in the local market and attract more customers. I worked hard and never looked back.

Today, I am proud to say that my nursery is thriving, and I am determined to take it to new heights. My goal is to rank among Sylhet's top nurseries and inspire others to chase their dreams. It hasn't been an easy journey, but I have learned that with determination and hard work, anything is possible.

“ **Never give up on your dreams, even when the world seems to be against you.** ”

Breaking Barriers: A Girl with a Dream



Tanwi Golder

Name of the Enterprise

Jhorbhangha Vermicompost

Year of Establishment

2017

Industry

Vermicompost

Region

Khulna

I was only 22 when I decided to start my compost plant. People didn't believe in me, and they carried a negative outlook on such a business. I had to endure rebukes and mockeries of all sorts. At times, it even affected my self-confidence. But my immediate family, especially my father, was my biggest supporter. He continuously inspired me to keep going without paying attention to what the critics said.

Despite the negative feedback, I kept working with complete determination and dedication. And after a few months, people could notice a radical change in the health of the paddy growing in my field. This marked the beginning of my business.

Currently, I maintain a network of 150 female vermicompost suppliers, and my products are sold directly to farmers and in local shops. Once my customers started observing good results from the usage of this fertilizer, my business expanded quickly. I am happy to say that I am the recipient of the Annual Joyeeta Award 2020 – a government initiative recognizing outstanding entrepreneurial ventures.

My next aim is to create a brand for my vermicompost and for that I need an investment of 70,000 taka. The brand will give me the identity and sense of liberation to soar higher. May my dreams come true.



Criticism shapes us to be determined and courageous, to fight against the odds.

From Widow to Entrepreneur: My Journey of Struggle and Triumph



Asma Begum

Name of the Enterprise

Asma's Farm

Year of Establishment

2019

Industry

**Horticulture &
Aquaculture**

Region

Rangpur

I am Asma Begum, a widow and a mother of two sons. My life was shattered when my husband passed away in 2019 after a prolonged illness. The sudden loss left me with no choice but to take care of my family and household responsibilities alone. I was overwhelmed with grief, but I couldn't let it consume me. I had to be strong for my children, who depended on me.

In the midst of all the chaos, LightCastle Partners and WorldFish came to my aid. Their support and guidance gave me the courage to start my own business. I invested all my savings into creating two ponds and released carp fingerlings. It was a new venture for me, but I had to make it work.

The Covid-19 pandemic hit us hard, and I struggled to sell my fish at a fair price. But I refused to give up. I transformed my surroundings into a vegetable garden, making my business more diversified. WorldFish helped me get a loan to fund my new plans, and I encouraged other women to do the same.

Despite the success I have achieved, I am still faced with many challenges. Getting a loan with reasonable interest rates is still a struggle for women entrepreneurs like me. But I refuse to give up. I have created an alliance with 25 women entrepreneurs in my locality, and we support each other through our struggles.

My journey has been full of hardships, but I have never lost hope. I will continue to fight for my family, for myself, and for all women who aspire to be entrepreneurs.



Life may knock you down, but it's up to you to get back up and fight harder.

A Leap of Faith



Mosammat Zorina Begum

Name of the Enterprise
Zorina's Agro Farm

Year of Establishment
2015

Industry
Horticulture

Region
Rangpur

I still remember the day when my husband fell ill. It was the moment that changed everything for us. Opening my business was not just a choice, it was a necessity for my family's survival. And even though it was a daunting task, I had to take a leap of faith. Thus, I turned to the only thing that I knew and that was agriculture. The idea of starting a cattle farm seemed like the only way out for me and my family.

As years went by, my business grew, and I added chili cultivation to my farm. Things were going well, and I was content with my circumstances. However, fate had a different plan for me. My husband passed away, leaving me and my son to carry on. It was a tough time, but we didn't lose hope.

We kept pressing on over the years and luckily with support from organizations like LightCastle Partners and Oxfam, I was able to slowly rebuild my business. It has been a tough journey, but I refuse to give up. I will continue to fight for my family, and for all women who aspire to be entrepreneurs.

“ The greatest strength comes from overcoming the deepest sorrows.

A Step towards a Dream



Md. Nahidul Islam

Name of the Enterprise
Nahidul's Fish Farm

Year of Establishment
2016

Industry
Aquaculture

Region
Rajshahi

Growing up, I was always fascinated by the world of fish. My grandfather and father dedicated their lives to cultivating different types of fish, and I knew from a young age that I wanted to follow in their footsteps. Despite facing financial challenges, my father helped me start my own fish farming business, and I poured my heart and soul into making it successful.

The first few years were filled with both triumphs and setbacks. I started small with ponas and took every precaution to ensure their safety and health. When I saw that the production was profitable, I expanded to carp and other mixed breeds. But tragedy struck when one of the ponds was infected, and I lost a significant amount of fish.

Despite this setback, I refused to give up on my dream. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, I was fortunate enough to not suffer any major losses. And with the help of Oxfam and LightCastle Partners, I was able to secure funding for my business and plan for even more growth in the future.

Now, as I look ahead to the future, I am filled with hope and determination. Though I couldn't lease any ponds this year, I used the money to invest in a dairy farm, and I am excited to see what the future holds. With the support of my family, my community, and my faith, I know that I can overcome any challenge and continue to build a successful career in aquaculture.

“Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful at it.”

Agriculture: My Lifelong Passion



Abdul Majid

Name of the Enterprise
Unique Food Products

Year of Establishment
2003

Industry
Agro Processing

Region
Khulna

As I stepped foot in Dhaka in 1998, I had a dream to make it big with my own business. I opened up a motor shop, but the rampant corruption made me lose faith in my venture. My desire to earn through halal means made me quit my business and join the Korean Hyundai company. But, my journey there wasn't smooth either, as bribery was the norm in that field too.

In 2002, I decided to return to my hometown, and it was then that my real entrepreneurial journey began. I turned towards agriculture, a field that resonated with my values. With Unique Food Products, I set up an organic agro farm on my ancestral lands, and my scientific methods of production were successful from the start.

Over the years, I collaborated with many brilliant minds in the field of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries. I worked with professors from various universities and the Livestock Research Institute in Gazipur to strengthen my knowledge. My farm gained a reputable name, and Prothom Alo featured my inventions and life's work.

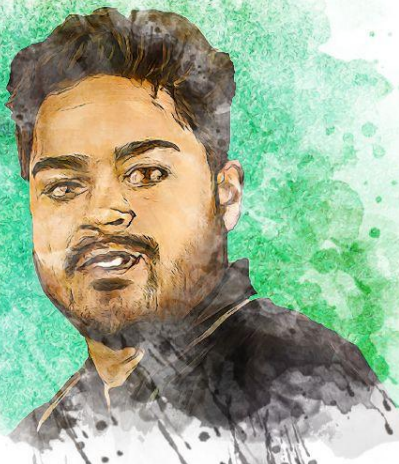
Despite working tirelessly for almost two decades, I struggle to get proper funding for development. What we need is not loans from banks or enterprises but proper funding from organizations that believe in the future of agriculture in our country.

All the training programs and seminars I have attended have been beneficial, but my ultimate dream is for the youth to see agriculture not just as a profession but as a way of life. I hope to leave behind a future where agriculture ensures the livelihood of millions in Bangladesh.



I dream of a future where agriculture is not just a profession but a way of life for the youth.

Marching Forward: A Family Legacy



Md. Rubab Ansvari

Name of the Enterprise

M/S MOIN Engineering Works

Year of Establishment

1968

Industry

Light Engineering

Region

Nilphamari

M/S MOIN Engineering Works is not just a business, it's my family's legacy. As the third-generation owner, it's my responsibility to carry on the hard work and dedication that my grandfather and father put into it. It's a daunting task, but one that I have taken on with all my heart and soul.

My journey began when I completed my Bachelor's in Business Administration. Although I had dreams of pursuing my MBA, my father wanted me to join the family business. And so, I did. I started from scratch, learning everything there was to know about the industry, from iron products to managing finances. But it was not until I digitized the business that I felt like I was making a real impact.

However, the pandemic hit, and our business suffered a significant loss. We were closed for two years, and it was the most challenging time of my life. It was heartbreaking to see my family's hard work and dedication being tested to such an extent. But we persevered, and today, we are thriving.

I have big dreams for the future of M/S MOIN Engineering Works. I want to take it to the next level and become a business tycoon in this industry. This business is not just a source of income for us; it's our family's pride and joy. And I will do everything in my power to ensure that it continues to thrive for generations to come.

“Family legacy is not just about what we inherit but also about what we create.”

From Adversity to Triumph: A Single Mother's Journey to Success



Murshida Akhter Parvin

Name of the Enterprise

Alif Dream house

Year of Establishment

2016

Industry

**F-Commerce &
Catering Service**

Region

Dhaka

As a single mother with no support from family, I was desperate for a job to support my three-year-old son. However, the job offer I accepted turned out to be a fraud, and all my furniture was stolen. I was left on the streets with my child, feeling broken and hopeless.

A friend got me a job at a call center, and though it was difficult to manage both work and daycare for my child, I knew I had to find a better way to provide for him. With the help of a friend, I started selling frozen food items online, even though I had no refrigerator or stove of my own.

I started small, borrowing a neighbor's kitchen and using my friend's fridge. With hard work and determination, my business started to grow, and I expanded into selling homemade meals and even seasonal fruits like mangoes and litchis.

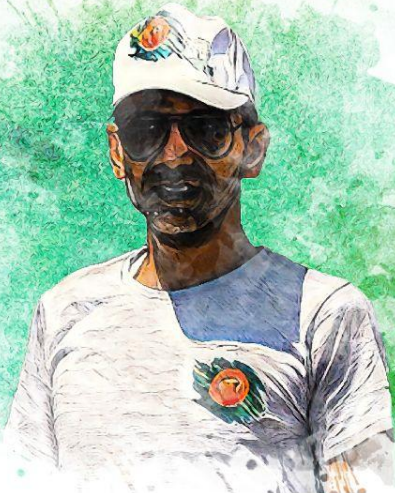
Though many of my relatives criticized my business, I never gave up. My mother was my constant support, and through my association with various business organizations and training programs, I learned and shared my knowledge with others.

Now, after more than five years, I have a stable business with three employees, and I'm proud of how far I've come. I know there will be more challenges ahead, but I'm determined to continue to grow and expand my business.



Believe in yourself and your dreams, and never give up, even when the road is tough.

A Journey of Hope and Resilience



Md. Tauhedul Islam Shahazada

Name of the Enterprise
Prantojon Agro Enterprise

Year of Establishment
2014

Industry
Agro Processing

Region
Barisal

In 2004, I founded the Prantojon Trust with a vision to support local farmers and work for the betterment of marginalized communities. Collaborating with various organizations, we provided financial aid to the farmers. But we soon realized that it wasn't enough. We needed to do more. And thus, Prantojon Agro Enterprise was born.

With the initial investment from the Prantojon Trust, we started promoting fresh agro-products for mass consumption in 2014. At first, it was challenging to communicate with the farmers, but we overcame it with our efficient marketing system. We focused on providing technical and marketing support to farmers for their agro-products. We currently work with almost 5,000 contact farmers and 500 contact farm owners to sell fresh agro-products and raw milk under our local brand. Despite facing the unpredictable nature of the agricultural industry, we ensure the quality of our products and help the local producers to get the best price.

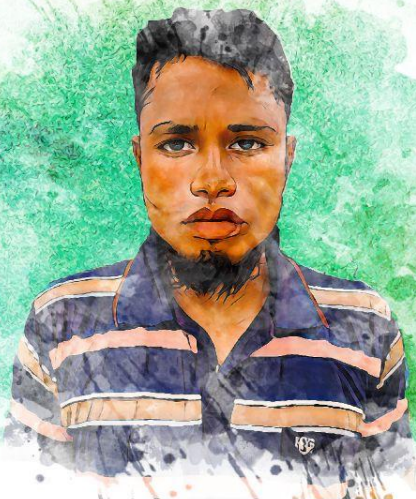
Last year, the pandemic hit us hard, and we had to shut down our operations for a while. Our production suffered, and the demand declined. But we didn't give up. We went online and updated our business plans. Now, we have a strategic plan to understand the market and focus more on digital services.

Despite the challenges, we continue to work towards our goal of changing the lives of marginalized communities. With our partnership with LightCastle Partners and Oxfam, we want to pass on our technical knowledge to rural farmers and expand our business to more districts outside Barisal. Our passion for serving marginal people keeps us moving forward.



Our resilience is tested by the challenges we face, but it is our hope that allows us to overcome them.

Poverty to Prosperity: A Journey of Perseverance



Md. Golam Mostofa

Name of the Enterprise
Abdullah Furniture

Year of Establishment
2020

Industry
Furniture Industry

Region
Bogura

Growing up in poverty, I was forced to leave school early to help my struggling family. I never thought I would be able to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor, but I was willing to sacrifice that dream to help my family. Starting from scratch, I faced many obstacles and injustices in the job market, but I persevered and steadily built my skillsets.

Eventually, I started my own business, Abdullah Furniture, and despite the challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, I managed to keep my company afloat with hard work, clever planning, and the support of my loved ones. But I knew I wanted more. I wanted to expand my business and start exporting, but I lacked the necessary funds.

When LightCastle Partners visited my factory, I felt like the Almighty had answered my prayers. Through their business development and marketing support, I have gained knowledge and experience that have brought considerable improvements and profits to my company. With their help, I believe that my company will continue to flourish and reach new heights.

Poverty may have shaped my past, but it will never define my future. I will continue to work hard and strive for success, knowing that with perseverance and determination, anything is possible.

“Poverty may have shaped your past, but it will never define your future.”

A Persistent Dream



AHM Badal

Name of the Enterprise
Bunon Kutir Limited

Year of Establishment
2019

Industry
**Jute Diversified
Products (JDP)**

Region
Rangpur

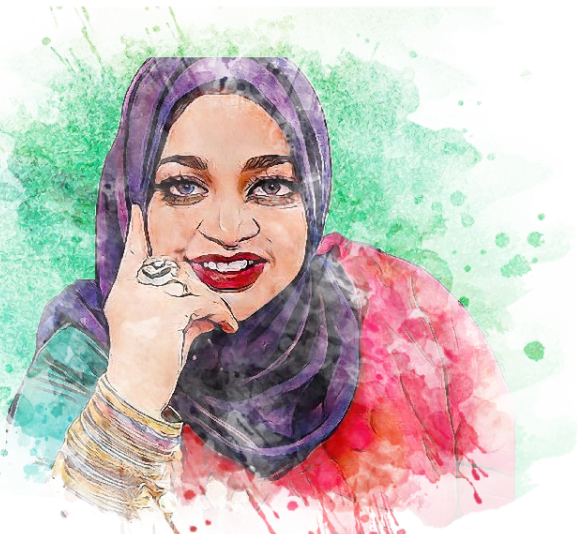
As an entrepreneur, I never imagined the journey that lay ahead of me. After working for a non-profit organization for eight years, I faced a crossroads when my wife's job location forced us to move. But my love for agriculture inspired me to start my own business. With the help of Practical Action Bangladesh, we secured funding from the European Commission and learned valuable entrepreneurial and artisan skills. We chose jute as our key element for production, using only high-grade jute fabric to create products that showcase the raw beauty of Bangladesh.

Our vision was to capture international markets, and we started with rugs and mats. It was tough initially, but we ramped up production to meet increasing demand, establishing our own factory in Rangpur. We partnered with Truvalu to expand our business, and our membership in the World Fair Trade Organization helped us maintain our commitment to ethical production.

But the pandemic hit, and our exports ground to a halt. We faced significant challenges, but our year-long suffering ended in 2021 as we began receiving huge orders again. Our dreams, hard work, and dedication had paid off. Thanks to our involvement with LightCastle Partners and TFO Canada, we learned about eco-friendly production and gained international buyers. We hope our products will represent the heritage and culture of Bangladesh to the world.

“ Our dreams became our motivation, our hard work became our success, and our products became our legacy.

A Mother's Love on a Plate



Lopa Mirza

Name of the Enterprise

Testy Spoon

Year of Establishment

2018

Industry

**Home-based
Catering Business**

Region

Jashore

As a mother, cooking has always been a source of joy and comfort for me. However, when I realized my daughter's health was at risk due to consuming unhealthy food on a regular basis, I knew I had to do something about it. That's when I decided to start my catering business, not just to provide for my family but to help others who may be facing similar issues.

Starting a business was a daunting task, but my determination to make a difference fueled me. I spent months perfecting my recipes, facing societal and financial pressures, but I persevered. My dedication and hard work paid off, and I was fortunate enough to attend Meta's #SheMeansBusiness program, where I received invaluable training that helped me grow my business and reach a wider audience.

The program not only helped me achieve my business goals but also reignited my passion for cooking and restored my confidence. I am now proud to be a strong and independent woman, committed to making a positive difference in people's lives by providing healthy and delicious meals. For me, it's not just about making a profit, but about making an impact on my community.

Through my business, I hope to represent the love and care of a mother's cooking and provide a healthy alternative to those who need it. I am forever grateful to the #SheMeansBusiness program for enabling me to fulfill my dreams and make a meaningful impact.



Through my business, I want to make a positive difference in people's lives by providing them with healthy and tasty meals.

Turning Passion into Purpose



Sanjida Shimu

Name of the Enterprise

Shimu'r Goyna

Year of Establishment

2019

Industry

**F-commerce &
Jewellery Business**

Region

Dhaka

Since childhood, I've always been drawn to creativity, searching for a way to express myself and find my purpose. Inspired by my cousin's entrepreneurial success, I decided to turn my passion for jewelry-making into a business, hoping to make a positive impact on the world.

However, starting a business was not without its challenges. Despite my determination and skills, financial limitations made it difficult to get my business off the ground. But I refused to give up and instead sought help from the #SheMeansBusiness program.

Thanks to the program, I discovered Facebook Business pages, which proved to be a game-changer for my business. Through this platform, I was able to reach a wider audience, and my handmade jewelry quickly gained popularity. With the help of my cousin, I am now exploring the possibility of exporting my products to Malaysia, and the future is looking brighter than ever.

The journey to success is not always easy, but the satisfaction of seeing my vision come to life is indescribable. The #SheMeansBusiness program has given me the tools and support I needed to turn my passion into purpose, and I'm forever grateful for that.



Success in business is like raising a child; it takes time, effort, and patience. But seeing it thrive is priceless.

Nurturing Nature, Nurturing Health



Iqbal Shiraji

Name of the Enterprise

Nikhad Prokriti

Year of Establishment

2014

Industry

Horticulture

Region

Chittagong

From a deep-rooted belief that a happy and healthy life requires a connection with nature, I embarked on a journey to introduce organic food products to the people in my region. Thus, Nikhad Prokriti was born, with a mission to provide quality products that promote natural ways of living. Despite facing setbacks in our early days, we persevered, outsourcing our production of rice and honey from other areas to bring our vision to life.

To create awareness about healthy food products, we organized campaigns and sessions to educate people about the benefits of natural foods and the correct methods of cooking them. But just as we were gaining momentum, the pandemic struck, and our business faced significant challenges. Transportation restrictions made it difficult to source our materials, and customers' purchasing power declined, causing demand for our products to drop.

However, the training session I attended from LightCastle Partners provided a fresh perspective, giving me hope for the future of Nikhad Prokriti. Our mission to spread awareness about healthy green foods is crucial to shaping future generations, and we plan to continue reaching out to as many people as possible. We believe that by nurturing nature, we can nurture our health and secure a brighter future for us all.



In our quest for a healthy future, we must first connect with the blessings of nature.

From Taunts to Triumph: A Story of Resilience and Courage



Md. Likhon Islam

Name of the Enterprise

Shomonnito Fish & Dairy Farm

Year of Establishment

2017

Industry

Aquaculture & Dairy

Region

Rajshahi

As I sat there, listening to the cruel words of my family and neighbors, I felt tears streaming down my face. Their harsh comments pierced my heart and made me question my own worth. But deep down, I knew I had to prove them wrong. I had to show them that I was capable of achieving something great, despite their doubts.

With the help of Facebook and Youtube, I learned everything I could about dairy and fish farming. I spent countless hours researching and studying successful farmers from around the world. And with just a few cows and a small pond, I started my own farm.

The road to success was not easy. I faced countless challenges, from loan rejections to market fluctuations. But I refused to let these obstacles stop me. Instead, I worked harder and harder, until my business began to grow.

Now, I own multiple cows, ponds, and even a fruit garden. I have employees and dreams of expanding my business even further. And while I still face struggles, I know that with determination and hard work, anything is possible.

I hope to inspire others with my story, to show them that no matter how hopeless things may seem, they should never give up on their dreams. And if I can receive the financial support I need, I know I can continue to grow my business and provide employment opportunities for my community.

“No matter how bleak the road may seem, do not give up! Your perseverance is the key to success.”

Nari: Empowering Women through Eco-Friendly Products



Forida Yeasmin

Name of the Enterprise
Nari Natural Craft

Year of Establishment
2012

Industry
Jute Diversified Products

Region
Rangpur

As a project coordinator at an NGO, I came across many women who were victims of domestic abuse and financial dependence. The NGO provided training and financial support to start their businesses, but it was not enough. Women were not sure how to start their businesses or their husbands seized their money. These stories inspired me to start Nari, an enterprise that creates jobs for these women.

I started my entrepreneurial journey with Rabeya, a woman who was abandoned by her husband. I wanted to create eco-friendly products that utilized the creativity and craftsmanship of the women of our country. It was not easy; I had to travel from Kurigram to Dhaka to buy materials and carry them back. But my determination and bravery never faltered because the hopes and dreams of many other women depended on me.

My bestsellers include jute bags, floor mats, coasters, and baskets. Initially, I promoted my products through trade fairs, but now buyers come to buy directly from me. I also sell my products through my Facebook page and my website. I am optimistic about the future and plan to expand my business by introducing more products and increasing my production capacity. With a financial investment of 50 lacs taka, I can expand my business beyond borders and empower more women.

“ Learn to listen to your heart, and you will be a much happier person.

A Journey of Courage and Hope



Shelly Hossain

Name of the Enterprise
Momita Flowers

Year of Establishment
2006

Industry
Floriculture

Region
Dhaka

My husband, and I embarked on our journey with Momita Flowers 17 years ago, driven by the desire to make a difference in the floriculture industry in Bangladesh. Despite facing ridicule from our families and lacking support from financial institutions, we persevered with our dream of cultivating beautiful flowers that could compete on a global level.

We faced numerous challenges along the way, but we never let go of hope. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit and our business suffered heavy losses, we refused to give up. Instead, we donated our high-value crops to local hospitals and ensured that none of our employees lost their jobs. We continued to nurture our plants and hold on to the belief that a brighter future lay ahead.

Today, we are proud to have successfully exported our flowers and to be the sole producer of exotic roses in Bangladesh. We aim to make Bangladesh self-sufficient in floriculture and to help other flower cultivators by leveraging advanced technologies. Our journey has been a testament to the power of perseverance, courage, and hope.

“ Our love for flowers and our belief in our dream gave us the courage to overcome every trial and stand tall today.

A Journey of Freedom and Empowerment



Md. Robiul Islam Rubel

Name of the Enterprise

**Rubel Veterinary
& Agro Farm**

Year of Establishment

2020

Industry

**Veterinary &
Livestock Farming**

Region

Rangpur

A year ago, I was stuck in a job that drained my energy and stifled my creativity. But when the pandemic hit, I saw it as an opportunity to make a change. I left my job and took a leap of faith into the world of entrepreneurship.

With the support of my family, I opened up a veterinary shop and started a poultry farm. It wasn't easy, but the sense of freedom and empowerment I felt made it all worth it. I was finally able to make a direct impact on people's lives, through healthy food and job opportunities. And even during the pandemic, my business persevered. I may have faced losses, but my determination to serve my community never wavered. I worked with other health enthusiasts to raise awareness about Covid-19, and we distributed masks and hand sanitizers to those in need.

Now, I have even bigger plans for the future. I am expanding my farms to include cows, goats, and fish. And I hope to inspire others to pursue their own entrepreneurial dreams, despite the challenges they may face.

Through my journey, I've learned that entrepreneurship is not just about making money - it's about finding your purpose and serving others. And I am grateful for the opportunity to live out that purpose every day.

“ Finding yourself is the key to happiness, sometimes it can be scary but just take the jump, and you will not regret it.

From Day-Laborer to a Businesswoman: A Tale of a Mother's Courage



Ashima Mondol

Name of the Enterprise
Momota Enterprise

Year of Establishment
2010

Industry
Dairy

Region
Khulna

When my husband died of brain cancer, I was left alone to raise our 11-month-old son. Without money for treatment, his brave battle had ended painfully. Forced to leave my in-laws' home, I moved in with my parents, but the Hindu custom did not permit me to stay. As a young widow and mother, I had to provide for us quickly.

Life was tough in the remote Dumuria region, but I found work as a day laborer in farmers' fields. The income was unstable, so I saved and bought three calves, selling their milk through an intermediary. But when I discovered he cheated me, I started selling the milk myself, expanding to 30 liters daily.

My son and I faced societal pressures and obstacles, but I raised him well, giving him an education and a proper upbringing. I also opened a successful sweet shop. When the pandemic hit, I adapted and sold milk at dawn near a temple.

My fight continues, but I learned the true meaning of life, becoming fiercely independent and confident. With an investment of 1 lac taka, I'll expand my sweet shop, fulfilling my dreams.

“No matter how bleak the road may seem, do not give up! Your perseverance is the key to success.”

A Step into the Seed Business



Nasrin Nahar

Name of the Enterprise
Utshob Seed Farm

Year of Establishment
2006

Industry
Horticulture

Region
Khulna

For 19 years, I worked in an NGO in Jessore. But when my transfer notice came, my mother-in-law was gravely sick, and I had to make a tough decision. I left the job and started a seed business, not knowing what challenges awaited me.

At first, people were skeptical about a woman in the seed business. But with hard work and dedication, I proved them wrong. The journey was not always smooth, with losses and uncertainties, but I came back stronger every time.

The pandemic and cyclone Amphan brought new challenges, but I persevered. I took a loan and focused on my seed business, which proved to be relatively less affected.

Through my involvement in the seed business, I learned about different ways to collect investments and create market opportunities. My dream is to expand my business and set up a seed factory, creating employment opportunities and inspiring other women to join the agribusiness sector.

My journey is a testament to the fact that, with determination, even the seed of an idea can grow into a bountiful harvest of success.

“ The seed of an idea, when nurtured with determination, can grow into a bountiful harvest of success.



Play a part in their **growth story?**



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