

PATH TO RESILIENCE: SUPPORTING COVID-19 AFFECTED MICROENTERPRISES



The Covid-19 pandemic severely impacted businesses worldwide, with microenterprises (MEs) in Bangladesh's informal sector being hit especially hard. Even as economic activities resumed, many of these businesses faced immense challenges in their recovery. PKSF's RAISE project offered training in Risk Management and Business Continuity (RMBC) and provided inclusive financial assistance to support these MEs. This capacity enhancement initiative empowers urban and peri-urban microenterprises to build resilience, adapt to future challenges, and continue contributing to local and national economies, while the financial support addresses the shortage of capital for these microenterprises.



ME Selection Criteria

During the Covid-19 pandemic, if an ME either -

- ▶ faced partial or complete shutdown of operations for at least 4 weeks at a time, or
- ▶ was rendered incapable of regularly repaying loan installments, or
- ▶ saw a reduction in the number of workers, or
- ▶ was unable to cover rent and staff salaries twice in a quarter, or
- ▶ did not receive any enterprise-level financial support.

Achievements



BDT
5 billion
disbursed
in loan



RMBC
training provided
to **50,000** MEs
for capacity
development

RMBC Training

Learning Outcome

Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship

Business restoration

Risk identification & risk mitigation

Balance sheet & business plan



THREADS OF HOPE: RINA AKHTER'S BUSINESS REVIVAL STORY

Tarabo, Narayanganj

Rina Akhter of Tarabo started her Jamdani weaving journey under her father's guidance, later venturing on her own into crafting traditional wear with a modest capital post-marriage. When her husband lost his job, Rina taught him the techniques of Jamdani weaving and expanded their venture. Despite success, the COVID-19 lockdown dealt a serious blow to her business. Production was shut down for months. When her moneylender, who also was the wholesale buyer of her products, passed away, her market linkage was lost as well. To recover from this, Rina secured a BDT 120,000 loan from the RAISE project through WAVE Foundation. The funds, coupled with the RMBC training, helped her revitalize the business. Rina now earns BDT 40-45 thousand monthly. She aims to open a showroom for direct retail sales and business expansion.



FROM CRISIS TO CREATION: EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH AFSAR'S ENTERPRISE

Charfasson, Bhola

For six years, Afsar Uddin Swapan ran a successful mobile servicing enterprise in Bhola. At 25, he is the primary provider for his family of four brothers. The pandemic dealt a blow to their prosperity, forcing Afsar's business to pause. To revive it, he secured a BDT 150,000 loan from the RAISE project from Poribar Unnayan Songstha. He used this fund to acquire modern equipment for efficient mobile servicing. Afsar, bolstered by the RMBC training, relaunched his business. He now utilizes the knowledge gained from his training to maintain records of income and expenditure for his business. He currently earns BDT 45 thousand per month. His business expansion provides employment for two youths, and he envisions further growth of his enterprise.



RAISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT



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