

## PARTNERPLAN

# Pat Jamison - Bangladesh May 2011

CBSDP  
Jobarpar Mission House  
Jobarpar  
Agailjhara  
Barisal  
Bangladesh

Dear Friends

Hello everyone



This past month I appear to have dealt with a large number of babies and children not that I am complaining I love it! Above is baby Abir Hussein age 15 days.

This is baby Oyon Patrick now age seven months. This was the little baby the Mother asked me to name. He has of course a Hindu name. I thought I would give him my favourite boy's name so hence Patrick. He is small and light like most babies in Bangladesh however very healthy.



This little one certainly enjoyed getting weighed in Dhamsor last week. I think he thought it was a swing!

The government recently carried out a distribution of Vitamin A capsules within the area as many children are deficient in vitamin A in this country. This was one of the clinics organised using one of our centre's to distribute the capsules.



This is the owner of the place where we hold one of our monthly mobile clinics with her son. We sit at the front of her very small bamboo home. She is so welcoming and very grateful that I come with my nurse to help the people of the area.

This is a pond near her home where she and her family wash. You will notice how much of the land is being eroded and many trees just falling into the rivers and ponds. This is repeated all over Bangladesh. Many regions further south have even greater problems.



Triggered by climate change, frequent cyclones and storm surges are sweeping away Bangladesh's existing landmass. Rising sea levels and increased salinity have affected farming in

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the countries coastal areas. It is almost impossible to grow rice due to the salinity in the soil and many homes collect rain water to enable them to drink.



You will see however that many of the local people make good use of the space they do have. The plants beside the large tree are in fact vegetables grown on a rack over the water. Misty kumra (sweet pumpkin) and Lou (bottle gourd) grow well in these areas.



Presently it is the rice harvest. Many schools have holidays at the moment and people are all very busy. Rice plays a major role in the diet of Bangladeshis. Many of the people have rice at every meal. I have it once per day which is quite enough.

The above photographs show the rice having been separated from the sheaths. They are all laid out to dry everywhere and the lady is now drying out the rice. Along the roads this is what I have seen for the past few weeks and will see for at least the next week or so until the harvest is complete.



This young lady is putting the final touches to the rice. It is such hard work for all the members of the family, from the planting in the paddy fields to the harvesting. Almost everything is done by hand. There is very little machinery involved and most cannot afford it any way!

A big part of the work in this project is that of climate change. Although there are specific staff for the climate change aspect of the project we all play our part in this.

You may well ask what I as a Community Health Advisor can do about this? Just as the role of a nurse back home in UK is extending so it is here just in a different way.

Part of the role of a community nurse is that of giving advice on climate change, arsenic awareness and kitchen and floating gardens. They have all also been involved in education on disaster management. As Bangladesh is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world this is certainly essential.

In this area I have noted how many trees have been cut down in the past nine months however I have not seen any new trees being planted as yet. Wood is needed in this area to make furniture and build homes however there appears to be no information or advice on new tree plantation. I know the climate change staff do give advice however this is not adequate for the sizeable population.



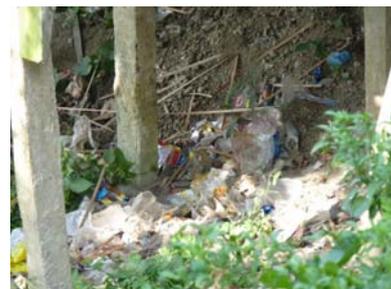
This is very common all over the rural areas, large trees being removed and not being replaced.

There appears to be no provision for disposing of rubbish apart from dumping in the local river and certainly very little is recycled. As you can imagine this is not at all environmentally friendly!! Recycling in some areas of Bangladesh is carried out quite well however certainly not so in this region. I recently discussed the possibility of commencing a recycling scheme within our project. This is being thoroughly investigated and I hope this will come to fruition.

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Thanks to God for

- My health and strength
- The blessings I receive from the many people I come into contact with especially the children
- The good rice harvest
- The wonderful storms and rains

Prayers for

- My safety as I travel especially as the rains increase
- The Bangladeshi Sisters as their founder died recently
- As I prepare for further nurse training which I hope to carry out in Bangla!!!!
- That I can continue to cope with the intense heat

Thanking you all once again for your prayers and encouragement.

Pat