

# Jhunki Bala's Journey with BRAZH Project

Mazipara, a village in the Kurigram district of Ranigonj Union, is home to Sreemati Jhunki Bala, who is 59 years old. She lives with her person with disabled grandson, who is twelve years old. Jhunki Bala takes part in the Seasonal Livelihood Programme (SLP). She is a widow and the sole earner of income in her family, so she works odd jobs and does daily labor to make money. Sometimes she struggles to afford even one meal a day.

Jhunki Bala has been a part of the project since 2018 and since then, she has gotten four time Forecast based Financing (FbF) support at 4500 Taka each time and training in crisis management. Having these resources has helped her lessen the impact of the 2019 and 2020 floods by reducing the damage to her assets.

The project's Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) helped Jhunki Bala and her family deal with the immediate effects of the 2020 flood, when she lost about two weeks' worth of income. She was re-selected for the BRAZH project's SLP component in July 2023. Along with a one off cash grant 15000 Taka and a monthly stipend for six months, this time around she got training in small business management and entrepreneurship. With this assistance, she started a business as a peddler selling essential items like edible oil, soap, and spices, earning a daily profit of 250 to 300 taka. Her monthly income has significantly increased, allowing her to renovate her home, purchase furniture, and save for her future needs.



Jhunki Bala said, "Before joining the BRAZH project, putting food on the table was a daily struggle for me. I couldn't even dream of affording meat, fish, milk, or eggs. But thanks to the support I have received, I now enjoy three meals a day, manage my medical expenses and have the freedom to invest my money as I see fit. The transformation in my life has earned recognition in my community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to inspire others." She expresses her gratitude to the World Food Programme (WFP) and National Development Programme (NDP) for their invaluable assistance in her journey towards self-reliance and prosperity.