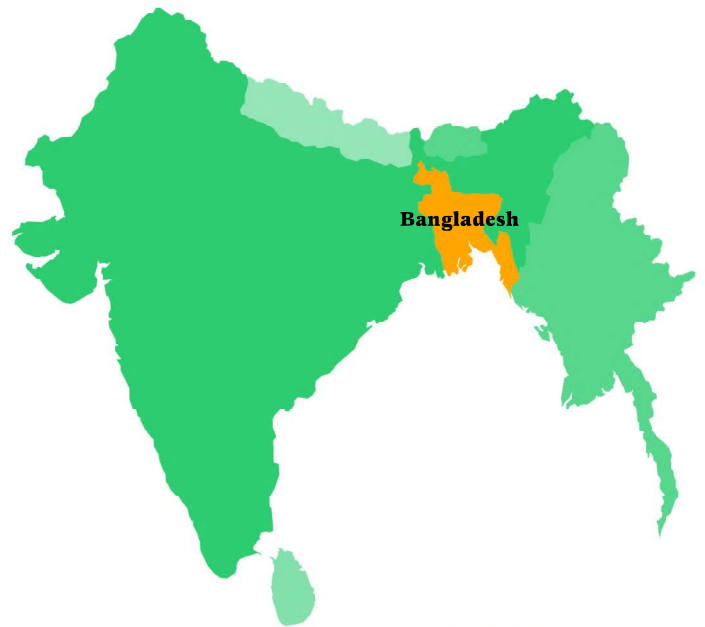


Tara's story

Facts about Bangladesh

1. Bangladesh is a country in Asia with a population of 163 million people.
2. The capital city is Dhaka and the main official language is Bengali.
3. Most of the land in Bangladesh is less than 12 m above sea level. It has more than 230 rivers.
4. The monsoon (rainy season) causes flooding that affects over one million people.



Life as a farmer

Tara lives with her husband and son in Shingria, 15 km from Gaibandha town in Northern Bangladesh.

In Gaibandha district the monsoon season is becoming longer and more intense, often lasting from 3 to 6 months each year. This has led to many of the larger rivers bursting their banks causing flooding and erosion of the land around.

Tara and her family have already had to move seven times because their home and land have been washed away by flood water.

Like many other families in this region they now live on a small piece of land approximately 800 square metres.

The soil is very sandy and of poor quality, and during the rainy season their land is flooded. This makes it almost impossible for Tara to grow enough crops to feed her family and to make an extra income by selling crops at market.

Tara was asked by the charity Practical Action in Bangladesh to be part of a group to help develop ideas of how to grow crops on flooded land.

