



## MEET BIZLI FROM BANGLADESH

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ShelterBox Response Team Volunteers spoke to Bizli and her family whilst undertaking a detailed needs assessment alongside local Red Crescent Society volunteers in Garuhara village, Kurigram Sadar. The village is home to a community of fishermen whose livelihoods depend on the Brahmaputra River. In July and August 2017, torrential rains and floodwater from upstream led to widespread flooding and rapid river bank erosion, destroying the homes, land and livelihoods of those living along the riverbank.

Bizli and her family were asleep in their home in Garuhara village, on the banks of the Brahmaputra River when the flash flooding hit. In the middle of the night she woke to the sound of water entering her home. Realising what was happening and feeling very frightened, Bizli woke her family and managed to get them out of the house.

In no time the water level had risen to shoulder height, but by a stroke of luck Bizli and her family were then spotted and rescued by another member of the community by boat. The family was left with nothing, as their home and all their possessions were completely washed away, and the land their home was built on then collapsed into the river.

More than 20 houses in the village washed away as a result of the flooding, and two people lost their lives. Bizli and her family have since been staying in the cramped house of another family living in the community.

Shelterbox responded to the flooding disaster in Garuhara and other affected communities in the Kurigram region, providing ShelterKits, tarpaulins, solar lights, and blankets to help those that have lost everything and whose homes have been damaged, on the road to self-recovery.