Nurjahan and her husband Belal moved from Dhaka to the chars because it was too expensive for them in the city. Belal works as a day labourer and has to migrate for work when there is none available on the chars. This is their only income source. Their first child died because they were unable to afford medical treatment. The couple have a two-year-old daughter, and Nurjahan is pregnant again.

Prior joining the CLP, the only asset the family had was one shared chicken. They usually eat just twice a day, and they cannot afford milk, eggs or bananas. The family does not have their own latrine, which means that they have to dig a hole in the ground or use a neighbour’s latrine.

“*If I get 1 kg of milk from my cow, I will sell it to buy rice. We will eat and experience less scarcity*”

Using the CLP asset transfer grant, Nurjahan has just purchased a cow, which will soon start to generate income. Her homestead has also been raised on a plinth. Soon she will have her own latrine and have access to safe water. She will learn about homestead gardening and disaster preparedness, to ensure they can cope during floods. The CLP’s health project will support her during and after her pregnancy, and she will learn about nutrition and diet. In the future, the cow will have offspring and produce enough milk to enable them to save, send their children to school and build a better home.

“We are poor. Any money my husband earns we spend on food”