



Helping people help themselves.

Bulletin # 1

The PUSHPA Process

A PUSHPA coordinator visits each of these projects on a regular basis, to support and encourage and coach local leadership to

- identify local issues and possible strategies, and
- remove obstacles to individual and family development
- ensure awareness of additional government resources in the area,
- motivate others to seek and apply microloans to develop their unique skills, and to become more self-reliant..

PUSHPA's goal is to support these important changes toward healthy communities, leading to a time when leaders and participants assume responsibility for their community development, independent of PUSHPA's involvement. At that time, PUSHPA will gradually shift its focus to a new community while the present village committee assumes ongoing responsibility for itself and community members. At the same time, funds granted by PUSHPA, plus the interest from repayments, will remain to circulate within the community.

Indicators of a community's readiness to assume full responsibility include:

- Village committee's functional and leadership skills.
- Financial management skills.
- Positive Role modeling for individuals and the community.
- Knowledge of how to access government resources.
- Networking with other communities.

PUSHPA funding and activities support development of community infrastructure:

- Part or all of materials, with local residents making up the difference in labor and/or materials, for community centers where the community can meet and children can gather for evening school.
- Salary of a part time evening school teacher.
- Microloans as leverage for government loans for construction of more secure housing.
- Common medications provided to a community member trained as a health aide.
- Awareness and access to area government hospitals
- Increased public school attendance, the sewing center and many of the self-help initiatives provide increased interaction with the larger village community.