



TEN THOUSAND  
VILLAGES



### About the Artisans

## Dhaka Handicrafts

Earning a living can empower women, particularly those who live in rural communities. But there has always been a challenge in rural Bangladesh—it's not socially acceptable for women to work outside the home. So why not bring the work to the women instead?

Dhaka Handicrafts does just that. Dhaka is a worker-owned company that markets traditional handcrafted items for rural artisans in Bangladesh. Targeting families with a per capita income of less than \$85 a year, Dhaka represents about 16,000 artisans working in 64 groups—including the many women in rural areas who turn jute, the so-called “golden fibre” and other grasses, into sturdy handmade baskets. In this way, women have a livelihood, they do not have to move to already overcrowded cities, and many maintain they now feel they have a voice in their homes!

## Teal Daisy Basket

Two-toned in kaisa grass and cotton. Dhaka Handicrafts believes in celebrating its makers' imagination. This basket's design is inspired by one of the organization's most talented weavers who won a sample-making contest. The annual contest is a way to develop new and innovative design ideas while letting producers explore and show off their creative side. The maker earns a 1,500-taka prize (about \$25 in Canadian dollars). The money goes a long way in a country where 27 million people live in poverty and natural disasters frequently destroy crops in rural areas.



### Materials:

kaisa grass, cotton

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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