

'Restore Dignity for the Poor' Ministry Report

From 2021 to 2022, CEDAR Fund has collaborated with 43 Christian organisations and churches globally in 16 countries and regions to implement 78 relief and development projects, including 17 new development projects, benefiting more than 1,020,000 people.

Of these, we run 10 projects in India, including seven poverty alleviation development projects and three relief projects, benefiting over 51,000 people. In the north-eastern of Bihar in India, we work on disaster mitigation; in the south-east, we provide school fee assistance for out-of-school children, food and toiletries for their families, and regular medical consultations. In addition, our peacebuilding work in Manipur, a state deeply affected by racial and social antagonism, strengthens the capacity of churches and community leaders to build peace, gradually planting the seeds of peace through trauma healing, promoting honest dialogue and advocating for equality in the society. At the same time, to promote community development in the city, we offer training for a community organisation in Delhi to enhance their ability to serve the community and provide vocational training for young people.

Through these projects, we hope to help the underprivileged in different aspects. Apart from feeding them and providing them physical protection, we are also pleased to see many recipients have regained their self-confidence and dignity.

The project introduced below was carried out by The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR), which helps the underprivileged to overcome adversity and live the abundant life God has ordained them in Seemapuri.

Introducing EFICOR

EFICOR established in 1967, it is the Relief and Development arm of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), serving the underprivileged and marginalised in an environment of poverty, injustice and frequent natural disasters. CEDAR Fund has been working with EFICOR since 1993 on a variety poverty issues, including caring for children at risk, fighting human trafficking, promoting peace and reconciliation, helping farmers affected by climate change to develop livelihoods, and facilitating humanitarian relief and disaster risk reduction ministries.

Project Information

Project Name:

- Urban Resilience Project in Delhi

Project Area:

- Urban and Rural Development
- Livelihood Development

Project Goal:

- Providing vocational skills training to teenagers to help them find jobs or become self-employed.
- Providing alternative employment opportunities for middle-aged people with financial difficulties.
- Teaching disadvantaged poor families their right to social and access to basic health care.
- Giving children access to non-formal education.

Beneficiaries:

- Children, young people and adults from underprivileged families.

No. of beneficiaries

- 3,699 people

Key Activities

- Conducting community baseline surveys
- Developing community awareness and advocacy activities, with a particular focus on people with disabilities and widows, to raise awareness and sensitise the community to the availability of resources.
- Supporting the development of income generation activities and providing vocational skills training to enable beneficiaries to start a home-based business.
- Engaging young people trained in vocational training and entrepreneurial development as 'partners'.
- Form community-based organisations to serve the community and hold regular coordination meetings with NGOs and government staff.

Project Status:

During the implementation of the project, although the epidemic was not as severe as the first wave, the work was still affected by the economic and livelihood impacts of the epidemic. Thankfully, through God's great mercy and the hard work of our co-workers, most of the activities were completed as planned. The following are some of the highlights of the work:

Livelihood development:

- 211 people received business training and 43 of them quickly set up their own small business after the training, including beauticians and making clothes at home.
- In addition to learning skills such as beauticians, hairdressing and dressmaking, 98 young people and women received vocational training and were encouraged to use their skills to earn a living and regain their dignity. After the training, most of them have found jobs (one-off, piecework or casual jobs) and 25 of them have found monthly paid jobs successfully.
- We originally planned to help the young girls in the project to start a business selling sanitary towels. This would help them to increase their income and encourage local women to use sanitary napkins to improve hygiene (many women in the area use rags instead of sanitary napkins and sometimes get infected because the rags are not clean). However, due to the epidemic, it was difficult to deliver and purchase sanitary napkins in large quantities. Thanks to a kind sister who provided 120 packs of sanitary napkins for 20 young girls to sell and earn income. In addition, as we liaised with different suppliers to make purchases, we have established many business contacts which we believe will help us to continue to help the poor in the future.
- A small part of the project budget is allocated to provide business grants to the poor. Of those who submitted applications, three were approved for a sewing machine to start their business.

Resource entitlements for the underprivileged:

- Through home visits and small groups, we provided awareness education to 394 people on the benefits and rights they are entitled to as citizens, and how to apply for documentation and government benefits for needy families. The original plan was to organise a relatively large scale awareness campaign, but due to the epidemic, the staff had to work extra hard to reach out to the community through door-to-door visits and small groups.
- We assisted 115 people to apply for documents and various government benefits, of which 63 were successful.

Children's learning opportunities:

- 55 children joined the project's Child Resource Development Centre to attend literacy classes and learn basic knowledge, and we worked hard to help them get into formal schools, and 13 of them succeeded.

Furthermore, the project also reaches out to over 3,000 poor people through home visits, small groups, training courses and street performances to help people in the community with livelihood development, health care and empowerment.

Recipient stories

Story 1: Using Government Resources to Restore Her Dignity

Ayesha is a 48 year old woman born in Uttar Pradesh, India and married in Delhi in 2002. Her husband, Israel, runs a mobile fish stall and sells fish for a living. They have a 21 year old daughter. With the income from fish sales, Israel was able to support the basic needs of the family. Sadly, Israel passed away in August 2020 due to a chronic disease related to diabetes.

With the loss of their breadwinner, Ayesha and her daughter were left in extreme poverty; Ayesha had no skills and was unable to work, while her daughter, who had some sewing skills, was able to earn a small income by sewing clothes for neighbours and friends at home. This income is not enough to pay the rent and cover other living expenses and they have to borrow money from friends and relatives from time to time. Ayesha finds it hard to bear the burden of not being able to cover the family's expenses and has to rely on her daughter to support the family on her own, as well as borrowing money to get by and lost all dignity.

Ayesha then approached the project centre for help after learning about our assistance in applying for government benefits during a community event at EFICOR. Thanks God that the project team helped her to apply for a widow's pension from the government, which was approved two months later. The government ratified and issued the pension for the past 8 months to Ayesha, she received a one-off payment of 20,000 rupees (approximately HK\$1,920) to pay off her debts, meet her family's food needs and buy clothes for her daughter.

She was grateful for the widow's pension we helped her to successfully apply for from the government and said, 'EFICOR should continue to support others in the community who need help like me.'



The Lord has ordained that every person should live a life of dignity, and it is part of the responsibility of governments to govern and protect their people, empowered by the Lord to manage and care for their people, to provide them with the appropriate assistance to meet their needs; yet, for various reasons, the poor do not know or have access to these resources. As the people of God and neighbours of the poor, it is important that we return dignity to the poor, not only through livelihood training to enable them to become self-reliant, but also by giving them back the rights and resources they deserve as citizens. We are indebted to our frontline workers for their dedication to helping the poor, and to you for your dedication and support so that we can help many people in need like Ayesha.

The following story is a testimony to the joy of regaining dignity from the heart of one man.

Story 2: Regaining your wife's earrings and regaining your husband's dignity

Sabir is 38 years old and lives in the Seemapuri slum with his wife and three children, and is severely disabled due to polio. With his own mobility problems, his wife's partial disability and the pressure of basic living expenses and the cost of his children's education, Sabir's life is very difficult. He uses his limited mobility to pull a rickshaw and do petty trading every day to support his family, and his income is barely enough to cover his daily expenses.

Our front line worker got to know Sabir during a community visit and learned about the plight of his family. They found that Sabir was eligible to apply for the small business fund of the project, so they encouraged him to apply. After Sabir applied, he was granted funding in March 2020. He can expand his small business. Sabir's daily income has thus increased by 15-20% compared to before.



Sabir is now not only able to meet the basic expenses of his family, but he is also able to pay off his debts and redeem his wife's precious earrings. 'I have been ashamed that my wife's earrings have been in the custody of someone else because of financial constraints, but now I can finally breathe a sigh of relief,' Sabir said.



You are invited to support the 'Restore Dignity for the Poor' campaign with your prayers and regular offerings to transform the lives of the poor and restore their God-given values and dignity.

Donation Amounts	Beneficiaries
HK\$200	support one Zimbabwean girl to learn how to make eco-friendly sanitary napkins, provide materials needed for a year and follow-up.
HK\$400	support livelihood of one poor Indian farmer, widow or person with disabilities through provision of farm tools and seeds.
HK\$800	support quarterly expense of a children group that advocates for prohibiting child marriage, reducing child abuse and child labour.
HK\$1,200	support our Thai partner to conduct investigations in red light districts every month, collaborate with police force to rescue victims of human trafficking, and prosecute human traffickers.

Donation Method (please specify 'Restore Dignity for the Poor')

Online Donation	Click here for an online donation
Cheque	Please make it payable to CEDAR Fund
Direct Deposit	HSBC 004-600-385678-001 BEA 015-185-68-00931-7SSA BOC 012-581-2-020114-7 DBS 016-478-001364162
Credit card: Visa / Master Card	Online donate here or fill in the donation form
PayMe	Scan the QR code to donate 
Faster Payment System FPS ID: 3354016	Login to your online banking to donate 

Please donate according to the above methods and send the cheque, bank-in slip, or screenshot of successful payment along with your name, contact phone number and mailing address to us via mail, email, or WhatsApp.

Mailing Address: CEDAR Fund, G.P.O. Box 3212, Hong Kong
 WhatsApp (for donation matters only): [5160 7549](tel:51607549)
 Email: sharing@cedarfund.org