

## CEDAR Fund Afghanistan Flood and Bangladesh Cyclone Relief Report

Natural disasters are merciless, but their impact on Hong Kong and developing countries differs significantly. Hong Kong frequently faces typhoons and rainstorms, but we can cope with these challenges with our advanced infrastructure and sophisticated contingency measures. In Afghanistan and Bangladesh, however, floods and storms have caused unimaginable destruction, leaving thousands of people homeless.

During the same period, in May 2024, CEDAR Fund received requests from our partners in Afghanistan and Bangladesh to join forces in aiding the affected populations. As a result, we launched the 'Afghanistan Flood and Bangladesh Cyclone Relief' project, and the following is a report on our work.

### **Project Details**

**Project Objective:** To assist families affected by heavy rains and flash floods in Afghanistan and people affected by Tropical Cyclone Remal in Bangladesh

**Project Content:** Purchase and distribute emergency food and hygiene kits to the victims to help them overcome the difficult period

### **Afghanistan:**

**Project Period:** June 2024

**Project Location:** Baghlan

**Beneficiaries:** Cash subsidy for 104 families (around 700 persons) to purchase food, hygiene items and tent materials

**CEDAR allocated:** US\$18,600 (around HK\$146,010)

Afghanistan's unique terrain is prone to flash floods. Afghanistan is characterised by mountainous terrain with snowy winters. When the snow melts or heavy rains come, water rushes down the rocky slopes of the mountains at an alarming rate, turning streams into torrents. These fast-flowing waters run straight downstream with few natural barriers, making it easy for floodwaters to destroy entire towns without warning.

Climate change exacerbates Afghanistan's disaster situation—extreme weather, erratic rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures all contribute to more frequent and severe flooding. Afghanistan's lack of adequate drainage and water management systems makes it vulnerable, allowing floodwaters to breach riverbanks and enter densely populated areas easily.

When the flood occurred this time, the weather was hot, and many children were sick, and there were no medical facilities near the disaster area and no sanitary facilities such as toilets, which added to the burden of the victims. In addition, many victims lost their source of income and found it challenging to find jobs, adding to their financial

problems. Therefore, our partner supported the victims with cash assistance so they could buy the food, hygiene products, fuel, etc. that their families needed.

**Bangladesh:**

Project Period: June to August 2024

Project Location: Kalapara, southern Bangladesh

Beneficiaries: Distribution of food (rice, lentils, baby milk powder, cooking oil, etc.) and hygiene items (soap, washing powder, water bowls, etc.) to assist 600 families (around 2,400 people).

CEDAR allocated: US\$17,000 (around HK\$133,450)

On 27 May 2024, Tropical Cyclone Remal hit Kalapara in southern Bangladesh. On the same day, the Bangladesh government officially declared the affected areas to be in a state of disaster. Houses and infrastructure were severely damaged, especially in areas beyond the main embankment. Thousands of people were displaced. Kalapara is a coastal area highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters, including tropical cyclones, tidal surges, saltwater intrusion (salinisation of the soil) and sea level rise. CEDAR's project: 'PARIBARTAN – Climate Change Adaptation and Transforming Gender Relationships in Patuakhali District, Bangladesh' is located in one of the hardest hit areas directly affected by Remal, with torrential rains damaging homes, roads, schools, medical facilities, bridges, water sources, power lines, crops and irrigation systems. Most displaced people live in designated evacuation centres, schools, churches, community buildings, and other temporary shelters, while their relatives accommodate some. Some temporary shelters are densely populated and lack essential facilities such as water supply, sanitation and personal hygiene resources. This condition could easily lead to disease outbreaks, including the possibility of further aggravation of the existing cholera problem.

In this relief programme, CEDAR's partner prioritised the care of families severely affected by Remal, with special attention to female-headed households and families with disabled members, as these families already lacked resources and often faced even greater impacts from natural disasters. Apart from meeting the immediate needs of adult victims, CEDAR's partner also paid special attention to the needs of children. Baby food was included in the relief supplies to ensure that the youngest and most vulnerable children were not overlooked.

**Beneficiary's story****Ali from Afghanistan: A Survivor of Hope in the Face of Adversity**

Ali (pseudonym) lives in a quiet village in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan. He is disabled, and his physical condition affects his ability to earn a living. Despite this, he continues to work hard to earn money to support his family, which can help him make ends meet.

Good things do not always turn out well. The floods uprooted his life and the lives of the villagers, and a member of Ali's family lost his life in the floods. With his home in ruins, he and his surviving family were left homeless and devastated, Ali recalls, 'I never imagined the floods would cause this kind of damage. I can't even describe what it's like to lose my home and my loved ones,' he said sadly.

Grateful for the quick response of CEDAR's partner in helping the victims out of this crisis, Ali received food, drinking water and necessities from the partner for living in a makeshift tent. However, Ali recognises that there are still many challenges ahead, mainly due to his physical disability, which presents additional hurdles for living in temporary accommodations. Nevertheless, he remains resolute in working diligently towards rebuilding his family's home and life. He has one wish: 'A permanent home suitable for my condition and the opportunity to maintain my family's livelihood, that's what we want.' Ali also envisions a vibrant community in his hometown, where neighbours can recover together and the community is stronger than ever.

Ali's sharing is not only a survivor's story but also a testimony of resilience and hope, demonstrating the ability of disaster victims to rise above adversity.



### Bangladesh: Help for Women Worried about Their Families



Mrs Najma

[Click here to watch their sharing](#)





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### Take Action

Due to climate change, severe natural disasters such as storms, floods, heat waves and droughts have become more intense and frequent, causing more widespread damage. The threat these phenomena pose is doubled for the poor compared to other

groups with resources. We hope you will support 'Care for the Disaster-stricken Poor' so that CEDAR can have the resources to help our poor friends affected by disasters.

**Donation (Please specify: Care for the Disaster-stricken Poor)**

Online donation	Click <a href="#">here</a> for an online donation
Cheque	Please make it payable to CEDAR Fund
Direct Deposit	HSBC: 004-600-385678-001 BOC: 012-581-2-020114-7
Credit card: Visa / Master Card	<a href="#">Online donate here</a> or fill in the <a href="#">donation form</a>
PayMe	Scan the QR code to donate 
Faster Payment System	FPS ID: 3354016 

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)

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