

CEDAR Fund Assam Flood Relief Report

In recent years, flooding in the north-eastern Indian state of Assam has become increasingly severe and frequent, causing massive loss of life and property. This year's floods in Assam affected 30 districts and more than 2.5 million people.

The media have analysed the Brahmaputra River as one of the causes of Assam's vulnerability to floods. The Brahmaputra River originates from the Tibetan plateau and flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam before flowing into the Bay of Bengal. Many river tributaries from neighbouring regions and countries also flow into this great river. This river system is vital to the ecology and economy of the area, but also makes Assam prone to annual floods due to its unpredictable flow. In addition, the human factor exacerbates the flooding problem, with embankments, land encroachment, and deforestation all contributing to the problem. At the same time, silt from high altitudes creates sandbars and islands where people develop and settle, blocking the natural path of the river and causing it to overflow.

When heavy rains in late June 2024 caused major flooding, affecting millions of people and destroying vast areas, CEDAR Fund and our partner EFICOR responded immediately with rescue efforts. Owing to the impassable roads, the rescue teams sent by our partner visited different villages via fishing boats. Travelling from one end of the village to another often required approximately 45 minutes by boat. The rescue teams also visited villages that different service providers had not visited. The team met with the residents of these villages and learnt about their situation, explaining the criteria for selecting beneficiaries (disabled, widowed, single-parent families, elderly, damaged (wholly or partially) houses and families who lost family members in floods were targeted for assistance). The community endorsed these criteria, helping the disaster relief team identify deserving beneficiaries. Details of the project report are outlined below:

Project Details

Project Objective: To assist families affected by flooding
Project Period: July-August 2024
Project Location: Karimganj district, Assam, India
Project Content: Purchase and distribute emergency food and hygiene kits, and provide cash assistance to some families
Beneficiaries: 317 families received food and hygiene items, and 122 families received cash assistance
CEDAR allocated: US\$16,500 (around HK\$130,020)

Each beneficiary family will receive the following:

Food (enough for one month's consumption):

- Rice 26 kg
- Beans 2 kg

- Sugar 1 kg
- Salt 1 kg
- Cooking oil 1 litre

Hygiene products:

- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Sanitary napkins
- Laundry soap
- Soap

Cash Assistance:

122 families received cash assistance of 4,000 rupees (around HK\$370) each. The recipients were given the autonomy to determine the utilisation of the cash, whether for house repairs, purchasing medicines, household essentials, stationery, or school uniforms for their children.

Beneficiary's story

Rupali, a 42-year-old widow, lives in a village in Karimganj district of Assam with her three daughters, one of whom is disabled. Life is difficult for Rupali, who works full-time as a domestic helper, day and night, to support her family.

However, the flooding exacerbated the challenges in her life and added to her burdens. When the rain came, the floodwaters rose quickly, submerging her home in three feet of water and destroying most of her belongings. As her home became uninhabitable, Rupali and her daughters sought refuge in a government school and were provided with basic food supplies, including rice and vegetables. Although Rupali is grateful for the shelter, she is concerned about her children's well-being, health and education during this difficult time.



They stayed in the temporary shelter for 20 days, struggling to survive on the limited resources provided by the government. Everyone was looking forward to the floodwaters receding, but Rupali was more worried and confused about how to rebuild her life once the floodwaters receded.



During this time, CEDAR partner's rescue team arrived in the Rupali village to conduct a needs assessment of the area. They met Rupali, learnt about the severity of her situation and decided to provide her with a relief kit containing food and necessities to help her family for a month.

When Rupali received the relief kit, her face was beaming with joy and relief. She expressed her gratitude, noting that the food was very important to her family during such a difficult time. For Rupali, this kindness is more than just food; it is a ray of hope in a dark time, giving her the strength to move forward and overcome life's hardships for her daughters.

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 here 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	Online donate here or fill in the donation form	
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.

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