

FAIR SHARES IN A CONSTRAINED WORLD

POVERTY



Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

With a loan, support and training from Christian Aid partner CCDB, Monorama Kunda and members of her family from Kaligram village have formed a community-based business group with a shared bank account and savings scheme. Through this, Monorama has her own poultry and a grocery shop which helps her to pay for her children's education

Introduction

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable and most exposed countries to natural disasters in the world. In addition to these challenges, the socio-political system in Bangladesh makes it very difficult for poor and marginalised people to gain access to the resources and capacity they need to survive, to respond and recover, to raise their voices to improve their situation, and to fight poverty in an effective way.

Transforming livelihoods for resilient futures

Christian Aid aims to support secure livelihoods and economic justice for socially and economically excluded communities through our work on climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, emergency response (adhering to humanitarian principles, Sphere and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) standards), and pro-poor market access.

Our work on resilient livelihood helps build thriving communities that will have significantly higher income, food security and improved adaptive capacity to deal with extreme climate uncertainties and natural disasters. At the heart of our resilient livelihood work is gender and power analysis, and

holding ourselves and our partners accountable in addressing the identity-based exclusion of women, dalits and ethnic minorities. We will support excluded women by building their technical skills, knowledge and capacity around climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and emergency response, and empowering them to demand their rights and entitlements.

Christian Aid is committed to building profitable and resilient livelihoods for communities by working for greater access to markets for the poor, the increased sale value of products, and increased household consumption and more assets, including savings. We will also support communities to gain control over productive resources, including land. Using a pro-poor market development approach, Participatory Market System Development¹, we will strive for the socio-economic empowerment of marginalised women by brokering the relationship between marginal producers, consumers and businesses.

Christian Aid will advocate for the effective promotion of national and regional policy frameworks to ensure profitable and resilient livelihoods for marginalised small-scale producers, especially women.

We will:

- build the capacity of communities on climate change adaptation by conducting participatory analysis of risks to, and opportunities around, livelihoods, and support them to take measures in response.
- equip our partners with the ability to respond within 72 hours to any disaster-affected communities and sustain support through recovery and rehabilitation.
- support the development of community-based disaster preparedness plans, and ensure early warning mechanisms are in place to respond appropriately in emergencies to reduce the loss of life and damage to property.
- explore new approaches to humanitarian work, join different networks, consortiums and alliances such as HCTT, INGO Forum, DeSHARI and link our humanitarian work with our efforts on climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.



Rising riverbeds and sea levels cause waterlogging and increased salination in Shatkira district, on Bangladesh's south west coast – effects of climate change. When Cyclone Aila hit, some of the embankments built by the government were destroyed. Christian Aid partner Shushilan ran a 'cash for work' scheme to help rebuild the embankments in this area and support the local community

Our partners

Christian Aid reaches communities through our long-standing partners at local and national level. In Bangladesh, we are currently working with:

- **Agrajatra** in Cox's Bazar district
- **Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC)** in Bagerhat district

- **Bangladesh Centre for Alternative Studies (BCAS)** at national level
- **Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP)** at national level
- **INCIDIN Bangladesh** in Bagerhat district
- **Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)** in Pabna, Satkhira, Naogaon, Gopalganj and Barisal districts
- **Churches of Bangladesh Social Development Programme (CBSDP)** in Barisal and Gopalganj districts
- **Dushtha Shastha Kendra (DSK)** in Khulna district
- **Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK)** in Gaibandha district
- **People's Oriented Programme Implementation (POPI)** in Sunamganj district
- **Shariatpur Development Society (SDS)** in Shariatpur district
- **Shushilan** in Satkhira district.

In 2012, Christian Aid Bangladesh reached more than 10,000 households through its resilient livelihood work, and our target is to reach out to more than 100,000 individuals by 2014. Through our humanitarian responses to natural disasters in 2012, we reached almost 15,000 households.

We have two ECHO² projects being delivered by our partners Agrajatra and GUK and for the first time, Christian Aid Bangladesh is about to implement a DIPECHO³ project with its partner CCDB through the DeSHARI consortium.

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Endnotes

1 practicalaction.org/participatory-market-systems-development.

2 ECHO is the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission.

3 DIPECHO is the EC's disaster preparedness programme.