

CEDAR Fund 2023-2024 'Care for the Disaster-stricken Poor' Donation Campaign Report

Extreme climate changes have led to frequent natural disasters, severely impacting poor farmers with limited income. Their crop yields have decreased, resulting in even lower earnings and making their lives more difficult. CEDAR and its partners have been concerned about the 'Disaster-stricken Poor' in various regions. In 2023-2024, CEDAR continuously collaborated on multiple relief and development projects related to the climate crisis, including disaster risk reduction and conservation agriculture technique training. The locations and numbers of these projects are as follows:

- Ethiopia: 1
- Zimbabwe: 1
- Lebanon: 1
- Afghanistan: 1
- Bangladesh: 2
- India: 3
- Thailand: 1
- Myanmar: 1

These 11 projects directly benefited 47,731 people and indirectly benefited 114,648 people. Below, we introduce our partner in Ethiopia, the Terepeza Development Association (TDA), which carries out a church and community mobilisation project (improving livelihoods and climate resilience) in the Wolaita area to help local poor farmers.

Introduction to Terepeza Development Association (TDA)

Founded in 1987, TDA is a church-based non-governmental organisation in Ethiopia. TDA has been working with local churches to promote economic empowerment, conservation agriculture, natural resource management, and church leadership training in rural areas, fostering community development and improving the lives of impoverished communities.

Project Information

Name: Thriving communities through women's economic empowerment, improved climate resilient livelihoods and the engagement of Civil Society Organisations in Ethiopia

Location: Wolayita Zone, Ethiopia

Period: September 2022 to August 2025 (The Project will last for three years. This report covers the first half of the second year)

Objectives: Mobilise and enhance the outreach capacity of local churches, encouraging believers to care for their neighbours and support vulnerable families in

the community; Promote the adoption of conservation agriculture techniques among local smallholder families, implementing sustainable agriculture to improve household food supply and increase resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

Beneficiaries: In the first half of the second year, the project directly benefited 814 people.

Project Background

Residents of the Wolayita Zone rely on small-scale, subsistence rain-fed agriculture for their livelihoods. However, due to climate change, local rainfall patterns have become highly unpredictable. Combined with drought, poor soil quality, and inadequate land management, crop failures are common, and crops typically can only sustain families for six months. Even with adequate rainfall, the community considers March through July the 'season of food shortages. Frequent droughts and crop failures place immense pressure on the community's resilience and livelihoods. The community lacks a savings culture because they can barely make ends meet. Additionally, inflation and limited financial services mean that residents struggle daily to survive.

Project Details

To address the challenges faced by local residents, TDA collaborates with local churches to help the poor (especially women, people with disabilities, and their families) improve their livelihoods and withstand the negative impacts of climate change. TDA actively promotes the formation of self-help groups among the poor and implements various activities through these groups.

During the project implementation period from September 2023 to March 2024, activities related to improving livelihoods and climate resilience include:

- Encouraging continuous small savings
- Assisting group members in starting small businesses through microloans
- Training in sustainable organic agriculture and conservation agriculture techniques
- Training in disaster risk reduction

Despite the easing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, local economic and living conditions remain challenging, and the project continued to face certain difficulties. Thanks to the Lord's mercy and the team's efforts, most activities have progressed smoothly and achieved some results.

Regarding livelihood development, 49 new self-help groups were established during this period, comprising 814 members (702 women and 112 men), including 69 members with disabilities. All group members received continuous small savings training, and at least 231 members reported increased savings after the training.

Additionally, 344 members have started small businesses, such as making bread and selling oil or vegetables. The project assisted 96 members in obtaining microloans to support their income-generating activities. Through these activities, the average household income of members increased by 13%.

Furthermore, we provided conservation agriculture technique training to 532 farmers, with 462 applying the techniques on their land. Additionally, 27 members received training in vermicomposting techniques from local agricultural experts. This technique helps reduce the use and cost of chemical fertilisers and aids in pest control. Among them, 25 have successfully applied the technique and plan to promote it to other needy farmers by selling compost liquid.

Finally, during this period, we provided disaster risk reduction training to 100 people, including self-help group members and government agricultural office staff. Members from self-help groups in 10 communities developed disaster mitigation plans for their communities to identify impending hazards, predict their impacts, and formulate disaster mitigation measures to prevent loss of life and property.

In addition to being grateful for the project's smooth progress, we are also thankful that this year's rainy season was not delayed, allowing agricultural activities to commence on time.

A Story of Life Transformation:

Jaana's Story

Jaana, a 55-year-old mother of three, has long relied on farming to sustain her family. In recent years, however, she has faced challenges such as erratic rainfall and climate change, which have reduced her crop yields to the point where they can no longer support her family. With guidance from TDA staff, she visited a neighbouring village and learned about Conservation Agriculture (CA) techniques in this difficult situation. Jaana then participated in theoretical and practical CA training courses and began implementing CA on her farmland.

To compare the results, Jaana divided her farmland into two sections. One section implemented Conservation Agriculture (CA), while



the other continued with traditional farming methods. These methods involved using chemical fertilisers and frequent ploughing, leading to soil erosion and nutrient loss. She discovered that on the 800 square metres of CA farmland, the maize yield reached 800 kilograms, whereas the same area under traditional farming produced only 200 kilograms. The yield from CA was four times higher than that from traditional farming methods.

Experiencing these benefits, Jaana plans to expand her CA farmland to 2,000 square metres. Jaana told us, 'My income has finally improved enough to support my family.' The blessings have not only come to Jaana's family. She is now a role model in the community, welcoming other new farmers to learn CA techniques. She happily shared with us that recently, five nearby farmers decided to start using CA after visiting her farmland.



Take Action

The story above is just one of the many life transformations we've heard from our partners. Thanks to your support, CEDAR can continue collaborating with churches and Christian organisations in different countries to care for the 'Disaster-stricken Poor' in various regions. In addition to providing immediate assistance after disasters, we educate affected residents on disaster preparedness, offer training in climate-resilient crop farming, assist them in starting small businesses, and teach handicrafts. These efforts help them earn more income and escape poverty.

We sincerely invite you to support the 'Care for the Disaster-stricken Poor' ministry through prayer and regular donations. Your support can help improve the lives of those threatened by the climate crisis, allowing them to experience the love of the Lord.

Monthly donation	Beneficiaries
HK\$200	Support disaster risk reduction work in 8 coastal villages in Bangladesh to reduce casualties caused by annual floods.
HK\$400	Provide agricultural training on cultivating 'climate-tolerant crops' to 60 Ethiopian farmers to enhance food security.
HK\$600	Support the establishment of community information systems in 6 highland rural areas in Thailand to manage natural resources and advocate for land rights.
HK\$1,200	Offer agricultural and financial planning training to 30 Zimbabwean farmers to learn financial management and reduce household debt.

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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