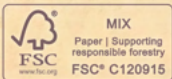


BUT

Not in despair



(Incorporated with limited liability)

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2023-2024

Beyond Feeding the Poor
豈止溫飽

Annual Report

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;
perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9





Foreword — *But Not in Despair*

2023-24 is a year of grief and devastation, but also a year of perseverance and hope.

More armed conflicts took place in 2023 than in any other year since the end of World War II. The Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Gaza war, and civil wars in Myanmar and Ethiopia — all affect the countries and regions where CEDAR and our partners have ongoing development and relief work. We grieve with our field partners and the communities that we serve, as they live in the daily reality of poverty, displacement, and death.

Yet suffering and death do not have the final say (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). As one of our partners in the Middle East shared, 'We do not know when we will see the light at the end of the tunnel, but God has called us to be the light "inside" the tunnel'. We may not be able to see the end of war or the end of poverty with our naked eye, but as Paul said, although 'we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair' (2 Corinthians 4:8), we are called to 'stand firm' and to 'always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain' (1 Corinthians 15:58).

CEDAR is grateful to be able to work in 14 countries and partner with 36 local churches and Christian organisations in 2023-24. Our partners show great perseverance and faith in the midst of hostile environments. They could have chosen to leave or to lead an easier life, but they are obedient to God's call to walk alongside the poor and to serve incarnationally. More than 1.18 million individuals benefitted from our 66 development and relief projects, and we saw many lives transformed because of His power and grace.

Given the changing landscape of the world, CEDAR has adopted the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) approach, which aims for more collaboration and coordination among aid, development, and peace actors. We have also put more resources into cross-border opportunities. In this annual report, you can read about highlights of our work in the Mekong region, and we hope you may be encouraged by our sharing of God's work through our field partners in conflict-ridden zones in India and resource-deficient places in Nepal.

What we experience, time and again, is God's unfailing provision and faithfulness, especially to those who are the 'least of these' (Matthew 25:40). Thank you for partnering with us to serve the poor and to share Christ's light and hope and to 'not be in despair' in these difficult days. May we continue to follow in His footsteps.

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Christine Lau Pui Ting

Board Chairperson
Dr. Christine Lau Pui Ting



Winnie Fung Wan Yi

Chief Executive
Dr. Winnie Fung Wan Yi

Our Vision

In Christ We Build a

Just and Compassionate World

Together

Who We Are...

CEDAR Fund is an independent Christian relief and development organisation founded in Hong Kong. We strive to live out Integral Mission of the Church in partnership with Christians around the world to assist the poor and the needy.

We Are Called...

We are called to participate in the mission of God and to witness God's Kingdom on earth. 'From Church, Through Church' is our guiding principle of operation. In Christ, we are determined to build a just and compassionate world together with Christian churches and organisations worldwide. Based on our vision, our projects can be categorised into ten natures:

Project Natures



Anti-human Trafficking



Children and Youth Development



Creation Care



Peace and Reconciliation



Church and Community Mobilisation



Livelihood Development



Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Risk Reduction



Health



Urban and Rural Development



Advocacy

Where We Serve



Thankful for God & You

CEDAR was able to walk alongside approximately **1,181,300** beneficiaries and help restore their dignity and worth through **66** relief and development projects, including **9** new development projects, through partnerships with **36** Christian organisations and churches in **14** countries and regions around the world.

Focus:

Hope Across the Mekong

Chung Pui Ling, Head of Programme



Anyone familiar with missions will have heard of the Mekong River, an ancient and important waterway flowing through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia before reaching the sea in Vietnam. It is not only a lifeline for locals but also the focus of many mission efforts. However, many people along the river face severe difficulties.

In 2016, the Mekong experienced the worst severe drought, and the damage has continued. Thousands of people relying on the river still struggle with food shortages, lack of water, and unemployment. Many international studies suggest that the main cause of this drought is the construction of numerous dams. To make matters worse, since the COVID-19 pandemic, human trafficking and online sexual exploitation of children have risen in the Mekong region, with many cases being cross-border crimes. Despite these challenges, our partners in northern Thailand have not given up. With their strong community development experience, they encourage and assist local churches in caring for their neighbours, helping people in hardship to find hope.

CEDAR has been working with ethnic minority churches in northern Thailand for over ten years. These churches represent various groups, including the Karen, Lahu, and Yao. These groups have long faced economic hardship, social marginalisation, and threats from natural disasters. CEDAR's partners work on projects based on the church's vision and the community's preferences, such as community health education and self-help groups, improving lives in challenging situations.

Our Mekong ministry focuses on the remote mountain areas of the river's upper and middle reaches. Villagers there mainly work in agriculture, livestock, or fishing. Their income has steadily declined in recent years due to climate change, economic downturns, and conflict. To address this, we are implementing sustainable farming, rural development, anti-trafficking, minority rights protection, and disaster relief projects.

Our Mekong work has two key features. First, because our partners are members of the same ethnic groups, this work involves significant cultural preservation, including ethnic festivals, traditional farming methods, and handicraft production. Second, our partners actively seek local Christians or churches to collaborate with, launching community care activities or rural development projects suited to the local context.

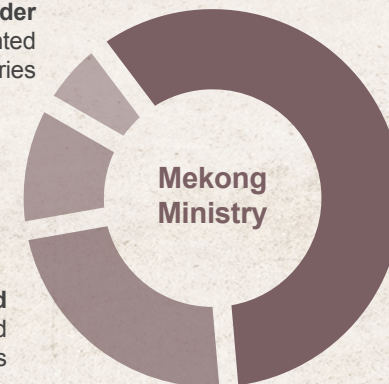
CEDAR insists on working with churches because we believe in the impact of believers — not just within the church but also in their daily lives and communities. One example is a brother of a Creative Access Nation who showed me a waste incinerator built by young people in his church. Besides constructing the incinerator, they also taught villagers to sort and recycle waste, burning what could not be recycled. The village has transformed from being littered with waste to clean and tidy. This change attracted local officials to visit the village. After learning more, they praised the youth for their efforts and encouraged them to build incinerators and share the knowledge of waste management in other villages. The church was also encouraged to keep living out their faith through action.

In the mission field of the Mekong, our partners and local churches are not only eager to spread the Gospel but also actively work to improve the lives of the poor, helping people see hope both in eternity and in their everyday lives. We are thankful that CEDAR can be part of the Lord's work.

Thai-Myanmar border
HK\$250,922 Granted
616 Beneficiaries

Creative Access Nation
HK\$434,037 Granted
2,416 Beneficiaries

Thailand
HK\$924,026 Granted
15,879 Beneficiaries



Myanmar
HK\$2,306,940 Granted
16,858 Beneficiaries

Peacebuilding Amidst Conflict

Edward Lai, Senior Programme Officer



As I write, the violence in Manipur, northeast India, has been ongoing for over a year, with no end in sight.

The conflict began when the local government considered granting the Meitei people, who comprise over half of the state's population, 'Scheduled Tribe' status. The Meitei, mostly Hindu, live in the prosperous valleys around the capital. This move angered the minority tribes, the Naga and Kuki, who live in the hills and are mostly Christian. They feared the politically and economically advantaged Meitei would gain even more benefits, further deepening the inequality. Protests by the Kuki and Naga escalated into bloody clashes between the Meitei and Kuki, resulting in at least 220 deaths.

Over the past year, I have regularly contacted Pastor Karang, who leads peacebuilding work for our partner, the Manipur Baptist Convention. We have been discussing how to continue peacebuilding efforts amidst the conflict. The roots of the violence lie in long-standing structural injustice, deepened by leaders who have fuelled ethnic divisions. The scars of conflict run deep, creating entrenched tensions. We understand that to build lasting peace, we must address the underlying issues and community dynamics to heal wounds and untangle these complex problems. This requires wisdom, action, adaptability, and courage — especially when peace is seen as secondary in a 'them or us' mindset.

Pastor Karang has told me several times, 'My life is now under threat. I keep receiving anonymous WhatsApp messages.' These messages contain false accusations against him and the Manipur Baptist Convention, claiming bias towards one side or neglect of another.

In reality, our peacebuilding project involves people from all three ethnic groups. Through trauma healing workshops (for both community and church leaders), inter-ethnic football matches, youth peace education, and poverty alleviation efforts, we help them develop skills to manage conflict. As one of the largest Christian organisations in the area, our partner represents various ethnic groups, showing that faith can bridge political, geographical, and historical divides.

This project started in 2022, before the current conflict erupted. The violence has, of course, affected our work. We have had to frequently adjust our plans — changing locations or postponing activities until it is safe to ensure the safety of our participants.

Conflict wounds often lead to cycles of violence. But peace is still being nurtured — Pastor Karang and I firmly believe this.

India
HK\$161,224 Granted
1,100 Beneficiaries

Lebanon
HK\$183,188 Granted
423 Beneficiaries



Rwanda
HK\$250,378 Granted
449 Beneficiaries

Walking Through Valleys with

Faith and Hope

Doris Siu, Programme Officer



During a two-week visit to Nepal, my colleague and I experienced dozens of hours of bumpy car rides, travelling south from central Nepal and then west, crossing valleys, plains, and mountains — almost half the country. As a first-time visitor, I was deeply struck by the diverse landscapes, marvelling at God's magnificent creation. However, when passing through narrow, rugged roads, I was quickly reminded of the fragility of life, relying solely on God's grace and protection to stay safe. This is something our local partners practise daily as part of their spiritual journey.

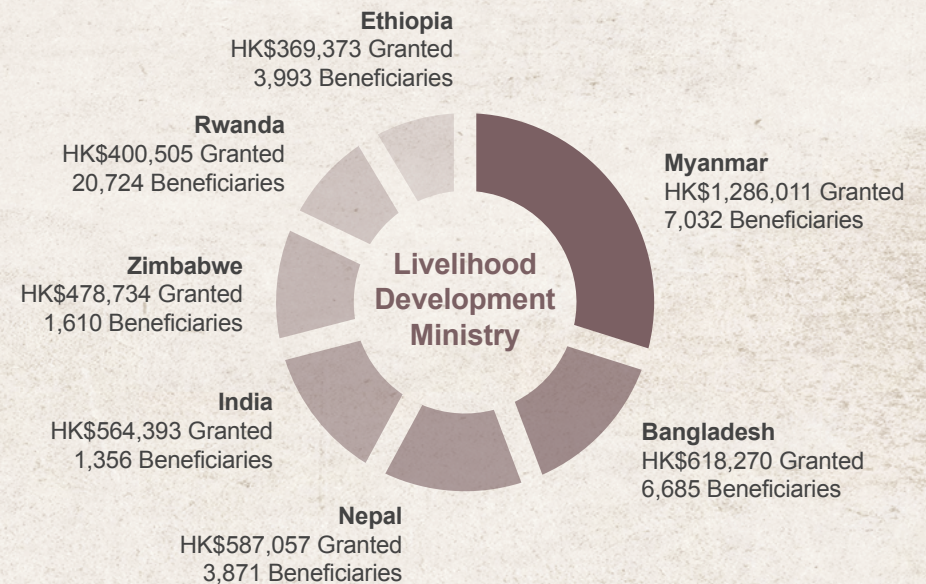
Nepal, the small country, is the tenth most mountainous country in the world and is home to Mount Everest. This small mountain nation comprises over a hundred ethnic groups and languages, with a rich history of ancient cultural traditions and religions. Once a Hindu kingdom, Nepal became a secular federal democratic republic in 2006 after ten years of civil war. Sadly, despite the change, discrimination and exploitation based on religion and the caste system still exist openly today.

Our first visit was to Bandarjhula, a project site of our partner Samari Utthan Sewa (SUS), located next to the Indian border and surrounded by Chitwan National Park on three sides, leaving it almost isolated from the outside world. For years, this area has been home to Dalits, the lowest caste in the system, and ethnic minorities without land rights. They face strict government restrictions on land use, along with long-standing threats of food shortages and forced displacement, affecting even local Christian communities. Walking around the area, I was struck by the lack of public services or facilities — apart from the churches, basic schools, a community service centre, and a health clinic set up by our partner, there were no other public services or facilities nor markets or NGOs.

Many of the children we met are single-parent or are cared for by grandparents or relatives. Their parents, having been persuaded to seek work in the cities or abroad in places like India or Saudi Arabia, often leave and rarely send money back. Cases of human trafficking or forced labour traps are not uncommon here due to desperation. To address this, our partner has set up multiple women's self-help groups to help families save money for emergencies and to provide scholarships, food packages, and livelihood support to relieve the financial pressures of poor families. Though the needs are

overwhelming, we believe walking with these marginalised groups through each difficult step is a journey of faith and hope in God.

'Jai Mashi!' is a common greeting among Christians in Nepal. Whether in the high mountains or deep valleys, Nepali brothers and sisters use this phrase daily to remind one another lovingly, 'The Messiah is victorious!' — lifting their eyes to Christ, who has overcome all suffering. We pray that the Lord continues to show His mercy to those who wait on Him, strengthen our partner's mountain-moving faith, and bring hope to the communities they serve.



Persevering in

Integral Mission

and Meeting Jesus in Times of Hardship

Fountain Chik, Theology Development Officer



Once, I was invited to preach on behalf of CEDAR at a church. Before the service, the senior pastor sighed, 'It's negative!' The church had been struggling with pastors leaving and declining attendance, affecting its ministries. I said, 'Sometimes, moving forward feels like taking three steps forward, then two steps back.' The pastor replied, 'It's negative!' Before the service started, we prayed, arms on one another's shoulders, asking for God's glory and for the congregation to embrace Integral Mission.

As I write, that moment comes to mind, and I reflect on CEDAR's journey in encouraging churches to care for the poor. God has answered this prayer. Despite challenges, church leaders continue to inspire their congregations, which deeply moves me.

Many churches and believers have invited CEDAR to collaborate on activities promoting Integral Mission — churches have hosted talks on community service, schools have invited us to share poverty alleviation stories, and company fellowships have participated in anti-human trafficking and poverty awareness events. There has been strong participation in the 'CEDAR Barefoot Walk' and 'Marathon Charity Programme' to raise funds for our work. A pastor once organised a prayer meeting for CEDAR, gathering elderly members to pray in detail, and even included CEDAR in her will to support our work. God is using all these efforts for His glory and to advance Integral Mission!

I have seen people embrace Integral Mission not just in outreach activities but also in CEDAR's own poverty education activities. For example, participants in our 'SALT Home Visit Training' from churches in Fanling North, Tsing Yi, and Prince Edward have applied the 'SALT principles' when visiting people in their communities and building equal relationships with their neighbours. In the 'Serving Jesus — Practical Theology Workshop', speakers and participants eagerly shared that serving those in need — the poor, sick, or lonely — is serving Jesus. This experience led to deep prayer, reflection, and shared stories of accompanying the needy, and through these acts of loving our neighbours, we meet Jesus.

The church may be facing difficult times, and it is easy to feel discouraged. However, God continues to move believers to persevere in Integral Mission in various ways, allowing us to see how the church can meet Jesus in both times of abundance and times of hardship.

Hong Kong Ministry



790 Beneficiaries



HK\$220,000 Granted

Hong Kong Advocacy, Education and Fundraising activities



Worked with 121 churches, seminaries, Christian organisations and schools



Organised 138 activities



Reached 16,231 people



1 Donation Option

- Monthly Gift (by credit card or autopay) HK\$ _____
- Increase your monthly gift amount to HK\$ _____
(If you donate by direct debit autopay, please complete the Monthly Donation Form and send the original back to us)
- One-off Gift HK\$ _____

2 I would like to support

- According to CEDAR's need
- Particular Category > Relief & Rehabilitation Poverty Alleviation, Development, and Advocacy
- Specific Project: _____
- Specific Donation Campaign > 'Remove Price Tag, Free Body & Soul' 'Join Hands Join Hearts'
- 'Care for the Disaster-stricken Poor' 'Restore Dignity for the Poor'
- 'Long-term Assistance to the Conflict-stricken Poor'

3 Donor's Information (BLOCK LETTER)

(Please use the same name as in your tax information.)

Donor's Code (if applicable)

Name: _____ (Pastor / Deacon / Mr. / Ms.)

Address: _____ (for receipt issuance)

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____

Your personal information will be used by the Organisation for matters including but not limited to contacting, handling event registrations, issuing receipts, research/analysis/statistical purposes, fundraising, opinion gathering, event/training course invitations/information of the Organisation.

- I do not want to receive event/training course invitations/information of the Organisation.

Signature

4 Donation Method

- Autopay (Please complete the Monthly Donation Form [download at link.cedarfund.org/rd-form-en or contact us for the form] and send back the original)

- Credit Card (VISA / Mastercard / UnionPay / JCB) *

Monthly donation will be debited automatically from your credit card account monthly until your further notification.

Card No.	Card Expiry Date (Should be valid for the next 3 months)	Signature <small>Must be the same signature on the back of the card</small>
Cardholder's Name	/ (MM/YY)	

- Cheque (payable to 'CEDAR Fund') > Cheque No.: _____

- Direct Deposit: HSBC 004-600-385678-001
BOC 012-581-2-020114-7

- Fast Payment System: FPS ID: 3354016

- PayMe: Scan the QR code on the right



5 Donation Receipt

Donations of HK\$100 or above are tax-deductible in HK with our receipts. For regular donation by autopay or credit card, an annual receipt will be issued in April.

- Yes, please send me donation receipts (by email / mail) * > Receive a receipt after every donation Receive an annual receipt

- No, thanks.

(* Please delete as appropriate)

Please complete this form and send it back to us with cheque, bank-in slip or screenshot of successful payment:

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



Beyond Feeding the Poor
豈止溫飽

Thank You for Your
Continual Support!

Please continue to support CEDAR and
our partners' work with prayers and donation.

Financial Report

From 1/7/2023 to 30/6/2024

Income	HK\$	Expenditure	HK\$
Donation	19,484,845	Development & Relief Projects	13,625,120
Other Income	535,235	Education	1,577,934
		Promotion	1,934,842
		Administration	1,481,160
		Depreciation	975,832
Total	20,020,080	Total	19,594,888
		Surplus	425,192

AR-202412

We Are CEDARians



CEDAR is committed to professional standards in ministry planning and development, and is accountable to God and donors for the faithful use of all resources entrusted to us. The Board is responsible for the organisation's administrative management, strategy development and financial plan. The Board set up three specific committees that offer advice and recommendations to the Board regularly. All board members participate on a voluntary basis.

Board

Dr. Christine Lau Pui Ting (Chairperson)
 Rev. Irene Suen Ching Man (Vice-Chairperson)
 Mr. Benjamin Yam Kwok Hei (Honorary Treasurer)
 Dr. Joseph Chan Kwok Fong (Honorary Secretary)
 Rev. Anthony Lee Chap Yung
 Dr. Alex Ip Hon Ho
 Dr. Chan Nim Chung (Until Dec 2023)
 Rev. Anders Chan Ming Chuen (Until Dec 2023)

Consultant

Mr. Oliver Mark
 Dr. Faith Ho
 Dr. Mok Chiu Yau

Chief Executive

Dr. Winnie Fung
 Dr. Chan Pui Si (Until Nov 2023)

Programme

Ms. Chung Pui Ling
 Mr. Edward Lai
 Ms. Rebecca Lee
 Ms. Edith Cham
 Ms. Doris Siu
 Ms. Phailin Leesirichaikul

Theology Development

Mr. Fountain Chik

Partnership Development

Ms. Clara Chiu
 Mr. Tony Chan
 Mr. Ken Wong
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Ms. Bonnie Ho
 Mr. Ryan Wong
 Ms. Au Heung Ling
 Mr. Anthony Kwan (Until Nov 2023)
 Ms. Winnie Wong (Until Dec 2023)
 Ms. Shirley Hou (Until Jun 2024)



Network



Integral:

