



CORDAID IN BANGLADESH

50 YEARS OF WORKING TOWARDS A RESILIENT AND THRIVING SOCIETY

CARE. ACT. SHARE. LIKE CORDAID.

Photo Cordaid

Cordaid has almost 50 years of experience in Bangladesh, before 2021 known as ICCO Cooperation in the country. Throughout the years, we developed and implemented activities in the fields of civil society strengthening, food security and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods and private sector development. In times of crises, we save lives through humanitarian assistance, disaster preparedness and resilient recovery.

CORDAID IN BANGLADESH

Until 2012, Cordaid in Bangladesh focused on resilient communities and healthcare activities. We supported civil society to contribute to equitable growth. Through increasing the institutional capacity of civil society organisations, we contributed to programmes addressing social, economic and political challenges to champion positive change and enhance long-term inclusive development.

Cordaid established its first office in Bangladesh in 2013. Being based in the country enabled us to provide comprehensive technical assistance to our local partners and work in difficult-to-reach areas. Since then, we have been addressing some of the key challenges on food security, climate change, waste management, employment, malnutrition and humanitarian assistance. We have directly impacted the lives of more than 1.5 million people.

KEY FIGURES 2021



WHERE WE WORK



OUR APPROACH

Cordaid works in and on fragility for people to live dignified and healthy lives in peaceful, equitable and resilient societies. In doing so, we focus on humanitarian assistance, sustainable livelihoods, equitable access to basic services and inclusive peace and reconciliation processes.

In line with our global strategy, we will expand our sustainable livelihoods, humanitarian aid, healthcare and education programmes in Bangladesh. We will continue to contribute to innovative solutions for sustainable development.

Localisation, decentralisation, digitisation and data-informed decision making are central to our work. In Bangladesh, 80% of our human resources are based in project areas. We promote gender equality within our organisation and in our programmes.

Cordaid supports rural communities and local partners in Bangladesh to:

- Engage them in delivering equitable and quality humanitarian assistance
- Provide technical and vocational education and training, enterprise development and business start-up services to youth
- Develop inclusive, sustainable and resilient local food systems to adapt to climate change through climate smart agriculture, enterprise development, value chain development and bringing new innovative and sustainable technologies
- Work towards access to health services and nutrition governance
- Develop the capacity and create space civil society organization for lobby and advocacy.

Across these fields of work, Cordaid delivers services in partnership with local organisations to strengthen local governance and advocates at different levels to improve policies.



SKILLS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

With our certified partner organisations, we aim to increase the livelihood opportunities of single and widowed women, survivors of gender-based violence, refugees, youth, and other people who need it the most. Skills development takes place through technical and vocational training. We organise educational activities for entrepreneurship, business, and leadership development focusing on green jobs creation. We also link participants to local employers, create group-based enterprises and markets.

These activities contribute to SDG4 (inclusive and equitable quality education) and SDG8 (decent work and economic growth).



Skills training for forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals in Cox's Bazar.



PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Cordaid supports small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by providing business development services, coaching, and increasing access of SMEs to finance and markets. We work closely with the private sector to expand supply chains to remote areas. By supporting start-ups in developing their production and supply chain systems and linking them with people in rural areas, income opportunities for both young companies and community members increase.

These projects contribute to SDG8 (decent work and economic growth).



CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE

In Bangladesh, Cordaid works on climate-smart technologies, including salt tolerant crops, for people to adapt to climate change. We also strengthen the capacity of community members on weather forecasting and disaster preparedness. Innovative models for waste management and the circular economy, for example in refugee communities, contribute to coping with other environmental challenges. In the past, we also implemented community managed disaster risk reduction projects, including activities focussing on early flood warning and sustainable dike construction.

Our climate change and resilience projects contribute to SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG13 (climate action).

[Read more](#) about the Salt Solution project on our website.



HUMANITARIAN AID

Since 2017, Cordaid Bangladesh offers humanitarian assistance to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. We apply an innovative approach focusing on the self-reliance of the refugees and on enhancing social cohesion between the refugees and the host community. Key activities include distributing food, facilitating skills development, connecting refugees with their host communities to integrate livelihoods in local markets and upcycling plastic waste.

In the refugee community in Cox's Bazar, more than 20,000 people participated in disaster risk reduction activities that focus on heavy rain and smooth evacuation routes during flash floods. In our TVET skills development project, considered unconventional as 53% of the participants were women.

[Read more about our work in Cox's Bazar on our website.](#)



Food assistance to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals.



WASH mapping exercise as part of the SONGO project.



HEALTHY LIVES

In Bangladesh, we have a strong track record of working on infant and young child feeding, dietary diversity, and maternal and adolescent health services. Our health projects also establish last mile distribution of nutrition and hygiene products. We aim to increase universal health coverage through facilitating health insurance, and strengthening community clinics and nutrition governance systems.

To improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), we focus on behaviour change communication, strengthening local government institutions, WASH entrepreneurship and market-based solutions. The impact evaluation of our project shows that most of our targeted households consumed on average 8-9 food items from all food groups per day (HDDS score 8.5) and around 33.5% of them had adopted at least one of the improved WASH technologies.

Our activities in Bangladesh' health sector contribute to SDG2 (zero hunger), SDG3 (good health and well-being) and SDG6 (clean water and sanitation).



SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

To develop sustainable food systems, we work with smallholder farmers and others in need of support in rural areas. We do this by working in agro-based food production, value chain development, engaging private sector market actors, training food entrepreneurs and connecting farmers with producer groups, aggregation centres, markets and online sales platforms. We aim to increase the awareness of community members on food and nutrition. As a result, 90% of targeted farmers intensified their land use and 80% of them increased their yield by at least 20%.

Through our sustainable food projects, we contribute to SDG1 (End Poverty) and SDG2 (zero hunger).



LOBBY AND ADVOCACY

By strengthening civil society organisations, Cordaid contributes to improved policies on topics of interest and increases domestic resource base and public accountability. We support partners striving for changes in policy and governance structures by promoting the right to adequate food and to guaranteed access and control over natural resources. Our lobby and advocacy efforts focus, among other things, on the role of the private sector in society regarding human rights and the inclusion of small producers.

Our lobby and advocacy activities contribute to SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

TRACK RECORD OVERVIEW

A SELECTION OF OUR TRACK RECORD IN BANGLADESH

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES	DONOR	FUNDING AMOUNT (€)	PROJECT DURATION
Strengthening Forecast-based Early Actions in Cyclone Prone coastal regions in Bangladesh (STEP)	Climate change, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)	161,298	2021 - 2023
Solid Waste Management in Cox's Bazar camps (SR)	Working on circular economy, upcycling waste and enterprise promotion	World Food Programme (WFP)	425,499	2021
Skills development for Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals and People With Disability	Skills development for self-reliance	World Food Programme (WFP)	502,998	2020 - 2022
Coastal Opportunities and Agriculture Solutions to Tackle Salinity in Bangladesh (COASTS)	Strengthening climate adaptive agriculture through public-private partnership approach	Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)	2.1 mln	2020 - 2024
Cox's Bazar Livelihood Intervention	Skills, entrepreneurship, enterprise and private sector development and climate change preparedness	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	629,998	2020 - 2023
Cash Programming with Refugees	Disaster risk reduction	World Food Programme (WFP)	2.9 mln	2020 - 2022
Sustained Opportunities for Nutrition Governance (SONGO)	Nutrition governance, agriculture, disaster risk reduction and enterprise promotion	European Union (EU)	9 mln	2018 - 2023
Civic Engagement Alliance Programme (CEA)	Reducing inequality and injustice	Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Dutch MFA)	2.4 mln	2016 - 2020
Profitable Opportunities for Food Security (PROOFS)	Building sustainable foods system	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bangladesh	12.1 mln	2013 - 2018

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is an internationally operating value-based emergency relief and development organisation, working in and on fragility. We support local communities in their efforts to improve health care, food security, education, employment, entrepreneurship, security and justice. Where disasters strike, we offer humanitarian assistance. Our multi-stakeholder approach seeks and promotes alliances of civil society organisations, as well as the public and the private sectors. We focus on local agents for change and implement innovative digital and financial methods to increase the impact of interventions.

Our quality management system is ISO and Partos certified, we have an ECHO partnership certificate and our risk management policy and framework respond to internationally required standards. As a Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) certified organisation, Cordaid adheres to SPHERE standards and the IASC GBV Guidelines and promotes greater accountability in humanitarian programmes. We set and maintain high standards of performance for ourselves and our partners, to ensure the well-being and safety of everyone we work with and for.

We value the partnership and financial support from our institutional and private donors. Institutional donors like the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Global Fund, the World Bank, UNICEF, and UNPBE, as well as the European Commission have trusted our capacities and expertise, both in the past and for the years to come. We also cherish our loyal donor base of more than 250,000 individuals from the Netherlands. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE.

In January 2021, Cordaid joined forces with ICCO.

CONTACT

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