

### COVID-19 & FLOODS

Our Christian Aid Bangladesh programme has been working on supporting partners facing the new challenges of COVID-19 on top of the challenges they were already facing such as climate change and flooding.

"This is going to be the worst flood in a decade," said Bangladesh's Chief of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre. This year the monsoon floods have affected 21 districts in northern and north-eastern parts of Bangladesh with 15 districts moderately to severely impacted.

Christian Aid partners are sending constant updates: floodwaters are rising. People, livestock and houses are underwater. Water and sanitation infrastructure has been damaged.

Most of the Char (island) farmers, many of whom are dairy farmers, were hoping to recover from the economic shock of COVID-19 during Eid, as this is the festival when Muslims sacrifice cattle and goats. However, due to heavy flooding the transportation of livestock was difficult. Farmers were not seeing good prices for their livestock as COVID-19

continues to cause economic challenges. However, the Bangladesh programmes support the most vulnerable as they face these challenges.

### COVID-19 Response

Christian Aid partners have been taking action to prepare for COVID-19 in the Rohingya refugee camps. In order to reduce the risk of transmission, operations in the camps have been reduced to the provision of essential services. All non-essential visits to the camps have been suspended – but our work continues.

Christian Aid has an office in Cox's Bazaar and in Camp 15 with a large warehouse. We have a team of 25 experienced and skilled national staff working together with local NGO partners (Dustha Shasthya Kendra and Dhaka Ahsania Mission).

We are raising awareness of the virus and sharing hygiene messages to people in the camps in their local Rohingya languages. We are also assisting doctors in the camps to receive training so they can treat infected people and train other doctors in health facilities.

Christian Aid expects to train 85-100 healthcare staff on

infection, prevention and disease control. We're also ensuring healthcare staff are equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) and that handwashing stations are available at the entrances to 10 health facilities.



### Global Justice Now (GJN)

Debt is too often a mechanism of control imposed on the poor by the rich. COVID-19 has torn away the claims that the system work for the most vulnerable in the world.

GJN is calling for the immediate [cancellation of huge swathes of debt](#) in the global south, along with a wealth tax to stabilise and improve health services.