


# S H A R E

	Suite 504, Rightful Centre, 12 Tak Hing Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong		<b>March - April 2016</b>
	G.P.O. Box 3212 Hong Kong	Telephone: (852) 2381 9627	Facsimile: (852) 2392 2777
	Website: <a href="http://www.cedarfund.org">www.cedarfund.org</a>	Email: <a href="mailto:sharing@cedarfund.org">sharing@cedarfund.org</a>	Facebook Page: CEDAR Fund



the last 15 years. But it had mainly focused its improvements in urban areas and inadvertently widened the gap between urban and rural areas. Further, constrained by the caste system and social traditions, development is often neglected for the lower caste people, minority religions (e.g. Islam), and those households headed by woman.

The Zimbabwe government has long disregarded the HIV population and the entailing orphan problems. Tracy, a 16 years old adolescent whose mother passed away 7 years ago, could not afford the expensive and overly bureaucratic processes in inheriting her mother's house, and had a hard time sustaining on her own. She was further raped by her uncle 2 years ago and is now solely taking care of her 1-year-old child. Trinity Project, the local partner of CEDAR, felt strongly that the solutions in alleviating the countless tragedies lie in better governmental attention and policies, which is also a focal point in the SDGs.

The 17 SDGs could be divided into 7 main categories:

## FOCUS ~ FIGHTING POVERTY

### Sustainable Development and Actions

Author: Tsun Wan Yan

We don't know what our lives will come to in 15 years, not even in 5 days. However, one thing we can be sure of is that every action of ours counts toward our future, even the lives of those in our society and the world.

The United Nations adopted a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, succeeding the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There are 17 SDGs with 169 associated targets, aimed to be achieved within the next 15 years by year 2030.

As practical as the numbers and targets may seem, the SDGs appear irrelevant to most of us in Hong Kong who have no problem obtaining our daily needs, as the goals are mainly targeted at improving lives in developing countries. We cannot effectively propagate the cause in Hong Kong unless we unveil the living souls behind these goals and numbers.

#### Sustainable goals

Compared to the eight MDGs in 2000, SDGs have more detailed and encompassing goals based on the hope that every member of the society can equally enjoy the benefits of sustainable development.

Take India as an example. The country has seen great success in halving its population in extreme poverty and food shortage over

Category	Goals	
A. Fighting Poverty	1. No Poverty	2. Zero Hunger
B. Health	3. Good Health and Well-being	6. Clean Water and Sanitation
C. Education	4. Quality Education	
D. Gender Equality	5. Gender Equality	
E. Development and Preservation	7. Affordable and Clean Energy	9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
	11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	13. Climate Action
	14. Life below Water	15. Life on Land
	16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	
F. Production and Consumption	8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	12. Responsible Consumption and Production
G. International Partnership	10. Reduced Inequalities	17. Partnerships for the Goals

It certainly takes more than a few countries' contributions to reach these goals. If all 193 member states of the UN are willing to cooperate in achieving the SDGs, our world would surely be a



better place to live in with less poverty, hunger, disease, violence and injustice.

### Our part

It is easy to know nowadays what is going on around the globe. Hong Kong, as a better developed region, has the obligation to help the developing countries in achieving the SDGs.

Furthermore, our actions should not be limited to mere monetary contributions, but to also include the compassion towards the actual environments of the targeted areas and the desire to understand the roots of the problems, upon which we will discover that our work is actually far from just offering help, but it is to change our own lifestyles. Due to rapid globalization, our daily choices do have far-reaching consequences to those underprivileged. A simple shirt we bought might come from a factory that mistreats its workers and we might in turn reinforce a system that is unjust.

Remembering the poor is a lifestyle. Through our actions, we change our environment and potentially rally others to joining our cause. We as followers of Christ further recognize our stewardship responsibilities to manage the earth, and to practice our faith in caring for the land and everything living on it, in accordance with God's laws and order.

### What we may do

There are practical actions we could partake in our daily lives:

#### Do not consume endangered animals – SDGs 13 & 14

Shark fin has long been a common dish in Hong Kong banquets. Sharks are often caught and being stripped of their fins and are thrown back into the sea towards a slow death. The number of endangered shark species is rapidly increasing, and it further upsets the ecological balance of the ocean and the climate. We could always find substitutions to protect sharks and sustain the ecology.<sup>1</sup>

#### Do not consume genetically modified foods – SDGs 2, 3, & 15

There is yet to be any conclusive indications of the consequences brought by the production and consumption of genetically modified (GM) foods, but for example, pesticidal, herbicidal, and disease resistant genes are injected in genetically modified crops which upset the ecology of the growing fields. The GM companies are also in a monopoly via mass production, control food prices and make lives even harder for the poor.<sup>2</sup>

#### Responsible consumption – SDGs 12 & 13

We often buy things we don't need and create wastes. Instead of buying, we could exchange goods on 'swap platforms'.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, we could be mindful of the production process and force the companies to honor their production responsibilities by refusing to buy anything that is produced in unjust/ un-environmental-friendly ways.<sup>4</sup>

#### Support local production – SDGs 8, 12 & 13

Supporting local producers and manufacturers will facilitate the economic growth of Hong Kong as well as reducing carbon emission from bringing the goods in by planes / rails.

#### Reach the marginalized groups – SDGs 5 & 10

We can actively reach out to local marginalized groups such as ethnic minorities, the elderly, new immigrant mothers and children, to understand their needs and support them, and at the same time promoting awareness among our peers to achieve peaceful coexistence and reduce discrimination.

1 <http://hksharkfoundation.org/campaigns/>

2 <http://www.greenpeace.org/eastasia/campaigns/food-agriculture/problems/genetic-engineering/>

3 <http://jupyeah.com/eng/pages/index>

4 <http://sacom.hk>

## STEP INTO THE WORLD



### Help the Mountain Minority Groups Take Their First Step in Development

Ethnic minorities living in the northern mountain range of Thailand had been scattered around the borders between Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Yunnan, China, and move around to cope with environmental changes. A large amount of people of the tribes are not officially registered, in turn they have a hard time finding education, employment, and legal ownership of lands.

CEDAR's longtime partner, the Upland Holistic Development Project (UHDP) in northern Thailand, has been aiding the minorities to achieve self-sufficiency by using small pieces of lands besides their homes for rising organic crops.

"God has prepared every fertilizer and nutrient that a farm would need upon His creation. It's us who brought upon the environmental destruction and resources imbalance," said Tui, the head of UHDP.

Tui is also from one of the tribes in northern Thailand, whose ancestors came from Myanmar. His work has not been limited to serving his own people, he has also partnered with Fullmoon, CEDAR's partner in Myanmar, in the promotion of effective and low cost organic agriculture using natural resources, to benefit the Burmese tribes in the mountains.

UHDP believes that self-sufficient agriculture is an effective way of food cost reduction. The money saved could be used for improving the people's living conditions—a major step to alleviate poverty. Your donations could improve their lives tremendously:

- **HK\$780** supports a one-time agricultural training program for people living in the mountains.
- **HK\$520** helps a family to start herding pigs.
- **HK\$370** helps a family to start a small farm.

## JOIN HANDS JOIN HEARTS



### "It's Unbelievable!" – Mamum

13-year old Mamum is grown up in a single-mom family and had to drop out from school when his father died. This is because his mother cannot support the family and he has to work to provide all the family needs.

"I used to work day and night in a bike shop, and I fell asleep once I got home. I had no time to play nor hang around with other kids," said Mamum when asked about his past, "There was no hope and no future. I didn't have a life goal and I didn't know what my future would be."

Things changed when SATHI reached Mamum. SATHI, a partner of CEDAR, is an active group working for the rights and welfare of local children and teenagers. Mamum met other boys in a youth group hosted by SATHI and shared his feeling afterwards, "I was shocked when they first told me that I have the right to obtain quality education, right to social involvement, and freedom to express my opinion. It was unbelievable! I was inspired by the conversation."

Mamum is delighted to be supported by his employer and be able to stably attend one of the youth groups. He made a lot of good friends there, the majority of whom possess good reading and writing skills.

"I cannot read or write, but they never disregard me for that. My world has changed once I recognized the importance of education and children's rights," said Mamum. "I'm hoping I could continue my education. Education brings a brighter future for all of us, and there's finally hope!"

## TAKING ACTION



### How Global Development and Advocacy Changed Him

There is no doubt that our former staff, Tang Po Shan (Shan), is an ideal candidate to share on global issues and local development. He was serving the laborers in Hong Kong before he joined CEDAR in our education and advocacy works. He is now back to researching and policy advocacy in a local social welfare organization.

Having fought poverty in Hong Kong, researched on global development and poverty issues, and now back to Hong Kong in policy advocacy, Shan notices that his work today is somehow impacted by the community development work of CEDAR's overseas partners, their views of the historical and cultural landscape, their respect for universal values, their creative and pragmatic solutions, their stress on the importance of democracy and participation, and their solidarity with the underprivileged.

“To advocate a policy, you have to understand its historical roots, and the supporting cultural, societal, and political factors, in order to debunk any false reasoning and beliefs that prevent the government from changing or improving it.” said Shan, who thinks the social security and housing policies of Hong Kong are specific products of past times that fail to respond appropriately to the present situation.

Many universal values could be applied to determine the local solutions. An example is “The Right to Adequate Housing” stipulated by the United Nations, which believes that everyone should have a safe, peaceful, and dignified place to live. Shan often refers to these values when advocating for housing policy amendments.

Social and poverty issues should not be our ONLY focus, we should also examine ourselves, those eggs that are thrown to the walls. Read Shan's full article here at:



## DONATION & PARTNERSHIP

CEDAR would like to appeal to churches and Christians for regular donations so that CEDAR can continue to support ongoing projects.

**Direct deposit**> HSBC 600-385678-001

**Cheque**> Payable to 'CEDAR FUND'

**Autopay**> <http://cedarfundeng.wordpress.com/donations/>

**Online donation**> <http://bit.ly/cedar-online-donation-eng>

## OPERATING STATEMENT

		Jul 15 - Jan 16	
Income	Donations	<b>HK\$</b>	6,338,740
	Grants		654,967
	Appeal for Relief		2,373,681
	Other Income		70,732
		<b>HK\$</b>	<b>9,438,120</b>
Expenditure	Projects	Asia	2,291,858
		China	1,671,510
		Africa	1,253,313
		Relief Projects	3,193,315
		Education Ministry	983,133
		Administration	833,219
		<b>HK\$</b>	<b>10,226,348</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>*HK\$</b>	<b>(788,228)</b>

Since July 2015, CEDAR have been facing annual deficit, which mainly comes from relief work expenditure, exceeding our income for supporting relief work by 800 thousand HKD. This deficit would be covered by the surplus in relief funds from the last financial year account.

Budget for July 2015 to June 2016 is HK\$19,464,490.

Please visit our website for a detailed financial statement. 