



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Bangladesh

Belgium's contribution through the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA)

Belgium and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) join efforts to support farming communities affected by cyclone Remal

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural hazards such as cyclones, floods and riverbank erosion. On 26 May 2024, cyclone Remal struck Bangladesh's southern coastal districts, affecting 3.7 million people in Bagerhat, Barguna, Barishal, Bhola, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur and Satkhira districts. The cyclone triggered tidal surges, heavy rainfalls and high wind speeds, causing flooding, saltwater intrusion and significant damage and losses to standing crops, fruit orchards, seedbeds and forestry. Crops cultivated on more than 95 397 hectares and worth USD 61 million were lost, impacting the food security and livelihoods of 537 234 farming households. Moreover, transport, communication and market disruptions hindered rural communities' access to essential goods and services. Additionally, the displacement of rural communities further strained their social support networks and national response efforts. In this context, restoring the livelihoods of affected farming households to enable them to feed themselves and their communities is essential to the humanitarian response.

Through SFERA, the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium contributed USD 500 000 to FAO to mitigate the adverse impacts of cyclone Remal on the livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable farming households. With Belgium's generous support, FAO, through cash+ interventions, will provide 5 050 farming households (20 200 people) with time-critical production inputs (e.g. rice and vegetable seeds, fertilizers and agricultural tools) along with cash transfers to enable them to meet their immediate needs. The project's interventions will enable the participating households to quickly improve their food security and avoid reliance on negative coping mechanisms. The project will also complement other cash+ interventions funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund and the Global Environment Facility, targeting 10 800 livestock-keeping households and 1 000 fishing households.



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