

New horizons

We first met Morsheda Begum during Christian Aid Week earlier this year. Morsheda had given up dreaming that things would get better in the Bazetilcupi Char. With no assets and four children to care for, she was forced to make a daily three-hour journey to the fields, where she earned as little as 74p a day harvesting chilli and gourd. Her house was regularly flooded and she was forced to shelter with neighbours.



Morsheda's home is now safe and dry.

Morsheda is one of the lucky ones. Heavy, persistent rainfall since mid-July has forced hundreds of thousands of people in northern Bangladesh to abandon their homes. The downpours have caused extensive damage to tens of thousands of houses, and to water sources, food stores, land and roads.

Christian Aid is leading a £250,000, multi-agency response, financed by the Start Fund (a multi-donor pooled fund managed by NGOs to respond quickly to emergencies), for the 3.5 million people affected.

Thank you so much for your committed support, which helps communities address both their immediate and long-term needs.

'I didn't even dream that things could be better. I felt very scared of the river. When I looked at it, I kept thinking: "It's coming"'

But now, with Christian Aid partner GUK's support, Morsheda no longer has to be afraid. GUK rebuilt her house on higher ground, close to her parents, and provided livestock and seeds. Thanks to this, Morsheda can now work on her own land and create a thriving livelihood and resilient home for her family. The move came just at the right time. Her old house is currently flooded.

Morsheda's message for Commitment for Life supporters is: 'Last year, my house was full of water but now we are standing on a dry place. I am safe now.'

Help us #changethestory

The stories we hear and retell are important. They help us shape our thoughts, form our opinions and set the agenda. So when refugees are portrayed negatively in the media, their dignity is challenged.

Today, more than 65 million people have been forced from their homes by violence, fear or desperation – each is deserving of safety, freedom and hope.

In times of political uncertainty at home, telling our message of shared humanity is more important than ever.

Join us in changing the story about refugees: write to your newspaper and tell them that refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

To help us change the story, go to: caid.org.uk/changethestory