

## TIBET RELIEF FUND

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### **Emergency Appeal**

**When Cyclone Phailin hit late last year, the people of the Tibetan settlement of Phuntsokling were left with nothing.**

**We need your help so they can rebuild their lives.**

March 2014

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your great response following our most recent appeal to provide fun and enjoyment for the children at Tibetan Homes Foundation. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to send toys and games to the Foundation, as well as a grant for uniforms that will enable the children to take part in inter-school sporting events. We could not have done this without you, thank you.

Tragically, as we were preparing to launch that appeal, we were shocked to hear shocking news from the Tibetan Department of Home in Dharamsala that Cyclone Phailin, which hit the east coast of India late last year, had devastated Phuntsokling Tibetan settlement.

**The settlement and the lives of its inhabitants have been turned upside down by the storm.**

Cyclone Phailin was the second-strongest cyclone to ever make landfall in India. Hitting the Indian state of Odisha, with wind speeds on up to 150mph, this shattering storm destroyed everything in its path. Phuntsokling Tibetan settlement, where around 3,000 Tibetan refugees live, is just 50 miles from the epicentre of the storm.

Tibetans living in Phuntsokling rely on agriculture; it is their only source of income. The cyclone hit just as the crops were ready to be harvested. As the storm ripped through the settlement it destroyed all of the standing crop, fruit trees, dwelling houses and cattle sheds.

**We desperately need your help to relieve the farmers so they can rebuild their lives.**

In an urgent request for help from the Department of Home, the





Namgyal Dolker had her entire crop cultivation destroyed by the cyclone. The only source of income for her and her family is from agriculture.

Having no income means she will struggle to eat, to feed her family and to live.

Without your help, she will be unable to rebuild what was destroyed by the cyclone.

Phuntsokling Settlement Officer, Mr Chonor Samdup, described how most of the farmers who, like Namgyal Dolker (pictured above), have lost everything. Tibet Relief Fund was asked for funds to provide support and relief to the affected farmers whose source of livelihood depends on agriculture.

**We need your help to be able to do this.**

Just prior to the storm the farmers at the settlement had, in their usual way, prepared for the farming season. This entails taking out loans from commercial banks and co-ops to meet the costs of seeds, fertilizers and labour.

Phuntsokling settlement is poor, the ground is dry and there are no irrigation systems. Successful cultivation relies on being rain fed. Due to bad weather and the lack of irrigation, farmers had been unable to reap a harvest from the previous season's crops. In contrast, last year they had been able to sow seeds and were looking forward to a healthy yield from their growing crops.

When Cyclone Phailin hit it destroyed the settlement's entire harvest that extended over 1,200 acres.

**We are urgently asking supporters to send donations to help the people of Phuntsokling Tibetan settlement to rebuild their lives.**

£15 could help the Settlement Officer distribute good quality seeds to farmers ensuring that, even though they have been left with nothing and are in debt, they can plant good seeds to reap from next year's harvest.

£30 could help towards the purchase of modern farm equipment, ensuring farmers are able to reap their crops without taking out further bank loans and with maximum efficiency in years to come.

£60 could help to directly compensate an inhabitant of Phuntsokling, many of whom have lost more than just their livelihoods to Cyclone Phailin, and help them re-establish their homes.

As Namgyal Dolker and the people of Phuntsokling face this devastating loss, we are calling upon your support to enable us to respond to this emergency appeal. We need your help.

**Your generosity today can help the people of Phuntsokling to rebuild their lives.** Your donation will be used where it is needed most and enable us to support this and other urgent projects that bring sustainable and practical help to Tibetans in India, Nepal and Tibet.

Thank you.

With all best wishes,

Philippa Carrick, Chief Executive Officer

