



a t h i j e e v a n  
A Story of Endurance

# athijeevan

A Story of Endurance

A Knowledge Product on  
Kerala & Karnataka Floods 2018 Response

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**a t h i j e e v a n**  
**A Story of Endurance**

Building Back Better amidst flood and fury

# Acronym

**PDNA-** Post Disaster Needs Assessment

**IAG-** Inter Agency Group

**UN-** United Nations

**ADB-** Asian Development Bank

**ECHO-** European Commission for Humanitarian Operation

**INGO-** International Non Government Organizations

**WASH-** Water, Sanitation and Health

**NFI-** Non Food Items

**KSSS-** Kottayam Social Service Society

**CHASS-** Changanacherry Social Service Society

**VSSS-** Vijayapuram Social Service Society

**CFS-** Child Friendly Spaces

**JDNA-** Joint Detailed Needs Assessment

**KIDS-** Kshema Integrated Development Society

**ESSS-** Ernakulam Social Service Society

**WSE-** Welfare Services Ernakulam

**SAFI-** Social Action Forum, Irinjalakuda

**ADS-** Alleppey Social Service Society

**PSSS-** Punalur Social Service Society

**MASSS-** Malankara Social Service Society

**GO-NGO-** Government Organization – Non-Government Organization

**HH-** Household

**IC-** Indian Contribution

**BSC-** Beneficiary Selection Committee

**FGD-** Focused Group Discussion

**CRC-** Community Relief Committee

**PDM-** Post Distribution Monitoring

**KCBC-** Kerala Catholic Bishops' Conference

**KSSF-** Kerala Social Service Forum

**KSDMA-** Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

**DSSS-** Diocesan Social Service Societies

**PEACH-** Partnership for Building Capacities in Humanitarian Action

**DRR-** Disaster Risk Reduction

**PTSD-** Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

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Fr. Paul Moonjely  
Executive Director

## Foreword

The increasing flood risks are alarming, especially the catastrophic impacts on vulnerable population with low coping and adaptive capacities. This year floods had a long-run impact that deteriorated human capital, a key driver of sustainable development. Kerala State is vulnerable in varying degrees to a large number of natural and man-made disasters of recurrent nature that result in loss of life, livelihoods, infrastructure and property, and cause immense hardships to the affected population, besides resulting in disruption of economic activity. The increasing vulnerabilities due to a variety of factors such as rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, growing population, the policy paralysis and climate change compounded the disaster risks and this mandated a paradigm shift from a relief centric approach to a proactive and comprehensive mindset towards disaster management covering all aspects from prevention, mitigation, preparedness to response and recovery.

This publication narrates the journey of endurance of the community from relief to rebuilding, encapsulating the

experiences and lessons learnt during Caritas's voyage towards resilience, that are useful for mitigating the consequences of possible future disasters. Strategic approaches are proposed for a more effective development towards emergency response.

We are pleased to share the efforts that Caritas India has rendered towards this humanitarian crisis that could only be possible through the generous support of our communities in Kerala and Karnataka, our diocesan associations, religious congregations and national and international donors and all those numerous volunteers who worked diligently in solidarity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Moonjely', written in a cursive style.

# 01

## Introduction

It was the worst flood of the century in the southern region of India. After more than two weeks of relentless rain, Kerala, a state at the southern tip of India, known internationally for its scenic green landscapes, touristic spots, and backwaters, is left with over 1 million people in relief camps, and close to 400 reported dead—the number is expected to be much higher as many areas remain inaccessible.

Between June 1 and August 18, 2018, Kerala experienced the worst ever floods in its history since 1924. During this period, the state received cumulative rainfall that was 42% more than the normal average. The heaviest spell of rain was during 1-20 August, when the state received 771 mm of rain. The torrential rains triggered several landslides and forced the release of excess water from 37 dams across the state, aggravating the flood impact. Nearly 341 landslides were reported from 10 districts. Idukki, the worst hit district, was ravaged by 143 landslides.

According to latest reports of the state government, 1,259 out of 1,664 villages spread across its 14 districts were affected. The seven worst hit districts were Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam, Pathanamthitha, Thrissur, and Wayanad, where the whole district was notified as flood affected. The devastating floods and landslides affected 23 million people, displaced 1.4 million people, and took 433 lives.

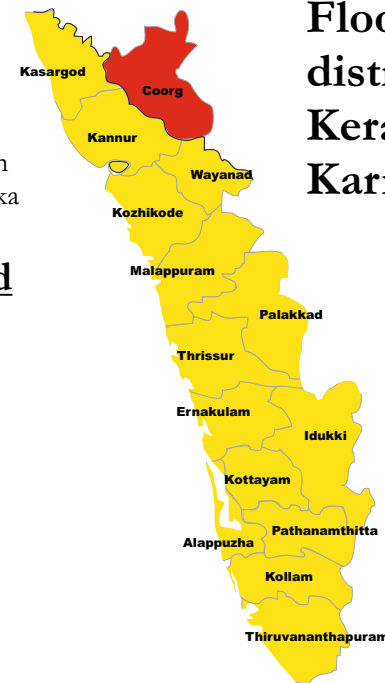
In the mountainous Coorg or Kodagu district in the neighbouring state of Karnataka, thousands of people had been marooned because of torrential rains. Exacerbated by landslides in hilly terrain, flooding has led to the destruction of homes, bridges, road networks, and industries. Heavy rain continued to lash the district through July and August. when water started rising in the rivers, flooding occurred in several areas and landslides swept through the 2 taluks of Madikeri and Somawarpete in Kodagu District, destroying several villages and areas and leaving in its trail – disaster, destruction and grief.

### Affected Districts

14 districts in Kerala | 1 district in Karnataka

### Most affected Districts

Alappuzha  
Ernakulam  
Idukki  
Kottayam  
Pathanamthitha  
Thrissur  
Wayanad  
Coorg



### Flood Affected districts of Kerala & Karnataka

In Kodagu, following were the most affected villages/ hamlets:

1. Sunitkoppa – Haleri, Kadankolli, Madapura, Balekadu Bethri, Mutharmudi and Kadanoor villages.
2. Somwarpet - Beerunaniyalli, Jodupal, Attihole, Hebbatageri, Kutta, Napoklu, Hosakotte, Kadardigodu, Chenneyan Kote, mukkloodu, Hacchinadu villages.
3. Madkeri - Sampaje, Shanthalli, Shanivarasantha, Srimangala, Bhagamandala villages.

Galibedu & Makkandaru Grampanchayats. Indranagar, etc. in Madikeri town.

Farmers, agricultural labourers and daily wage workers, casual and migrant workers lost their livelihoods. The destruction was one never witnessed by none in their lifetime, let alone the children. The children were direct and indirect victims of the disaster, where they lost their loved ones, and witnessed the distress of their parents. Women, children, elderly and people with mental health issues were undoubtedly worst hit, given the aggravation and multiplicity of vulnerabilities based on age, gender and mental and physical ability.

<sup>1</sup> [www.downtoearth.org.in/news/natural-disasters/kerala-battles-worst-floods-since-1924-says-cm-61369](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/natural-disasters/kerala-battles-worst-floods-since-1924-says-cm-61369)

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/india/kerala-post-disaster-needs-assessment-floods-and-landslides-august-2018-october-2018>





# 02

## Assessment of needs

Caritas India team initiated the emergency response to the flood situation through Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA). A formidable combination of 9 JRNA teams completed the task on the 21st and 22nd of July, 2018. The field realities were captured through their observation, interaction with the affected people and the questionnaire used. At the field level, the teams coordinated with the, CBO leaders and Panchayat representatives and Government officials. The assessment details were consolidated. The findings of the assessment revealed that other than DSSSs, there were no other agencies/NGOs presently working in the affected area. Caritas partners in Kerala had carried out detailed surveys to identify the extent of damage and the need for recovery assistance. The summary of the survey is as follows:

### 1. Shelter

Preliminary government survey had found that about 950 families had lost their houses and homestead land, 16,002 houses had fully collapsed and 243,724 houses partially damaged. The floods had destroyed or damaged about 260,000 houses. Close to 950 families had lost their land as well due to landslides and would have to find alternate land to build a house.

### 2. Drinking Water and Sanitation

Flash floods, landslides, mud flow and prolonged water logging had destroyed or damaged many toilets, open wells, tube wells, piped water supply systems etc. Drinking water and sanitation problem was more severe in Alappuzha district that faced water logging every year as the area was below sea level.

### 3. Livelihood

Livelihood sector had faced severe damage and recovery could take several years. Cash crops like rubber, coconut, palm trees, coffee, tea, pepper and other spices in several hundred acres had been destroyed in landslides and mudflows. These trees and plants would take years to grow and produce yield again. Seasonal crops like plantain, cassava, vegetables, paddy had also perished in large quantity. Landslides and mudflow had either destroyed farm land or sand and boulder deposits had rendered farm land un-usable.

Animal husbandry and poultry sector too had faced severe damages. Lower middle-class people who depend on a combination of small farm, poultry, and a few small animals like goat or pigs were severely affected. Same was the case with the landless labourers and small-scale fishing communities.

### 4. Protection

PDNAs by IAG and other agencies had investigated aspects relating to gender, child rights, trafficking etc. The issues that have been listed in these reports include lack of land titles for some who lost their houses or farm lands and women not having land titles (land titles are mostly in the name of men). Isolated incidence of violence against children and women had been reported from a few places. In the Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report on Kerala- Floods and Landslides - August 2018, conducted for/by the Govt, through the UN, ADB, World Bank & ECHO, it was cited that Existing gender roles place the responsibility of household water management, including fetching and storing water for drinking, food preparation, personal use, household hygiene, washing, and cleaning and taking care of dependents, on women and adolescent girls. Disruptions in water sources therefore have had a disproportionate impact on women and adolescent girls across social groups.

### 5. Children's vulnerability

As observed during rapid assessments and reported by the media, children, including less than 5 years were airlifted and little older children encountered unspeakable horrors for first time. Kerala floods have just pushed them out of the safety bounds of their homes to cramped relief camps, housing thousands of people, compromising above all, the attention and care they deserve. Scarcity of children's items, and more importantly, safe spaces went missing in the official response plans. Moreover, the schools and early childhood care centres (anganwadi centres for under 5 children and expecting and nursing women) were typically converted into relief camps, which once were places of their learning and recreation.



# 03

## Stages of Response

With 10 personnel on the ground, Caritas India response teams were reaching the most isolated areas where the poorest and most vulnerable Dalit and tribal people live. Caritas India responded in the districts of Alleppey, Kottayam, Wayanad, Idukki, Pathanamtitta, Thrissur and Ernakulam. Non Food essentials, food support, Hygiene kits and WASH kits were being distributed to the worst affected and the most marginalized families of Kerala.



### Food Items

- 10 kg Rice
- 2 kg Daal
- 1 kg Salt
- 1 kg Oil
- 1 kg Soyabean
- 4 packet Glucose biscuit



### Education Kit

- Note Books-5,
- Water Bottle-1,
- School Bag-1,
- Lunch Box-1,
- Pen-3,
- Pencil pack-1,
- Eraser pack-1,
- Geometry Box-1



### WASH and NFI

- Bucket with Lid 20 Ltr,
- Plastic Mug 1 Ltr,
- Antiseptic 100 ML,
- Soap 125 Gm,
- Washing Soap 150 Gm,
- Tablet 10 Tablet per strip,
- 100% Cotton cloth 4 Mtr,
- toothpaste and toothbrush,
- Bedsheet, blanket,
- mosquito net,
- sanitary napkins,
- candle, matchbox and
- utensils



### Baby Kit

- Feeding Bottle-1
- Baby napkins-5
- Baby Soap-3
- Baby Oil-3

# Relief-Phase 1

July 2018

Caritas India in the state deployed staff in the worst affected districts namely Alleppey, Wayanad, Kottayam and Allapuzha. A round of coordination meetings were held with Bishops, Diocesan functionaries, Forum Directors and members and the Inter-Agency Group Kerala.

Initial rapid Need Assessment Team was activated, which conducted assessment in 32 villages. Based on the situation reports collected from the field and rapid needs assessment conducted by diocesan partners, Caritas India released INR 1 crore to 19 dioceses to support affected families with basic food essentials.

The rapid response covered the socially discriminated and excluded communities, especially the SCs and ST hamlets which were isolated and had no access to food, water and emergency assistance.





Name of the Partner	Districts	Blocks	Gram Panchayats	Villages	Households	Population
KSSS	Alappuzha	8	19	32	1508	6182
CHASS, Changanacherry	Alappuzha	2	9	30	1500	6000
Chethana	Alappuzha	4	5	14	450	1800
VSSS	Alappuzha	3	6	15	3458	13982
ODP- Mysuru	Kodagu	2	3	4	3664	16488

# Relief and Recovery - Phase 2

August to October 2018



Caritas India coordinated with Sphere India for a multi-sectoral Joint Detailed Need Assessment in 10 worst affected districts leading the sector on Protection of Marginalized Communities (one of the 11 sectors). The JDNA ensued massive response program covering 38484 population from August onwards.



The table below provides details of the response under the Emergency Appeal:

Name of the Partner	Districts	Households	Population
KIDS	Trichur	1000	4200
ESSS, Varapuzha	Ernakulam	1000	4200
WSE	Ernakulam	1500	6300
CHASS, Changanasserry	Alleppey	1000	4200
Chethana, Mavelikkara	Alleppey	250	1050
Anugraha	Pathanamthitta	500	2100
Bodhana, Thiruvalla	Pathanamthitta	1000	4200
KSSS	Kottayam	500	2100
VSSS	Pathanamthitta	500	2100
ODP	Kodagu	78	351
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7328</b>	<b>30801</b>



The table gives a glimpse of the response covered under the National Appeal:

Name of the Partner	Districts	Households	Population
Chethana, Mavelikkara	Alleppey	250	1050
Santhwanam	Trichur	1000	4200
SAFI	Trichur	1000	4200
Samridhy, Muvattupuzha	Ernakulam	1000	4200
ADS	Alleppey	1000	4200
PSSS, Punalur	Pathanamthitta	1000	4200
KSSS, GDS	Pathanamthitta	500	2100
MASSS	Pathanamthitta	500	2100
VSSS	Pathanamthitta	500	2100
VSSS	Kottayam	500	2100
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7250</b>	<b>30450</b>





  
 #Caritas2Kerala
   
 ദുരിതാശ്വാസ സഹായ വിതരണം
   
 2018 ലെ... ഉരുൾപൊട്ടലിന്... വയനം...





Table below gives details of the state-wide relief operation covered through support from corporate donors and START fund supported by CAFOD:

Donor	Partners	Villages	Households	Population
HCL	WSSS	6	1000	4000
Siemens	WSSS, Shreyas	27	1000	4000
Siemens Employee Contribution	Jeevana	8	1700	6800
Aarati Foundation	WSSS	5	250	1000
United Way Bengaluru	WSSS, Shreyas, Jeevana	25	2000	8000
START	WSSS	18	2671	10684
Indian Express	WSE, ESSS	10	1000	
Siemens	ODP, Mysuru	2	564	2538
United Way Bengaluru	Pragathi and ODP, Mysuru	2	600	2700
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>103</b>	<b>10785</b>	<b>43722</b>



# Child Friendly Spaces (CFS)



CFSs helped children recover from their fear and trauma, through different fun and creative playtime activities, like games, sports, singing, drama, painting, group interactions etc. CFSs are an effective means for providing emotional and psycho-social support to children affected by disasters. 13 Child Friendly Spaces were activated that operated out of community centres or such socially and physically accessible to all. This also allowed parents to focus on other concerns as the children were taken care of. Children along with their parents, guardians and caretakers were involved in developing the supports required for CFS. CFSs operating from the Anganwadis in the villages, closer to children's homes and under parental and Panchayati Raj (local self-governance) Presidents' supervision. The permission to use the Anganwadi centres for CFSs after its regular functions in the evenings of school holidays was secured by the Panchayat presidents. This arrangement was made to allow regular Anganwadi services to continue smoothly. Besides, water and toilet facilities were ensured at the centres. Several outdoor and indoor, age appropriate games and recreational activities were conducted with children under the supervision of the CFS Facilitators. Also, as part of the initiative, Caritas India created awareness among families and duty bearers about Village Level Child Protection Committee, to oversee the protection of children and take timely measures, as provided by the Government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme. The CFSs displayed the Code of Conduct for Child Protection Policy and installed feedback and suggestion boxes

# REBUILDING PHASE

Caritas India's theme for the last phase is "Athijeevan" meaning "more life". The rebuilding program began from November 2018 focusing on the areas of WASH, Shelter and Livelihood, with the community in the forefront. The objective of the rebuilding Program is to restore housing, rural connectivity and build the resilience of the community. The program has incorporated five important components through support garnered from National and Emergency Appeal as well as funding from corporate donors like United Way Bangalore and institutional donors such as Caritas Switzerland and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).

**Resilient  
infrastructure  
reconstruction**

**1 COMPONENT**

**Capacity building and support  
on disaster prevention  
and mitigation**

**2 COMPONENT**

**Restoration  
of traditional  
livelihood practices**

**3 COMPONENT**

**Cash support and provision  
of Non Food Items  
to the most marginalized**

**4 COMPONENT**

**GO-NGO coordination  
and implementation  
support**

**5 COMPONENT**



# WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene)



# 2019 WASH support programme

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are often one of the most immediate needs after a disaster. In Kerala, though Caritas India provided WASH kits and Wash Awareness during the response phase, the impact of the disaster on WASH was felt, found and observed during the immediate recovery phase. As part of the Caritas India WASH intervention, the following line items have been carried out:



DESLUDGING



PROPER DRAINAGE



TOILET REPAIR



WELL REPAIR  
& WATER TESTING



WATER  
SOURCE REPAIR



WATER  
PURIFIER



WASH PRACTICES

## Process/Strategies Adopted

With support of technical experts, all implementing partners assessed the extent of damage and prepared cost estimates to aid WASH repair/construction works. Water samples are collected and tested in laboratories using chemical test kits. 14 parameters are tested, and results documented against prescribed normal range. In case of water samples that are identified as unusable; the families are informed of the same and awareness/suggestions about precautionary measures are shared.

At Chetana Integrated Development Society, for really poor families whose water samples were identified as unfit for neither drinking nor washing; the society has voluntarily taken initiative to install water filtration plants as a measure to combat the water problem.

In some societies, the WASH activities were implemented as a comprehensive package (which water testing, open well chlorination, toilet construction/repair) to ensure the water used in these families were clean and safe for drinking and other purposes. Some cases, they have also connected the project activity supported by Caritas India with another project's WASH initiative to ensure the beneficiaries received immediate support.

In case of water filtration plants – homestead water filters were either provided or technologically advanced UV inbuilt filters with atleast 5 litre storage capacities were provided.

# SHELTER

The Government of Kerala had announced financial support of 400,000 INR<sup>3</sup> for construction of new houses of flood victims. Further, based on individual household assessment the Government is also providing financial support between 10,000 INR and 300,000 INR for shelter repair based on the percentage of damage identified. In this light, Caritas India decided to provide financial support for shelter repairs as – 1) it was identified many households that were damaged in the floods and needed repair support were not reflected in the government's list of selected households for shelter repair and, 2) those houses that received government support between 10,000 INR and 100,000 INR were identified as households that required more financial support to complete repair works but couldn't afford the amount on an individual level.



## 940 SHELTER repair support



Individual Cost Analysis

Safe Construction Guidelines

Owner Driven Approaches

Safe Shelter Awareness Programs

Living in Disaster Resilient Shelter

### APPROACHES

1 Cluster based

2 Conditional contract based

3 Community Driven

<sup>3</sup> Kerala Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (Floods and Landslides, 2018): [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new\\_delhi/documents/publication/wcms\\_660139.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---sro-new_delhi/documents/publication/wcms_660139.pdf)

Category	Percentage	Type of damage / criteria	Rate of compensation
1	15% and <	Minor damage due to water logging up to 50cm (knee height) OR less than 10% roof tile damaged	Rs.10,000
2	16% > to <29%	Floor/plinth, electrical works or plumbing works damaged due to flood OR upto 25% roof tiles, electrical works or plumbing works damaged	Rs. 60,000
3	30% > to <59%	Walls weakened or cracked due to flooding due to lintel level OR 50% of roof tiles damaged but no structural damage to roof	Rs.1,25,000
4	60% > to <74%	One or more wall destroyed and roof tiles damaged but no structural damage to roof	Rs.2,50,000
5	75% >	Roof collapsed / structural damage to roof	Rs.4,00,000

## KARNATAKA



In Karnataka, Caritas India is refurbishing the most severely affected and severely damaged Anganwadis, Government primary schools, houses and reconstruction of new anganwadis. The affected communities of Kodagu district, especially the children have been the worst hit as the continuum to their education has been disrupted. Caritas intends to support these communities on priority so that children especially do not remain unattended and their enthusiasm towards their education remains

Activity	Units	Villages	Panchayaths
Refurbishment of Anganwadis	18	18	5
Refurbishment of Government Primary Schools	5	5	4
Refurbishment of Houses	32	5	5
New Anganwadi construction	1	1	1
Total	56	29	15





## Process/Strategies Adopted

Cost analysis of each of the selected household was conducted by a technical expert to gauge the extend of financial support required. Undertaking the cost analysis also helped in extending our support to more number of beneficiaries.

Conditional Cash Transfer to beneficiaries or vendors was the process adopted for implementing the shelter programme. For this, three approaches were identified based on geographical limitations, discussions with the community and their preferences, and time-bound completion of the programme. They are:

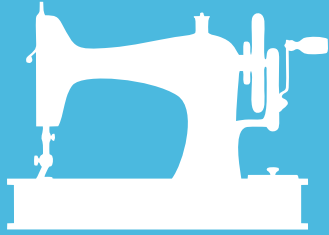
- **Cluster-Based Inclusive Approach:** Majorly saw both the technical person and the community working in tandem to complete shelter repairs. The operational areas under a DSSS selected for shelter repair was divided based on geographical spread and access to markets. Each of these areas were assigned a technical expert whose primary responsibilities were creating awareness among communities about safe shelter practices and promoting repair activities led by the community through careful and periodic guidance from the technical expert.
- **Community-Driven Approach:** For DSSSs whose operational areas were locations where masons and labourers were found in plenty, there is easy access to markets; the shelter repair was mostly beneficiary/owner-driven. Time to time monitoring by the village development committees was ensured so that work is completed within the stipulated time period.
- **Conditional Contract-Based Repairs:** In areas where the communities were located in geographically difficult/isolated terrains, where accessibility to markets and transportation of materials required additional support, and for certain beneficiaries under the cluster-based and community-driven approach (like elderly living alone, sick beneficiaries etc.) who had specifically requested the DSSS to support shelter repairs; the work was contracted to a second-party. Contract-based repairs were thus undertaken only when a community/beneficiary preferred the latter to a self-driven approach.






# LIVELIHOOD

**8350 LIVELIHOOD**  
support programs




Tailoring machines to women from poor families


**APPROACHES**



Goat rearing support programs to most vulnerable people



Families supported with poultry farming



Farmers started farming with high yielding seedlings

**APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD**

Sustainable income generation programme

Small-scale farmers livelihood knowledge capacity building programme

Marketing proposals & Plan Generation

Risk Transfer through insurance, training & capacity building

## KARNATAKA

Activity	Households	Villages	Panchayaths
Livelihood support	12	3	3
Unconditional Cash Transfer	78		5
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>		<b>8</b>

## Process/Strategies Adopted

Livelihood Support for the flood affected in Kerala through Caritas India saw the most number of interactions and discussions with community members before finalizing on culturally, geographically and beneficiary appropriate livelihood choices. The livelihood support Caritas provided in Kerala under Immediate Recovery can be categorized as:

- On-Farm Support: was provided to small-scale farmers who mostly cultivated in land taken on lease. Post-floods, small-scale and large-scale farmers suffered huge losses in terms of loss of produce and hence their income. Caritas India's on-farm support targeted small-holder farmers and provided partial assistance in restoring farms through several activities like farm clearance, labour support or seedling support.
- Off-Farm Support: was provided to financially backward families whose means of earning income before the floods was livestock rearing. Those families who had lost their livestock in the floods and belonged to financially weak families were selected and provided assistance in the form of providing either goats, poultry, pigs, ducks, vegetable garden support etc.
- Sustainable Income Generating Programmes: Lastly, certain pockets were also identified where the families had suffered losses due to floods, faced financial limitations and were also in need of livelihood assistance. For such families, who had requested for a sustainable income generating programme; the DSSSs in consultation with the community members have started income generating units like the Tamarind Processing Unit, Flour Making Unit, Stitching Units, Candle Making Units etc.
- In case of goats, all DSSSs have made an agreement with the beneficiaries wherein they will return one baby goat to the DSSS which they will then provide to the next deserving beneficiary. This way, we plan to extend our support to maximum number of beneficiaries.



*Tamarind Processing Unit at KIDS, Kottapuram. This ambitious venture now provides sustainable, monthly income to 100 women. In the months to come, the number of women employed through this unit will increase. The product will be sold locally and exported.*

# Case Studies/ Good Practices



**F**armer's Clubs is an agricultural awareness/training initiative run by NIDS, Neyyatinkara as part of their agricultural development initiatives. Small-scale and large-scale farmers in the NIDS operational areas are brought together in groups of 20-25 members to form a Farmer's Club. 90% of the club members are women who are actively engaged in farming. The members of a club meet once a month to share/discuss and learn from each other new farming techniques/practices. This helps them to adopt new/local agricultural practices to improve farm yields. The members of these clubs exchange seeds (new breeds and old) to develop a bond between the members resulting in creating helping hands particularly in times of need. The club members contribute a small amount every month (the amount will be decided by the members of a club during its formation) to a savings account under the club's name. Further, they also assist the members of a club by providing field trips and practical sessions at government agricultural institutions and farms.

NIDS had utilized the immediate recovery funds from Caritas India to support 215 farmers with labour charges for their banana and vegetable farm cultivations. In the areas that were affected by the floods, NIDS did not have any active Farmers Clubs. Therefore, while providing support to 215 farmers, NIDS also created two farmer clubs each in the three villages where the Athijeewan Programme was implemented.

# Glimpses of the villages having CFS



## CARITAS VILLAGES

Agraharam and Chamapoyil villages in Edavaka Panchayat, Kumjom Tribal Hamlet in Thondornadu Panchayat and Chaliggadha, Muttangara and Chermmadu villages in Mananthavady Municipality are the 6 Caritas Villages. In these regions, with the support of Caritas India, 610 flood affected families have been supported through Shelter Repair, WASH and Liveihood by the Wayanad Social Service Society. The programme participants were selective through collective participation and support from the Panchayat representatives and Village Development Committees. Since these villages were severely affected in the floods and Caritas India helped through a series of interventions, these villages are now gaining popularity as Caritas Villages. Caritas visibility is extremely high in these regions!

## WASH – SUPPORT THROUGH PUBLIC WELL CLEANING

An integral part of the Athijeevan WASH programmes is its Well Repair and Well Cleaning activities. While most DSSs have provided this service to neighbourhood wells or individuals who were unable to use the water from wells, some DSSs have converted this activity into an inclusive programme that provided water support to not just one beneficiary but to many. Chetana Social Service Society, under the Malankara Diocese of Kerala provided an inspiring example when they decided to repair and clean a damaged well located in the St. Joseph's Malankara Catholic Church compound in Pallipad, Alappuzha district. Around 35 families located in this parish depend on this well for water for various purposes. Moreover, it is to be noted that water from this well is also used to prepare the afternoon lunch and for drinking purposes of the school children of MSC Lower Primary School located in the church compound. Thus, undertaking one comprehensive well repair and cleaning activity, Chetana was also able to restore the water problems of 40 children and 5 teachers!



# 04 | Process and Standards

To ensure transparency and accountability, Caritas India has adhered to all the humanitarian norms and standards during the response. To make the emergency response efficient and effective, Caritas India organized a series of review, planning, coordination and consultation meetings at HO level and with its collaborators as noted below:

1. **Coordination with Humanitarian Organisations:** Beginning from the selection of partners to mobilize resources, Caritas India reaches out to the sister organisations to know about their willingness to respond to the disaster. Concurrently, Caritas India representative in the respective states participate in the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) meetings to share about the relief plans, determine the nature of aid pledged by others, for a collaborative response, avoiding geographical overlaps between organisations.
2. **Involvement of local administration:** The local administration, especially the district collectors and magistrates, are kept informed about the response plan, and relief distribution. The village head, and other Panchayat members are included in beneficiary selection and relief distribution processes.
3. **Participation of target population:** The involvement of the target population is ensured at all stages of response, viz., needs assessment, beneficiary selection, relief distribution and complaints redressal. Volunteers hold Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) separately with both men and women, and participate in relief distribution. One-on-one interactions are held with affected members living in relief camps/other locations such as schools.
4. **Beneficiary Selection:** The list of beneficiaries drawn up by the CRC is displayed obtrusively in the accessible locations where people are sheltered. The community members get two-days to flag any concerns and disagreements about the beneficiary selection before finalising the list with everyone's consensus.
5. **Community Relief Committee (CRC):** The CRC consists of the community representatives, including men and women, under the leadership of the Village Head/Mukhiya. Formation of CRC in the villages is accompanied with the simultaneous activation of Procurement Committee and logistics coordination at Caritas India headquarters.
6. **Complaints and Feedback Mechanism:** Complaints and Feedback box is placed in the community, wherein the beneficiaries are encouraged to drop in their feedback and grievances relating to any aspect of the response. These grievances are locally resolved, and in cases where dissatisfaction is expressed, and requires intervention of serious nature, the complaints get escalated to Caritas India point person.
7. **Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM):** Caritas India requires compulsory PDM of its emergency response to assess the effectiveness, by receiving feedback from beneficiaries on the quality, usability, awareness on relief items provided, and overall operation. To maintain objectivity, the team is composed of personnel who are not involved in relief distribution. FGDs and individual interviews are conducted with a sample population. The findings and recommendations are reported and shared with the Management and Manager-Emergency & Disaster Risk Reduction for further actions.

# 05 | Coordination



## Working Liaison with Diocesan partners and other stakeholders

During the first onset of the rains in August 2018, Caritas India had initiate the first joint meeting of all the Diocesan Directors of Kerala, Kerala Social Service Forum, CRS and Kerala Catholic Bishops Conference to assess the situation and agree on the response plan. Solidarity and inter faith prayer meetings were organized for the victims of Kerala Floods during the month of August. Caritas India also initiated the second joint meeting of the stakeholders of Kerala in the month of September to review the progress of response and take stock of the emerging situation. Post Disaster Detailed Need Assessment was conducted by IAG/Sphere India where Caritas led the protection sector assessment. KSSF took initiative to facilitate damage assessment at the level of DSSS and the data was

consolidated at state level by KSSF with the support of Caritas. Meeting was conducted at Caritas HO to discuss the findings from the Post Disaster Detailed Need Assessment (PDNA) jointly conducted by Sphere India, Caritas India, State IAG and other humanitarian agencies. The third review and consultation meeting of DSSS Directors, KSSF, KCBC and Caritas India was organized at POC on 6th October, 2018 to review the progress of relief phase, discuss the PDNA findings and recommendations, the Government plans for recovery support and to share the Caritas plans for recovery phase. A writeshop was organized on 9th and 10th November with the DSSS Directors and Project Coordinators to develop project proposal for all the 32 members of KSSF. Trivandrum Archdiocese decided not to seek project support as damage in their area was limited. 31 DSSSs were able to develop and submit recovery phase proposals, with the support of Caritas staff.



## Liaison with Caritas International Community



Support from Caritas Internationalis Shelter and WaSH Technical Working Groups: On the request of Caritas India, CI deputed one Shelter and one WaSH Technical Working Group members to visit the flood affected areas and suggest design, strategies and approach for intervention. The Technical Advisors visited Idukki, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta, Allappuzha and Trissur to conduct field assessment and interact with communities and government officials an assessment. Over a period of three weeks the assessment report was developed and shared. These finding helped design the layout and agenda of the Writeshop and the WaSH and Shelter training for the partners.

## Visit by the Chairman of Caritas India



The Chairman of Caritas India, Bishop Lumen Monteiro visited the diocese of Vijayapuram, Idukki and Verapoly from the 19th to 22nd November. As part of the visit, he inaugurated the Rehabilitation phase of Caritas India supported programs and also met with the Bishops, diocesan directors of social works and several flood-affected families as an expression of solidarity with the flood affected victims. He assured the Church's continued support and accompaniment to all the flood affected Dioceses and people of Kerala.

# 06 | Volunteering & Local Resource Mobilization

**Floods 2018 was a model representation of the key role of first responders (i.e. the local communities) in rescue, relief and response activities. Despite the magnitude of the event, people united to organize support across the state; the response was decentralized and hence, effective.**

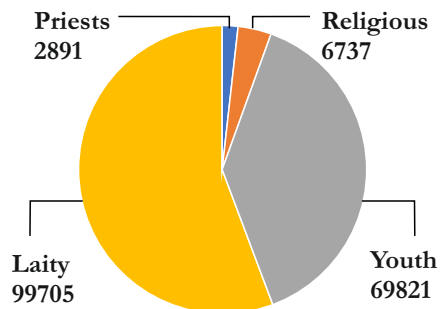
Following are some highlights of the institutions that came together and pulled in all their resources in the rescue and relief operations.

3000 fishermen rescued 60,000 people and among them 440 boats and 900 fishermen were mobilized by the diocese of Trivandrum, Kollam, Alappuzha and Kottapuram. 192 help desks were opened by the diocesan partners.

A volunteer management cell was established and activated at the national level, where volunteers were registered and oriented on the modalities of volunteering in Emergencies. Detailed Activity plans were developed for the days that were stipulated to them.

Caritas India through its partners was instrumental in mobilizing 2 lakh volunteers to assist the flood and landslide affected communities in various phases of the emergency covering approximately 269,276 families in the state. Volunteers from Caritas India's existing programs PEACH and Ashakiranam along with the Parish Council and local Panchayat assisted the Diocesan partners in the assessments, identification and finalization of beneficiaries, logistics etc. Volunteerism in the time of the flood proved to be tremendously effective in the rescue and relief phase.

**Volunteers engaged in relief operation**



Resource Mobilization played a major role in the flood response. With Delhi as the main hub at the national level, resource mobilization cells were established at the state level in Bangalore, Chennai, Kerala and Mumbai.

The support by CSRs namely; the HCL Foundation, SIEMENS India, United Way Bengaluru and Aarti Foundation was concentrated in the district of Wayanad during the immediate relief phase.

The HCL Foundation supported 1000 families with WaSH and NFI kits. SIEMENS India supported 2700 families with Wash and NFI kits. In addition to these emergency relief kits, they also supported 5 villages in the district with water filtration units and water storage tanks that now supply safe drinking water to 1032 individuals around the clock. The Arti foundation supported 250 families with NFI kits, and United Way Bengaluru reached out to 2000 families through Caritas with Wash and NFI support.

# 07

## Church Solidarity



The entire church and its institutions involved vibrantly in the rescue and relief operations in the event of the Flood disaster. National and International appeals were submitted by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) and Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC) to mobilize funds for the Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation operations.

The Diocesan Social Service Societies, parishes, pious organizations, religious congregations all took to the field without any hesitation or waiting for the funds and demonstrated inexplicable prudence and dynamism to effectively coordinate the rescue and relief operations in the Emergency Phase.

4094 Relief camps were opened in collaboration with Govt. authorities and around 10,80,700 people took refuge in these relief camps. 192 Help desks were opened by

DSSSs. DSSSs mobilized more than 2 lakh volunteers to assist the flood and disaster affected victims in the various phases of the Emergency, Rescue, Relief, Restoration interventions and covered around 269,276 families. An estimated INR 317.9 Crores of Flood Rehabilitation Project activities has been demarcated in total by 17 dioceses. The Congregations of Religious Sisters and Brothers donated generously in the relief and rehabilitation activities.

So conclusively, the church has presented a praiseworthy response in the extraordinary Flood situation that subdued Kerala. Generous and concerted efforts flowed in from different parts of the state, India and abroad with the Church institutions in a lead role. The mutual help rendered, and solidarity expressed was noble.

# 08 | Key Takeaways



In the timebound immediate relief phase, Caritas India focused on delivering life-saving relief to the flood and landslide affected people. That included shelter kits, dry-food rations and hygiene kits. There were some other pressing needs that CI was unable to address due to time limitations and the changing needs of the people and limited access to remote areas.

**Psychosocial Care-** Many of the victims of the flood experienced and exhibited symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which was not in the purview of Caritas India's relief and recovery interventions. Thus, in future response initiatives, Caritas India aims to integrate Psychosocial care either through direct counselling, community care giving, group therapy or by introducing a referral system and referring victims to professional medical institutes to deal with serious cases.

**Resource Mapping-** The floods prompted not only government agencies and NGOs but also smaller local organizations to work in relief. Since they were not members of the Inter Agency Groups it was difficult to map their interventions thus resulting in minor duplication of efforts. Therefore, Caritas is now

determined to practice Resource Mapping in its programs with the help of local partners to ensure that there is no duplication of efforts maintaining uniqueness in its response.

**Village based Disaster committees-** Keeping DRR as the core of our exit strategy for Kerala and Karnataka, Caritas India aims to create Village Disaster Management Committees in the 392 villages of intervention as our exit strategy. These Village Disaster Management Committees will be given multiple awareness sessions on Disaster Risk Reduction, Safety trainings, etc.

**Disaster Clinics-** practical approach to preparedness, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the post-disaster health outcomes of disaster survivors, providers, and communities through health care providers in their local communities

**Skilled Volunteers in Disasters** - In addition to helping their communities during disasters and supporting them in post-disaster rehabilitation, Caritas intends to train volunteers on technical services and be advisors to their communities during non-disaster periods, in exchange for a small fee.

# 09 | Way Forward

Community recovery alone should not be the outcome of any response, rehabilitation or recovery programmes. It should rather be taken as an opportunity to begin/redefine/restructure grassroots level social-economic-political-environmental processes to encompass sustainable development – emergency preparedness through DRR being a part of this process.

As Caritas embarked on this massive undertaking, it was aware that the response in each community would vary according to the differing needs of the populations, local factors such as access to affected communities and the capacity of local partners. Given the scale of the disaster, it was imperative that the response would address not only immediate humanitarian needs, but also longer-term development issues.

Looking back, we have given to the communities their due rights, in a spirit of promoting dignity and respecting the aspirations of those who lost everything. Though we have accomplished a mission of humanitarian response, it is yet, a fragment in this sphere of climatic difference. Our journey continues as we accelerate our response to the growing risks.





## Acknowledgment

Fr. Jolly Lukose  
Asst. Executive Director

It is imperative to recognise the remarkable demonstration of solidarity shown in the aftermath of the Kerala and Kodagu Calamity. Although the process is far from complete, when we consider the enormous amount of damage done in a short space of time, the re-building of communities has nevertheless been of historic proportions, due; largely to the unprecedented level of support provided by the international humanitarian community, the national humanitarian community, the church network, the private sector, private donors and many others.

Kerala and Karnataka Response program is indeed an exemplary model of Building back better. As we look back, we have given our communities their due rights, in a spirit of promoting dignity and respecting the aspirations of those who lost everything. We would like to place on record our sincere thanks and gratitude to all our collaborators and well-wishers who supported us in this humanitarian response. We not only contemplate to feel proud of a mission accomplished but also looking forward towards building harmonious communities as our journey continues.

# Sincere Gratitude to our Collaborators





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