

Key messages

Alleppey, Kerala, 20th January 2019

A consortium of three humanitarian organizations – Caritas Austria, Christian Aid and ADRA Germany, together with their implementing partner Caritas India, IGSSS and ADRA India – are implementing the project “Humanitarian assistance to excluded and vulnerable populations affected by floods and landslides in Kerala” financed by the Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) to meet the humanitarian needs of excluded flood affected people within 24.000 households in the districts Alapuzha, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam and Idukki in Kerala. The project focuses on three major humanitarian interventions which includes Cash, WASH and Shelter NFIs along with coordination to support the worst affected communities to recover from the devastation of floods and landslides.

Accomplishment as of 9 January 2019

Result 1: *Flood affected households in the target geography have improved purchasing power to meet their essential needs:*

Activity	Target	Accomplishment
Unconditional Cash Transfer	3,780	3,728 (98.62%)

Result 2: *Flood and landslide affected households have access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, increased awareness on positive hygiene practices and necessary household NFIs.*

Activity	Target	Accomplishment
Repair and cleaning and chlorination of well	140	8
Public Health promotion	74	0
Water testing	140	0
IEC printing	1	1
Water supply	56	14
Community Water Storage Tanks	21	0
Septic tank repair and de- sludging	310	12
Provision of NFIs and hygiene Kits	3,924	3,924
Analytical review of current state policy and follow ups	1	0

Key messages from the consortium

Our interaction with the affected communities and local administration has convinced us that there is still a gap within the coverage of urgent humanitarian needs of the affected population and the aid delivered by the government and local organizations. Members of the Consortium urge to extend humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations in India, based on the following findings:

Inequality gap and inclusion – scrutinize developments:

Increasing income disparity between the rich and the poor: OXFAM study has highlighted this issue and Kerala presents a good example of this disparity as beautiful large houses exist adjacent to some very poor houses. Affluency and

poverty exist side by side and it is our mandate to serve those who do not have access to any kind of support.

However this triggers the work in different ways. The commonly used definition of vulnerability was found inadequate to address the humanitarian situation in Kerala. Floods and landslides had made many people belonging to all social stratum highly vulnerable. Many had lost the savings of their life time. This calls for greater effort to redefine vulnerability and ensure inclusion of affected populations with a view to 'leave no one behind'.

Climate change – a major challenge:

UN agencies and many others are of the view that the floods in Kerala is the effect of climate change. The rising sea level is certain to impact lives and livelihood of people living in the region. This calls for immediate and lasting solutions to reduce disaster risk. Compared to rest of India, south India has received less attention regarding DRR and emergency preparedness including early warning because of the high incidence of floods and cyclones in other parts of the country. The last few years have seen a sudden increase in the frequency and magnitude of weather-related disasters. Disaster preparedness, management and climate change adaptation requires enhanced financial outlay and technical inputs.

Water and Sanitation – new solutions immediately required

The below sea level farming system in Kuttanad is unique in many ways. It has a great role in ecology and bio-diversity conservation. However, human interventions have depleted the natural resources and polluted the ground and surface water so much that people are afraid even to touch the water. Potable water and sanitation have been acute problems in the area for decades and the situation have been aggravated by the recent floods. Urgent and substantial resource outlay is required to provide adequate access to safe water and sanitation in the region.

Localisation – our added value

The consortium with its implementing partners has access to the participants through their network that is reaching out on community level. This allows to a comprehensive coverage of the services that we provide. Through consistent strengthening of the implementing partners it is an opportunity to reinforce this benefit as well as accountability towards all our stakeholders.

These key-messages were drafted by the implementing partners of the ECHO financed project
“Humanitarian assistance to excluded and vulnerable populations affected by floods and landslides in Kerala”
during the ECHO field mission in January 2019.

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