



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

Cardinal Oswald Gracias

President

APPEAL FOR SOLIDARITY INDIA FLOODS 2019

Your Eminence/Your Beatitude/Your Grace/Your Lordship
Dear Fathers/Brothers/Sisters/Collaborators of Caritas India

Sub: Appeal for Solidarity and contribution towards Nationwide Disaster victims of floods and landslides in India.

The Catholic Church expresses her solidarity with the people of India and offers prayers and condolences to all those families who suffer the loss of their dear ones and extensive damage to their assets in this deluge of floods of this magnitude.

Monsoon rains have wreaked havoc in different states namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and Bihar. The flood situation in Bihar and Gujarat has shown signs of improvement as rains have stopped. But the situation is worse in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam and Bihar. Severe floods have left communities, settlements, livestock and wildlife in a lurch. While, efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to victims are in full swing, the floods have so far claimed 370 lives. Caritas India is coordinating with the state governments and disaster response agencies to assess the situation. The death toll continues to rise, with more than 47,21,349 people displaced across thousands of relief camps in Assam, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. More than 1,54,411-hectares of land is submerged under flood waters.

Caritas India, the Catholic Church's social arm for humanitarian aid, has already placed its 2-member team in different parts of Assam, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to assess the needs of the local communities and help the Social Development Diocesan Partners in planning the relief operations.

There is a great urgency to reach out to many communities who are stranded and isolated in the most remote and unreached villages. Our timely assistance will help meet the needs of the affected and reduce the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in different parts of the country. *There would be a huge need emerging to rebuild the lives of the people and communities with rehabilitation and restoration of livelihoods.*

On behalf of the Catholic Church in India, may I make an earnest appeal to all the members of the hierarchy and the leadership in the Church, to come together in solidarity and encourage the community of faithful, institutions congregation and people of goodwill to contribute generously to this humanitarian call and express our solidarity at this crucial moment.

The funds mobilized to this cause from the dioceses and institutions may please be sent to "CARITAS INDIA" A/C No: 11050200039552, Bank name: THE FEDERAL BANK LTD, IFSC Code: FDRL0001105, Address: M-17, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI – 110 001. You are requested to kindly communicate to email id : accounts@caritasindia.org with the details of transfer such as Name, address, amount and date of transfer, transaction reference (UTR), purpose of transfer and Name of the Bank, in order to issue the 80G receipt in the correct name.

May I invoke the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ on all of us.

Yours lovingly in Our Lord,

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✠ Oswald Cardinal Gracias
Archbishop of Bombay &
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India