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# **KERALA FLOODS - 2018**

**A REPORT BY  
ARCHBISHOP ANDREWS THAZHATH**

**Trichur  
August 30, 2018**

# HEAVY FLOODS AND NATURAL CATASTROPHE IN KERALA

JULY-AUGUST 2018

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I.</b>	<b>BRIEF HISTORY .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.	Heavy Rainfall in Kerala: .....	3
2.	Floods and Landslides : .....	4
3.	Most Affected Districts/ Regions : .....	6
4.	Death toll:.....	6
5.	Catastrophe due to flash flooding : .....	6
<b>II.</b>	<b>RELIEF ACTION BY KERALA GOVERNMENT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
7.	Latest Government Data : .....	8
8.	Data of Damages prepared by KSSF . .....	8
<b>III.</b>	<b>KERALA CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RELIEF ACTION.....</b>	<b>9</b>
9.	Involvement of the Catholic Church : .....	9
10.	Message of Pope Francis:.....	10
11.	Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF) .....	10
12.	Rescue & Relief operation by the Church institutions .....	10
<b>IV.</b>	<b>MOST AFFECTED DIOCESES IN KERALA .....</b>	<b>10</b>
13.	Most affected areas in Kerala:.....	11
14.	Affected Catholic dioceses in Kerala : .....	11
<b>V.</b>	<b>CARITAS INDIA ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
15.	Activities .....	13
<b>VI.</b>	<b>FLOOD CATASTROPHE AND RELIEF ACTION IN TRICHUR.....</b>	<b>13</b>
16.	Floods and relief works in Trichur,.....	13
17.	Affected areas in the Archdiocese of Trichur .....	14
18.	The preliminary data of the Archdiocese: .....	16
19.	Relief Action Steps Taken by the Archdiocese.....	17
20.	Strategy.....	18
<b>VII.</b>	<b>AFTERMATH.....</b>	<b>19</b>
22.	Reactions of the people : .....	19
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>20</b>

# THE STATE OF KERALA, INDIA, WITNESSES THE WORST FLOOD SITUATION IN THE LIVING HISTORY

A Report by Archbishop Andrews Thazhath



## I. BRIEF HISTORY

1. **Heavy Rainfall in Kerala**, during July-August 2018 resulting in heavy floods and natural catastrophe: The State of Kerala has its worst flood situation since 1924. This small southern State of India had unusually heavy monsoon rains since July 2018, which resulted in landslides in the hill districts and waterlogs in the plains. Already by mid-July rescue teams have been operative and relief camps have been opened in several districts. For the first time in the history of Kerala 35 out of 39 dams/ reservoirs of Kerala had to be opened to release the excess water, which caused overflowing of rivers and flash flooding. Many rivers began to flow with thrice or more than their usual width, resulting in widespread flood in many rural as well as urban areas of the State. The Indian Meteorological Department declared Red Alert in all districts.



**2. Floods and Landslides:** The flood has been literally devastating to the State, even to the extent of changing the very geographical configuration of the region. Rivers have not only overflowed; some of them have changed their direction too. There were several landslides that washed away the entire families with their houses. All educational Institutions had to be closed down until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The transport and communication systems of the State are also ruthlessly affected. The Airport of Cochin had to be closed down until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018, since it was filled with waters and mud.



NASA released Satellite image of Kerala before (left) and during flood (right)



### 3. Most Affected Districts/ Regions :

Though all the 14 districts of Kerala had a share of the havoc caused by disaster, the districts of Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta, Trichur, Idukki, Kottayam, Wayanad, Calicut, Kannur, Palakkad, Malappuram, received the major chunk of damage in terms of loss of lives, property and livelihood. In the beginning of the flood the most affected areas were Wayynad, Idukki, Kannur, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, and Palghat districts; but later it affected very badly other areas also, as mentioned above.



### 4. Death toll due to landslides and floods (due to rainfall and dam water release):

Landslides are reported in Idukki, Malappuram, Wayanad, Calicut, Trichur and Palakkad districts. Around 500 people died in floods and 537 landslides. More than one million people were displaced. In the district of Trichur, 19 people (out of which 15 Catholics of the Archdiocese of Trichur) from four families were washed away. An entire hill rushed over to their houses in few seconds. All the 44



rivers and 39 dams overflowed and the flood water entered into the dwelling areas and 54000 hectares of crop land affecting farmers numbering about 30000, much beyond all calculations. The entire Kuttanad region lying in Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta Districts were submerged in the flood water for 8 to 15 feet.

### 5. Catastrophe due to flash flooding:

There were flash floods in several regions for the first time in the lives of the inhabitants and hence, they were least prepared for such eventualities. People had to either flee from their houses bear-handed or had to climb up to higher places or roof-tops. An example is the Divine Retreat Center – the biggest retreat center in the world -- in Muringoor (Trichur District, within the Archdiocese of Ernakulam, in the banks of Chalakkudy River) which was flooded within a few hours<sup>1</sup>. Many relief

<sup>1</sup> About 1500 people were stranded on the roof-top of 2 or 3 storied buildings of Divine Retreat Center. They were saved on the second/third day through boats and helicopters. Two men lost their lives and about 250 cows and 1000 pigs were also killed. The television studio and the press with 80000 printed

camps were opened, mostly in the schools and church halls/premises. Many of the churches, presbyteries and schools run by the Catholic Church and our communities were converted to relief camps. The presbytery of a church (at Kuthiathode, Ernakulam) became the shelter for many and could not withstand the heavy current and was partially destroyed taking the lives of six people. Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam, Alappuzha and Trichur are the worst hit areas at the later stage.



## II. RELIEF ACTION BY KERALA GOVERNMENT

- 6. Relief Camps and Rescue Operations:** The government of Kerala has done meritorious leadership in the rescue and relief operations<sup>2</sup>. Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard were deployed to assist the State in rescue operations. People of Kerala have flocked together to do their best part in the rescue operations. There were spontaneous overflow of helps from every nook and corner of Kerala. People have joined hands with each other irrespective of their religious and socio-political differences. The spontaneous initiative of the fishermen groups to reach out in the rescue operations, in areas where coastal guards could not access has gained accolades<sup>3</sup>.



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bibles in Hindi language were also destroyed. The total loss in Divine Retreat Center alone is calculated as about 50 crores (500 million Indian Rupees).

<sup>2</sup> Now controversy is going in political and professional circles about the appropriateness of releasing dam water which caused flash-flooding.

<sup>3</sup> We are happy to report that it was the initiative of some priests of the coastal area which motivated fishermen to go to interior areas with their boats for rescue operations. [These things will not be reported in the media because of the unhealthy media culture here].



**7. Latest Government Data :** (<https://donation.cmdrf.kerala.gov.in//assets/images/d5.jpg>)

1. More than 370 lives lost (Later updated on 30-8-2018 as 483);
2. More than 1 million people displaced (A total of 10,28,000 people have been sheltered in the flood-hit districts),
3. 3,274 Relief Camps opened,
4. Lost crops in 54000 hectares,
5. 537 landslides,
6. 221 bridges damaged,
7. Preliminary estimates count a loss of more than 3 billion USD (20000 plus crores in INR),
8. 10000 km of roads damaged ,
9. 300000 farmers affected.

**8. Data of Damages** (prepared by Kerala Catholic Social Service Forum – KSSF)<sup>4</sup>  
Cf. [www.kssfktm.com](http://www.kssfktm.com)

**A. Damages at a glance:**

- 474 people died since 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 of which 322 people died between 16-24 August 2018

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<sup>4</sup> The data in Nos. 8 & 12 of this report was mainly given by Fr. George Vettikkattil (Secretary of KSSF)



- Houses damaged as per primary report- 75,000
- Loss of cattle – 46,000
- Poultry loss- 200,000
- Crop Loss- 45,000 hectares of farm land
- Some locations are mapped by the experts as dangerous to live due to the changes that have happened on the earth's surface because of the heavy rain fall.
- PWD Road damages – 16,000 kilometers
- Local Roads damaged – 82,000 Kilometers
- Bridges damaged - 134
- Total loss is above 20,000 crores as per Govt. report
- Many towns viz; Palakkad, Thissur, Angamaly, Aluva, Cochin, Palai, Muvattupuzha, Chengannur, Ranni etc.. were under water and the loss of business and trade is not yet calculated.
- The actual loss yet to be calculated

### ***B. Rescue & Relief***

- 14,50,000 people shifted to relief camps as per Government report
- Around 5,00,000 people settled to the houses of their relatives and friends, (especially, the people of Kuttanad were shifted to houses in Changanacherry and Alappuzha).
- 3000 fishermen rescued 60,000 people. Among them 440 boats & 900 fishermen were mobilized by the dioceses of Trivandrum, Kollam, Alappuzha etc.
- Around Rs. 40 crore (400 million) was spent by the Church in Kerala for the rescue and relief work as on 28 Aug 2018. The relief work is continuing.

## **III. KERALA CATHOLIC CHURCH IN RELIEF ACTION**

**9. Involvement of the Catholic Church:** The Catholic Church has been fully involved in overcoming the present crisis. The dioceses, the religious, parishes and church organizations are fully engaged in the relief operations day and night. Many of the priests and the religious sisters have been leading several camps along with people's representatives and government officials. The church agencies and the faithful at large provide food, clothing and shelter to the people in the relief camps. We are very happy to report that the relief camps and help conducted by the Church are much appreciated by the affected people, although, as usual, publicity is not given in media for the Church activities.

**10. Message of Pope Francis:** I had sent a letter to Apostolic See, Nunciature and all bishops in India briefly narrating the situation in Kerala. We are really happy to note that Pope Francis has given a beautiful consoling message with prayers, on 19<sup>th</sup> August Sunday.

**11. Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF)** through its 32 partner Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS) actively involved in relief and restoration activities of flood affected people in their respective operational area. The less affected dioceses reached with their assistance of resources and manpower to the most affected dioceses. The entire diocesan structures are fully occupied in the relief work.

## **12. Rescue & Relief operation by the Church institutions**

### ***A. Relief Camps***

- 4094 relief camps were opened in collaboration with Government authorities
- 10,80,700 people in these relief camps
- 192 help desks were opened by DSSS

### ***B. Vehicles used by Church institutions as on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018***

- 195 of school vans
- 437 Torres/ Tippers/ National permit lorries
- 40 Motor boats
- 329 country boats
- 440 fishing boats
- 1365 other vehicles etc.

### ***C. Church personnel involved as on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018***

- 2891 Priests
- 6737 Religious
- 69,821 Youths
- 99,705 Laity/ volunteers
- Many volunteers are actively involved in **cleaning houses and other places.**

Diocesan Social Service Societies (DSSS) are supplying food, clothes, sanitary items, cooking utensils, medicines, drinking water, washing and cleaning materials etc.

## **IV. MOST AFFECTED DIOCESES IN KERALA**

From the available data received from government agencies, media, Kerala Social Service Forum, Caritas India, may I present below some data about the most affected areas and dioceses. I do not claim accuracy in this regard.

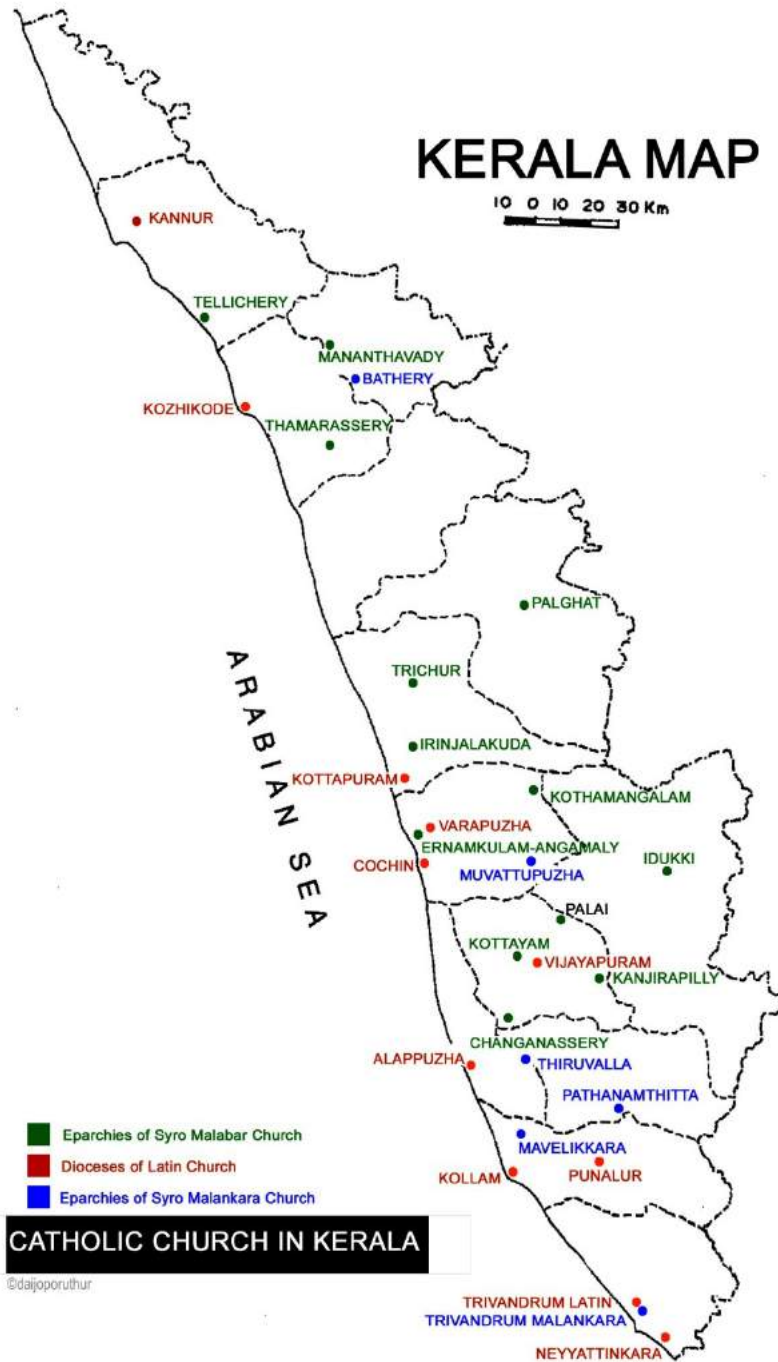
### 13. Most affected areas in Kerala: (in the range of gravity of damages):

- i) **Kuttanad**, mainly in the Districts of Alappuzha and Kottayam : This area is mostly in the **Archdiocese of Changanachery** and partially under the Archdiocese of Thiruvalla, dioceses of Vijayapuram and Alappuzha.
- ii) **Banks of the Rivers Periyar (Aluva), Chalakkudy and Kurumaly-Manaly-Karuvannoor and other lower areas in the Districts of Ernakulam and Trichur:** (Flash flooding was due to water release from different dams). The affected dioceses are **Ernakulam, Irinjalakkuda, Trichur, Kottappam and Verapoly.**
- iii) **Idukki** area : Due to heavy rain fall and water release from Idukki Dam there were floods and several landslides in different areas. Recently Government has taken a decision not allow re-constructions in many regions of Idukki. Affected dioceses are : mainly **Idukki diocese** and partially Vijayapuram and Kanjirappally dioceses.
- iv) **Chengannoor** in Pathanamthitta District : Here Catholics are few. The partially affected dioceses are Pathanamthitta, Mavelikkara, Vijayapuram, and Kanjirappally.
- v) **Wayanad & Kozhikkode Area** : Heavy rainfall and Landslides : Partially Affected dioceses : **Mananthavdy, Calicut, Thamarassery and Bathery**
- vi) **Banks of Meenachil Rivar : Mainly Pala diocese**
- vii) **North Kerala:** Partially affected dioceses, Kannur and North Kerala faithful of Kottayam Archdiocese.
- viii) **In Kudagu region of Karnataka State** (within the dioceses of Mangalore and Belthangady) there are some damages.
- ix) Practically the whole of Kerala, in one way or other, were adversely affected by the heavy rainfalls. Therefore all the dioceses in Kerala had natural calamities and damages.

### 14. Affected Catholic dioceses in Kerala

(In an approximate order of gravity of damages):

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Changanacherry<br>(Kuttanad)                   | 9. Alappuzha                        |
| 2. Ernakulam                                      | 10. Vijayapuram,                    |
| 3. Irinjalakkuda                                  | 11. Palaghat                        |
| 4. Trichur  | 12. Pala                            |
| 5. Kottappuram                                    | 13. Mananthavady                    |
| 6. Verapoly                                       | 14. Kanjirapally                    |
| 7. Idukki   | 15. Kannur, Calicut and<br>Kottayam |
| 8. Pathanamthitta,<br>Thiruvalla &<br>Mavelikkara | 16. All other dioceses in<br>Kerala |



## V. CARITAS INDIA ACTIVITIES

**15. Activities:** Caritas India is the social service arm of the Catholic Church in India. For the past 56 years, Caritas India has always rushed to the aid of flooded Kerala in association with Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF- Caritas wing in Kerala). Caritas has appealed for financial assistance from all the dioceses in India and from abroad. I am attaching herewith the preliminary data of the damages in Kerala prepared by Caritas India informally <sup>5</sup>.

## VI. FLOOD CATASTROPHE AND RELIEF ACTION IN TRICHUR

**16. Floods and relief works in Trichur:** The Archdiocese of Trichur, as most of the other dioceses, has been in the forefront with relief works. On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018 relief materials (food, clothes and other essentials) from the Archdiocese of Trichur were sent in trucks to Kuttanad and Wynad areas. At that time Trichur was not heavily hit. But from 15<sup>th</sup> August onwards there was heavy downpour of rains and all the low lying areas of Trichur were flooded. Many bridges collapsed and houses were sunk or destroyed due to heavy water flow.

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CARITAS INDIA DRAFT REPORT Aug 26 - Most affected Districts - Kerala Flood 2018						
District	Partners - Intensity of the disaster	Affected areas	Affected Household	Affected Population	No. Of Houses fully damaged	No. of Houses partially damaged
Alappuzha	CHASS, Changanassery	Kuttanadu Block	7231	2,90,88	200	1250
		Mvelikkara- Keerthipoyipalli				
		Ambalapuzha				
IDUKKI	HDS, Idukki	Thadiyambadu	12458	58218	620	2400
		Karimban				
		Rajapuarm				
		Munnar				
Wayanadu	WSSS, Wayanadu	Manathavady	12270	50418	307	1893
		Nenmeni				
		Vythiri				
		Panamaram				
Pathanamthitta	Augraha, Pathanamthitta - Maavikara	Malapuzhasseri	4905	24529	430	2760
		Pandalam				
		Kurichilmulam				
		Aranmula				
Ernakulam	KIDS, Kottapuram, ESSS, Ernakulam	Paravur	14785	73925	125	2580
		Kadungallur				
		Eloor				
		Aluva				
		Angamaly				
		Kalady				
Thrissur	Santhwanam, SAFI, Irinjalakuda, KIDS, Kottapuram	Muvattupuzha	15586	80305	400	1800
		Kuloor				
		Puthenvelikkara				
		Arimboor				
		Chennamangalam				
			67235	287395	2028	12683

The data is approximate based on local information, this might increase twofold – data given by Fr. Paul Moonjely, Director Caritas

Flood affected some churches also to the extent that we could not celebrate Mass even till today.

Most of our parish halls, and schools and some presbyteries became relief camps. Auxiliary Bishop Tony Neelankavil and myself personally visited several relief camps. I am happy to report that priests, sisters, seminarians, lay church leaders and very specially our youth were in the forefront in the rescue works and relief activities. People, irrespective of caste and creed are helping us. Many parishes and religious houses distributed relief kits with food, clothes, cleaning materials and other essentials. Under the leadership of the Archdiocesan team, more than 5000 family relief kits (each kit costing about Rs. 4000) were distributed to the neediest families.

The Archbishop's house Trichur, became a store house of food and other essentials where many volunteers including Rev. Sisters, youth and seminarians were working day and night preparing and dispatching family kits. We are happy to report that some dioceses like Tellicherry, Ramanathapuram and some voluntary organizations sent in trucks materials for family kits with great generosity. The archdiocesan activities were coordinated by the Social Apostolate Organ called SANTHWANAM.



## 17. Affected areas in the Archdiocese of Trichur

River banks of Kurumaly-Manaly/Karuvannoor, areas near different the Kole paddy fields, low lying areas etc. were badly affected by the heavy floods. Release of water from Peechi and Chimmini dams caused flash flooding in different places. Because of high tides, the coastal area of Trichur district was flooded for some days, even after heavy rain fall stopped and this also caused great damage.

In the foot-note, I am giving the data of damages, given by the government agencies regarding Trichur District <sup>6</sup>. The data given by some news paper reporters about the damages in Trichur District (In Trichur and Irinjalakkuda dioceses) are as follows:

- Relief Camps in Trichur : 757
- People in the relief camps : 247009
- Houses fully damaged : 2000
- Houses partially damaged : 18000
- Landslides in Trichur : 40
- People who died in Trichur : 54 (out which Kurancherry alone 19)
- Soil Piping in Trichur, (Ollur): 16 places
- Markets fully damaged : Chalakkudy, Mala (In Irinjalakkuda Diocese)

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**<sup>6</sup> Govt Data about Trichur District :**

The 42 villages in and around Kole fields and on the banks of Canolly canal and Herbert canal were inundated as Karuvannur River diverted its direction near the Arattupuzha Temple and Ettumuna areas. The southwest parts of Trichur district is still reeling under the rude shock of flash floods which started on 15<sup>th</sup> night, even as situation improves in other parts of the district.

Karuvannur River, to which the water from Chimmini reservoir and Manali river reach, diverted its direction as temporary bund at Chirakuzhy breached. Bund road from Arattupuzha-Karuvannur was destroyed and the river spread to seven kilometers on both sides. Arattupuzha is also overflowing.

Around 200 people from 30-odd families, from Pallissery-Panankulam to Arattupuzha bridge, got stranded in the unexpected flash floods. They were later rescued by NDRF teams. Around 20 relief camps have been started in Cherpu area alone. As water rose, Thrissur-Kodungallur Road was submerged.

Flood water entered hundreds of houses in Cherpu, Arattupuzha, Ettumuna, Muthulliyal, Chenam, Inchamudi, Pullu, Manakody, Chettupuzha and Panankulam areas.

As the water reached the Kole fields, thousands of people from the banks of Canolly canal were shifted to relief camps. The water current was strong enough to make it difficult to differentiate between paddy fields and roads. Thousands of acres of kole fields couldn't contain the flash floods and water was not flowing to the sea due to high tides. Rumours about a breach in the Enamavu lock too created panic in the area. Valappad-Chavakkad road too was inundated, but major casualties were averted as people voluntarily vacated the areas before the flood situation worsened.

Ministers A.C. Moideen and V.S. Sunil Kumar reached Arattupuzha and reviewed the situation. The help of the Army was sought to reconstruct the breached bund to control the flow of Karivannur river, Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar said.

The district administration said that 11,000 hectares in Thrissur taluk were submerged following heavy rain. Twenty seven houses were damaged. Mulankunnathukavu, Chembukkavu, Viyyur, Arangazhikanal, Killannur, Manalur, Karamukku and parts of Punkunnam were water-logged. People complained of flooded basements and damaged sewer systems.

A tree fell over the house of Pulikkathara Raman of Anandapuram village. River Kurumalippuzha was also overflowing. Houses at Parappookkara, Puthukkad, Alagappa Nagar, Varantherapilly and Mattathur panchayats are at risk from flooding.



**18. The preliminary data <sup>7</sup> about the damages in the Archdiocese of Trichur taken by Santhwanam, the social organ of the Archdiocese:**

***A. Flood Affected Area In Trichur Archdiocese (Taluk/Region)***

- Thrissur
- Thalapilly
- Mukundapuram
- Wadakkancherry
- Kunnamkulam

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<sup>7</sup> The data is not complete, since many parishes, still reeling, have not given the reports.



**B. Other Details ((From the preliminary survey report – not complete)**

- Flood affected Parishes - 143
- Number of Relief camps - 190
- People cared by camps - 154000
- Total affected people - 300000

**C. Houses effected**

- Fully Damaged - 662
- Partially Damaged - 1510



**D. Loses in money value in crores of rupees**

- Agriculture - 550
- Domestic animals - 20
- Poultry - 5
- Toilet - 20
- cloth-&household utensils - 30
- Study materials - 5

**19. Relief Action Steps Taken by the Archdiocese**

**A. STEP -I**

- Immediate identification and rapid action
- Visits by Archdiocesan team led by Mar Andrews Thazhath
- Rescue and relief
- Distribution of essential commodities- 141 camps

**B.STEP -II**

- Formation of volunteer groups for cleaning
- Distribution of cleaning materials
- Distribution of starter kits – 7150 kits

### ***C. STEP- III***

- Report to Caritas India
- Completed need assessment in five most affected villages
- Collection of data from parishes
- High level meeting for rehabilitation & restoration of livelihood

## **20. Strategy**

### ***A. Psycho-Social Support***

- ❖ Formation of supporting team
- ❖ Training the team members
- ❖ Reaching out to the mentally depressed

### ***B. Livelihood Support***

- ❖ Skill development training to youth
- ❖ Financial aid to start small enterprises
- ❖ Networking with Government agencies

### ***C. Partially Damaged Houses***

- ❖ Repair & Maintenance
- ❖ Construction of toilets

### ***D. Fully Damaged Houses***

- ❖ Assessing feasibility of construction
- ❖ Relocation according to environmental feasibility
- ❖ Construction of well planned houses

### ***E. Developing Support System***

- ❖ Parish to Parish
- ❖ Congregation to Parish/Villages
- ❖ Individual to Individual family

### ***F. Reclamation of Wells***

- ❖ Cleaning of the wells
- ❖ Assuring drinkable water

## VII. AFTERMATH

21. On 28<sup>th</sup> August, most of the rescue operations were completed. But the aftermath is very grave. Although schools have opened on 29<sup>th</sup> August, many are still in relief camps, since their houses are destroyed or dilapidated. Many cannot enter into their houses because of mud deposits. For many, their livelihood like agriculture, cattle, small business, small scale employment schemes, etc., are lost. As snakes and venomous reptiles have inhabited the houses during flood, people are in panic. The greatest challenge for us is to provide infra-structural facilities to the people as they go back to their own houses, either ravaged or wiped out. The government, NGOs and the Church are preparing short-term and long-term plans for rehabilitation with the help of the local and international agencies.

### 22. Reactions of the people:

As mentioned above, I the undersigned, along with Bishop Tony Neelankavil, personally visited about 50 relief camps in Trichur. Shepherds of most of the dioceses did the same. The reactions are varied:



- i) Floods and catastrophe brought the people of Kerala to unity reminding them that the State of Kerala is and has to be “God’s own Country”. It has helped many to return to God. All, irrespective of caste, creed and political affiliation joined together in rescue operations. But as water receded, political parties and communal forces have started quarrelling with each other. We note that although the political parties and media do not, as usual, appreciate the sincere activities of the Church, the poor people really love and appreciate the relief works of the Church.
- ii) We are happy to note that the International Community, especially after the message of Pope Francis, has come with supporting hands. But we are unhappy that the Central Government under Prime Minister Modi is reluctant to receive such helps for the Government. It is said that private agencies can receive support directly.
- iii) Many have shared with us their anxieties and desperate feelings. The common phrase they use is: “we lost everything/most of our achievements in this life, during these few days. We do not know how to go ahead”. It is our duty to give them hope.
- iv) Along with natural calamities, contagious diseases started to take it’s toll. We need to provide a lot of precaution and caring.

## VIII. SAVE THRISSUR PROGRAM



### 23. Relief for the Affected People during the Post Flood Period

The Archdiocese of Trichur was in the forefront in relief works during the days of flood. Naturally, the situation gets worse during post flood period. The Archdiocese has come forward with the “Save Thrissur” (Trichur) program for the relief of the post flood affected people. Save Thrissur has two phases: (1) Immediate attention for care and relief, especially in view of (a) the onslaught of contagious diseases like ‘Fever of Leptospirosis, Dengue Fever, Diarrhea, etc., and (b) psycho-social helps for the people affected with traumatic problems in the flood affected areas. (2) Rehabilitation of people who (i) either lost their houses fully or partially and (ii) lost their livelihood.



Flag off of the ‘Save Thrissur program’ by Smt Ajitha Jayarajan, Mayor of Thrissur on 5/9/18

We are doing this relief works in collaboration with the Government and Local Bodies, wherever it is possible.

## **24. Post-flood Wellness Initiative**

The first phase of Save Thrissur Program is the Post-flood Wellness Initiative. It is ‘to cover the entire Trichur Archdiocese with the Wellness Needs of the Flood Affected People’. These wellness initiatives are (A) Mobile Clinics, (B) Water testing (C) Psycho-social intervention (D) Health Awareness Initiatives.

## **25. MOBILE CLINICS (See the End note for details) <sup>i</sup>**

The project of medical support with Mobile Clinics for the people of the flood affected areas was flagged off by the Mayor of Thrissur at Archbishop’s House Trichur, in the presence of different civil and ecclesiastical dignitaries on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The project is conducted with the cooperation of 11 hospitals in the archdiocese, including two medical colleges. Every day 16 mobile clinics are conducted with 8 ambulances. The project plans to cover at least 80 locations for approximately 20,000 affected people. The project is done with the cooperation of the local parish priests, sisters and local panchayath authorities.



Ambulances of Mobile Clinic at Archbishop’s House, Trichur being ready for action

The Mobile Clinics have the following features:

1. Ambulance
2. Two doctors
3. Nurses
4. Pharmacist with medicines

5. Attender
6. Wellness Volunteer
7. Free Check up and free medicine

The list of places with the schedule (date & time) where the ‘Mobile Clinics’ are conducted are given in the end-note. The Abhayam-Santhibhavan Palliative Care unit in the archdiocese has 12 permanent clinics with facilities mentioned above. (<http://www.shanthibhavan.in/> )



## 26. WATER TESTING and SOIL TESTING

Most of the water recourses, especially wells, in the flood affected area are contaminated and have to be purified. The government and the archdiocese are giving materials for the purification of wells. Students of our colleges, especially of Jyothi Engineering College (around 500 students) and of St. Mary’s College, Thrissur are going from door to door to conduct water tests.

The Water Testing Team has the following features:

1. Team visiting households in each of the locations
2. Water testing facility
3. Immediately give results
4. Suggests future actions

# വള്ളത്തോൾ നഗർ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തിൽ കിണർവെള്ളം പരിശോധിക്കുന്നു



▶ ചെറുതുരുത്തി ജ്യോതി എൻജിനീയറിങ് കോളേജിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ വള്ളത്തോൾ നഗർ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തിൽ കിണറുകളിലെ ജലം പരിശോധിക്കുന്നു



People are asked to make ‘Soil Test’ by the experts from the Agricultural University. We are happy to report that the Secretary of the Pastoral Council Dr. Mary Regina is a Scientist of the Agricultural University of Thrissur.

## 27. Psycho- Social Intervention

When the undersigned visited different camps it is found that many are mentally stressed. Some of the flood affected people are thinking even of suicide, since they lost everything – clothes, utensils for day-today living, crops, cattle, agriculture, business, etc. Some of their dear ones are lost. Most of the people are afraid of diseases, snake bites etc. What is most important now is psycho-social helps. So under the leadership of Family Apostolate – especially under the Family Apostolate Training and Research Institute, Velur (FATRI) and of the Jubilee Mission Medical College, Trichur (<http://jubileemissionmedicalcollege.org/>), more than 100 sisters and several other social workers are trained to give psycho-social helps to the traumatic people. The following methodology is used for Psycho-social Intervention.

1. Designed learning model on ‘WHO Guidelines for mental health for adversity disaster’.
2. Train the trainer program planned on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Sept.
3. Participants; professional social workers, psychologists, nuns, etc.
4. We offer psycho-social helps in schools, communities etc.
5. We conduct *Santhwanadinam* (=Accompaniment Day) : On specific day/s the parish priests, the religious and lay leaders like *Kudumbakkootaima* President visit all the houses of the flood affected area. (As exhorted by the Archbishop, such visits were made on 2<sup>nd</sup> September in most of the parishes in Trichur of flood affected area)

## 28. Health Awareness Initiatives

Since it is found that social awareness programs are necessary for the building up of the people the following Health Awareness initiatives and programs are conducted

1. Publish leaflets
2. Focus on awareness, prevention of some illness
3. Classes, seminars and homilies in parishes/ meetings of Associations
4. Share leaflets during the house visits
5. Receive suggestions from people and help them to find solutions by themselves.

(A Leaflet published by the Director of MI Hospital of Engandiyur, Trichur)





## **IX. REHABILITATION**

### **(Second Phase of Save Thrissur Program)**

The second phase of the Save Thrissur Program is to rehabilitate people who are affected by flood in different ways. Some Projects are given below.

### **29. Understanding Affected Areas for Rehabilitation**

1. Livelihood Lost: Lost agriculture, cattle, small scale business
2. Families with difficulties due to (1) death of earning member (2) loss of jobs (3) flood related sickness, etc.
3. Houses damaged either fully or partially due to floods.

As mentioned above, from the preliminary survey received from about 107 parishes (out of 217 parishes) in the archdiocese of Trichur, the number of fully damaged houses is 662 and of partially damaged houses is 1610 detailed survey is going on. The actual number will be much more.

Santhwanam, the Social Apostolate wing of the Archdiocese is now preparing plans and projects for rehabilitation. We are expecting financial helps from our parishes, congregations, Caritas India and from different funding agencies. We have already requested parish priests and heads of institutions to take initiatives in this regard. We are happy to report that some have come forward to donate land and money for rehabilitation. The Archdiocese plans to do the rehabilitation works in collaboration with the Government of Kerala and the civil local bodies and other NGOs.

### **30. Rehabilitation Projects**

The rehabilitation and helps for livelihood include:

1. Skill development training to youth
2. Financial aid to start small enterprises
3. Helps to restart agriculture, buy cattle etc.
4. Helps for partially damaged houses: Repair & Maintenance, Construction of toilets, etc.
5. Fully Damaged Houses: Assessing feasibility of construction & assist in construction, relocation according to environmental feasibility, finding out benefactors who can donate land, etc.

### **31. Financial Recourses**

As is evident from the impact of flood, several crores of rupees are needed for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people. The archdiocese is requested to contribute towards the Relief Fund of (1) the Chief Minister, (2) Caritas India / Kerala Social Service Forum (3) and Archdiocese – Relief works by the archdiocese are mainly done through Santhwanam. (4) All parishes and religious congregations are doing a lot of relief works directly with the money collected locally. KCBC and Syro Malabar Synod also have directed that the money received from the Archeparchial resources will be given to Chief Ministers Relief Fund and Caritas Fund. Some of the resources projected are the following:

1. Contribution from the faithful of the archdiocese
  - i) Collection from faithful
  - ii) Mercy Day – People are exhorted to offer money and different materials for the needy on a specific day in the parish
  - iii) Money can be collected by reducing the expenses of the celebration and feasts in the parish and families
  - iv) Priests and other employees offer one month allowance/salary for relief works.
2. Government helps.
3. Contribution from funding agencies.

### **32. Adoption/Twinning/Partnership programs.**

The faithful of the Archdiocese of Trichur and their relatives living in Kerala and outside/abroad are exhorted to help the flood affected people in the following ways:

1. A family Adopting another family
2. A congregation/Institution adopting family
3. A parish adopting another parish

## **X. CONCLUSION**

**33.** God has His plans for us. Therefore, even in the worst situation of calamities, we have hope, since God is faithful and we trust in His Providence. “We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Rom.8:28). With the help of God and with the support of all people of good will, we hope and pray that we will be able to rebuild Kerala, “God’s Own Country”. We the Catholics, being faithful to Christ, our Church and nation commit ourselves to be part and parcel of our nation building and thereby also to the Kingdom of God.

Archbishop Andrews Thazhath

Trichur

<b>Mobile Clinic Schedule</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Timing</b>
<b>Jubilee Mission (Noble:-9946201943, Praveen:-9207155588)</b>			
<b>Kandassankadavu</b>			
Fr. Tony Kakkasserry ( +91 9447552131)	Kanjani (Church Parish Hall)	5th Sep (wed)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Gixon Thazhath ( +91 9048374050 )	Vatanappilly (Church School)	5th Sep (wed)	2pm to 5pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Abel Chiramal (+91 9846909314)	N. Karamukku(Church Parish Hall)	6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Jose Edakkalathur (+91 9446871133)	Manalur ( E) (Church Catechism Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Jose Thathrathil (+91 94955275601)	Manalur ( W) (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Janeesh(7012643018)	Pavaratty(Assar Centre)	8th Sep (Sat)	9am To 1pm
		8th Sep (Sat)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Antony Alukka (+91 8848108946 )	Arimpur (St. Gemmas School)	9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Franco Kavalakkat (+91 9847250769)	Eravu (Church Parish Hall)	9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
		10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Shons Akkamattathi (+91 9526416598)	Manakody (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Pazhuvil</b>			
<b>St. Antony's (Pazhuvil) &amp; Paduva (Puthenpeedika) (Sr. Metilda-9495275218)</b>			
Fr. Prince Poovathingal (9447991468)	Valappad	5th Sep (Wed)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Prince Poovathingal (9447991468)	Triprayar	5th Sep (Wed)	2pm to 5pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Manoj Thanikkal (8113050197)	Keezhpullikkara	7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Thomas Vakakkethala(+919446292907)	Peringottukara (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Thomas Choondal (+919446619420)	Pazhuvil (Parish Compound)	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm

Fr. Shaju Chirayath (+919446760234)	Chazhoor (Church Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	2pm to 5pm
		9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Varghese Kanjirathinkal(+918547423200)	Chevoor( Church School Compound)	9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Benny Kidangan (+919744083791)	Porathur (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
Fr. John Chemmannur (+91 9497313132)	Chirakkal (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Pudukkad</b>			
<b>St. Joseph's Hospital, Charity, Kallur, (Sr. Symphoria:-9947190040, Sr. Dr. Harsha:- 9605948944)</b>			
Fr. Jaison Chittilappilly ( +919495027006)	Thoravu	5th Sep (Wed)	10am to 1pm
		5th Sep (Wed)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Baby Shephered (+91 9567589964)	Varandarappilly (Parish Hall)	6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Paulson Thattil (+91 9446533069)	Veluppadam ( Tenth Pius School)	6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Job Vadakkan (+91 9744670669)	Chittissery (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Bastin Alappat (+918547744111)	Nenmanikkara (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Dennys Marokky (+919446665921)	Nandipulam (Church Parish Compound))	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Lijo Chalisserry (+919961605338)	Nandipulam (N) (Church Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Savio Thaolonikaran ( +919400314442)	Snehapuram (Church Parish Hall)	9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Paulson Palathinkal (+919447276312)	Pudukkad (Church School)	9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.Simon Thermadom (9539175100)	KallurW (Church parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Davis Pulikkottil (+919526870870)	Vendur (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Ollur</b>			
<b>St. Vincent De Paul (Sr. Cherupushpam:-9207584191)</b>			
Fr. Antony Mecherry pady (9249841543)	Venginisserry ( Balabhavan by FCC sisters)	5th Sep (Wed)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Joju Poruthur (+919446621263)	Palakkal(Church Parish Hall)	5th Sep (Wed)	2pm to 5pm

		6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
		7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Joseph Anthikkat (9447223226)	Marathakkara (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Joshy Venattuparamabil (+919447617926)	Thalore (Jesus Academy School)	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Joy Kollannur (+919495100190)	Ammadam (Church School)	9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Jacob Thacharatil (9495039482)	Kodannur (St. Antonys UP school)	9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Mattam</b>			
<b>St. Joseph's Hospital, Choondal (Sr. Alphonse Maria: +918891191379)</b>			
Fr. Lyril Thaliaparambil (9446988534)	Aloor (Samritan Convent, Thiruthy)	5th Sep (wed)	10am to 1pm
		5th Sep (wed)	2pm to 5pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Davis Chakkalakkal (9447038101)	Anjoor (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Jose Punnelparambil (9447526996)	Palayoor (Church Parish Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Joy Adambukulam (9847188787)	Erumapatty (Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Tom Velookaran (9446766064)	Pathramangalam (Church Auditorium)	8th Sep (Sat)	2pm to 5pm
		9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
		9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Jinto Perepadan (8129956958)	Elavally (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
		10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Other areas-1</b>			
<b>Abhayam, Palliative Care. (+919744342009)</b>			
Fr. Demin Tharayil (+91 8129770698)	Nellankara (Church Parish Hall)	5th Sep (wed)	10am to 1pm

		5th Sep (wed)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.Varghese Kariyatil(9645287700)	Ponganamkadu (Church Parish Hall)	6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.John Kidangan (944723642)	Puthur (church parish hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
Fr.Fijo Alappadan(9656651284)	Mannamangalam(Church Hall)	7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.Jiphy Mekkatukulam(9995751211)	Valakkavu (Church Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.Sinto Thorayan(9744285022)	Vettukad (Church Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm
Fr.Jolly Chiramel (9495667181)	Mukkattukara (Church Parish Hall)	9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
Fr.Franci Thalakottor(9495247941)	Kannara (Parish Hall)	9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm
Fr.Jaison Marokey (9947391601)	Panamukku (Church Parish Hall)	10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
Fr.Joshy Aloor(9495337733)	Nedupuzha (Nedupuzha Temple near church)	10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm
<b>Other areas-2</b>			
<b>Amala Hospital, Fr. (+919744342009)</b>			
		5th Sep (wed)	10am to 1pm
		5th Sep (wed)	2pm to 5pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	10am to 1pm
		6th Sep (Thu)	2pm to 5pm
		7th Sep (Fri)	10am to 1pm
		7th Sep (Fri)	2pm to 5pm
Fr. Johnson Arimpoor (+91 9895150906)	Enammavu	8th Sep (Sat)	10am to 1pm
Fr. Geo Kadavi (+91 9387109575)	Veluthur (Church Parish Hall)	8th Sep (Sat)	2.30pm to 5pm
Fr.Byju Kanjirathingal (9895312946)	Vardiyam(Papa Nagar)	9th Sep (Sun)	10am to 1pm
		9th Sep (Sun)	2pm to 5pm

		10th Sep (Mon)	10am to 1pm
		10th Sep (Mon)	2pm to 5pm

<b>Permanent Healthcare Locations free of cost for the next 6 months</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Facility</b>
Varandarappilly	Everyday	10am to 12pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Perumbillissery	Everyday	8am to 10am	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Venkidangu	Everyday	8am to 10am	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Aranattukara	Everyday	3pm to 5pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Chittatukara	Everyday	11am to 1pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Moorkinikkara	Everyday	8am to 10am	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Wadakkanchery	Everyday	4pm to 6pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Nadathara	Everyday	9am to 1pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Patturakkal	Everyday	9am to 1pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Cherumkuzhi	Fridays	10am to 1pm	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab
Bramakulam	Everyday	7am to 10am	Doctor, medicine, nurses, lab