

Flood Relief

Floods in India:

The 2019 Indian floods were a series of floods that affected over thirteen states due to incessant rains. At least 400 people died and about a million people were displaced. The people were forced to run, leaving everything behind for the safety of their lives. Millions of people became homeless just in one night.



Floods in Punjab:

When skies rained death & destruction, Punjab, which is popularly called the food bowl of India, was hit hard. More than 300 villages, mainly the Punjab's Ropar, Jalandhar and Ferozepur districts, were badly affected in floods by the Satluj River. Damaging crops in thousands of acres and forcing thousands of villagers to spend nights on rooftops.

“Crops on over 4,000 hectares in Punjab have been completely destroyed by floods”, a Punjab Agriculture department official said. Besides, crops on 24,112 hectares got submerged in 561 villages of 13 districts, he added. Maximum damage was witnessed in Rupnagar, the downstream district of the Sutlej river, where crops on 1,715 hectares out of a total 4,000 hectares were completely destroyed in the deluge, the official said.





Rescue mission by NLC:

On the night of 24th August it started raining heavily in Punjab. Till now, many of the Indian states were submerged in water due to incessant rains. On 25th afternoon we got to know that the rains are now causing a big problem in Punjab and there was flood in many areas. The badly affected area was the area of Ropar, Jalandhar and Ferozepur.



The youth of NLC decided to take stand and collected all the necessary tools. We went to the affected area on the next day when raining finally stopped.

The scene on the way there was disheartening, thousands of people laid down on the side of main highways with no food and drinkable water. They collected and saved everything they could which was not much and left their homes in the search of safety.





We went to the people who were still stuck at their homes and with the help of the locals rescued them and gave them food to eat. Now the problem was water. So we gave them the sawyer water filters which helped them have drinking water.



A total of 237 water filters were installed in different villages. We also distributed tarps to 150 families who had lost their home. Cooked food was distributed and ration was also distributed. Many people from our Church came forward with financial and physical help.





We also went to the villages where the government was unable to go because of broken roads and no way of transporting. Our youth along with the help of locals went there by walking the distance of approximately 5 km by foot. They had no food and water. So we gave them food and water filters were installed.



When we were helping people there, we met many people who were badly affected by these floods.



70-year-old widow Balveer Kaur had to postpone her daughter's wedding. Everything she had managed to buy for her daughter's dowry was damaged by the floods. In India it is impossible to get your daughter married without dowry. She had worked day and night to collect all the dowry. But when the flood water entered their house in night they didn't had time to take those things with them. All the cloth which was to be given as gifts to the family

of groom, and the bride's outfit for the day was gone. Over the years Balveer had managed to save some cash for the big day but all the cash was also gone.

Another widow told that they had been spending restless nights on their roofs but she was afraid that her kaccha house can collapse at any time now. The house was made weak by the floods. It was no longer safe to live in those houses. Hundreds of families are afraid to enter their house because they know that their houses can collapse at any time now.

The family is forced to live in a temporary shelter till they find some way to build a house again for themselves which will not be easy. She seeks help from the government but also knows that there will be no help provided.



Moving forward we met a man Devender Singh in his 70's who had lost all of his crops in the flood. The fields were filled with water. The crops were his only source of income and he not only lost his home and valuables he even lost his source of income for the coming 6 months. The family don't know how they are going to send these months without income and also cop up with all the loss which was caused by flood.

The work done by New Life City Church was also covered by local news stations.



The aftermath:



The situation after flood was also very bad. Tube wells in parts of flood hit areas were pumping out blackish water. So we went to more villages and installed water filters in those villages. Going in those villages helped us understand how a small thing can change your life. A small water filter bought a very big smile on the faces of those villagers as the villagers were very worried for the health of themselves and their families.

But these water filters gave them the surety of clean water.

And they knew that now the kids will not fall ill because of those infections.

A note to say thank you:

We from new life city church wants to thank all the people who had contributed in this cause by any way. Your small contribution has given a big hope to many people. Many people have access to clean water and food to eat because of your contribution. So, we want to thank each and every person for their help.

