Situation Report on Kerala Floods and Landslides

Date: 18-10-2021

Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) is constantly assessing the situation through its local member Cosmic Community Centre in Kerala. The current situation is summarised below:

Background:

Kerala is witnessing high-intensity floods due to the incessant rains over the past few days. Residents are cut off in parts of the coastal state of Kerala as the rain started to intensify from late Friday, 15th October 2021. As per the authorities, the worst-affected areas are Kottayam and Idukki, which received 164.5 millimetres and 305.5 mm of rainfall, respectively, since Saturday morning. The heavy rains triggered landslides and swelled many rivers across the state. Roads are swept away, houses are damaged and trees uprooted. Several villages in hilly areas are cut off. At least 26 people have died in landslides and floods triggered by heavy rains in south-western India.[1] Five Children among are dead. There are fears that the death toll could rise further as many people are missing. Eleven bodies have been found so far in Idukki district and another fourteen in Kottayam district[2] and thousands of people have been evacuated and at least 100 relief camps have been set up. Here is the video showing the flash flood barrelling into the town of Erattupetta in southern Kerala and another clip showing a house disappearing into a river that overflowed into its backyard shows widespread destruction in Kerala.

Heavy rains and landslides in Kerala[3]

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[1] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/18/india-floods-deaths-heavy-rains-landslides-kerala
[2] https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kerala-flood-latest-updates-18-dead-rain-partially-subsides-details-here-101634436481666.html
[3] https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/kerala-floods-photos-of-rain-fury-and-rescue-operations/a-flood-affected-area/slideshow/87082211.cms

Government Response in the current situation in flood affected areas:

- At least 26 people have died due to rain-related incidents in Kerala, according to news agency AFP. Some 11 bodies have been found so far in Idukki district and another 14 in Kottayam district[4], officials told AFP, after the areas were hit by landslides and flash floods.
- Authorities are working on the ground to assist the injured and affected.
- The Indian Air Force has inducted its medium-lift helicopters for flood relief efforts in the rain-hit districts of Kerala.
- Fishing boats are being used to evacuate survivors trapped in Kollam and other coastal towns as sections of road have been swept away and trees uprooted
- National Disaster Relief Force and the armed forces are rehabilitating 2,000 people and shifting them to different relief camps, one dedicated to Covid-19 positive patient
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the intense spell of rainfall activity over Kerala and Mahe, South Interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal likely to reduce from today (18th October,2021)
- The Army, NDRF, police and the Fire Force along with the locals began rescue operations on Sunday morning at Koottickal in Kottayam district and Kokkayar in Idukki district, where over a dozen people have been reported missing due to landslides accompanied by heavy downpour. Search operations are underway for the missing persons in the debris[5].

IAF rescues people in Kottayam district, Kerala[6]

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[4]https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kerala-flood-latest-updates-18-dead-rain-partially-subsides-details-here-101634436481666.html

[5] https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/kerala-rains-ndrf-army-rescue-operation-amit-shah-1865721-2021-10-17

[6] Kerala Floods: Woman dead in Idukki, 12 missing in Kottayam; Govt seeks IAF help (indiansingulf.in)

HAI's plan to save lives and restore normalcy with support from its local member partner (Prioritizing the unmet needs):

- Distribution of dry ration kits to at least 5000 families targeting women headed households, marginal and landless farmers and families with disabled members in Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kottayam districts
- Distribution of hygiene kits along with Covid-19 safety kits including sanitary napkins for women and adolescent girls, sanitizers, masks, gloves, toothpastes, soaps etc.
- Distribution of non-food items (NFIs) to 5,000 families including bed sheets, blankets, lunges for men etc.
- Early recovery plan based on assessment

About Humanitarian Aid International:

About Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) is a not-for-profit organization registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and FCRA. HAI is also registered under 12A and 80G and thereby gets tax exemption. HAI has been founded with the overall mission of working globally as an Indian organization on four thematic areas, i.e., 1) humanitarian response, 2) disaster risk reduction, 3) climate change & adaptation and 4) humanitarian advocacy. HAI has three pillars to work on these thematic areas, i.e., 1) a national platform of frontline organizations, 2) a national pooled fund to make disaster responses timely, and 3) a national roster to provide surge support to smaller humanitarian organizations. HAI is also making constant efforts to integrate technology in disaster management. An informal Drone for Humanity (DfH) platform has been constituted with this purpose in order to inform development and humanitarian response programmes to integrate mitigation and resilience features.

HAI is also closely engaged in several global processes including the UN led Agenda for Humanity and Grand Bargain. HAI currently hosts the international secretariat of Charter4Change in India, earlier hosted in London. HAI sits in the Membership Committee of Start Network and steering group of World Humanitarian Action Forum. HAI is one of the founders and one of the two international coordinators of Alliance for Empowering Partnerships (A4EP), which is a global network working on South-South cooperation and strengthening of local NGOs across the global South but in collaboration with the actors from global North. HAI also collaborated and actively supports the Result Group 2 of Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) working on accountability and inclusion, United against Inhumanity which is working on restoration of International Humanitarian Law in the countries facing protracted crises, Climate and Humanitarian Crisis Initiative (CHC) which works on mainstreaming climate perspective in the humanitarian sector and Global Interagency Security Forum working on security needs of humanitarian and development professionals.

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