



# THE DIOCESE OF HYDERABAD, CHURCH OF PAKISTAN

## “APOCALYPTIC.” “UNPRECEDENTED.” “A MONSOON ON STEROIDS.”

### THE UPDATE ON THE EXTREME MONSOON RAINS AND FLOODS IN THE PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF HYDERABAD IN SINDH PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

My Dear Mission Partners, Link Churches, and Diocesan Friends around the World.

Greetings from the Hyderabad Diocese of the Church of Pakistan.

The unprecedented monsoon rains during the eight weeks of the months of **July** and **August 2022** and associated rural and urban flooding in the Sindh province of Pakistan have wreaked havoc in the entire province including the **26** parishes of the Diocese of Hyderabad and their adjoining areas. The province and its people have never witnessed such monsoon rains and flooding during last six decades and the **75%** area of the province is under flood water. The rains and floods have very badly affected the **1500** Christian families in both urban and rural parishes including the **700** very poor families of the newborn Christians from the Hindu tribal and marginalized community backgrounds. The affected families also include the **30** clergy, outreach, and parishes staff especially in rural parishes. The rains and flood have destroyed the homes, crops and other belongings of many affected families including their livestock. The means of earning their livelihoods have also been affected by the unprecedented rain and floods.



Many of the affected families have been migrated from the affected areas to their relatives' homes in urban areas. Their relatives (who are also not very strong economically) are under extreme pressure to meet their physical needs especially food. Some of the affected families are living in the temporary shelters on the sides of the roads with no food, proper shelter and any health and hygiene support to manage their living in the current difficult situation. They are in extremely poor economic, emotional, and physical state right now to cope with the scale and intensity of the current natural disaster.



The parishes and outreach staff have also reported the rapid increase in the cases of malaria and dengue fevers as well as the outbreak of diarrhea disease amongst children and elderly people.

The local health services infrastructure has also been extremely affected and the patients of these diseases are struggling to get the timely treatment. Some of them are in very poor physical conditions and need urgent treatment. The women and children are especially struggling for maintaining their health and hygiene as they lack the sanitary stuff and other relevant items.

The affected Christian families have been reaching out to the local clergy and parish staff almost every day and waiting with the hope that Church would once again lead and save them and their children during the current disaster. They have been praying regularly so that the God could provide for their urgent needs. The clergy have been encouraging them and strengthening their faith with regular visitation (wherever the areas are accessible) and organizing family prayers as many families are still in shock on their losses and need pastoral support and care.

The heavier rains in the northern areas of Pakistan have also caused extreme flood situation in river Indus and other rivers which have started affecting the already rains affected areas of Sindh province. It might get minimum six months to one year for the affected families to recover from the initial effects of the rains and floods on their economic, spiritual, social, and emotional lives and it would take one more year to repair their houses and develop other infrastructure in the rural parishes.

The rains and floods have also caused serious damages to the Diocesan church infrastructure in the various districts of Sindh province including **Bishop House**, Diocesan Head Office, **12** clergy houses, **10** churches' buildings, **2** Diocesan health and **2** educational institutions. All the affected properties would need major repair and maintenance to make them safe for the future uses.



At present, all the **1500** families in the parishes of the Diocese of Hyderabad require the following support on immediate basis to survive in the current flood situation.

- One month food package and clean drinking water.
- Mosquitoes' nets, mosquito repellent, antibacterial soaps, and tarpaulins
- Water purification tablets as well as basic medicines for the dengue and malaria fevers and diarrhea disease.
- Solar lights and torches as the electricity supply in the affected areas has been disconnected to save lives of humans and animals and people living on the roadsides have no lighting at nighttime.
- Health and hygiene items for women and children including sanitary pads and pampers.
- Fodder for the livestock of the affected families from rural parishes.



In the rehabilitation phases, the following support would be required to ensure the future sustainability of the church setup of the Diocese of Hyderabad in the Sindh province of Pakistan as well as the rehabilitation of the affected Christian families:

- Repair, maintenance, and reconstruction support for the church properties (**Bishop House**, Diocesan Head Office, **12** clergy houses, **10** churches' buildings, **2** Diocesan health and **2** educational institutions buildings).
- The repair, maintenance, and reconstruction of **80** partially and **50** completely damaged homes of the affected families.
- Financial support and equipment to restore the livelihood of the **200** poor Christian farmers and skilled Christian workers including women.



The Diocese of Hyderabad humbly requests you all to remember in your prayers:

- The entire Pakistan and the **33 million** affected families in the four provinces of Pakistan
- The urgent needs of all the **1500** affected families and the current flood situation in river Indus which is adding more miseries to the already affected families.
- The affected church infrastructure of the Diocese of Hyderabad in the **26** Diocesan parishes and the availability of the support for the repair, maintenance, and reconstructions activities.
- The clergy, outreach workers and parishes staff in the affected parishes including their families.
- The poor patients of dengue, malaria, and diarrhea diseases especially women, children, and elders.
- The Christian families whose homes have been completely or partially damaged by the rains and floods.
- The poor Christian farmers and skilled Christian workers who have lost the means of earning their livelihoods including their equipment and tools.

In His Service,

**+Rt. Rev. Kaleem John**

**The Bishop of the Diocese of Hyderabad/**

**The Deputy Moderator of the Church of Pakistan**

**September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

