

Dear Friends of Hilfswerk Sr. Petra e.V,

Prayerful and loving greetings from Sr. Daniela, DSS Generalate, Pattuvam!

I would like to present you a report regarding the disaster that affected in Kerala.

As you know the recent torrential rains followed by massive floods in the entire state of Kerala have badly affected the normal life of the people. The overflowing dams, rivers and landslides have made the situation extremely, critical. About 1,50,000 people are stranded in relief camps and lakhs are homeless.

A tentative calculation of the State Government is that heavy rains and landslides have incurred a loss of Rs. 8316 Crores for the people of Kerala. All the 14 districts of Kerala have been affected. Landslides have caused unprecedented damage in the districts of **Idukki, Ernakulam, Waynad, Kannur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Malapuram and Kasaragod**. It is estimated that more than 350 landslides have been taken place in various districts. We have, therefore lost crops of hundreds of hectares and the cultivable land thereto. Numerous roads and bridges have been washed off. Communication has become more than difficult; quite a number of bus and train services have been cancelled. Cochin international airport has been closed due to flooding. **Kuttanad** which is our store house for paddy and rice is under water for the past one month; the lost there of crops has not been fully estimated. Many people have lost their lives. Numerous houses have fully or partially fallen. Many of the people have lost their livelihood including their domestic animals such as cows, goats, poultry farms, and the agriculture. Many children have lost their books and other educational materials; others lost their various documents, including certificates. Due to continuing threat of landslides in many parts, more families have been shifted to relief camps by the district administration. A tentative estimation of the State Government is that there is damage to the tune of Rs. 200000 Million.

Many of our sisters' family members also affected by flood and their houses are immersed in the water. In some places water is still there and the people are in the rescue camps.

We have provided our convent and home for the aged at Thalayolaparamba as rescue camp and sisters meet their needs. Some of our sisters are involved in the relief work in different rescue camps providing food, cloth, medicine etc.

Since the houses are fully or partially damaged, when the people come back to the houses from rescue camps, they cannot live in such houses. This being the situation, may we expect your immediate help in this regard.

I also take this opportunity to inform you that the term of office of the present General Council of the DSS Congregation will expire in October 2018.

The next General Chapter will commence on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018 in which the new Superior General and her Council will be elected.

Here let me express my heartfelt thanks for your wonderful and selfless service to our Congregation and to the poor during the last six years. Especially, the financial help for the relief works, renovation of the Old Generalate and other various needs of the Congregation. I was very much delighted by your warm welcome during our visit in Germany and also it was a great pleasure for us that some of you could find time to visit our places and see our services and the needs of the people by your own eyes. I sincerely thanking you for everything and praying for you that God may bless all of you and your family, so that you may continue your good works for the glory of God and service of the poor and needy. I also expect that you will extend your generous help to the new team as you were doing before. May God bless you all.

With grateful heart

Yours in Christ

Sr. Daniela DSS  
Superior General