

Summary of Emergency Appeals 2009



JANUARY

ZIMBABWE: Due to drought and economic collapse, food insecurity affected over five million people. An appeal was launched for USD 7.6 million (€6.1 million) to provide support to 165,000 people across eight dioceses of the country.

HOLY LAND: The Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip in response to repeated rocket attacks from there affected the entire population of 1.5 million Gazans. Access for humanitarian experts and relief supplies was limited and subject to constantly changing rules and procedures. A USD 1.6 million (€1.5 million) programme building on existing Caritas health facilities within the Gaza Strip as well as the local parish volunteers provided emergency medicines, medical supplies and ambulances to four hospitals. Six Caritas-operated medical points and a medical centre were supported. Emergency food packs, hygiene kits, blankets and cash support were provided to 10,600 families.

KENYA: The food security of 10 million Kenyans was affected by a combination of late rains, poor harvests, a surge in global

food prices and post-election violence that displaced over 300,000 people and decimated crop planting and production. A USD 4.1 million (€3.3 million) programme provided support to 32,000 families through food-for-work projects, supplementary feeding for 5,500 people and drought-resistant seeds for 4,400 farming families in 14 of the most vulnerable dioceses in the country.

FEBRUARY

INDIA: Caritas continued to address the health and early recovery/ rehabilitation needs of 11,500 families in 14 districts of Bihar state, following the 2008 flooding.

MARCH

COSTA RICA: A 6.2 magnitude earthquake in January caused extensive damage to infrastructure and livelihoods across 71 communities of the country. The initial response was undertaken primarily through local resources. The confederation assisted in a recovery/rehabilitation programme with a total budget of USD 765,988 (€616,965), assisting 282 families in 13 affected communities to restore their homes and livelihoods.

SRI LANKA: Amidst reports of increasingly intense fighting and new displacements, the annual Caritas programme in response to the protracted conflict between Sri Lanka government forces and the LTTE in Sri Lanka was launched on 31 March. As events throughout April and May unfolded, the programme was reshaped and revised to address the needs of more than 280,000 people held in military controlled internally displaced people camps. The USD 2.3 million (€1.9 million) programme aimed at ensuring complementary food and basic requirements for the preparation and consumption of food, hygiene items, psychosocial assistance, and basic health care for up to 75,000 new internally displaced people as well as temporary and permanent shelter, education and livelihood assistance for older caseloads of people displaced by the fighting.

APRIL

SOMALIA (SOMALILAND): For Somaliland, the estimated rural population in 'Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis' was 45,000. The urban poor continued to struggle with hyperinflation, with 30,000 people in 'Humanitarian Emergency' and 110,000



more in 'Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis'. A programme appealing for USD 394,645 (€317,859) was launched on behalf of Caritas Switzerland to assist 17 communities to sustain their livelihoods through improved access to water for livestock, food and fodder production as well as safe potable water for human consumption.

PERU: Reconstruction work continued in Peru following the devastating 7.9 earthquake of 2007. A new programme was launched to assist 120 families reconstruct their homes and undertake school reconstruction for 1,170 students.

INDIA: Following the devastating floods in Bihar and Orissa during the summer of 2007, Caritas set up a 3-year capacity-building/disaster preparedness programme for 112 village communities, including 275,732 families, which continued throughout 2009.

MAY

CHAD: An Emergency Appeal was launched to ensure continued support to 56,473 Sudanese refugees residing in three refugee camps managed by Caritas in

Eastern Chad as well as 11,500 families in nearby villages heavily impacted by the presence of so many refugees. A budget of USD 2,386,607 (€1,923,077) was required to secure and maintain water systems in surrounding villages, ensure camp refugees can organise and maintain proper waste disposal systems within the camps, provide or replace various non-food items required by camp refugees and ensure refugee children have access to education in sound and appropriate classrooms.

BRAZIL: Persistent and torrential rains in the North and North-East of Brazil during much of May affected over 800,000 people. An USD 993,000 (€800,000) programme supported 5,000 families with food and hygiene kits and helped 200 families to rebuild their devastated homes and recover their livelihoods.

JUNE

PAKISTAN: The Pakistani army launched a major military offensive against insurgents throughout the Swat Valley, forcing close to two million people to flee the area. Five Caritas members responded

to the emergency and an appeal was launched for USD 7 million (€5.6 million) to provide basic shelter, food, water and sanitation, non-food items, health and protection services to 384,700 people.

BANGLADESH: At the end of May, Cyclone Aila caused widespread destruction of homes and livelihoods across 14 districts of the country, affecting over 3.8 million people. A response programme with a budget of USD 1.8 million (€1.5 million) was launched to support 15,000 affected families with emergency water and water storage containers, income through community cash-for-work initiatives aimed at restoring or repairing community infrastructure, such as embankments and feeder roads, and support for 3,000 families with repair or construction of their homes.

INDIA: Sixteen Districts of West Bengal State in India were severely hit by Cyclone Aila, affecting 5.3 million people. A response programme requiring USD 1 million (€811,511) was launched to support 20,000 families with emergency food rations, repair and reconstruction of damaged homes, livelihood restoration,

A Caritas team in Indonesia after an earthquake.
Jame Alcock/Caritas



and community disaster risk reduction initiatives.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC):

Protracted conflict between various militia groups and government forces continued to rage across Eastern DRC, with disastrous effects on the civilian population. Over 1.7 million people were displaced. A comprehensive programme to address basic food security, non-food, health and education needs of over 400,000 persons was launched with a total budget of USD 12.5 million (€10 million).

JULY

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC: Torrential rains caused flooding in the capital Bangui, leaving 10,813 people homeless. A USD 334,000 (€269,165) programme provided 600 families (5,896 people) with kitchen utensils, bedding, mosquito nets and materials for the construction of temporary shelters.

AUGUST

MONGOLIA: Heavy rain throughout the second half of July led to severe flooding

in several districts of the capital Ulaanbaatar and the Gobi-Altai province. An estimated 20,000 people were affected. A USD 176,000 (€142,000) programme to ensure adequate shelter (traditional gers or yurts) and water for 168 families prior to the onset of winter was launched.

SEPTEMBER

SENEGAL: Torrential rains caused havoc in the capital, Dakar, and outlying areas, affecting 264,000 people. Rapid, unplanned urban expansion of recent decades exacerbated the problem. A USD 450,000 (€361,296) programme provided food, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and construction materials to 2,638 families. Local authorities were provided with tools and training for the clean-up operation.

BURKINA FASO: Torrential rains over a short space of time affected 50 per cent of the capital, Ouagadougou, and several other dioceses of the country. Over 150,000 people were directly affected and close to 25,000 homes were destroyed. A response programme worth USD 685,000 (€522,507) assisted 20,500 people with

food and non-food items, health services, school kits, and recovery of lost documents.

NIGER: Close to 100,000 persons were affected by floods caused by heavy rains in the regions of Agadez and Tillabery. Caritas provided USD 894,918 (€720,000) to assist 1,173 families with temporary shelter, hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen utensils.



Cleaning up after hurricanes in Haiti and preparing communities for future disasters.
David Snyder/Caritas

OCTOBER

PHILIPPINES: Typhoon Ketsana raged across the Philippines and in the space of 24 hours dropped the equivalent of one month's rainfall on Metropolitan Manila, causing the worst flooding in 42 years. Over 1.8 million people were affected. A USD 830,00 (€666,813) Emergency Response Programme was launched to assist 10,000 families with rice, hygiene kits, shelter and bedding, mosquito nets and medicines.

CAMBODIA: Having caused havoc in the Philippines, Typhoon Ketsana continued on its destructive path across the north and east of Cambodia, where over 23,000 families were directly affected. Caritas assisted 3,000 families in 65 villages with food, hygiene kits, shelter materials, household utensils, basic health services and trauma counselling at a cost of USD 344,000 (€277,551).

INDIA: Torrential rains triggered some of the worst flooding in over 100 years in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Over three million people were affected. A USD 1.8 million (€1.5 million) appeal was

launched to assist 35,500 families in 711 of the worst affected villages, including food, water, clothes, shelter materials, bedding, household utensils and access to basic health services.

SAMOA: On 30 September, an 8.3 magnitude earthquake generated a tsunami affecting Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga. Food, water, psychosocial assistance, shelter and education were provided to 5,000 people, mainly on the Samoan island of Upolo.

PHILIPPINES: A second typhoon within a few weeks caused extensive damage to the central and northern areas of the main island of Luzon. A rapid response programme to address the immediate food, non-food and health needs of 10,000 families across five dioceses was launched with a budget of USD 796,000 (€642,044).

INDONESIA: A devastating 7.6 earthquake struck off the coast of Sumatra, leaving over 1,000 dead. The trail of destruction was particularly heavy in and around the city of Padang, with its population of one million. Several Caritas members

responded to address the shelter, food, hygiene, health, agriculture/livelihood needs of the victims.

AFGHANISTAN: After two years of drought and high food prices, coping mechanisms among rural communities had been severely eroded. Many had sold off productive assets and their ability to withstand further shocks over the winter was seriously compromised. A USD 6 million (€4.9 million) programme to support 10,000 households in the provinces of Bamyan, Ghor and Herat was launched on behalf of Caritas member Catholic Relief Services. The programme ensured families could meet their immediate basic needs throughout the winter via cash-for-work projects, food for vulnerable households unable to participate in cash-for-work projects, as well as a voucher programme through which families could restore and replenish productive assets.

SUDAN: In Southern Sudan, the states of Western and Eastern Equatoria both faced food emergencies, but for very different reasons. In Western Equatoria, communities had been displaced and

brutally terrorised by LRA attacks, while in Eastern Equatoria, recurrent drought cycles limited people's ability to produce or access food. An appeal for USD 4 million (€3.3 million) was launched to support 10,000 people with food, seeds training and water until the next harvest in Eastern Equatoria. In Western Equatoria, 25,000 people were supported with food, non-food items, basic shelter, water and hygiene. The World Food Programme provided Caritas with food in Western Equatoria with funding from the confederation amounting to USD 2.8 million (€2.3 million).

NEPAL: Three days of torrential rains triggered a series of flash floods and landslides across 11 districts of Western Nepal resulting in 58 deaths and affecting 15,000 households. An early recovery programme for USD 221,963 (€178,817) was launched to provide food and non-food items to 132 affected families and support 1,800 families with income-generation and livelihood recovery initiatives.

NOVEMBER

NEPAL: Caritas Nepal has been working since 1990s on providing relief to Bhutanese refugees and is the implementing partner of United Nations High Commission for Refugees for the Bhutanese Refugees Education Programme (BREP) for secondary education and other education related activities in refugees camps. A USD 258,868 (€208,569) one-year rehabilitation programme was launched to provide education support to 3,926 refugee children, education supplies, staff training and financial support to 869 refugee teachers.

BENIN: Two months of heavy rain contributed to flooding of the Mono river. An appeal was launched to help the 200 most badly affected families in the Diocese of Lokossa and provide materials for shelters, school materials for 1,200 primary school pupils and seeds for 400 farmers.

DECEMBER

MAURITANIA: In a country characterised by chronic droughts, exceptional rainfall in August and September caused severe problems in the southern regions of Hodh, Assaba, Brakna as well as in Rosso and Nouakchott cities. Caritas Mauritania's 10-month programme assisted 23,800 people to restore agricultural and livelihoods. The most vulnerable households in rural areas were provided with drinking water, sanitation facilities and food.

SRI LANKA: After the end of the war, Caritas Sri Lanka engaged with key presidential, ministerial and provincial authorities in an effort to encourage and support the rapid resettlement of the many Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in camps. Caritas continued to support the remaining 130,000 IDPs in Jaffna, Vavuniya-Chettikulam, Trincomalee and Mannar camps, as well as returnees, families staying in host communities and transit facilities and war-affected families across the country. Caritas Sri Lanka's USD 2.5 million (€2 million) programme includes appropriate shelter with proper water and sanitation facilities for families who have lost their homes, livelihood facilities for war-affected families, and complementary food for IDPs in the camps and new returnees, educational assistance for war-affected students and psychosocial support for war-affected populations across the country.

SOMALIA (SOMALILAND): A one-year emergency and recovery response programme with a budget of USD 650,000 (€524,677) was launched to sustain livelihoods in drought-affected areas of Somaliland (particularly in the Haud plateau of Togdheer and Maroodi Jeeh) through improved access to water for livestock, and improved sanitation and safe drinking water for 12,500 households.

MYANMAR: The recovery programme following Cyclone Nargis continued, with the emphasis shifting from housing and community infrastructure to sustainable

livelihoods and the strengthening of community structures with targeted sectors including livelihood restoration, social protection, disaster risk reduction and institutional strengthening for 17,750 households in the Ayeyarwady Division.

ETHIOPIA: The Ethiopian government estimated that about 6.2 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance as a result of continued drought in most parts of the country. A total of 68,309 people are receiving help from Caritas across five dioceses (Awassa, Hararghe, Adigrat - Main Office and Mekelle Branch - Gambella, Soddo Hosanna) with supplementary feeding, outpatient therapeutic feeding, health interventions, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, natural resources management and livelihood recovery. Total budget for the programme is USD 1.6 million (€1.3 million).

SUDAN: The humanitarian situation in Darfur remained very serious with 2.7 million people displaced from their homes. Many of them have been living in temporary camps for up to six years and are largely reliant on the international aid programme in order to survive. Although the level of violence appeared to have subsided in many areas, widespread lack of security continued to discourage people from returning to their homes. A USD 8.6 million (€7 million) one-year programme is focused on effective delivery of life-saving services to the displaced people and host populations, through support to small-scale micro-credit groups and skills training, as well as the capacity-building of the two national partner organisations.