

## **Tropical Cyclone Tauktae Effect in the Diocese of Alleppey**

### **Situation in Diocese Alleppey**

Kerala marked for its high COVID 19 test positivity rate and with the notable increase in the people getting infected with COVID 19 during the second wave of pandemic in the country. Ernakulam is one of the most affected districts in the country having high rate of spread of pandemic. Government of Kerala has enforced lockdown in the state from 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 onwards.

Amidst this grim situation, coastal areas of Kerala witnessed Cyclones Tauktae and Yaas. Though there was a prediction and warning from SDMA, the cyclone arrived two days earlier than the predicted days. Across the costal Kerala high waves continued to thrash the coast in the midst of heavy rains that started early on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. In the diocese of Alleppey 9 parishes were are badly affected and people are moved to relief camps. (Vandanam, Omanappuzha, Chennavelly, Ottamssassery in Alleppey district and Chellanam, Maruvakad, Kandakadavu, Kannamaly & Manassery in ernakulam district).

The coastal villages in Chellanam Gramapanchayath and Ottamassery, Chennavelly are continued to reel under flooding as high waves continued to thrash the coast in the midst of heavy rains from Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The seawall has warped in Maruvakkad and Bazaar areas. Maruvakkad, Chalakkadavu, and areas north of these places were the worst affected.

The coastal village continued to reel under heavy rains, high waves and flooding till Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, and the high tides invaded the shores of these areas. The houses are full of sand and dirt. Many houses are collapsed or half buried in the sand.

### **Damages:**

- **Houses were hit by mighty waves and collapased**
- **Everytihg including food storage were washed away**
- **Kithcen utensils, mats, cloths are unsuable**
- **50 Houses were fully destroyed**
- **747 Houses were partially damged and requires urgent repair**
- **350 Houses lost their toilet facilites**
- **13 Fishing nets and 2 fisihing boats were destroyed**
- **2860 [9 parishes] Families of Alappuzha Diocese affected**

## **Interventions:**

Diocesan level Coordination Meeting was urgently conducted under the chairmanship of Msgr Joy Puthenveetil, visited the affected places and relief measures were planned and executed under the leadership of Rev. Fr Samson Anjiliparambil, the director of Alleppey Diocesan Charitable and Social Service Society. Initially two levels of interventions were proposed:

- 1. Food Materials were supplied with the support of KCYM and other people of good will from in and outside diocese.
- 2. Kerala Social Service Forum, other dioceses, Caritas India came in to support with food materials.

## **The Diocesan Concern**

The diocese is concerned about habitation of the people. 41 houses are to be build and 703 houses needs financial support to do the urgent repair works. All the more, needs to support people for better sanitation.

Govt. agency has not declared it as disaster and has not declared any support for people, who lost houses, toilets or fishing nets. The newly formed government promises that they will come up with the projects to protect the sea shore. But seeing the experience in the past, people are worried that these promises may not be fulfilled in due time.

**We expect:** that people of good will and other agencies came in to support the affected people for rehabilitation projects that are most needed.

The diocese is indebted to a number of people, other diocese in Kerala, Kerala Social Service forum and Caritas India for the emergency relief works and their solidarity with the suffering people in the coastal areas of the diocese of Alleppey.

**Fr Paul J. Arackel**  
**Episcopal Vicar for Temporalities**

*Encl. Photographs of damage*