Disaster Relief

25.3 million people are displaced each year by disasters.

Unfathomable death and destruction. That’s what remained after the worst flooding in nearly a century washed through Kerala, on the tropical Malabar Coast. Normally rejuvenated, bright, and lush after summer rainfalls, the state was anything but in 2018. The annual monsoon had wreaked utter havoc on homes, schools, businesses, lives. At first traumatized, survivors quickly became terrified.

Tragically, rain-triggered landslides caused more than 480 deaths and displaced more than a million people. Kerala needed help. It needed hope.

As it does so often, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) responded, providing US$100,000 Major Catastrophe and US$560,000 Disaster grants. With the funds, Lions mobilized, providing life-sustaining relief to victims, and helping rebuild homes and lives. Healing had begun.

“I’ve been humbled and inspired since becoming a Lion, in 1974. But my months as LCIF chairman, during which the floods hit, profoundly impacted me,” said Past International President Dr. Naresh Aggarwal. “I witnessed first-hand how critical LCIF is to empowering Lions service. Kerala is in my home country. Though not directly impacted, I was reminded that tragedy befalls so many, and that together, LCIF and Lions make a lasting difference for those suffering.”
Disaster Strikes at Home

8,000 Crores INR.

That’s the economic loss suffered in India between 1998 and 2017, according to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. A quick internet search yields equally sobering figures in terms of human lives lost in India in the past two decades:

- **GUJARAT EARTHQUAKE**: 20,000+ perish
- **ODISHA SUPER CYCLONE**: 10,000+ lives lost
- **UTTARAKHAND FLASH FLOODS**: 5,000 swept away
- **INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI**: 200,000+ lives lost in the wake

**THAT’S INDIA. GLOBALLY, NATURAL DISASTER LOOKS LIKE THIS:**

- **90% of all natural disasters are water-related**
- **25.3 million people are displaced each year by sudden disasters**
- **Annual economic losses are estimated at US$250B–US$300B**

LCIF AND LIONS
Funding Service, Delivering Solutions

The past 50 years have seen a 390% increase in natural disasters globally. LCIF and Lions have been there. To date, LCIF has awarded US$134 million for disaster relief worldwide through:

- **PREPAREDNESS GRANTS** support preparing for future relief efforts
  - UP TO US$10,000
- **EMERGENCY GRANTS** support immediate and mid-term needs
  - US$5,000 - US$10,000
- **COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS** support short-term cleanup and repair
  - UP TO US$20,000
- **MAJOR CATASTROPHE GRANTS** fund reconstruction after large-scale natural disasters

**SOURCES/NOTE**: 1, 4, 5, 6 United Nations; 2 for timeline, The Times of India; 3 Maps of India; 4 International Disaster Database; 5 awarded at discretion of Lions International president and LCIF chairperson; grant limits subject to change.

LCIF is the grant-making body empowering Lions to create greater impact in their communities and around the world. The vast majority of funding LCIF receives is from Lions; one hundred percent of every donation supports Lions service through LCIF grants and programs.

Disaster relief is just one cause area supported by LCIF and Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service. With financial support from Lions and clubs worldwide, Campaign 100 is empowering Lions to increase service impact in vision, youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts; fight the global epidemic of diabetes; and make important progress in expanded cause areas of childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment.

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