

Mary's Meals provides aid to 13,000 families affected by Kerala floods

Mary's Meals is providing aid to 13,000 families left hungry and homeless following devastating floods in Kerala, India, and is appealing to the public for support.

The UK-based charity, working with its longstanding partner in India, BREAD, is delivering essential food supplies to families in some of the worst-affected areas, and has launched a Kerala Floods Emergency Appeal to collect donations in support of the relief effort.

Father Joson Thakaran, who leads Mary's Meals' partner organisation in India, travelled to his home state of Kerala to meet people displaced by the flooding and to coordinate the emergency food distribution.

He said: "These are the worst floods in living memory; a real deluge on a level that is unprecedented. Homes are under seven feet of water. People have lost their livelihoods and their possessions. Some people have lost their lives.

"Mary's Meals has responded very quickly with a plan to provide emergency food to the poorest of the poor living in the worst-affected areas."

As the flood waters recede, many people across the region are expected to return from temporary camps to find their homes severely damaged and their crops and livestock decimated. In an initial response, Mary's Meals is distributing emergency food parcels containing rice to thousands of vulnerable families in two villages within the flood-ravaged Alappuzha District in the Kuttanad region of Kerala.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and global chief executive of Mary's Meals, said: "We have a long history of responding to emergency situations through existing partners who are well-placed to provide quick and effective relief to those who are suffering.

"While providing daily meals in a place of education is always our primary focus, we are moved to respond to those in need whenever we are able and we're incredibly thankful to our partner in India and to our supporters for their commitment and generosity and for the love they are showing to the people of Kerala in the midst of this disaster."

To find out more or donate, visit marysmeals.org.uk

— ENDS —

Notes to editors

- Mary's Meals grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief, which delivered more than £10 million of aid and emergency relief between 1992 and 2002.
- The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."
- Mary's Meals is a simple idea that works. The charity provides one daily meal in a place of learning in order to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.
- Mary's Meals feeds 1,257,278 children every day at school in 15 countries, including more than 20,000 children in some of India's poorest regions.

- Mary's Meals has been working with local partner, BREAD, in India to deliver daily school meals to some of the country's most vulnerable children since 2004.
- The average global cost to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole school year is just £13.90.
- Mary's Meals is committed to spending at least 93% of donations directly on its charitable activities. This is only possible because most of the charity's work is done by an army of dedicated volunteers – including more than 80,000 in Malawi alone.
- Please visit www.marysmeals.org to find out more about the work of Mary's Meals.

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