



The Caritas network is preparing to ramp up its emergency response in South Asia as the situation worsens for tens of millions in Pakistan's flood affected regions.

Heavy rainfall overnight has left millions stranded without food, adequate shelter, clean water and vital infrastructure; up to 12 million people have been impacted by the flooding so far. With more severe rain predicted in the coming days and floodwaters pouring south, at least 2 million more are now on high flood alert in the southern province of Sind.

"Fourteen million people potentially affected - that's two-thirds of our population here in Australia," said CEO of Caritas Australia's, Jack de Groot. "The situation is horrendous. Millions are in dire need of water, food, cookware and shelter but with roads and bridges submerged or completely destroyed many of these people have been completely cut off.

"I urge Australians to give generously to this appeal, not only to ensure the immediate security of so many, but to ensure a viable option for the long-term reconstruction of a region decimated by natural disaster."

To date, eight hundred villages have been evacuated in the Punjab and Sind regions as authorities prepare for the onset more heavy rain. Across the north entire villages have been destroyed in the floods forcing millions into indefinite internal displacement .

"Displaced communities, and particularly their most vulnerable members – children, the disabled, women and the elderly - will be in desperate need of healthcare, sanitation, food and water, shelter and of course, in the long-term, the resources and assistance to rebuild.

"With much of the regions farmland submerged, millions of families will have lost their only source of income. The Caritas network is aiming to commence cash-for-work projects in the affected regions enabling people to start recouping their immense losses."

"As well as urgent requests for shelter, the greatest need in the short-term is Sanitation, particularly as the people resort to drinking from irrigation canals and stagnant ponds and the risk of water-borne disease increases."

Based on initial assessment, Caritas Australia aimed to provide immediate assistance for up to 20,000 people with the distribution of shelter and hygiene kits commencing across Pakistan's north-west this weekend.

"With the situation looking bleaker by the day, the Caritas network is preparing to ramp up our response; to ensure these vulnerable communities – exposed to unimaginable risk – have the resources they so urgently need. With your generous support, Caritas Australia can commit to a significant, widespread and long-term response to alleviate the devastation of this past week.

**Caritas Australia is accepting donations to assist the victims of the floods - donate online to the [South Asia Floods Appeal - Pakistan](#) or call our donation hotline 1800 024 413.**