



EU provides humanitarian assistance to Jammu & Kashmir flood victims

New Delhi, 16th October, 2014: Following the floods that recently struck the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the European Commission is providing over ₹19 million (€250 000) to help some of the worst affected families meet their immediate needs through the upcoming winter. This humanitarian assistance will benefit over 12000 people in the districts of Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama.

"The floods struck just before harvesting time, which means these families have lost not only their food stocks but also their means for livelihoods", said H.E. Dr João Cravinho, Ambassador of the European Union. "This gesture of solidarity from the European people will help them sustain themselves through the harsh winter, so that they can restart their lives after the cold months, when they can resume agricultural activities", he added.

The EU-funded relief efforts will focus on 40 villages which have been identified as being the worst affected in these areas in terms of infrastructure, crop and livelihood loss, and shelter damage. The project will provide these marginalized communities with food assistance, livelihood support and distribution of hygiene kits for women.

The project is being funded by the Small Scale Response mechanism of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO). It will be implemented by ECHO's partner Action Aid, which has a long-established presence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Background

Starting early September, Jammu and Kashmir experienced torrential monsoon rains that lead to unprecedented flooding and landslides across the state. The rivers Jhelum, Chenab and Tawi - as well as many other smaller streams - burst their banks, inundating hundreds of villages, particularly in the Southern districts. Over 280 people were reportedly killed, thousands of hectares of agricultural land, flooded, and dozens of bridges, washed away.

ECHO's Small Scale Response fund is a global mechanism totaling € 5.5 million for 2014, which allows ECHO to provide rapid funding of up to € 300 000 for humanitarian aid in countries affected by natural and man-made disasters.

For more Information:

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO): <http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

The European Union's Delegation to India: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/index_en.htm

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