

# Asha Chennai Relief and Rehabilitation Work – Chennai, Thiruvallur and Thoothukudi Rains and Floods 2023

26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2023

## **Background:**

This year saw rains and floods affect several areas that Asha Chennai works in. At Chennai and Thiruvallur the first week of Dec saw record breaking rains. Many of our scholarship recipients are from Chennai and our Project Sangamam operates from Thiruvallur district. This same thing happened on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at Thoothukudi and Thirunelveli districts where our Pearl project operates.

Here are some articles about the impact of these events,

- [Wikipedia article on Cyclone Michaung and its impact.](#)
- [The Hindu article from Dec 5<sup>th</sup> on the impact of the cyclone.](#)
- [Article in Indian Express](#) on Michaung listing areas identified by government as affected which includes all of Chennai and the parts of Thiruvallur which we work with.
- [Article in The Hindu about the rains in Thoothukudi and neighbouring districts.](#)
- [Article in TOI about the floods in Thoothukudi and neighbouring district.](#)

[Here](#) are some photos showing the impact of the rains and flood in the areas where we are undertaking relief work.

## **Chennai - Scholarship Students' Relief**



In many areas of Chennai, flood waters entered the houses on Dec 4<sup>th</sup> causing lots of damages and additional expenses for the families. Many of our Scholarship students are living in these areas. We identified 23 students for whom the flood water entered their houses. Another 7 of the students lived in higher floors but there was a lot of damage to the house with water leak etc. We are planning to provide some relief to the families of these 30 students. We may provide basic provisions, a mat and a blanket or just provide each family with Rs 1500 to spend as they wish.

## **Thiruvallur- Tribal Hamlets**

Even among the remote rural areas where we work, some of the Irular hamlets where we work are the poorest areas. These hamlets are typically located in low lying areas adjacent to a lake or river. Further their houses are typically either mud huts or government group houses which are also poorly constructed. Even during normal rains the places are inundated. This year the rains were quite heavy in these places. We are planning to take up the relief work in the hamlets or Old Thirupatchur and Annanagar and help about 200 families living there. We intend to provide basic provisions including rice, dhal, oil etc. and a set of mat and blanket to the people here.

Here are a couple of photos from Old Thirupatchur and Annanagar.



Two of the huts in Old Thirupatchur completely collapsed. Both these families have children who are studying in PUPS Old Thirupatchur. We have known these children for years. They are currently just living in tents put up with tarpaulin mats and nylon mats. It costs them Rs 15,000 to put up a hut. We propose to give these two families Rs 10000 each towards this cost.





### **Thoothukudi -- Athikulam**

While there was heavy rains in many places in Thoothukudi and Thirunelveli, at most of the villages where we support the schools, the water did not come into the village too much and the water that did come got drained. In one of the villages within our support area, Athikulam, two of the streets were totally submerged and the people there had severe problems because of flooding. While the government is providing provisions and even money to help the people get past this, the children have lost their books, notebooks, bag etc. We felt we can give an educational kit with bag, notebooks, pen, pencil etc. to the children in these two streets.



**Budget:**

Broadly we are planning to take up relief work for 30 scholarship children in Chennai, 200 families in the tribal hamlets of Thiruvallur and 200 children in Athikulam. We are keeping a budget of Rs 1500 per student/family at all the places.

<b>SN o</b>	<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Cost Details</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1	30 students in Chennai	30 x Rs 1500	Rs 45,000
2	200 families in tribal hamlets of Thiruvallur	200 x Rs 1500	Rs 3,00,000
3	Money for huts for 2 families in Old Thirupatchur, Thiruvallur.	2 x Rs 10000	Rs 20,000
3	200 students in Athikulam village.	200 x Rs 1500	Rs 3,00,000
4	Tranportation costs and other miscellaneous expenses		Rs 25,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Rs 6,90,000.</b>