

CLOUDBURST IN LADAKH – WORST FLOOD IN THE HISTORY OF LADAKH



On 5th August around 12 mid night the whole Ladakh was rocked by a devastating mudslide due to cloudburst. The most affected areas are lower Leh and Choglamsar areas. Apart from these two places many other villages were badly affected by the flood. Many lost their lives and hundreds still missing. The army was put into action for the rescue operation. Both the civilians and the army are actively working to rescue all those stuck under the debris. Many tourists are also volunteering in the rescue operation.



So far around 200 died, over 300 injured and about 800 missing. The situation is still not under control. People are desperately searching for their lost loved ones with a hope to see them alive. The hospitals are crowded with people either with injuries or coming to find their

relatives or friends and some coming to identify the dead bodies. Homeless people are living in small shift camps with no proper food and basic needs. They need immediate help and support.

It is heart-wrenching to see this kind of devastation, especially in an area where the people live with open hearts and open doors and treat strangers as family. Many of the fields have been destroyed by the floods, meaning winter supplies are gone. Homes near the river are filled with mud. We are collecting funds to go to the families that have been hit the worst. Government funding is on its way, but may take months. Anything you may be able to contribute will certainly make a direct difference to this community.

The INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF BUDDHIST YOUTH LADAKH (IFBYL) a non-profit organisation, along with Open Ladakh, the alternate travel company, is organising a fundraising program to help all those people who completely lost everything. Many parents lost their children, and many children lost their parents and some lost everything.

We intend to divide the contribution into two parts.



The first part will be giving immediate relief like food, water, blankets, and medicine which we have already started in collaboration with the army and local organisations in all the temporary camps set up by both the army and local government authorities.

The second part will be more long term rehabilitation program, to help build new homes and buying basic necessities, and in case there is an outbreak of diseases we will help provide medical facilities and also help mobilize doctors. A few schools have been damaged and they need immediate help to get it running. Many children need support for their education as they have either lost their parents or have lost their relatives who usually support their education.



Our achievement so far has been quite successful.

We have started surveying the people who are worst hit especially those who have literally lost everything, to rehabilitate them after the trauma.

I have been mobilizing western volunteers and doing as much as we

can both for the immediate and long term relief. I have also been involving high school children for local fundraising.

All most all communications have failed and disrupted. I am lucky that my mobile GPRS is working just enough to convey the message across the world. I really have to stay until late night to get the access to this connection.



Funds we have collected so far

TOTAL AMT. INR	IN US\$	DONORS
Rs. 22,720/-	US\$ 494	Foreign tourist in Ladakh
Rs. 8,010 /-	US\$ 174	Locals
Rs. 4, 30,000/-	US\$ 9,348	Switzerland

We are still waiting for more donations from around the world.

An appeal

We appeal to all the people around the world to kindly come forward to help us in these difficult times.

Ladakh is a small Buddhist kingdom in the high Himalayas. It is located in a politically and geographical sensitive areas with China and Pakistan border.

It a small district in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, INDIA.

Due to its extreme winter ladakh remains cut off for about six months through land and it is only accessible by flights. During the short summer months ladakhis grow their food but this year due to the natural calamity their fields were washed away which means shortage of food for the winter. The recent cloudburst resulted in the loss of many lives and properties. Hundreds died, hundreds are missing and left homeless.

We request all of you to kindly help us in rehabilitating these people and helping them lead a normal life again.

Your contribution will be used for both the immediate relief like food, water, clothing, medicine etc and for the long term rehabilitation, building proper houses and other basic necessities of life, and winter supplies.

With humble request

Tsewang Norbu
President
IFBYL