

Media Release

12 April 2021

Jesuits in Timor-Leste respond to Easter Sunday flood crisis.

Jesuits in Timor-Leste are responding to the widespread destruction of Tropical Cyclone Seroja, an Easter Sunday nightmare that brought flash flooding and left 42 people dead, including a Timorese teacher at the Jesuit Mission supported Loyola College.

With an estimated 14,000 people temporarily displaced as of 9 April, Jesuit Mission will assist Jesuit Social Service, who have been supporting communities in six informal evacuation centres in Hare and Dili, areas badly affected by the flood.

“Evacuation centres include convents, parish halls a university and religious houses. Now that the rain has stopped, we can begin to clean up and plan long-term solutions for these families,” said Júlio Sousa SJ, Director of Jesuit Social Service Timor-Leste.

Supported by Jesuit Mission, these long- term solutions include purchasing and providing mattresses, bed sheets, kitchen and cooking utensils for 100 households, approximately 1000 people.

“If we have sufficient resources we will certainly extend our help to more households. At the moment we have distributed food items and clothes to over 500 people,” said Júlio.

Currently food is being provided to displaced families as all their cooking equipment has been destroyed by the floods.

“Any donation towards the vital efforts of our Jesuit partners will help transform the situation of the most vulnerable families. Let’s work together to help our sisters and brothers in Timor-Leste get back on their feet,” said Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission.

The mass displacement and infrastructural damage caused by flooding waters and landslides additionally poses the threat of spreading COVID-19, with Dili municipality seeing a resurgence of new cases in recent months.

Jesuit Mission stands in solidarity with the devastated families in Timor-Leste and urges our supporters to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

To make a donation to Jesuit Mission to help flood victims in Timor-Leste go to <https://jesuitmission.org.au/timor-floods/> or call 02 8918 4109.

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Written by Zach Martorana, Communications Officer at Jesuit Mission

Media Contact:

Zach Martorana, Communications Officer, Jesuit Mission
Zach.martorana@jesuitmission.org.au 02 8918 4109



CAPTION: People walking through flood waters.



CAPTION: Evacuation centres provide food, clothes and shelter for those temporarily displaced.

Supporting Links:

Donation Page for Relief Program for Flood Victims in Timor-Leste

<https://jesuitmission.org.au/timor-floods/>

About Jesuit Mission

Jesuit Mission works in over 13 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.