



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

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## MISSION OPPORTUNITY: **SAVE LIVES BEFORE THE NEXT FLOOD SEASON IN INDIA AND NEPAL**

### **The next flood season is coming.**

Your neighbor **Bhagwanti Devi** and her family rely on the rich, fertile soil near the Gandak River to grow their crops and support their livelihoods. But as the river gives, it also takes away.

When the Gandak overflows its banks again during the next flood season, the homes, crops and livelihoods in its path will be destroyed — affecting thousands of people like Bhagwanti already living in poverty.

Families in the Devi's community cannot move their homes as we might to change our situation. They are part of a caste system that keeps certain classes of individuals in the margins where danger lurks. Dangers like the floods. Dangers like chronic poverty. Dangers like COVID-19 infection.

These families are caught between the world's injustice and the dangers that might just kill them. And it's precisely where we think your congregation can bring God's love — where nothing less will save lives.

### **Coronavirus, drowning, poverty: your congregation can stave off deaths**

India wrestles with one of the world's most rapid and significant infection rates. The novel coronavirus spreads here because poor communities like Bhagwanti's are forced to live in cramped conditions with little access to what will keep them safe: clean, running water. Sanitation supplies. Masks.

Coronavirus infection is an added layer of danger in communities that already face significant risk to drowning or other disease. Yet poverty might be the deadliest killer ... and the most cruel. It sits silently amidst the ramshackle houses on the floodplain, waiting for crops to be claimed by floods. For cholera to beleaguer a toddler's life until chronic diarrhea and dehydration force a miserable end. For the stress of trying to provide for a family when no one will hire you because of your caste. Heart attacks and suicides are common here.

The annual flooding cycle sets the deadly pace.

**Help us to get ahead of it.**

“It happened without warning. The house flooded and all our food, all our rice, all the grain was destroyed. The flood destroyed all our crops in the field, and that year we had no harvest. We had to go into debt just so we could buy food.”



## Your congregation's help is needed before it's too late

Seasonal flooding and the pandemic have intensified needs and urgency. The same tools we've used to keep communities safe from flooding can be used to reduce the risks of coronavirus infection and debilitating poverty.

The love of congregations like yours made the first step possible. We've been able to reach the most flood-prone communities to ensure life-saving tools are in place for the next flood. Now, we need to ensure floods that will begin around June 1 won't steal away the small gardens and shops that promote livelihoods. And we must ensure COVID-19 won't become the next pressing danger.

**YOUR LOVE** provides access to the kinds of supplies all of us use to stave off coronavirus infection.

**YOUR LOVE** teaches families at risk how to farm in flood-resilient ways, providing flood-resistant seeds and methods of planting.

**YOUR LOVE** allows families to insure their crops and their property before the floods arrive, opening doors not otherwise possible in such a restrictive and exclusive culture.

**YOUR LOVE** makes critical repairs to roads, culverts and bridges that will keep flood waters from engulfing homes too used to disaster.

**YOUR LOVE** trains young adults to develop entrepreneurial skills to improve their incomes and quality of life.

## How far can your congregation reach?

- A gift of \$1,000 will help a neighborhood of **115 people**.
- A gift of \$5,000 will extend your congregation's love to **575 global neighbors**.
- A gift of \$10,000 will reach a village of **over 1,000 men, women and children**.
- A gift of \$25,000 will forever impact the lives of **2,875 people**.
- A gift of \$50,000 will transform the lives of a community of **5,750 neighbors**.

Your congregation's generosity will make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors along the border of India and Nepal.

Gifts are needed by **June 1, 2021** to ensure that your love will reach our neighbors in India and Nepal before the next flood season. Your urgent support will save crops, homes, livelihoods and lives.

**With your love, Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors at risk — and we'll keep going, until your love reaches every neighbor.**

To download videos and find additional resources, visit [lwr.org/partnership-india-nepal](http://lwr.org/partnership-india-nepal).

Please mail gifts to:  
Lutheran World Relief  
PO Box 17061

Baltimore, MD 21291-1061

Please mark "Partnership India-Nepal" in the memo.



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