



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
HOTLINE**

Church World Service Hotline for the week of August 13, 2007--available in Spanish (*línea de noticias*) and in [podcasts](#) in English and Spanish--at www.churchworldservice.org.

- Flooding in **India, Pakistan, and China**
- Indigenous initiatives in South America's **Gran Chaco**

Asia flooding--Through southern and central Asia, flooding in recent weeks has been the "worst in living memory," according to the United Nations. Across northern **India**, countless villages have been flooded, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Church World Service is supporting the efforts of long-time partner Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), as it provides initial relief assistance to 17,500 flood-affected families.

Assistance includes cooked food for families; a woolen blanket, dhoti (men's garment), and sari (women's garment); dry rations (rice, lentils, cooking oil, salt, chili powder, turmeric powder) and cooking utensils; tarpaulins for temporary shelter; water purification tablets and bleach. CASA also plans to help 5,000 families to repair or reconstruct their flood-damaged homes.

In **Pakistan**, Church World Service continues to assist more than 20,000 of the most vulnerable flood-affected households, providing food packages, plastic sheets, reconstruction materials, health services, hygiene kits and training, counseling and community services, and training for aid workers.

In parts of **China**, torrential rains, flash floods, landslides, and mudflows are affecting millions of people.

The Amity Foundation, a long-time Church World Service partner, is assisting vulnerable families in the municipality of Chongqing and in



India--A villager rows past submerged huts in Bhakatpur, in the northern state of Assam, July 29, 2007.

Photo: REUTERS/Utpal Baruah, courtesy www.alertnet.org

the provinces of Anhui and Jiangsu. Assistance includes a blanket, quilt, and mosquito net to each of 4,000 families, and 15 kilos (about 33 pounds) of rice per person for 4,000 people from 1,500 severely affected families.

In the next year, Amity will also help communities rebuild 500 houses, six school buildings, five clinics or hospitals, five drinking water systems, and six irrigation systems.

Monetary contributions are urgently needed to support these relief and recovery efforts.

Gran Chaco, South America--Martha Segundo, Griselda Aria, and other participants in a Wichi women's empowerment group in the Argentine Chaco are doing

handiwork together and developing new marketing channels for their wares.

Sponsor Foundation for Development in Justice and Peace, FUNDAPAZ, is one of five organizations partnering with Church World

Service in the region, which includes parts of Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

Indigenous communities are gaining access to land and developing livelihoods via training in sustainable agriculture, seed bank development, improved goat and hog raising, and heightened focus on education.

Disciples Week of Compassion, Presbyterian Hunger Program, United Methodist Committee on Relief, and individual CWS supporters help make this program possible.



South American Chaco--Martha Segundo (l) and Griselda Aria pair up to do handiwork. Photo: Paul Jeffrey for CWS

Thank you for your prayers and support for the life-sustaining work of Church World Service. Contributions may be sent through your church or directly to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515. Credit card contributions may be made by calling 1-800-297-1516 or at www.churchworldservice.org. To SUBSCRIBE or UNSUBSCRIBE to the e-mail version of the Church World Service Hotline, reply to this message, or write to carlson@churchworldservice.org.