

Dear Friends

There are currently terrible floods in Paraguay and the people there need our prayers. Thousands of people have been displaced and 100 families from St. Andrew's Annexe School have been forced out of their homes. Several lives have been lost around the country of Paraguay.

This was today's news;-

Report from Paraguay

There are some very distressing reports coming out of Paraguay about the flooding. It is now a critical situation for people living in the Chaco where it has rained for months now (extremely unusual). The flooding of the River Paraguay due to heavy rain in recent months has left some 25,000 displaced indigenous Paraguayans in critical situations due to lack of food, access to clean water or health care, according to the president of the National Indigenous Institute.

The Chaco is divided into three regions, The High Chaco in the North, the central Chaco where most of our Anglican communities are and the Low Chaco in the south, nearer to the capital, Asuncion.

"The Indigenous institute is not able to serve them all. In the Low Chaco alone we have 3,150 families forced off their land by the water," said anthropologist Jorge Servin, who directs the Institute to oversee the fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples in the country.

The people are already poverty-stricken, 76 percent live as hunters or work temporarily on cattle ranches for part of the year.

"This puts many in a critical situation," admitted the expert. They have no employment and no food.

Rising rivers by rain in recent months have displaced 240,125 people throughout Paraguay. In Asuncion 80,060 have lost their homes, according to the National Emergency Team.

"We are providing what help we can," said Servin, who explained that the Emergency Team has only one helicopter to serve the entire Chaco region, which occupies the western half of the country and is where most ethnic diversity is concentrated.

"The helicopter can carry very little help," he said.



Servin described as "a critical state" the District Pinazco Puerto, Presidente Hayes, where at least four communities of local Indians are demanding aid because they are totally isolated and flooded.

Leaders of these communities and many others have continued to arrive in Asuncion for months, since they first began to feel the effect of the rising river in the Chaco where many have been displaced.



Indigenous representatives and some relatives are staying in local NGO or camping in parks and on the pavements of the City every day to protest at the gates of the various institutions that they are awaiting assistance.



"In our community at La Patria a man was bitten by a snake. Somebody had to go many miles to a winery on the River Paraguay where they were able to call for a helicopter. The man was flown to hospital in Asuncion but he died. He was 30 years old and he leaves orphans. The only way to get my community to safety is on a boat that comes once a week," said Efe Cristino Aguirre, from the La Patria community of people,

There is now a very real danger of poisoning as chemical depositories along the river Paraguay are becoming flooded and the chemicals could contaminate the area and the river.

Please pray that God will provide everything that is needed for these people and that the weather will let up so that they can return to their homes. Pray also for the people to review where and how they are living because with Global climate change this could all happen again.

Thank you.

Linn Tedman