

# Response to Queensland Floods of 2011 by Jamat Ahmadiyya Brisbane

Queensland was hit with one of the biggest disasters in its history when 75% of the state was affected by floods. The heavy rains that started around the last week of December continued well in the first fortnight of January causing widespread floods and heavy loss of life and property.

When the event was unfolding in and around Brisbane on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, jamat had realised that it was time for prayers; to look after each other and stand by with the fellow Australians in need. Thus Brisbane Jamat responded to the Queensland floods through following actions:


## Important Communication and Prayers

Action	Work carried
<b>Request for prayers to Hazoor ABA</b>	After the realisation of the scale of threat, a fax to request prayers to Hazoor aba was sent. Actioned by: Abdus Salam Aslam, President Jamat Brisbane
<b>Communication of key information and call for prayers to Jamat Members</b>	A general communication to all members of jamat was sent regarding update on the threat level and key sources of information via email. This information also included a call for prayers and tahajud prayers.  Actioned by : Abdus Salam Aslam, Sadr Jamat and Dr Azhar M Nasir, Vice President Jamat Brisbane

## Humanitarian Work

Action	Work carried
<b>Call to volunteer for cleanup through Government initiatives</b>	Once it was established that all jamat members were safe, a general call to jamat members were made to volunteer through existing Government platforms ie. Volunteering Queensland.  A large number of jamat members registered as volunteers through government initiatives. They are standby and continue to receive important information through the Government bodies
<b>Volunteered services to existing humanitarian Organisations</b>	Brisbane jamat has a strong relationship with Red Cross and other humanitarian organisations. Volunteer services were offered to Red Cross and Salvation Army to assist at the evacuation centres or for any other emergency relief or aid work.



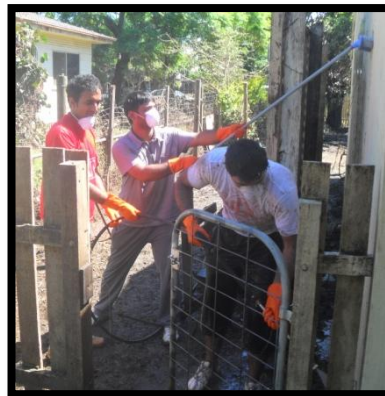
<p><b>Volunteered services to affected households for Cleanup</b></p>	<p>A number of khuddam offered cleanup services to the residents of Fairfield and Archerfield, the two worst affected Brisbane Suburbs from Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> January onwards. Khuddam took their cleaning gear and went door to door offering wherever help was needed. About 150 man-hours of cleaning up, drinks and some refreshments items were provided to the residents and other volunteers.</p> 
<p><b>Offered support to local Governments and Councils</b></p>	<p><b>Support to Brisbane City Council:</b>  Jammat offered volunteer services for the cleanup in flood ravaged areas in and around Brisbane, and offered items of essential use for the flood affected families to Brisbane City Council. Councillor Angela Owen-Taylor visited Bait-ul-Masroor to thank the community on behalf of the Lord Mayor Campbell Newman for generous offer of assistance. She also informed jamat of the evolving needs in the flood affected area.</p> <p>Cr Angela highlighted the requirements of items of essential use for the affected people and evacuees. Lajna Imaillah took over the task to collect donations from jamat households to be delivered to the areas of need through Brisbane City Council.</p> <p><b>Support to Logan City Council:</b>  Jammat offered all support to the council for the disaster relief effort. The offered services included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use of Baitul Masroor as evacuation centre for the local community in the current disaster or for any other needs of the community in emergency situations in the future</li> <li>- Ahmadi Doctors in Brisbane offered medical services for the disaster hit areas or wherever the local Government felt suitable.</li> <li>- Volunteer services of ahmadi personnel; including engineers and IT professionals to support any cleanup and recovery programs.</li> </ul> <p>The offer was very well received and much appreciated by the Mayor Pam Parker. She personally called jamat representative to thank for the generous offer of support and mentioned that jamat Ahmadiyya was the one of only two communities in larger Logan shire that offered this level of support – Alhamdulillah.</p>



	<p>Cr Phil Pidgeon brought Mayors note of thanks to Jamat on the Australia Day. Cr Phil addressed the community in which he appreciated the services of jamat on behalf of the local community and Government.</p> <p><b>Support to Ipswich City Council:</b> Similar services were offered to Ipswich City Council, who thanked jamat for their generosity and support – Alhamdulillah</p> 
<p><b>Organised clean up in flood affected areas</b></p>	<p>By the Grace of Almighty Allah, Brisbane Jamat held mass cleanups in the flood affected areas on all weekends so far. Goodna, a suburb of Ipswich, was one of the worst affected areas. Jamat has held two mass cleanups in the area to assist households in recovery.</p> <p>On average 35 jamat members; young and old, got together at the Richardson Park at 7am and cleaned several houses till noon. A total of about 300 man-hours of clean up has been carried out so far and about 15 houses were provided service in this ongoing effort. Residents were much thankful to the volunteers and jamat for their help and kindness.</p> <p>It is expected that more work will be carried out to clean up the public properties such as parks, gardens and libraries in the near future. Cleanup work is expected to continue for some time in the near future.</p> 
<p><b>Call to collect items of essential use for flood affected areas</b></p>	<p>Lajna Imaillah Brisbane gathered items of essential use for the flood victims and 25 big cartons of goods were delivered to Cr Angela’s office for distribution.</p> <p>Several more packets of essential items are gathered again to be handed over to the Council for distribution in disaster hit areas.</p>
<p><b>Call to donate funds through the system of Jamat</b></p>	<p>Jamat is also collecting monetary donations from jamat members. It is expected that a good amount will be raised – inshallah.</p>



## Flood recovery by jamat Brisbane - through the lense of a Camera:



### Report by:

Ehsan Alvi  
Secretary External Affairs & Incharge Flood Relief  
Jamat Ahmadiyya Brisbane  
Dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011

