



Camillian Task Force [CTF]

WITNESSING THE MERCIFUL LOVE OF CHRIST FOR THE POOR AND THE SICK IN DISASTER

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The Mission

To witness to the merciful love of Christ for the poor and the sick, especially when affected by disasters whether man-made and/or natural.

What is CTF?

The Camillian Task Force (CTF) is one of the various initiatives of the Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians), a religious institute of the Catholic Church. CTF was launched in 2001 and since then, CTF has become a significant part of the mission of the Camillians to promote health and well-being of the people. The central office of CTF is in Rome, at the Generalate of Camillians.

The CTF is a joint venture beyond Camillians where all like-minded people collaborate in witnessing the merciful love of Christ, united by their faith in Jesus Christ and motivated by the Camillian Charism.

CTF responds as a team to every type of disasters throughout the world, both locally and worldwide but with a special preference to those disasters that affect Countries where Camillians are already present. Since 2004, CTF has responded to nine disasters and provided financial, psycho-social and rehabilitation support to the poor victims.

CTF consists of many kinds of health care professionals and support personnel who offer their competence so as to lessen the consequences of devastating natural and man-made disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, plagues, drought and the consequences of armed conflict.



Aims and Priorities

The Ministers of the Infirm (Camillians) carry out a well-established array of activities in the area of healthcare: prevention, curative treatment, pastoral care, rehabilitation and education. However, given the signs of the times the members of the Order felt the need for a stronger presence in the area of disaster relief. Thus CTF was formed and made operational in 2004 and continues to fulfill this goal.

The impact of disasters on people is extensive. They often have significant pastoral, medical and humanitarian needs. The members of CTF offer support to lessen the trauma of sudden loss, injury and disaster-related suffering.

Therefore, the aim of the CTF is to provide integral care in the aftermath of disasters such as drought, famine, mass displacement, floods and so on, when the life, health and livelihood of people is at risk unless immediate action is taken.

Camillians are well-equipped to provide pastoral care after disasters, particularly trauma counseling, an area often overlooked by other organizations: the Order specializes in the area of pastoral care; trained lay personnel and volunteers are available for counseling; there are many Camillian pastoral centers that entitle the Order to shape its role in the area of [counseling for the traumatized](#), filling a gap in the many services provided after a disaster. The Order now has the opportunity to utilize the CTF to facilitate and even offer training in the areas of trauma counseling and disaster relief.





How does CTF operate?

CTF is comprised of both field personnel who respond to disasters and office support staff. At present only a few are full-time and paid. Thus CTF relies largely on individuals who either volunteer at the time of a disaster or are hired at the site of the calamity. CTF usually works in collaboration with the diocese affected by the disaster and a religious community or parish. It does so in order to secure a base of disaster operations, find a place to stay, establish community, worship, find volunteers, and carry out CTF activities.

Potential volunteers: Camillian and other religious, lay men and women, healthcare professionals in Camillian Facilities, members of the Lay Camillian Family, other men and women from the Church and like-minded organizations.

In order to ensure a steady supply of volunteers, it will be necessary for the CTF to develop and maintain an up-to-date database of volunteers. This should contain contact information, availability, skills, location, and curriculum vitae of the potential volunteer. Those who do volunteer will need to indicate and ensure their availability.

The volunteers will not be paid for their services. Their service is totally free. Contracts will be made with Camillian Facilities so as to guarantee that the volunteers' position is maintained while on mission.

CTF will provide its volunteers for expenses related to travel, food, accommodation and the mission.

CTF may enter into formal agreements with like-minded organizations, so as to collaborate with them in case of relief work. CTF provides its expertise in specific areas, hence enriching the team response to a disaster.



Places of intervention

CTF renders disaster response services worldwide and emphasizes collaborating with Camillians and their structures. The intention is to stimulate greater interest in this new ministry among the members of the Order.

CTF will give priority to responding to disasters using its own human resources. However, if CTF is able to help financially, it may also support financially the disaster-response activities of Camillian Provinces.

Action plan (brainstorm)

- To train trainees and potential volunteers in Disaster management disaster management
- To discuss with the Administrators of our facilities terms and conditions to release staff members from their duties as to join CTF
- To promote training in emergency counseling
- To establish training programs for Humanization and Pastoral Care
- To raise needed fund
- To contact locally like-minded Organizations so as to:
 - Collaborate with them in case of relief work
 - Set training programs in common
- To set training programs and summer camps for Camillian students.
- To include exposure to relief in Camillian formation program.



Welcome ...Join CTF !

Any man or woman who believes in the mission of CTF and wants to serve those affected by disasters is welcome to join the CTF!

Lack of specialization in the area of health care is not an obstacle for any genuinely committed individual who wants to work hard and be a part of the team.

People willing to help others in distress in whatever way are welcome to join the CTF!

CTF is committed to collaborate with like-minded organizations and the local church, i.e., the diocese, and offers its services to those in need regardless of their faith.







Camillian Task Force (CTF)

National Office

Snehadaan Campus, Ambedkar Nagar, Sarjapura Road
Carmelaram Post, Bengaluru - 560 035, Karnataka, India

Tel: +91 94480 84061, 94418 35751

Email: indiactf@gmail.com

www.camilliansindia.org, www.snehacare.org

Regional Office

SNEHATHEERAM

St. Camillus Care Home, West Kadungalloor Post, Aluva
Ernakulam, Kerala - 683110

Tel: + 91 - 484 - 2607777, + 91 - 8289987197

JYOTI DARSAN

St. Camillus Seminary, Chicholi Village, Fetri Post
Nagpur - 441501 Maharashtra.

Tel: + 91 98812 13568