

Alert

Malawi

Floods & heavy rains in Mulanje, Nsanje, Chikwawa & Karonga Districts

Geneva, 13 January 2015

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Flooding and heavy rains have affected 17 districts in the country. Four out of these districts have been heavily affected and include: Mulanje, Nsanje, Chikwawa and Karonga. ACT Forum in Malawi plans to respond in these four heavily affected districts.

Crops, food items, household assets, livestock, road networks, houses, boreholes and toilets have been heavily damaged in the above districts. The worst affected are at evacuation centres based in primary schools without security, sanitary facilities, kitchen utensils, clean water and food. No deaths have been reported from the affected districts. According to the Meteorological Department of Malawi the rains will continue for some time, raising fears of more flooding. 1,200 ha of crop area are affected in the Chikwawa district, and assessment for the other districts is in progress. Below is a summary of the number of people who have been affected:

District	Target areas affected	Number of people affected
Mulanje	Mabuka, Njema	1400
Nsanje	Mlolo	684
Chikwawa	Katunga, Ngabu, Chapananga, Maseya, Mlima and Lundu	1,600
Karonga	Kilupula, Mwirang'ombe, Wasambo & Kyungu	2,300

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

There is great need for emergency response comprising the following items: food, utensils, chlorine, tents, plastic sheets and mosquito nets to the above areas as soon as possible to save lives since heavy rains are expected to continue during this period. Flooding will have a negative impact on the communities as it will cause the increase of breeding sites for mosquitoes, which affect the vulnerable groups such as pregnant women, children under five, people with disabilities and the chronically ill.

3. National and international response

The Malawi Government has responded to some of the people and it has already spent about K400 million (over \$800,000). This is not enough to cover all the affected people. The international community has not yet come to assist the affected people.

4. ACT Alliance response

The affected areas are current areas of operation for ACT members. ACT members Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) and Evangelical Lutheran Development Services (ELDS) are requesting an ACT Rapid Response Fund. CARD will respond in Mulanje and Nsanje while ELDS will respond in Karonga and Chikwawa.

5. Planned activities

The following activities need to be undertaken: Assessment and registration of affected communities, verification exercise for beneficiaries, provision of food items such as maize (flour), beans and cooking oil, provision of chlorine, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils, tents and plastic sheets.

6. Constraints

Physical access to affected communities is limited due to the road network being damaged by the heavy rains, and current unavailability of boats/canoes to rescue the affected people in the area.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Alexandra Segura (Alexandra.Segura@actalliance.org) or

ACT Head of Programmes, Sarah Kambarami, (Sarah.Kambarami@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>