

# Alert

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## Mexico

# Hurricane Patricia

San Salvador, 24 October 2015

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Hurricane Patricia had reached 320 kms per hour as maximum sustained wind speed converted in the most powerful hurricane ever recorded when it reached the Pacific Mexican coasts on Friday evening, downgrading gradually to tropical storm when heading to northwest Mexican territory.

At this point, there is no specific information, but the Government reported damages in housing, falling trees, poles and stones, landslides, crops destruction and increased flow of rivers and dams levels.

The rains dragged mud and ashes to communities near the Colima volcano, where around 15,000 people had been evacuated. In Jalisco, Atenguillo River overflowed, affecting a community of about 4,000 people.

According to the forecasts there will be heavy rains in northeast and western Mexico, as well as wind gusts and high waves in the states of Central and Northeast Pacific (NWC). It is expected to continue registering mudslides, landslides, overflowing rivers and streams, damages in roads and highways, as well as flooding in low areas with saturation of drains in urban sites.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

Patricia is the strongest hurricane ever recorded. Even when the downgrading took only 16 hours, there was still a high level of threat due to the heavy rains and the number of communities reached by the winds and rains. Urgent mobilization of humanitarian organizations will be needed in order to protect the lives of people who will be affected by the economic losses, the inability to access water, sanitation and hygiene, and the potential shortage of food. The coordination and response of ACT Alliance is vital given the magnitude of the event and will require a high level of coordination to reach the most affected people, especially given the fact that there are no ACT members in Mexico.

### 3. National and international response

The Government, through the army and governors, and the National Red Cross, is providing shelters and food to help the local population. 1,780 shelters have been set up for more than 240,000 people.

#### 4. ACT Alliance response

Since Friday, ACT members in Central America have worked on the emergency plan and have constantly monitored the situation, being in contact with partner organizations on the ground. Local ACT Secretariat has organized a skype conference attended by Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran World Federation / Department for World Service.

An emergency portal has been created to permanently collect and update information, with public access, at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hzJ7A8QrE10crJLLQhsw38HwS3zzD0KdeH3VsMN0o4/edit#gid=0>

#### 5. Planned activities

ACT members in Central America are permanently monitoring the situation and are making plans to send a rapid response team to visit the area. A detailed analysis of the humanitarian situation will be done in coordination with the Mexican Government and organizations on the ground, based on the needs assessment, geographic prioritization, and the potential proposal made by partner organizations for a humanitarian intervention.

#### 6. Constraints

In Mexico there is no ACT forum. The closest area is Central America where the fastest transport is by plane. Access to the affected region may be difficult depending on the status of airports and the land routes from other airports authorized to operate.

Communication will be difficult, especially in the early stages of the response.

The expected magnitude of the natural event will bring many solidarity organizations aiming to provide help in the field. That can jeopardize the coordination, and organizations may be challenged to deliver quality work.

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

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