

Alert

India

Floods in North-Eastern State of Assam

Geneva, 25 July 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Heavy torrential rains during the last few days have caused floods in North-Eastern states of India. The flood situation continues to remain grim in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. As of the 24th of July, so far 7 people have died and over 600,000 people have been affected in Assam, while over 100 households in Arunachal Pradesh were rendered homeless. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) reported that over 50,000 people in 130 villages have been affected. About 1,206 villages in 14 districts have been affected by the deluge, with Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar, Laxmipurt, Goalpara and Tinsukia being the worst affected districts. So far, nearly 46,680 hectares of crop area have been inundated by flood water¹.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

Currently many affected people are living in relief camps and are dependent on government assistance for survival. They are in dire need of relief assistance such as food, shelter and clean water. The government has initiated some relief programs but remains inadequate to meet the required needs. The flooding is likely to worsen in coming days as the water level in major rivers is continually rising above the danger level.

3. National and international response

District authorities have opened 27 relief camps and 7 relief distribution centers in Bongaigaon Golaghat, Jorhat and Sivasagar, providing shelter to 12,428 people. The Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have been deployed for search and rescue operations in flood affected areas of Charaideo district. As of date, the Army has been pressed into service in Chirang district for rescue works. They have sent four teams in the Khungring area of Chirang, rescuing 30 people who were trapped in their marooned village. The Government of Assam has distributed some relief materials to the flood affected people in Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Charaideo. No international responses have taken up yet in Assam.

¹ Source: Indian Express

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4. ACT Alliance response

The following ACT Alliance India Forum Members, along with their partners, have their presences in the affected area and are now assessing the flood situation very closely: Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI).

5. Planned activities

LWSIT and CASA plan to respond to the flood situation in Assam through an ACT Rapid Response Fund (RRF). UELCI will not directly respond to the disaster, rather they have entrusted LWSIT to work on their behalf involving member churches on the ground. As of now, the emerging primary needs are food, non-food items and temporary shelter materials.

6. Constraints

Roads have been cut-off by the rising water at several places. As a result, transportation of relief materials to the flood affected villages would be the primary challenge for relief distribution. The problem may be further exacerbated if more rains and increase of flood water in the major rivers swollen. This may cause breaches of weak river embankments, which is very much associated with probability of national highways and state highways being cut-off in the state of Assam.

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