

Rapid Response Fund Payment Request No.3/2016

Funds Sent To: Lutheran Development Service

Amount Sent: US\$ 51,050.48

Date: 1 July, 2016

Details of Response

Emergency: Army Worm Invasion in Liberia

Date of Emergency: 19 June, 2016

ACT Requesting Member(s): Lutheran Development Services-Liberia

I. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY

On June 19, 2016 thousands of very dangerous and destructive Army Worms invaded towns and villages in the District of Zota in Bong County causing destruction of crops, contamination of drinking water and fleeing of residents. According to information gathered, 12 towns have been affected. In these towns and villages, people are unable to carry out their farming activities due to overwhelming presence of these worms; more specifically, people who have contact with the worms develop abscesses (skin sores). If nothing is done to contain these worms, it can be expected that food insecurity, malnutrition and skin related complications will occur as affected town and communities will not be able to carry out their farming activities and incidences of skin sores will increase.

The assessment team comprised of County Health Office, World Health Organization, Ministry of Agriculture and partners visited five (5) towns/communities of Kollieta (Zota Clan), Nyansue, Shankpallai, Larwai and Kolonta, and saw Army Worms in mass on the leaves of several plants and destruction on crops belonging to farmers and on trees along the rivers/creeks thus contaminating the drinking water. Reports from farmers and local authorities of the communities not reached by the assessment team, that include Managai, Bellelai, Killingai, Taota, Gbellai, Shiaka-ta and Bepahyea were also affected. In total, 4,323 and eleven (11) out of 16 communities are affected by Army Worms invasion.

This is the second time Army Worms are invading this area, the first occurrence in 2009 affected the entire District. Lutheran Development Service in Liberia together with other national and international organizations collaborated with Government to combat these dangerous worms. With generous support from Diakonie and EED, Lutheran Development Service was able to provide new and repair old hand pumps.

ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS

The Liberian Government through the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, in collaboration with other national and international organizations has carried out assessments and held meetings to see how to effectively intervene in this unfortunate situation as to best support the local communities. The ACT Liberia forum made of Lutheran Development Service in Liberia and Lutheran Church in Liberia visited one of the towns called Shankpallai to assess the situation. The worms were seen actively destroying surrounding vegetation.

The Emergency needs from the assessment team, s recommendations reports include the following:

- Low-impact insecticide spraying in the affected communities
- Need for safe drinking water
- Need for food distribution.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE**OVERALL GOAL:**

The overall goal is to provide emergency/relief support to affected communities and Districts to prevent further spread of the Army Worms.

OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

1. To collaborate with other ACT Alliance members and Government of Liberia through the health teams to combat the Army Worm invasion.
2. To distribute food items and other emergency relief supplies to the affected Districts.
3. To support in provision of drinking water through construction of hand pumps and repairs those who are no longer functioning properly.
4. To provide insecticides to the affected families/households to curb further spreading of the Army Worms

PROPOSED ASSISTANCE:

1. Participation in coordination meetings organized by Government line ministries and other stakeholders with a view of developing a response plan and subsequent implementation.
2. Distribution of food and other relief supplies to the affected communities.
3. Construction of new and repairing of the hand pumps for drinking water supplies through selection of qualified contractors in line with Ministry of Public Works policies and regulations.
4. Provision and spraying of low-impact insecticides to the affected communities.

TARGET POPULATIONS:

The emergency response will target the most affected people in the selected District of Zota in Bong County and will focus on women, men, boys and girls (youths), children, the aged and persons living with disabilities. The target population is 4,323 and eleven (11) out of the 16 affected communities.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

The Lutheran Development Service and Lutheran Church in Liberia will coordinate the implementation and liaison of the Rapid Response Fund through Emergency Focal Person and five (5) volunteers drawn from the targeted communities.

The County Health Officer of Bong County and the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and that of Public Works will work together to ensure various components of the emergency support are implemented. The affected communities will be key to ensuring appropriate interventions and measures are implemented.

COORDINATION:

ACT Liberia forum through the Lutheran Development Service and Lutheran Church Liberia will work hand in hand with the County authorities in Bong and Zota District, Government of Liberia line ministries in the implementation and coordination of activities as envisaged in the Rapid Respond Fund mechanism. Information shall be continuously shared with both local and international agencies including the ACT regional Office.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ACT Liberia forum will ensure visibility of ACT Alliance through display of ACT materials such as logos, signs, etc. in places where the activities will be implemented. Activities of the RRF will be communicated through the local and international media to the communities and other stakeholders. Situational reports will be timely sent to Regional Offices for review and progress of the implementation.

PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS:

The forum will strive to adhere to all policies, codes and standards guiding humanitarian action such as Core Humanitarian Standards, Red Cross Movement Code of Conduct, Sphere Standards and other sector specific (health, agriculture) policies during the implementation of the project. Staff involved in the implementation will be duly informed on these policies and standards.

PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

The project will be implemented from July – September 2016. The first month will be for mobilization of resources, coordination meetings/engagements of stakeholders on areas of interventions. The second month will focus on implementation of activities such as distribution of insecticide, construction and repair of hand pumps and distribution of food items. The last month will be on finalization of activities, reporting and preparations for closure of the RRF.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS:

The forum will operate a very transparent method presenting financial information in a way that is accessible and easy to understand. All the funds will be managed by Lutheran Development Service in Liberia. A credible team will audit the entire process to ensure that the money is used judiciously to benefit the affected communities. The Executive Director, Emergency Focal Person, Programme Officer, Finance Officer together with volunteers from the communities will be instrumental in the implementation, accountability of funds and reporting of the activities together with Government's representatives as well as other stakeholders.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

The forum will establish monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of the project implementation. Activities under this will include:

- Collection of baseline data on the affected households
- Delineation of roles and responsibilities with forum members and volunteers
- Design of participatory monitoring and reporting systems
- Monthly progress reporting
- Preparation of final report
- Impact assessment of the project
- Evaluation of project outcomes

REPORTING SCHEDULE (to be completed by ACT SECRETARIAT)

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	At the end of the first month following the emergency
Final narrative and financial report	30 September 2016
Audit report	31 October 2016

II. FINANCIAL SUMMARY/BUDGET

	Type of Unit	No. of Units	Unit Cost USD	RRF Budget USD	Appeal Budget USD
DIRECT COST (LIST EXPENDITURE BY SECTION)					
Planning, provision and spraying of insecticides					
Meetings with community members and County Health Team	Days	2	500	1'000.00	
Provision of insecticides (assorted chemicals)	Community	5	700	3'500.00	
Spraying of insecticides on Farmers crops	Bulk	1	1500	1'500.00	
Total Direct cost				6'000.00	
Provision and distribution of food items					
Needs assessments/Identification of beneficiaries for food distribution (5 communities)	Bulk	1	100	100.00	
Provision and distribution of food items (50 household per community)	household	250	25	6'250.00	
Incentives to volunteers for food items distribution (2 persons per community)	volunteers	50	10	500.00	
Food distribution Orientation Meetings for 50 (5 persons per community) for 1 day	Bulk	1	100	100.00	
Rapid Support Team for project implementation in 5 communities	staff	3	900	2'700.00	
Visibility Costs (printing of information, flyers, sign posts, etc)	Bulk	1	800	800.00	
Communication and phone cards for field staff	Bulk	1	600	600.00	
Total other sector related direct costs				11'050.00	
Construction and rehabilitation of hand pump wells in 5 communities					
Construction of 5 hand pump wells in 5 communities including labor	community	5	4500	22'500.00	
Rehabilitation of 5 hand pump wells in communities including labor	community	5	400	2'000.00	
				24'500.00	
Transportation					
Vehicle Rental (1 vehicle - Bong and Nimba Counties)	Monthly	3	674.5	2'023.50	
Fuel	Monthly	3	434	1'302.00	
Total Transport				3'325.50	
INDIRECT COSTS : PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT					
Coordination costs	Bulk	1	3000	3'000.00	
Accountant	Monthly	3	150	450.00	
Office Stationery	Monthly	3	49	147.00	
Communications (phone cards, emails, etc, etc.)	Monthly	3	49	147.00	
Total Indirect Costs				3'744.00	
Total Expenditure				48'619.50	
Contingency (5% of Total budget)				2'430.98	
Grand Total				51'050.48	

ACTION

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$ 51,050.48 towards the budget from its Rapid Response Fund and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment. Should there be an appeal for this emergency, the RRF payment will be considered as an advance.

For further information please contact:

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