

**Sierra Leone**

Nairobi, 16 August 2017

SITUATION

On the evening of the 14th August, mudslides triggered by three days of heavy rains poured in and around the capital of Sierra Leone, Freetown. The most severe mudslides occurred in the coastal suburb of Racecourse on the city's eastern edge, as well as in Regent and Lumley where thousands of makeshift settlements are home to the city's poorest communities. Torrential rains have led to a series of significant floods and mudslides in several areas of Freetown. Emergency support is being provided for the two types of responses: floods and mudslides.

According to Freetown Mayor, rescue workers have recovered 270 bodies so far mainly from the Regent neighbourhood where the mudslides happened. As rescue operations are still ongoing, the death toll is expected to rise. An estimated 3,000 or more people are believed to have lost their homes and are in immediate need of emergency assistance and shelter according to Sierra Leone's Office of National Security (ONS).

Communication lines and electricity have been disrupted in some parts of the capital, and extensive damage to roads, infrastructure and houses. In addition, rescue teams lack the right equipment and are facing difficult conditions with large amounts of mud and debris(UNOCHA, 15 August 2017)

NEEDS

The Government is currently evaluating the needs of the Internally Displaced Persons, but is currently requesting affected people to evacuate and stay with relative.

Two emergency relief centres have been set up and the immediate life-saving needs include:

1. Emergency food rations
2. Non Food Items
3. Emergency Shelter
4. Health services

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international ACT members are conducting rapid assessments and doing their best to respond to the crisis;

1. Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL)
2. Christian Aid (CAID)
3. Finn Church Aid and (FCA)

Other stakeholders:

1. Christian Extension Services (CES)
2. The Government of Sierra Leone
3. Other humanitarian organisations

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance members are currently present and engaging in conducting needs assessment and attending disaster coordination meetings.

Through assessments and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT members will have identified the gaps in several sectors and through funding they will have the capacity to properly respond to the identified gaps.

ACT members are planning on submitting a funding proposal for the crisis through the Rapid Response Fund to meet the immediate life-saving interventions and with further assessments, develop a Concept Note for much long term initiatives to restore livelihoods and opportunities of the affected persons.

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

For further information please contact:

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