

**ALERT****FLOODS****actalliance****India**Bangkok, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017**SITUATION**

Since Monday ,14 August 2017, 14 districts of Bihar state in India, were experiencing heavy rainfall. The unprecedented rainfall and consequent floods in Nepal and Himalayan catchment areas during the last three days exacerbated a bad situation and resulted in severe flooding in the 14 districts of Bihar. Rivers such as the Mahananda, Gandak and Kankai are in spate. 98 people have lost their lives so far because of the floods and an estimated 6.5 million people are affected in the Bihar. The floods have severely hampered communication. More than 248,000 people have been evacuated to safer places by the rescue teams. The state government has set up 343 relief camps in which 93,149 people are living. An additional 10 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) battalions each comprising 40-45 personnel have been deployed in flood-hit districts of Kishanganj, Purnia and Araria to strengthen the existing 9 NDRF battalions. A team each of the NDRF has already been deployed in East and West Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Supaul and Purnia districts, while two teams have been positioned at Kishanganj.

**NEEDS**

The floods have put the 14 districts in a state of crisis. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items, basic health services and facilities, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and livelihood activities.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis: The National government through the Ministry of Home Affairs, NDRF, international and national NGOs. The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Bihar State Disaster Management Authority. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Food Security, Shelter & Settlements, WASH, Livelihood Restoration, Psycho-social/ Protection) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the floods, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities. ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities. Emergency teams are ready to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT India forum has identified a gap in Food Security, Non-Food, Shelter, WASH and Livelihood and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT India forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide Food, Non-Food Items, Shelter, WASH and Livelihood to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to access to food, non-food items, safe shelter, access to safe drinking water, hygiene and proper sanitation, alternative livelihood with cash transfer. ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing basic food, temporary shelter, non-food items, hygiene/dignity kits, water storage container, water purifiers, agricultural seeds and allied services, cash transfers to 4,000 affected households in the coming months. Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified.

**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)) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa ([Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org](mailto:Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org)).**

For further information please contact:

Forum Coordinator, Rev. K. Y. Jacob (CARD) ([card.dir@marthoma.in](mailto:card.dir@marthoma.in))

ACT Regional Programme Officer, James Phichet Munpa ([James.Munpa@actalliance.org](mailto:James.Munpa@actalliance.org))

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