

ALERT**TROPICAL STORM****actalliance**

Central America

San Salvador, 7 October 2017

SITUATION

Tropical storm "Nate" formed on Thursday the 5th of October in the Caribbean off the coast of Nicaragua. The storm caused heavy rains and landslides throughout several countries in Central America. As of October 6th, the number of casualties rose to 28 and with 14 people reportedly missing. National Civil Protection systems were triggered and are responding with local coordination mechanisms. Tropical storm Nate will continue its trajectory towards the north-eastern coast of the Yucatan peninsula on the evening of October 6th as it makes its way to the US Gulf Coast, where it is projected to make landfall as a hurricane. According to data provided by the National Civil Protection Systems, the damage reported is as follow:

1. **Nicaragua:** 11 deaths; Government has provided food supplies for more than 1,600 affected households; 11 departments/31 municipalities affected; More than 30,000 people affected. 5,953 damaged houses.
2. **Guatemala:** 5 deaths, 3 missing; 2,749 people affected; 413 people rendered homeless.
3. **Costa Rica:** 8 deaths, 11 missing; 3,921 people evacuated to 94 shelters; 419,868 people without water.
4. **Honduras:** 3 deaths; 16 provinces on yellow alert; 143 affected people.
5. **Panama:** 1 death; 150 affected homes; 750 people affected.

In Costa Rica, landslides caused significant damage to roads and villages, cutting off some areas. A highway that connects the south of the country was washed away in Casa Mata. At least 5,000 residents fled to emergency shelters there, according to The Associated Press. Latest available information from external sources may be accessed through the following link: <http://www.gdacs.org/>

NEEDS

Water and sanitation have been identified as priority needs, along with water supply (ensuring quality water for human consumption). Furthermore, vector control measures were identified as key concerns in recovery to combat vector-borne diseases. There is concern that the contamination of clean water supplies in affected countries will present major health issues. The tropical storm has put the region of Central America in a state of crisis. The storm affected communities find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to: sufficient food, health services, safe shelters and basic non-food items, safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure, livelihood & early recovery activities and psycho social support.

STAKEHOLDERS

The key stakeholders leading assessments, rapid responses and monitoring the situation in the region are the following: Civil Protection Systems and the Red Cross movement; however, as the storm winds and torrential rains persist, conducting ongoing damage assessments becomes increasingly difficult. Reports on damages are still being completed. The Costa Rican government declared a state of emergency, and President Luis Guillermo Solís appealed to the international community for support.

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance members works in Central America, in Costa Rica and Nicaragua the national forums are working in evaluation of damages and necessities and are in contact with the authorities and other NGOs in preparation to respond. Given the level of damages so far, the Costa Rica Forum through its local member ILCO (Lutheran Church in Costa Rica) is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide Food, non-Food Items, WASH, Psychosocial Support, livelihood, the Nicaragua Forum is assessing the situation in order to decide if they are going to respond. ACT Alliance will endeavour integrate DRR, preparedness, climate change and advocacy elements in its response. Following the issuance Alert, RRF, Concept Notes and Situation Reports will be issued by national forums and the ACT Secretariat based on needs assessments.

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)

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