

ALERT

Heavy Hailstorms

**actalliance****Armenia**

Amman, 7 November 2018

SITUATION

On the morning of Monday 10 September 2018, the district of Dsegh (Lori) and Arapi, Voskehask and Harij (Shirak) in mountainous regions in Armenia, sudden heavy rainfalls and hailstorms swept away 130ha of crop in Dsegh, 185,8 ha - Arapi, 28,2ha- Voskehask, and 64,29ha - Harij villages. The dwellers lost 70 – 80% of their crop. Local authorities have declared these regions in state of emergency due to the damages caused by the natural hazard and asked national and international organizations for support to the affected population. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development asked the Armenia Round Table Foundation for humanitarian assistance to help the affected communities. According to the official information from the Ministry the damage consists of 300 affected communities in 9 regions out of 10. More than 7000 ha of wheat, barley and grain, fruit, vegetables/orchards, and vineyards were damaged of which the damage in agriculture is valued at 8,7 billion AMD that is about 18,125,000 USD. Besides in 135 communities houses and structures are damaged. The hailstones and storm were so heavy that they broke the roofs and windows, the water down poured inside the houses.

NEEDS

The hail-storms have put the county in a state of crisis. The flood affected-population find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs **especially shortage and access to sufficient food.**

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities, more specifically for the elderly. The impact is more severe for affected people with special needs, including people with mental and physical disabilities. The socially vulnerable families require additional support to access assistance for spring harvest utilities; especially because heavy rains are still continuous and the upcoming winter could be severe in mountainous regions. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis: **1) National government** has requested damage assessment from all regions and villages; and is still in assistance planning process. **2) Armenian Red Cross Society** is planning to provide cash assistance to 3 communities in Shirak region.

The ACT Alliance emergency response is currently being coordinated by ACT Armenia Forum. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Currently ACT Forum communicated online with the stakeholders in the field - Disaster Management Country Team members and included the information above) 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

The ACT Alliance Armenian Forum is planning to provide humanitarian relief through funding from the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to the affected remote areas where assistance has not reached so far and is in need. ACT Alliance has been working in Armenia since 2011, now is planning to help people affected by the heavy hailstorms. ACT Alliance has already made rapid assessments in the areas which have experienced the most devastating consequences to better understand the impact, needs and vulnerabilities.

The ACT forum is planning on submitting an RRF funding proposal to provide assistance in four selected communities identified in the letter from the Ministry of which needs have also been confirmed by the Armenia Forum assessments. Assistance will be given to affected communities

comprising of **basic food items** such as flour, vegetable oil, sugar, meat cans to ensure that the hailstorm affected persons' basic needs are met. The RRF will be implemented during the months of November and December.

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

For further information please contact:

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