Madagascar

Nairobi, 20 March 2020

SITUATION

In the afternoon of Saturday the 14 March 2020, the region of Sambava situated in the North East of Madagascar, was affected by Cyclone Herold. The tropical depression had been developing since March 12th and formed on 14th into a cyclone, with wind speeds of up to 180 km/h, coupled with heavy rains and high waves on the Madagascar Coast. Consequently, the regions of Sava, Analanjirofo and Atsinanana was affected most because of their position along the Cyclone path. Heavy rains in the Sava region resulted in severe and devastating flooding, affecting the districts of Antalaha and Maroantsetra. The Bureau National de Gestation des Risques et Des Catastrophes (BNGRC) first reports more than 3,000 disaster victims throughout the Maroantsetra district. In the Antalaha district, houses were flooded following the overflowing of the Ankavanana river and there are more than 1,000 victims. Figures are having an upward trend, as only slowly information are received from the remote areas. Especially the remote Maroantsera district, which is divided by a huge river and can be accessed by boat, starts to report about severe flooding, washed away houses and many displaced people. Currently volunteer teams of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM) trained in Disaster Preparedness and Management are in coordination with the BNGRC and organizing first assessments on the ground in remote villages to get a better overview of the size and needs of the disaster. The trained 4-pillar approach has rolled out to the villages and communities with existent Volunteer structures.

NEEDS

The cyclone has put the region in a state of crisis. The cyclone 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
☐ livelihood activities
☒ protection services
☒ adequate nutrition

The dire situation is compounded for the cyclone-affected people more specifically for people of lower cast. There is a pressing necessity 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:

☒ National government

The BNGRC (National Disaster Management Authority) has taken the lead in coordinating approaches and assessments.

☒ UN Agencies

A CRIC (situation update and coordination meeting of the clusters) has been planned and will be held out on March 17th.

☒ INGOs

General participation at the CRIC is planned and responses that are more detailed depend on the overall situation found.

☒ Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

The RC/RC movement is active in the area of impact and carrying out joint assessments.

☒ Military presence

Military is present throughout Madagascar, but due to the previous cyclones in this season the stocks for distributions are empty.

☒ National NGOs

National NGO´s coordinate and participate at the CRIC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Civil society groups</strong></th>
<th>CSO’s are getting involved, once a response is designed, SAF/FJKM as one of the steering bodies of the CSO network is collecting information from their network</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Faith based groups</strong></td>
<td>Are present and wait for response plans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Host communities</strong></td>
<td>Are supported by FJKM volunteers (where existing and trained) with the 4-pillar approach to organize, structure and help themselves in the first 10 days after such a disaster</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Affected communities</strong></td>
<td>Are in dire need and wait for support</td>
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The emergency response is coordinated by BNGRC with help of OCHA. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (CRIC) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

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**ACT Alliance**

- ACT Madagascar Forum has been working in Madagascar since 1975, now helping/planning to help people affected by the cyclone.
- ACT Madagascar Forum in areas affected by the cyclone, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
- ACT Madagascar is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
- ACT Madagascar Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
- In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Madagascar forum has identified a gap and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to bridge the identified gap also through already published MDG201.
- The ACT Madagascar forum is planning to provide **1 500 additional HH** to the already existing ACT appeal MDG201 to ensure that the cyclone affected persons’ basic needs are met with regards to 1) Safe access to water, 2) Provision of shelter and 3) Access to Food and NFI through distribution or most likely cash distribution.
- ACT Madagascar Forum is ready to respond, providing aqua tabs, shelter and food/cash to additional 1500 affected households in the coming weeks.
- Furthermore, ACT Madagascar Forum will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the cyclone are amplified.

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

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