

Alert note

Please write country crisis and date of submission here (South Africa, Flooding, 14th April 2022)

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Date completed: 14th April 2022

Forum: South Africa

Type of emergency: Flooding / mudslides

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 12th April 2022

1. The nature of the emergency:
Flooding due to heavy rainfall. It started raining on the 8 th of April 2022 and continued until the 12 th of April 2022
The impact and scale of the emergency
<p><i>This is a small to medium scale emergency in the Province of KwaZulu Natal, which lies to the east of South Africa, along the Indian Ocean. To the north lies the border with Mozambique and eSwatini (Swaziland).</i></p> <p><i>At present we cannot give a breakdown by gender, age as people are still streaming in temporary shelters. All race groups have been affected but most that have gone to temporary shelters are black South Africans who were the worst affected.</i></p> <p><i>Due to persistent rains from Friday, the 8th of April 2022, with the heaviest rainfall experienced on Monday and Tuesday (11th and 12th April). In the Durban area over 300 mm of rain was recorded in the 24-hour period. Many roads and bridges were washed away, leaving many communities cut off. House and buildings were washed away or damaged by mudslides. Many rivers burst their banks. Trucks and cars were washed away. At a shipping container depot several containers were washed away. According to the initial assessment done by the Disaster Management Centre, about 2000 RDP houses (low income) and 4000 shacks (informal) have been damaged. The number of formal houses damaged are unknown now. Several Business properties were also damaged forcing them to shut down until clean up are completed. The water and electricity infrastructure were damaged. Parts of the electricity network has been restored and the Company responsible for the water treatment plant is busy try to repair the damage.</i></p> <p><i>The immediate need is housing, food, clothes, and blankets. In the medium term to long term people would need assistance with rebuilding their homes. All the owners that lived in the RPD houses and shacks would not have insurance. It is not sure how many of the formal houses have insurance to assist with rebuilding. Business would claim from their insurances but the length of time that they will be paid out or start the rebuilding is not known.</i></p> <p><i>According to BBC news, at least 300 persons have lost their lives.</i></p>
2. Local and national capacity
<p><i>Some people have moved in with family members, while the majority are being housed in Churches and Community Hall. It is very difficult for them as family units are being split up for privacy reason (men and women are being housed in different venues).</i></p> <p><i>This puts an extra strain on people.</i></p> <p><i>Government has setup a Disaster Management Centre to coordinate the relief efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The President of South Africa has visited the some of the affected areas and has promised that Cabinet will and declare the province a disaster area. This will unlock Government funds, but the timeframe is unknown and could take time.</i></p>

Local Religious Organisations, NGO's and individuals are trying to provide resources such as food, clothes, blankets, and toiletries to all that were affected. Their resources are running low and have requested additional help from the public.

3. Key needs and gaps

Due to communities being cut off and roads that are damaged, information is trickling in. there is further rains predicted over the weekend and this will make the situation worst. The government is moving from community to community to assess the needs.

We would like to assist with non-perishable food and drinking water. Items that we are looking to provide is maize meal / rice, beans, canned fish, cooking oil and salt.

At present we have collected second hand clothing and looking to send them from Johannesburg to Durban (total distance of 600 kms)

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

ELCSA has several members that will assist with the sorting and distribution of food and clothes to the affected communities. This will be done under the guidance of the Diakonia Co-Coordinator who was trained by the SACC on emergencies. We will work closely with the Disaster Management Committee. The Director of ELCSA Development will oversee the entire process under the guidance of the ACT Alliance Regional Office.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
ELCSA Development Service	South Africa	Community Development	financial	USD 50 000

4. Potential responses

- i) ELCSA Development Service – Community development, health
KwaZulu Natal Council of Churches – they are the Provincial arm of the South African Council of Churches.
- ii) We have collected seconded hand clothes from ELCSA members in Gauteng Province in South Africa and it will be transported to Durban, this is where the greatest need is. We are liaising with the Diakonia Co-Ordinator of the ELCSA South Eastern Diocese (KZN area). The Co-ordinator is in contact with the Local Disaster Management Committee. The purchase of non-perishable food will be done directly from suppliers and delivered to the centres as directed by the Disaster Management Committee. At least 20% of the food purchased will be delivered to individual at their homes.
- iii) Financial support is urgently required. In South Africa the Churches were closed from March 2020 until July 2021 due to the COVID pandemic. When Churches were allowed to open the number of people that were allowed in was 100, in December 2021 this number was increased to 50% of the venue capacity. ELCSA has lost about 70% of our income and thus struggling financially and unable to assist people in need.