

Final Report

Report contents

[Fund overview](#)

[Financial summary](#)

[Project performance](#)

[Project summaries](#)

Fund overview

2024 highlights

- Gross income was 86% of the total amount requested and disbursed 76%, with a balance of USD 678,193 at the end of the year.
- We reached 120,479 people¹ with our multi-sector assistance, where 27% was cash assistance and 56% of the participants were women.
- More members are providing cash assistance, which has increased from 8% last year.
- Seventeen members received funding from the RRF in 2024 in 21 responses. We supported 10 responses in Asia with Afghanistan and Philippines requesting more than once. Seven from Africa and four from Latin American and the Caribbean.
- Local churches play an important role in our humanitarian responses as summarized in the [lessons learned](#).
- Our [performance metrics](#) show a requirement of investment in national member capacities, particularly in humanitarian standards. It takes us an average of 48 days between proposal approval and the first delivery of our assistance.

Changes in the humanitarian processes

ACT Alliance's [Humanitarian Operations Manual](#) has undergone several revisions starting in 2023. The work continued in 2024 when guidance notes and tasks were added to the project management cycle. The revisions we have introduced correspond with the recommendations made in the 2023 RRF review².

- A needs assessment is required together with the proposal submission with a needs assessment template developed for members' guidance.
- A budget cost structure in the proposal has been developed to guide members during budgeting addressing issues of high implementation costs (indirect costs, staff, logistics) against project activities.
- Inception meetings are conducted within two weeks of the proposal's approval with guidance developed.
- Monitoring visits by ACT Secretariat staff is now a formal requirement during the response implementation. RRF monitoring usually happens remotely, but the ACT Secretariat

¹ Philippines and Colombia are still pending. All reports should be in by August 2025.

² If interested to get a copy, please inform Cyra Bullecer (cyra.bullecer@actalliance.org).

Humanitarian Programme Coordinators can request a field visit if they think it is necessary as part of their quality assurance mandate.

- Monitoring and evaluation guidance has been revised and updated link to Ops Manual.
- Monitoring templates have been revised.
- Situation reports are submitted one month after the project start date
- Learning reviews are conducted after all project activities are completed with guidance developed.
- Process performance metrics are being monitored.

Recommendations from the GRRF23 internal evaluation

The internal evaluation covered GRRF23 projects with field visits in El Salvador (September) and Philippines (July) in 2024. The evaluation focused on efficiency and effectiveness, participation, and coordination. It also looked at the role of churches in our humanitarian responses.

- Stronger emphasis on responses that build resilience and not just service delivery addressing lifesaving needs recognizing the role of local churches and their presence in the communities in our humanitarian responses.
- Promote EPRP as a process that can help rapid responses and the quality of our responses emphasizing that this is not just a requirement. Forums play an important role in building understanding of how the EPRP process supports preparedness and planning in humanitarian responses.
- As most ACT Alliance forums have both international and local membership, the strengths of both groups can help develop a better response through knowledge and capacity sharing. International member organizations have the knowledge of the global humanitarian system with its coordination mechanisms, funding sources, and quality standards while local member organizations are often embedded in the communities that are often affected by crisis.
- We need to understand better how our humanitarian response works on the ground and the role of churches and volunteers. Many requesting members are councils of churches or networks of local organizations with a long presence in the communities where they respond to crises.
- Deeper performance analysis of our ACT humanitarian mechanism is needed to help identify bottlenecks in our rapid responses for further improvements.
- Develop learning systems in our humanitarian program recognizing that we are a network of organizations that can work more effectively in collaboration with each other.

Historical trends, 2020 - 2024

Since 2020 a total of 581,275 participants were supported through the ACT Rapid Response Fund, and USD\$8,020,033 was disbursed to 53 members in 37 countries.

- The average amount disbursed was USD\$146,148.
- Honduras, Afghanistan, and Indonesia received RRF funds the most in the past five years, with funding received on at least one occasion every year for four years.
- Our gross annual income averages USD\$1,712,190 (76%) of the funds requested per annum since 2020.
- We disbursed an average of USD1,604,007 per year since 2020 with the lowest disbursement in 2021 (32% of the total income) during Covid when we had a separate Covid RRF.
- The table shows the average amount that members contribute to the RRF since 2018. The first ten members in the list have contributed regularly since 2018.

Total income per member, 2020 - 2024

Funding Member	In USD
ACT Church of Sweden	1,862,730
Kerk in Actie	1,822,281
Diakonie Katastrophehilfe, Germany	1,221,589
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	899,993
Disciples of Christ, USA (Week of Compassion)	760,000
Christian Aid	434,284
Norwegian Church Aid	372,640
Cordaid	271,026
Presbyterian World Service, Canada	247,312
United Church of Canada	170,357
Finn Church Aid	162,148
United Church of Christ, USA	119,997
Presbyterian Disaster Association, PCUSA	55,000
Alongside Hope (Primates WRDF)	37,126
United Methodist Committee on Relief	20,000
Wider Church Ministries, USA	19,997
Christian World Service, New Zealand	15,856
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	10,912
Solidarite Protestante, France	2,730
Jela Foundation	753
Individual contributions	380
Total	8,507,112

Financial Summary

Income from the GRRF24 appeal was USD\$2,164,863 which was 86% of the requested amount of USD\$2,529,167. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the total funds available were disbursed during the year or USD\$2,175,182 to 17 members in 14 countries. The average payment was USD 102,152 per member.

Summary

Income received in 2024	USD 2,164,863
Secretariat and Management costs (SMC) at 2%	43,297
Net income	2,121,566
Balance carried forward from 2023	720,833
Unspent project funds returned	10,976
Total funds available	2,853,375
Total payments	2,175,182
Fund balance, end of 2024	USD 678,193

Income

Funding Members	Total Income Received In USD	SMC (2%) In USD	Net Income In USD
Act Church of Sweden	286,996.20	5,739.92	281,256.28
Alongside Hope	37,126.14	742.52	36,383.62
Christian Aid	107,568.23	2,151.36	105,416.87
Christian World Service New Zealand	1,830.60	36.61	1,793.99
Cordaid	52,555.70	1,051.11	51,504.59
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	213,857.40	4,277.15	209,580.25
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	275,000.00	5,500.00	269,500.00
Finn Church Aid	41,653.44	833.07	40,820.37
General Assembly Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Week of Compassion	550,000.00	11,000.00	539,000.00
Kerk in Actie	215,822.40	4,316.45	211,505.95
Norwegian Church Aid	187,284.77	3,745.70	183,539.07
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	35,000.00	700.00	34,300.00
Presbyterian World Service & Development	71,764.32	1,435.29	70,329.03
United Church of Canada	18,404.28	368.09	18,036.19
United Church of Christ, USA	50,000.00	1,000.00	49,000.00
United Methodist Committee on Relief	20,000.00	400.00	19,600.00
Total income received	2,164,863.48	43,297.27	2,121,566.21

Payments

The RRF project code is linked to its project summary.

Date	RRF Code	Emergency	Member	Amount Transferred (USD)
7 Feb	01/2024	Afghanistan: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to Returnee families in Nangarhar Province Afghanistan	Community World Service Asia (CWSA)	150,000
15 May	02/2024	Philippines: Emergency response to rural communities affected by severe drought (El Niño) in the Philippines	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)	150,000
25 May	03/2024	Brazil: Emergency Response to the affected population by the floods in Rio Grande do Sul	Fundação Luterana de Diaconia (FLD)	149,970
6 Jun	04/2024	Indonesia: Emergency assistance for Population Affected by Mount Ruang Eruption, Sitaro District - North Sulawesi	Indonesian Christian Association for Health Services (ICAHS/PELKESI)	89,867
			Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU)	105,346
17 Jun	05/2024	Afghanistan: Emergency lifesaving assistance for Flood affected people	Hungarian Interchurch Aid	150,000
			Community World Service Asia (CWSA)	150,000
20 Jun	06/2024	Malawi: Emergency response to people affected by El Niño	Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)	75,000

Date	RRF Code	Emergency	Member	Amount Transferred (USD)
			Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)	75,000
21 Jun	07/2024	Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to El Nino Induced Drought	Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA)	150,000
5 Jul	08/2024	Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to El Nino (funded by Act Church of Sweden)	Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)	140,000
			Lutheran Development Services (LDS)	140,000
17 Jul	09/2024	El Salvador: Emergency response to the people affected by floods in El Salvador	Christian Association for Education and Development (ALFALIT)	30,000
19 Aug	10/2024	Afghanistan: Windstorm and Flood Relief: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance for Affected Families in Nangarhar, Afghanistan	Community World Service Asia (CWSA)	50,000
19 Aug	11/2024	Philippines: Emergency Response to People Affected by the combined effects of Typhoon Carina and Enhanced Southwest Monsoon	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)	50,000
21 Oct	12/2024	Myanmar: Multi-sectoral response for Cyclone Yagi induced flood affected communities in Myanmar	Christian Aid	50,000
7 Nov	13/2024	Sierra Leone: Response to Climate-Induced Flooding in Kambia, Northern Sierra Leone	Council of Churches in Sierra Leone	79,999
11 Nov	14/2024	Nigeria: Emergency Response to Flooding	Christian Council of Nigeria	50,000
10 Dec	15/2024	Colombia: Emergency response to the affected population by the migration crisis in the Darien Gap	Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO)	80,000
27 Nov	16/2024	Philippines: Emergency Response to the Combined Impact of Tropical Cyclones Trami and Kong-rey in the Philippines	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)	150,000
10 Dec	17/2024	Honduras: Response for affected population by Tropical Storm Sara in Honduras	Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)	80,000
12 Dec		Gender in Humanitarian Action Training (funded by NCA channeled through the RRF) ³	Gender Justice Programme	30,000
Total payments				2,175,182

³ A Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) training was piloted in Bangkok, Thailand in 12-14 December 2024, with around 20 mostly local ACT members in Asia participating. This was jointly organized by the Gender Justice Program, Humanitarian Program, and Community World Service Asia (CWSA). This training coincided with the Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership Week which allowed other members to participate in the event as well.

Returned funds

RRF Code	Requesting Member	Amount in USD	Date returned
03/2024	Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (SAF-FJKM)	5,121	27 Feb 2024
12/2024	Presbyterian Relief Ser and Development - Presbyterian Church of Ghana vices	2,258	19 Apr 2024
14/2024	Middle East Council of Churches	3,597	3 Sep 2024
	Total	10,976	

Project Performance

A total of 134,465 participants received assistance in 2024, (where 54% were women) and spending an average of USD24.18/person. Twenty-five percent of the participants received cash assistance, an increase from 8% in 2023. Four proposals were rejected and two more submitted an alert but were asked not to submit a proposal.

Sector breakdown⁴

Sector	Female		Male		Total	%
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability		
Multi-purpose cash assistance	443	18,010	400	16,823	35,676	25%
Food/Nutrition	412	23,417	342	21,496	45,667	32%
Health	20	4,806	31	1,160	6,017	4%
Shelter and Household items	30	4,552	32	4,703	9,317	7%
Livelihood	98	2,375	123	2,040	4,636	3%
MHPSS and Community Psychosocial	95	5,780	84	4,049	10,008	7%
WASH	336	15,907	234	13,744	30,221	21%
Total	1,434	74,847	1,246	64,015	141,542	

Project breakdown and Reach⁵

The figures below is a summary of the sex-and-age disaggregated data submitted by the requesting members.

RRF Code	Emergency	Female	Male	Total
01/2024	Afghanistan: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to Returnee families in Nangarhar Province Afghanistan	3,243	3,070	6,313

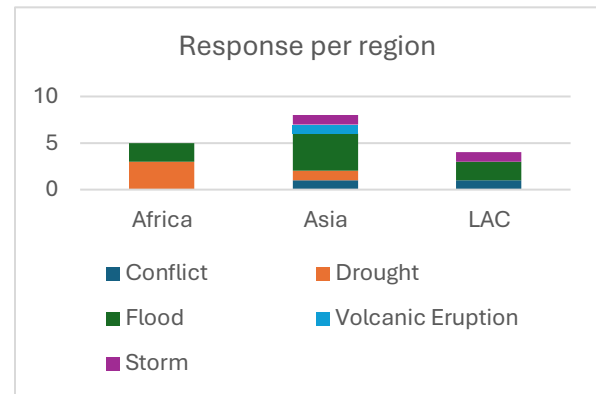
⁴ Members submit sex-and-age disaggregated data summarized in this table.

⁵ Total numbers show the number of persons reached in **all** sectors of assistance. It is likely that one person received more than one kind of assistance (e.g. food and hygiene kit).

RRF Code	Emergency	Female	Male	Total
02/2024	Philippines: Emergency response to rural communities affected by severe drought (El Niño) in the Philippines	13,647	13,419	27,066
03/2024	Brazil: Emergency Response to the affected population by the floods in Rio Grande do Sul	5,669	5,344	11,013
04/2024	Indonesia: Emergency assistance for Population Affected by Mount Ruang Eruption, Sitaro District - North Sulawesi	9,806	6,237	16,043
05/2024	Afghanistan: Emergency lifesaving assistance for Flood affected people	3,912	3,741	7,653
06/2024	Malawi: Emergency response to people affected by El Niño	1,901	1,499	3,400
07/2024	Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to El Nino Induced Drought	5,351	3,830	9,181
08/2024	Zimbabwe: Emergency Response to El Nino (funded by Act Church of Sweden)	4,095	2,810	6,905
09/2024	El Salvador: Emergency response to the people affected by floods in El Salvador	1,137	1,049	2,186
10/2024	Afghanistan: Windstorm and Flood Relief: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance for Affected Families in Nangarhar, Afghanistan	419	464	883
11/2024	Philippines: Emergency Response to People Affected by the combined effects of Typhoon Carina and Enhanced Southwest Monsoon	2,188	2,115	4,303
12/2024	Myanmar: Multi-sectoral response for Cyclone Yagi induced flood affected communities in Myanmar	2,777	2,315	5,092
13/2024	Sierra Leone: Response to Climate-Induced Flooding in Kambia, Northern Sierra Leone	1,918	2,146	4,064
14/2024	Nigeria: Emergency Response to Flooding	3,730	2,833	6,563
15/2024	Colombia: Emergency response to the affected population by the migration crisis in the Darien Gap	4,304	2,773	7,077
16/2024	Philippines: Emergency Response to the Combined Impact of Tropical Cyclones Trami and Kong-rey in the Philippines	7,058	6,928	13,986
17/2024	Honduras: Response for affected population by Tropical Storm Sara in Honduras	5,126	4,688	9,814
	Total participants reached	76,281	65,261	141,542

Regional breakdown

Forty-seven percent of the responses in 2024 were from Asia where we disbursed USD\$1,095,213 supporting 10 humanitarian responses, while 29% (USD709,999) of approved proposals were in Africa. Four responses were in Latin America and the Caribbean, disbursing USD339,970. A total of 17 members received funding with Community World Services (CWSA) in Afghanistan and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines received funding three times within the year. ACT RRF funds were used to respond to typhoon/floods (10), drought (4), forced migration (1), conflict (1), volcanic eruption (1).



Synthesis of lessons learned from projects implemented in 2024

This is a synthesis of the members' project reports highlighting observations and common issues and lessons reported.

Programming

- The impact of disasters and the root causes have severe consequences on the lives of those affected. In most of our responses, our member organizations tend to address the intersectionality of these issues when responding, even if it is a short-term solution.
- One of the causes of delays in implementation is getting government approvals which need to be considered in analyzing better processes which were mentioned in the members' reports.
- Learning reviews contributed to a richer reflection of the implementation that helped us understand how ACT works on the ground as well as members' reflection on areas for improvement.
- Where members are not coordinating with other humanitarian actors, there is an assumption that they need to expand the assistance or address unmet needs that stretch their resources.
- Interventions are often a mix of addressing unmet needs with elements of resilience work which was evident in the responses (see Indonesia, Philippines, Nigeria)
- The responses took the opportunity to build capacities on disaster and psychosocial training to local churches and community organizations. (Philippines, Indonesia,

Coordination

- Members reported that securing the commitment of local government leaders ensures smooth response implementation. Members visit the local government offices first before going to the communities if they don't know the area well. However, in most cases as churches are present in the communities they talk to the local leaders themselves. Relationships have long been established with residents who are members of these churches.
- It has been observed that coordination with the affected communities is often strong, especially with the leaders, yet the reports indicate that coordination with other humanitarian organizations is inconsistent.
- Technical support from other forum members helps in building capacities of local members (Nigeria)

Complaints and feedback

- Several of the members reported that people preferred informal channels of complaints and feedback through community and village leaders, where they are most comfortable.
- Since churches are part of the community, feedback and consultation does not stop at needs assessment and often through informal channels.

Resources

- Recognizing the limited staff resources, formalizing processes and assignment of roles and responsibilities with clear accountabilities is often difficult. This is an observation from the reports submitted. Often churches have small staff and rely on volunteers from their congregation and people from the community.
- Communities share resources and time in the implementation of the response which was evident in most of the responses. Members report that community leaders and local government share their resources during the implementation.

Advocacy

- Churches can play a pivotal role in accompanying communities by advocating for their rights to compensation for both physical and non-physical losses, amplifying their voices for recognition and assistance. (Philippines)

Performance Metrics

Averages	In Days
Alert publication and members' proposal submission	16
Proposal submission and approval	8
Approval and fund transfer	5
Funds transferred and receipt	6
Fund transfer and start of implementation	4
Approval and 1st delivery of assistance	52
Implementation and 1st delivery of assistance	37

- Our humanitarian policy requires proposal submissions within two days after an alert has been published yet on average it takes 16 days for members to submit proposals.
- We also have delays in the approval process. Mostly when ACT Secretariat staff require need more clarity on quality issues from members.
- The average number of days between approval and fund transfer is one day⁶. Banks credit the funds to the members' accounts within one or two days. Yet, several of our members need government approval before they can access the funds from the banks.
- Members start their implementation after they get the assurance that funding has been secured as RRF funding is often the only source of funding for the responses.
- Upon receipt of RRF funds it takes an average of 37 days for the requesting members to deliver assistance. Preparation activities – verification, identification, coordination with local agencies, townhall meetings – are conducted during this period.

⁶ The five-day average is due to the Act CoS contribution to Zimbabwe's response which took 40 days between approval to fund transfer since this involves contracts that need to be signed before funds are released. This contribution is outside of the RRF pot but was channeled through the RRF.

Project summaries

RRF 01/2024			
RRF Name	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to Returnee families in Nangarhar Province Afghanistan		
Country	Afghanistan		
Response period	1 February – 30 April 2024 (2 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	150,000	
	Actual expenses	149,986	
	Balance	14	
Persons reached	6,313		
Geographical Areas	Nangahar Province		
Implementing Member(s)	Community World Service Asia (CWSA)		

Brief description of the response

The response gave cash support of USD140/household in two tranches to refugees and migrants who were repatriated to Afghanistan from Pakistan, after Pakistan's interim government announced the repatriation of 'illegal' refugees and migrants. The Pakistani government has imposed restrictions on deportees, requiring them to leave behind livestock and cash exceeding 50,000 Pakistani rupees (USD 175). The amount given is based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket set by the Afghanistan cash and voucher working group and was paid through Hesab pay, a mobile banking solution.

Main activities

Cash support to 410 households (family size is 7.5)

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Multi-purpose Cash Assistance	115	3,128	122	2,948	6,313

Challenges and lessons

- The Afghanistan government changes its regulation requiring short-term emergency projects (up to three months) a memorandum of understanding which caused a 20-day delay in the implementation.
- CWSA was able to do assessments and participants' selection before receiving the approval because of long-term presence and existing relationships.
- Coordination with other humanitarian agencies prevented any sort of duplication through a marking code approach on the documentation of returnees and allowed them to reach out to the most vulnerable returnees.
- Members from the Community Development Council helped CWSA reach out to participants whose contact details became an issue because of legislative changes from the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority.

- A continuous feedback mechanism, through a user-friendly platform, allowed CWSA to make real-time adjustments to address complaints.

RRF 02/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency response to rural communities affected by severe drought (El Niño) in the Philippines		
Country	Philippines		
Response period	6 May – 6 Nov 2024 (6 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	150,000	
	Actual expenses	145,620	
	Balance	4,381	
Persons reached	27,066		
Geographical Areas	Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga (Region III); Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Romblon (Region IVB), Negros Oriental and Negros Occidental (Region VI, VII)		
Implementing Member(s)	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)		

Brief description of the response

Catastrophic drought caused several municipalities and provinces across the country to declare a state of calamity with reports of water shortages and agricultural damages in the summer months of April and May. Food supplies and livelihood activities were severely affected especially low-income farmers/fishers, and indigenous people with the heaviest hit areas in Central and Southwestern Luzon, and Central Visayas. The response was implemented by regional ecumenical networks of NCCP member churches, and aided 3,050 households for food, water, hygiene kits, and cash assistance.

Main Activities

- Food packs to 2,400 households
- Cash assistance to 300 households
- Construction of water pumps/deep wells to two communities
- Psychosocial activities

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Multi-purpose cash assistance		615		684	1,299
Food	10	6,049	6	5,874	11,939
Psychosocial support		92		78	170
WASH (Hygiene Kits)	10	6,871	6	6,771	13,658
Total	20	13,627	12	13,407	27,066

Challenges and lessons

Procurement and distribution

- Savings from bulk purchases provided food relief to more households.
- Distribution of goods adopted a “pantry-style” method where various stations were setup for participants to select and claim the items they need and pack the goods themselves. Although, it needs to be efficiently organized since it can be more time-consuming and there is a risk in losing items during distribution.

Church participation

- Local churches, through their pastors and lay people, in the target geographical regions were mobilized for needs assessment, consultations, procurement, community preparations, and participant selection. They work with local government units at the village level and with community organizations during the preparatory stages.
- Church volunteers also assist in the monitoring through facilitating group discussions and surveys.

Human resources

- NCCP faced significant organizational changes during the implementation and needed to orient new staff members in the secretariat. Local churches have limited staff to support the preparation for the response that the secretariat needed to provide on-the-ground support.
- Develop a more accessible method for data gathering that pastors, lay people, and volunteers can use to support NCCP’s limited secretariat staff.

Security

- High security concerns in drought-affected militarized areas such as Negros Occidental limited the access of the humanitarian team and church partners.

Preparedness

- Early warning systems from the national meteorological agencies are important in the planning processes for slow-onset emergencies. Responses could have been initiated earlier, making the implementation timelier and more relevant. This underscores the need for better anticipatory action in the future.
- Templates and tools need to be simplified and translated into the local language to make it more accessible and easier to understand for users in gathering feedback during post-distribution monitoring.

RRF 03/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency Response to the affected population by the floods in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil		
Country	Brazil		
Response period	19 May – 18 Oct 2024 (5 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	149,970	
	Actual expenses	149,970	
	Balance	0	
Persons reached	11,013		
Geographical Areas	Metropolitan Region of Porto Alegre: Porto Alegre, Cachoeirinha, Eldorado do Sul Vale dos Sinos: São Leopoldo, Canoas, Sapucaia do Sul		

	Vale do Rio Pardo: Santa Cruz do Sul, Rio Pardo, Encruzilhada do Sul, Cachoeira do Sul, Caçapava do Sul, Sinimbu, Salto do Jacuí, Jacuizinho, Estrela Velha in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.
Implementing Member(s)	Fundação Luterana de Diaconia - FLD

Brief description of the response

The Metropolitan region and Vale do Rio Pardo declared a state of public calamity after heavy continuous rains that started in early May reaching 341.7 millimeters of rain by mid-May which caused flooding of 452 municipalities in southern Brazil affecting 157,000 people. The response supported 556 families of waste collectors, indigenous people communities, and farmers in the three most affected region implemented with the support from women's self-help groups under the FLD small projects program.

Main activities

- Food baskets for three months to 598 families and hygiene supplies
- Two sessions on community-based psychosocial support for women
- Capacity strengthening of grassroots women's self-help groups

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Food	134	3,405	159	3,219	6,917
Psychosocial support		91			91
WASH (Hygiene Kits)	73	1,966	90	1,876	4,005
Total	207	5,462	249	5,095	11,013

Challenges and Lessons

- Needs assessment were conducted by the leaders of the affected communities. Women's group created through an existing FLD program led the assessment, procurement, and distribution of good and hygiene supplies.
- Members of the women's group funded by FLD's small projects program, which has been running for 24 years, were crucial to the implementation of the response that support the affected communities.

RRF 04/2024					
RRF Name	Emergency assistance for Population Affected by Mount Ruang Eruption, Sitaro District - North Sulawesi, Indonesia				
Country	Indonesia				
Response period	3 Jun – 2 Oct 2024 (4 months)				
Financial summary in USD		PELKESI	YEU	Total	
	Approved budget	89,867	105,346	195,213	
	Actual expenses	89,239	105,353	194,592	
	Balance	628	(7) ⁷	621	

⁷ ACT secretariat does not pay for any expenses more than the approved budget.

Persons reached	16,043
Geographical Areas	Tagulandang Island, North Sulawesi, Indonesia
Implementing Member(s)	Indonesian Christian Association for Health Services (ICAHS/PELKESI) Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU)

Brief description of the response

Mount Ruang in North Sulawesi erupted on 30 April where the government raised a level 4 alert and declared a state of emergency. Communities residing on the island where Mount Ruang is located had to be evacuated to the other islands and the mainland. Most market activities were stopped as access to the islands, that were heavily dependent on goods from Manado, was limited. The response provided health services, psychosocial, food, and shelter support to 1,000 households in Tagulandang island. The response was in coordination with local government units, churches, and health services in the affected and relocation areas.

Main activities

- Healthcare services supporting the local health centers that have stopped operating including the provision of menstrual hygiene kits, maternity kits for pregnant women, health education on nutrition, and supplementary food to at-risk people.
- Distribution of shelter materials to 750 families
- Distribution of carpentry tools
- Distribution of kitchen equipment to 500 families
- Educational posters on the effects of volcanic ash and masks usage
- Supported the development of an *Evacuation Action Plan for Mount Ruang Eruption* with the Sitaro District Disaster Management Agency (BPBD)
- Disaster preparedness training with Masehi Injili Sangihe Talaud Church (GMIST Tagulandang) with local staff and youth participants preparing them to become volunteers for future disaster responses

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Food	20	189	31	104	344
Health (includes menstrual and maternity kits)	20	4,806	31	1,160	6,017
Shelter and household items	30	4,552	32	4,703	9,317
Psychosocial support		189		176	365
Total	70	9,736	94	6,143	16,043

Challenges and lessons

Survey feedback

- Survey feedback from the communities stated that there were no actions harmed in the community.
- The survey also reported that the community predominantly chose village officials or community leaders as a channel to convey or obtain information although 87.27% of the respondents said they did not know how to convey their feedback to YEU, revealing the need to

be more intensive in socializing feedback mechanism, including the use of easily understandable information media such as visual images and local language.

- More information sessions are needed since some people did not receive adequate explanations and more disaster preparedness learning programs were requested by the community.

Human resources

- High turnover and difficulty hiring staff willing to be assigned to a remote area like Pulau Tagulandang. Yet hiring local staff is a strategic step towards enhancing community capacity and should not be underestimated.
- Steep learning curves for new staff, especially in the field in a short-term intensive response which needs the support and mentoring of senior staff, adapting a learning-by-doing approach.
- The project broadened the scope of participation by involving the youth of GMIST Tagulandang and community at the village level during post distribution monitoring. The purpose of this involvement is to enhance the objectivity of monitoring results and foster a spirit of cooperation, community empowerment, and capacity building.

Procurement

- The importance of better procurement planning and consideration of market chains in the islands. Procurement is difficult when responding to a remote area in an island country where logistics is dependent on availability of transport and weather. Some bulk items were also difficult to procure in the islands and had to be shipped from Java islands.

Coordination

- Coordination with local government officials was difficult as the government center of Sitaro Regency is on another island, Siau, which is three hours away by ferry. Village leaders were often unavailable as they were also coordinating with higher level government officials in another island.
- Continuous coordination with local government officials is important in addressing unmet needs as government assistance covers the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes which complemented with the shelter materials distributed. Delays in the government assistance meant people were able to do quick repairs with the shelter materials given.
- A Letter of Commitment from the Village and District governments is a valuable learning point in the program. It serves as a foundation for securing support of the local government officials which reinforces the program's legitimacy.

Community capacity building

- Village officials and local partners expected disaster preparedness capacity-building programs through training, which was realized through collaboration with other organizations with the limited resources as this was not budgeted. Training the community, including local officials and church leaders, on disaster preparedness raised their knowledge and skills to respond to various types of disasters and building community resilience.
- The need to build capacities of village health cadres as there is a general lack of awareness of village-based health services and it was observed that there was not enough attention to services for the vulnerable and at-risk groups. The supplementary nutrition model initiated a plan to use village funds to continue the program.
- Tagulandang GMIST Church formed a church health commission to continue the health services started during the response
- Church leaders and lay people need to understand the importance of psychosocial support for children in post-disaster.
- Information sessions on safeguarding, code of conduct, feedback mechanisms, and organization information conducted at the start of the project and repeated in the project

activities are important. People in the communities were able to contribute better to the implementation of the program.

Selection criteria

- Selection and verification process were in coordination with the village authorities. Results were finalized in a plenary meeting with the village officials then posted for public review for two days on the village information board before distribution. Volunteers in the village also helped in the distribution.

RRF 05/2024					
RRF Name	Emergency lifesaving assistance for Flood affected people				
Country	Afghanistan				
Response period	23 Jun – 22 Oct 2024 (4 months)				
Financial summary in USD		HIA	CWSA	Total	
	Approved budget	150,000	150,000	300,000	
	Actual expenses	149,517	149,994	299,511	
	Balance	483	6	489	
Persons reached	7,653				
Geographical Areas	Burka District, Baghlan Province, (HIA) Burka & Baghlane Jadid District, Baghlan Province (CWSA)				
Implementing Member(s)	Hungarian Interchurch/International Aid (HIA) Community World Service Asia (CWSA)				

Brief description of the response

Flash floods on 9 May 2024 in Baghlan province affected 3,218 households and damaged houses, agricultural land, food storage, and irrigation canals. This severely comprised food production and livelihood. Afghanistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change exacerbated by economic instability and conflict which increases the impact of a disaster. The response gave cash assistance in hard-to-reach districts of Burka and Baghlane Jadid.

Main activities

- Cash for work to repair water management systems including irrigation canals and dams
- Multipurpose cash assistance to 360 households

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	18	3,894	30	3,711	7,653

Challenges and lessons

Government requirements

- Government requirement MOUs took time to sign which delayed actual project activities to commence. MOU signing required constant follow-up and coordination with the ministry officials. Strong collaboration with local authorities and communities facilitated the project's acceptance and smooth implementation.

Survey feedback

- Survey respondents said that 70% of the cash assistance went to food while the remaining 30% was debt repayment, home repairs, and non-food items. Respondents preferred cash because of its flexibility in addressing urgent needs.

Access

- Many areas have limited access because of damaged roads where project staff had to travel on foot. The experience emphasized the need for risk mapping and preparedness measures that slow down implementation.

Selection criteria

- High demand for participation and assistance in the project brought needed clear communication to explain to the communities about target groups and criteria.

Coordination

- Coordination with other organizations showed participants who were receiving aid from several organizations including CWSA which prompted to remove the participants from the list. CWSA participates in an online reporting hub that tracks real-time information on ongoing interventions of organizations contributing to the response.
- Participants, including the community development councils (CDCs) were actively engaged during implementation and influenced improvements in complaints and feedback mechanisms that addressed issues more quickly. They also suggested prioritizing the most vulnerable families to support.

RRF 06/2024					
RRF Name	Emergency response to people affected by El Niño				
Country	Malawi				
Response period	1 Jul – 31 Dec 2024 (5 months)				
Financial summary in USD		CARD	ELDS	Total	
	Approved budget	75,000	75,000	150,000	
	Actual expenses	80,828	74,852	155,680	
	Balance	(5,828)	148	(5,680)	
Persons reached	3,400				
Geographical Areas	Chikwawa and Nsanje				
Implementing Member(s)	Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD) Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)				

Brief description of the response

A state of disaster was declared in March 2024 in Malawi as the dry season started with very low food supply. The next rainy season was forecasted for the end of 2024, with the projected harvest still in April 2025. Planting and harvest cycles were already affected by Cyclone Freddy in the first quarter of 2023, and recovery from the cyclone's impact has been slow. Twenty-three out of the 28 districts were affected by the drought. Maize production is 23% below the 5-year average and hectares of crop fields have been destroyed affecting staple crops. The response gave cash for people to primarily buy food. Seeds were also distributed to prepare the participants for the next planting season.

The forums initially requested to launch a regional appeal for Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe which was not approved by the Emergency Steering Committee as it was deemed difficult to raise funds but instead advised the members to apply through the RRF.

Main activities

- Cash transfers to 800 households
- Seeds distribution to 2,000 households

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	11	636	23	530	1,200
Livelihood	12	1,242		946	2,200
Total	23	1,878	23	1,476	3,400

Challenges and lessons

- Malawi ACT forum supported the response by coordinating with the government, where they organized a launch of the response in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts.
- Both ELDS and CARD coordinated with the local leaders and community structures such as the Area Disaster Risk Management Committees (ADRM), Area Development Committees (ADC), and Village Development Committees (VDC) that supported the targeting of households. The district agriculture coordination committee (DAECC) provided advice on the types of seeds to be procured and assisted in the procurement and distribution of seeds. The Malawi police service provided security during cash distribution.
- Community participation in project activities enhances smooth implementation of the project.

RRF 07/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency Response to El Nino Induced Drought		
Country	Zimbabwe		
Response period	1 Jul – 30 Sept 2024 (3 months) with one-month extension		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	150,000	
	Actual expenses	149,904	
	Balance	96	
Persons reached	9,181		
Geographical Areas	Buhera, Manicaland Province		
Implementing Member(s)	Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA)		

Brief description of the response

The president of Zimbabwe declared a national disaster on 4 April 2024 when significant below average rainfall was experienced for several months, caused by the ongoing El Niño southern oscillation effects characterized as drought. All 72 districts were affected in varying degrees with 41% of the districts being most affected. This resulted in widespread food insecurity in the drought affected rural communities that rely heavily on agriculture. An estimated six million people were

food insecure as it affected food production of about 52% shortfall. Rural households experience water shortages becoming more difficult to get water supply. The response gave cash assistance to support food-insecure people and rehabilitate water points. This project was extended for one month after the government changed its policy against cash assistance.

The forums initially requested to launch a regional appeal for Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe which was not approved by the Emergency Steering Committee as it was deemed difficult to raise funds but instead advised the members to apply through the RRF.

Main activities

- Cash assistance to 180 households
- Food assistance to 180 households. Cash was supposed to be in three tranches, but the government declared that cash assistance should be stopped.
- Rehabilitation of four water points including water management training for the water point committees
- Psychosocial support

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	119	746	42	533	1,440
Food	119	746	42	533	1,440
Psychosocial support	66	2,936	55	2,162	5,219
WASH	59	560	36	427	1,082
Total	363	4,988	175	3,655	9,181

Challenges and lessons

Preparation

- Needs assessment was essential in accurately identifying the target population and their specific needs.
- Community involvement at the early stages of implementation avoided people from being excluded and ensured targeting of the most vulnerable households.
- Involving communities-built trust and ensured the success of the program.
- Project participants assisted in the selection of most vulnerable households based on a criteria set. They were also involved in selecting distribution points and prioritization of water points that need rehabilitation. Committees set up were composed of project participants.

Implementation

- Logistics costs increased after the assistance shifted from cash to food distribution.
- Cash assistance generated multiple positive outcomes where household prioritized food, health, and purchase of basic goods.
- Psychosocial facilitators discovered needs from the families that were not reported: school dropouts, early marriages so there's less mouths in the household and money from the bride price; drug abuse of men and boys increasing; GBV cases increasing.
- A comprehensive approach to food distribution addresses food insecurity holistically, as it also looks into the underlying causes of food insecurity – poverty, lack of access to education, and limited employment opportunities.

Learning review

- Strengthened Partnerships and Complementarity: Working with multiple actors and forums, such as ACT Alliance members, enhanced resource sharing and ensured holistic responses.
- Improved Local Capacity: Training Water Point Committees through the Ward Water and Sanitation Committee built community capacity to manage water points effectively, ensuring sustainability of WASH interventions.
- Enhanced Accountability and Effectiveness: Active participation in district-level platforms like the Drought Relief Committee and Sub-Committees ensured that interventions were transparent, aligned with government priorities, and responsive to community needs.
- Integrated Approaches: Combining psychosocial support with livelihood and WASH activities reinforced community resilience holistically, demonstrating the value of integrated programming.
- Efficient Resource Utilization: Partnerships with agencies like RIDA and DSD optimized resources by leveraging their expertise in water infrastructure and social support, respectively.

RRF 08/2024																				
RRF Name	Emergency Response to El Nino Induced Drought																			
Country	Zimbabwe																			
Response period	Original project dates: 1 Jul – 30 Sept 2024 (3 months) Revised: 20 Aug – 20 Nov 2024 (3 months with extension until 31 Dec 2024) Original project dates were changed as funds were transferred in 14 August)																			
Financial summary in USD	This project was fully funded by Act Church of Sweden channeled through the Rapid Response Fund. <table><tr><td></td><td>ZCC</td><td>LDS</td><td>Total</td></tr><tr><td>Approved budget</td><td>140,000</td><td>140,000</td><td>280,000</td></tr><tr><td>Actual expenses</td><td>139,973</td><td>140,000</td><td>279,973</td></tr><tr><td>Balance</td><td>27</td><td>0</td><td>27</td></tr></table>					ZCC	LDS	Total	Approved budget	140,000	140,000	280,000	Actual expenses	139,973	140,000	279,973	Balance	27	0	27
	ZCC	LDS	Total																	
Approved budget	140,000	140,000	280,000																	
Actual expenses	139,973	140,000	279,973																	
Balance	27	0	27																	
Persons reached	6,905																			
Geographical Areas	Gwanda, Chimanimani, Insiza, Chiredzi																			
Implementing Member(s)	Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Lutheran Development Services (LDS)																			

Brief description of the response

The president of Zimbabwe declared a national disaster on 4 April 2024 when significant below average rainfall was experienced for several months, caused by the ongoing El Niño southern oscillation effects characterized as drought. All 72 districts were affected in varying degrees with 41% of the districts being most affected. This resulted in widespread food insecurity in the drought affected rural communities that rely heavily on agriculture. An estimated six million people were food insecure as it affected food production has a shortfall of 52%. UN OCHA reported that crop harvest is only 32%. Rural households experience water shortages becoming more difficult to get

water supply. It was expected that nutrition will deteriorate especially for children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding women. There is a high risk of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation with increased likelihood of child marriage.

The forums initially requested to launch a regional appeal for Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe which was not approved by the Emergency Steering Committee as it was deemed difficult to raise funds but instead advised the members to apply through the RRF.

Main activities

- ZCC and LDS distributed food to 3,410 people
- ZCC and LDS provided psychosocial support to 509 people
- ZCC Distribution of small grains (cow peas, sorghum, and sunflower)
- ZCC distribution buckets and soaps to women and girls

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Food	23	1,994	12	1,381	3,410
Livelihood	86	1,133	123	1,094	2,436
Psychosocial support	2	307	4	196	509
WASH	70	480	-	-	550
Total	181	3,914	139	2,671	6,905

The project supported 4,446 people where 2,457 persons received more than one assistance.

Challenges and lessons

- The interventions were supported by government agencies with some activities were facilitated by the agencies. The participants received training from the agriculture department on agricultural practices. The Department of Social Development (DSD) assisted participant registration and distribution of goods while two agencies provided psychosocial services and supported the integration of health services in the project.
- Logistical expenses relating to cash assistance are cheaper than in-kind distribution.
- Different channels were used when communicating with the communities. Local leaders, trusted by the community, have been useful in disseminating information to project participants, gathering feedback, and complaints. Information was also shared through the local radio station and WhatsApp chat group. Meetings were held to consult the people on the food items and distribution schedule.
- The community plays a vital role in ensuring that interventions go well and benefit them. They assisted in offloading and warehousing of the food items, registration, verification, and organized people during distribution. Community leaders also inspected the food items that were delivered directly to the area.
- A procurement plan ensured the supply of goods and services needed for smooth implementation.
- Integrating food assistance with seeds distribution addressed medium- to long-term needs of the participants during drought.

- Women in the community require targeted skills training and funding for sustainable income generation project.
- Enhancing knowledge and engagement in sexual and reproductive health is important along with women participating in smart climate initiatives.

RRF 09/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency response to the people affected by floods in El Salvador		
Country	El Salvador		
Response period	17 Jul – 23 Aug 2024 (2 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	30,000	
	Actual expenses	30,000	
	Balance	0	
Persons reached	2,186		
Geographical Areas	Usulután, La Paz, Ahuachapán and Santa Ana		
Implementing Member(s)	Christian Association for Education and Development (ALFALIT)		

Brief description of the response

A state of emergency was declared on 16 June 2024 when a storm followed by heavy rains caused flooding and landslides. Twenty-six municipalities were on red alert due to soil saturation and rising levels of river basins causing people to evacuate from their homes. Farmlands were affected with losses of maize, beans, and vegetable crops. About 4,050 people were evacuated. The response will give cash assistance to 500 families.

Main activities

- Cash assistance to 500 families

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	13	1,124	13	1,036	2,186

Challenges and lessons

- There was not enough time to properly plan the response, which may have compromised the quality of some activities.
- Cash transfer transactions were slow as the two branches of the best financial agent, Agricultural Development Bank (BFA), have only three active cash registers.
- Late approval from ACT secretariat affected the effectiveness of the response.
- The El Salvador forum discussed the implementation of the response with members were assigned task and responsibilities.
- A joint feedback process was carried out by the staff involved in the response.
- Awareness raising activities on gender-based violence were established together with the cash transfers as it is common that women and girls are more vulnerable during disasters.

- Communities have organized committees where leaders have documented the situation and sent information to the forum members when they requested aid.
- Integrating psychosocial care into responses is important as this contributes to their holistic recovery.
- Coordination between local actors and community organizations is essential to ensure a rapid, efficient response adapted to the needs of the communities.
- Involving the community in the planning and execution process not only improves the effectiveness of the project but also empowers participants in decision-making.
- Effective financial management: Budget challenges highlight the importance of rigorous financial planning and the search for additional resources (in this case their own) to strengthen the response capacity and resilience of communities in the face of future emergencies.
- Capacity building: It is crucial to continue training both communities and key actors in emergency protocols, risk identification, and resource management, thus improving crisis preparedness.
- Clear and effective communication: Avoiding duplication and delays in response requires clear communication between all actors involved, optimizing resources and maximizing the impact of interventions.
- Accountability: Affected communities must be informed and educated about their rights in emergency situations so that they can demand adequate support. Transparency and accountability in humanitarian actions are essential to ensure a fair and effective distribution of aid.
- Transfer amounts: Although the families benefited by the project identified that the aid was important in their recovery process, they suggested that the amounts should be higher, \$50.00 results in a very reduced transfer.

RRF 10/2024			
RRF Name	Windstorm and Flood Relief: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance for Affected Families in Nangarhar, Afghanistan		
Country	Afghanistan		
Response period	20 Aug – 19 Nov 2024 (4 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	50,000	
	Actual expenses	50,000	
	Balance	0	
Persons reached	883		
Geographical Areas	Jalabad and Behsud districts, Nangarhar province		
Implementing Member(s)	Community World Service Asia (CWSA)		

Brief description of the response

Devastating windstorms and heavy rainfall on 15 July 2024 in Nangarhar damaged 1,768 homes including critical infrastructure like mosques, schools, water systems, and irrigation canals. More than 160 hectares of farmlands were affected. The response gave cash assistance to the affected families.

Main Activities

- Cash assistance to 883 families

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	10	409	13	451	883

Challenges and lessons

- A local woman community mobilizer was hired to address restrictions on women's participation in critical activities that significantly impacted women's engagement to the project. Engaging local community members proved to be an effective workaround to these restrictive policies.
- Working closely with local communities, including local authorities and community leaders, allows for a timely response in an evolving situation.
- Coordination helped avoid duplication of interventions and ensured that the assistance supported the most vulnerable.
- Ninety-nine percent of the respondents recommended increasing the project period and installments of cash transfers, especially for larger families. They were satisfied of the distribution methods.
- Sixty-five percent of the participants used cash for food purchases while 35% for debt repayment, home repairs, and non-food items. All respondents preferred cash over in-kind support because they can decide how they are going to spend it.
- Communities were engaged in identifying the most affected households, determine safe and accessible distribution points, and suggested culturally appropriate ways to include marginalized groups.
- Community development councils (CDC) and local authorities played a key role in identifying vulnerable households, facilitating communication, and monitoring resource distribution, which strengthened trust and accountability.
- Regular feedback sessions allowed the community to share concerns and suggestions. Additional psychosocial support sessions were introduced based on feedback.
- Participants requested the need for long-term support such as peer support groups, counselling services, and mental health awareness activities that can help build resilience and emotional well-being.
- More funds were needed for the long-term recovery of a crisis-affected population.

RRF 11/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency Response to People Affected by the combined effects of Typhoon Carina and Enhanced Southwest Monsoon		
Country	Philippines		
Response period	15 Aug – 15 Nov 2024 (3 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	50,000	
	Actual expenses	50,000	
	Balance	0	
Persons reached	4,303		

Geographical Areas	Pampanga and Tarlac (Region 3); Cavite and Rizal (Region 4A)
Implementing Member(s)	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)

Brief description of the response

Typhoon Gaemi (local name Carina), a category 4 typhoon, affected the western portion of Luzon. A state of calamity was declared in 143 cities and municipalities in eight regions, including the Metro Manila. About 5,060 families stayed in evaluation centers (ECs) and 253,950 families were served outside ECs. A total of 8,586 houses were damaged while infrastructure damages were estimated up to PhP 4.3 billion (about USD 75 million). Agricultural production was affected by the combined effects of the typhoon and enhanced southwest monsoon affecting farmers and fisherfolks. The response gave cash assistance and food in the most affected regions including hard-to-reach areas.

Main activities

- Cash assistance to 200 households to mitigate income loss from the disaster
- Food assistance covering two weeks for 800 households

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance		489		517	1,006
Food		1,699		1,598	3,297
Total		2,188		2,115	4,303

Challenges and lessons

- Volunteers from member churches help in repacking food packs, ensuring all packages were properly prepared for relief distribution.
- Selection criteria focused on people with limited capacity to recover from economic losses.
- Majority of the community members learned about the assistance from the pastors and church workers, while 20% received the information from mobile calls and messaging and 15% received the information from local government officials. The rest found out through social media, friends, and relatives.
- Community members, including people's and sectoral organizations, church workers, lay members, and barangay officials, were actively involved in the needs assessment, beneficiary selection and validation, distribution planning, and the execution of response activities.
- Project plans were adapted based on feedback from local ecumenical coordinators, reflecting the specific context of the communities.
- Ecumenical partners and local barangays (villages) contributed valuable human and material resources, such as transportation, facilities, and volunteers, which greatly facilitated the smooth and organized implementation of the response.
- Asserting accountability of the primary duty-bearers in responding to the needs of the disaster-affected communities, particularly in a country highly vulnerable to climate crises. Churches can play a pivotal role in accompanying communities in advocating for their rights to

compensation for both physical and non-physical losses, amplifying their voices for recognition and assistance.

RRF 12/2024			
RRF Name	Myanmar: Multi-sectoral response for Cyclone Yagi induced flood affected communities in Myanmar		
Country	Myanmar		
Response period	1 Nov 2024 – 31 Jan 2025 (3 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	50,000	
	Actual expenses	48,850	
	Balance	1,150	
Persons reached	5,092		
Geographical Areas	Nyaungshwe township, Southern Shan State, Myanmar		
Implementing Member(s)	Christian Aid		

Brief description of the response

Heavy monsoon rains intensified by typhoon Yagi caused flooding across Myanmar. Central Myanmar was hit the hardest with extensive damage to infrastructures. Thousands of people were displaced. UN OCHA estimated one million people across the country were affected. The response gave cash assistance and provided hygiene awareness in the villages.

Main activities

- Cash assistance and hygiene awareness to 2,056 people representing 575 households
- Hygiene kits to 2,876 people

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	5	1,168	3	1,040	2,216
WASH	10	1,594	6	1,266	2,876
Total	15	2,762	9	2,306	5,092

Challenges and lessons

- Cash transactions in Myanmar requires scrutiny of business requirements which takes time to access to the funds as well as organizations can only do a limited number of transactions per day.
- Bringing large amounts of cash can also be misunderstood as support to militia groups or defense forces.
- Local organizations and volunteers in the target areas provided essential information as access was limited to the areas as well as supporting the implementation.
- No formal complaints or feedback system set up, but participants communicate informally by reaching out to staff members during visits or through their local offices.

- A long-term response is needed as there are unmet needs. It takes a long time for people to recover from disasters as the resources are limited caused by political insecurities.

RRF 13/2024			
RRF Name	Response to Climate-Induced Flooding in Kambia, Northern Sierra Leone		
Country	Sierra Leone		
Response period	11 Nov 2024 – 11 Feb 2025 (3 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	79,999	
	Actual expenses	79,264	
	Balance	735	
Persons reached	4,064		
Geographical Areas	Mambolo Samu and Magbema Chiefdoms, Kambia District, North-West		
Implementing Member(s)	Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL)		

Brief description of the response

Heavy and prolonged rainfall cause severe flooding in Sierra Leone. The floods were exacerbated by the overflow of Bumbuna Dam in Tonkolili displacing 50 communities and causing significant property loss. Eleven out of 16 districts in Sierra Leone were affected. The response gave cash assistance to 434 households and conducted disaster risk reduction trainings.

Main activities

- Cash assistance to 434 households
- Disaster risk reduction training was also organized in three chiefdoms

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	106	1,812	88	2,058	4,064

Challenges and lessons

- Verification of participants took some time as traveling to hard-to-reach areas was challenging.
- Over 70 cases of complaints had to be managed relating to cash disbursements through mobile money as most people did not know what to do.
- The project covered multiple chiefdoms that are difficult to access.
- Most used cash to buy food but 29% of the participants also used it to repair damaged houses.
- Adaptability played a crucial role in the project's success, as adjusting priorities based on evolving community needs ensured resources were allocated effectively for maximum impact. Continuous community engagement enhanced transparency and allowed the intervention to align with actual needs, improving overall effectiveness.
- Cash transfers proved more empowering than direct aid distribution, giving beneficiaries the flexibility to address their most urgent priorities.

- Strong coordination with local authorities streamlined implementation and improved beneficiary targeting, reinforcing the importance of local partnerships in humanitarian response.
- Robust data collection and verification ensured accuracy and accountability in aid distribution, underscoring the value of continuous monitoring in delivering effective and transparent assistance.

RRF 14/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency Response to Flooding		
Country	Nigeria		
Response period	14 Oct 2024 – 14 Jan 2025		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	50,000	
	Actual expenses	50,774	
	Balance	(774)	
Persons reached	6,563		
Geographical Areas	Adamawa State		
Implementing Member(s)	Christian Council of Nigeria		

Brief description of the response

In early August 2024, severe flooding affected Demsa and Numan local government areas in Adamawa state. The rapid rise of floodwater was caused by Kiri Dam overflowing. The floodwater rose at alarming speed resulting in widespread destruction of homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods. The state commissioner for health also declared a cholera outbreak. Five million people faced food insecurity due to damaged crops. The disaster affected 12,583 people, displacing 2,079 households. Thirty-nine percent of its population are aged 6-17 years old while 18-59 years old represents 34%. Fifty-four percent of the population are women. The response will give cash assistance, water purification solutions, hygiene items, and psychosocial support. Activities in hygiene promotion will also be conducted.

Main activities

- Cash assistance in two tranches to 352 households
- Psychosocial sessions on trauma healing and mental health sensitizations
- Water treatment, menstrual kits, and hygiene kits to 372 households

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	46	2,366	64	1,740	4,216
Psychosocial support		87		117	204
WASH	28	1,203	32	880	2,143
Total	74	3,656	96	2,737	6,563

Challenges and lessons

- Other forum members (Christian Aid, World Renew, Norwegian Church Aid, and Mission 21) provided technical support during the development of the proposal and oversight support during implementation of the project.
- Community leaders helped during the implementation by mobilizing project participants during distributions while the psychosocial/trauma healing team of the Institute of Church and society of CCN carried out the psychosocial support sessions.
- Information was shared with the religious and community leaders who were the channels to the participants.
- Community leaders provided security and safety updates, identified safe spaces for distribution. The communities contributed in the needs assessments and surveys while meetings with community and religious leaders were held to discuss issues during the implementation.
- The involvement of the community and religious leaders assisted and that made the interaction with the participants easier.
- The participants learned more how to reduce water-borne diseases during hygiene sensitization.

RRF 15/2024			
RRF Name	Emergency response to the affected population by the migration crisis in the Darien Gap		
Country	Colombia		
Response period	10 Dec 2024 – 10 May 2025 (<i>extended for one month until 10 Jun 2025</i>)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	80,000	
	Actual expenses	78,757	
	Balance	1,243	
Persons reached	7,077		
Geographical Areas	Uraba Antioqueño: Necocli, Turbo, Carepa, Chigorodo and Apartado		
Implementing Member(s)	Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO)		

Brief description of the response

The Darien gap, part of the migration route, represents one of the most perilous and dehumanizing segments of the journey to North America for most of the 7.7 million Venezuelans that left their country following an economic collapse. Migrants pass through Turbo, Necocli, and Acandi where ports are heavily controlled by armed and organized groups that have historically wielded power in Uraba. Most migrants have used up their assets when they reached this region and require shelter, medical care, clean water, food, and health services. Migrants are forced to live in tents that need to be folded during the day, as most of the host communities are not willing to rent their homes temporarily. Children and adolescents are highly vulnerable with the absence of proper guardian or as families ran out of financial resources. This response addresses basic lifesaving needs of migrants temporarily staying in Uraba as they build enough funds to make the crossing to Panama.

Main activities

The project aims to provide comprehensive support services to migrants in transit who need urgent support by providing them protection kits, hygiene kits, food, safe spaces during the day for women and children, and shower rooms. A psychosocial professional provides psych support to address stress and trauma by providing psychological first aid and stress management workshops. Cases on gender-based violence and unaccompanied minors are also referred to the proper humanitarian and government agencies.

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance		94	2	81	177
Food	19	1,330	19	1,082	2,450
Psychosocial	27	2,078	25	1,320	3,450
WASH	8	748	6	238	1,000
Total	54	4,250	52	2,721	7,077

Challenges and lessons

- Delays in the delivery of protection and hygiene kits due to supplier constraints. This setback postponed the launch of key activities from January to February 2025. In response, the team prioritized available services—such as GBV workshops, psychosocial support, and food assistance—to ensure that vulnerable populations continued receiving critical support while awaiting the kits. This experience reinforced the value of flexible programming and the importance of contingency planning in procurement processes.
- Significant reduction in the flow of migrants through the municipality of Turbo, following border closures toward the Darién Gap linked to U.S. migration policy shifts. This unexpected change required a strategic pivot: efforts were refocused on other municipalities with higher migrant presence, including Necoclí, Chigorodó, Carepa, and Apartadó. The team’s ability to rapidly assess population movement and reallocate resources ensured that the project remained responsive and impactful despite shifting demographics. However, there was a noticeable increase in cases requiring urgent intervention to prevent evictions, making it essential to strengthen case management efforts to deliver timely and effective response.
- Close collaboration with Presbyterian Church of Colombia and the Cathedral of Faith Church played a vital role in facilitating access to communities and supporting the implementation of activities.
- Within the case management component, collaboration with the NGO HIAS was pivotal in ensuring the referral, care, and follow-up of highly vulnerable cases. This partnership enabled a more comprehensive and coordinated response, particularly in matters related to housing and personal security

RRF 16/2024	
RRF Name	Emergency Response to the Combined Impact of Tropical Cyclones Trami and Kong-rey in the Philippines
Country	Philippines

Response period	25 Nov 2024 – 25 Mar 2024 (4 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	150,000	
	Actual expenses	150,017	
	Balance	(17)	
Persons reached	13,986		
Geographical Areas	Cagayan Valley (Region 2): Cagayan (Baggao, Claveria, Gonzaga, Aparri, Sta Ana, Allacapan), Isabela (Angadanan, Jones, Dinapigue, Cordon, Alicia, San Agustin, Salay) Bicol (Region 5): Camarines Sur (Pamplona, Ragay, Minalabac, Bula, Buhi, Bato), Albay (Pioduran, Guinobatan, Ligao) CAR: Apayao (Flora, Filomena)		
Implementing Member(s)	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)		

Brief description of the response

Six typhoons hit the Philippines in a span of one month overlapping each other, affected almost all the same areas in Luzon. Two of these typhoons, Kong-rey and Man yi, were categorized as super typhoons (category 4). The combined effects of typhoon Kong-rey and Trami alone displaced 617,167 people from their houses, overwhelming the evacuation centers in the regions affected. Major roads and seaports were closed or damaged, while far-flung areas were isolated. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) estimated USD1.5 million agricultural losses, affecting 111,411 farmers and fishermen.

Main activities

- Food distribution to 2,500 households
- Cash assistance to 750 households

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	-	1,529	-	1,494	3,023
Food	9	5,520	15	5,419	10,963
Total	9	7,049	15	6,913	13,986

Challenges and lessons

- NCCP relies on external funding for humanitarian response which makes the organization vulnerable to the global funding cuts. A local resource generation mechanism must be developed to mitigate funding shortages.
- An online meeting was held with all regional ecumenical councils of affected areas to assess the damage of the typhoon and map out local efforts of churches and other actors.
- Churches need to be more proactive in coordination, assessment, and disaster preparedness where there is a need to integrate anticipatory action in the humanitarian mechanism.
- Assessment and prioritization were done by the regional ecumenical councils to ensure equitable coverage of the affected areas.

- Market prices were also monitored locally for the procurement of items where the councils were able to avail themselves of lower prices after the Christmas season.
- Local church members were responsible for procurement of goods through local supplies in accordance with the NCCP procurement policy. Church members volunteered where they contributed to the assessments, conducted surveys, and made community visits to assess the effectiveness of the response.
- Households allocate cash for health needs, food, and daily expenses related to children's education.
- Local churches emphasized the importance of community preparation in implementing cash assistance to ensure equitable beneficiary selection, prioritization of urgent needs, and facilitate market access.
- Through feedback and regular assessment, the implementing churches were able to determine unmet needs which were addressed through NCCP's other funding sources.

RRF 17/2024			
RRF Name	Response for affected populaton by Tropical Storm Sara in Honduras		
Country	Honduras		
Response period	9 Dec 2024 – 9 Mar 2025 (3 months)		
Financial summary in USD	Approved budget	80,000	
	Actual expenses	80,677	
	Balance	(677)	
Persons reached	9,814		
Geographical Areas	Cortes, Yoro, Colón, Choluteca en Honduras		
Implementing Member(s)	Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)		

Brief description of the response

Tropical storm Sara affected the northern and southern regions of Honduras causing floods and landslides that destroyed homes and farmlands. The typhoon affected 247,010 people where 16,090 people were displaced. Many communities were isolated for an extended period with limited access to basic services. The loss of crops and homes signals slow recovery especially in the rural areas. The response distributed food packs and hygiene kits to 1,125 families.

Main activities

- Food packs and hygiene kits to 1,125 families

Reach

Sector	Female		Male		Total
	With Disability	Without Disability	With Disability	Without Disability	
Cash Assistance	78	2,485	58	2,286	4,907
WASH	78	2,485	58	2,286	4,907
Total	156	4,970	116	4,572	9,814

Challenges and lessons

- Lack of human, technical and financial resources generated significant complications in meeting the schedule. Despite this, specialized personnel were incorporated to strengthen the execution of the activities. This was augmented by the support of local staff from other ACT members to ensure the timely delivery of assistance.
- Many families remained in shelters, delaying deliveries.
- There were also challenges related to the variability in product prices, which increased over time, affecting the original planning of purchases. The adjustment in food kits, such as the reduction of one pound of beans per kit, was a measure taken to face the rise in prices and to be able to continue guaranteeing coverage to affected families.
- The need for continuous assessments to adjust response strategies in real time was also highlighted, ensuring that aid reached those most effectively to those who needed it most. In addition, the need to improve responsiveness to potential price fluctuations and other external factors was recognized to ensure the sustainability of humanitarian aid.
- Procurement at the municipality with lower logistics costs, shorter delivery time, and supported local businesses.
- Importance of collaboration with local actors and authorities: One of the biggest achievements of the project was the close collaboration with municipal authorities and local communities. The joint work with the Boards of Trustees and the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM) on the identification of beneficiaries and in the organization of deliveries was key to ensuring that the aid reached the most affected families in a timely and efficient manner. This decentralized approach allowed decisions to be faster and more appropriate to local needs, avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of the intervention.
- Adaptability in the face of unforeseen changes: Throughout the project, several challenges were identified, such as high commodity prices due to the crisis, which impacted food and hygiene kits. The flexibility to adjust logistics, such as mobilizing own vehicles and redirecting funds destined for other areas, allowed the intervention not to be affected by budgetary constraints.
- The importance of verification and tracking: During the process of selecting and distributing beneficiaries, constant verification was a critical step in ensuring that aid reached the most vulnerable people. The active participation of the community and local authorities in verifying beneficiaries made it possible to avoid the inclusion of unneeded households and to ensure that resources were distributed fairly. This process, although laborious, proved to be fundamental to achieving the transparency and effectiveness of the project.
- Value of continuous communication: Throughout the entire project, constant communication with communities and authorities was essential. Despite logistical challenges and geographical barriers, socialization before, during, and after implementation ensured that all parties involved were aligned and committed to the project's goals.