

Alert

Madagascar – 06/2011

Cyclone Bingiza hits Madagascar

Geneva, February 17, 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

On 14 February tropical cyclone Bingiza hit northern and western parts of Madagascar. The most affected districts are Antalaha, Maroantsetra, Mananara North and Antsohihy. The cyclone has aggravated the misery of poor communities who are already badly affected by Madagascar's continuing political crisis.

The National Government Disaster and Risk Management (BNGRC) office is convening meetings with local and international NGOs daily to disseminate information on Bingiza and coordinate responses under the platform of the National Emergency Coordinating Committee (CRIC).

2. Impact

BNGRC and other local and international organisations are collecting data and assessing the impact along the cyclone's trajectory. The cyclone is still in Madagascar and the full extent of the impact will only be known later.

However according to a special meteorological bulletin of 16 February issued at 13:00hrs local time, 5000 hectares of rice crop have been destroyed, 15,455 people are affected, six (6) people have died, 14 are injured, one (1) person is missing and 7687 people have been left homeless.

3. National and international response

BNGRC has dispatched personnel to the affected places to provide care, casualty evacuation, rescue of isolated people and damage assessment. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has provided a plane to make an aerial assessment. Other international organisations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Medair have dispatched personnel to provide assistance to victims.

4. ACT Alliance response and planned activities

ACT member, Eglise de Jésus Christ de Madagascar - Département de la FJKM pour le Développement (SAF-FJKM), in collaboration with other international and local NGOs, is collecting data through local SAF units and FJKM pastors in the affected areas. The ACT Secretariat is also in communication with ACT member ICCO – Kerk in Actie office in Madagascar to keep abreast of the situation.

Following the assessment, SAF is planning to issue an appeal to respond to needs of the affected communities.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean-Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer (Jean.Daniel.Birmele@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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