

Alert

Democratic Republic Of Congo – No. 28/2010

ASSISTANCE TO SURVIVORS OF WILD FIRES IN NYUNZU, DRC

Geneva, August 30th, 2010

1. Brief description of the emergency

Two villages on the Northern Nyunzu Sector of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Muhuya and Sumpa, caught fire on August 12, 2010, burning houses including all household assets and equipments. Muhuya and Sumpa villages are at 15 km and 12 km from Nyunzu downtown, respectively. The origin of the fire is not yet identified. 176 people from 37 households were affected including 69 children and 12 expecting mothers. Food losses are estimated at 5.5 MT of corn, 0.5 MT of peanuts, and 1.5 MT of cassava. Seventeen hectares of on-farm crop was also burnt.

People in the two villages live under a dollar a day (*baseline by DanChurchAid in January 2010*) with a global malnutrition rate of 13.4% (*WFP/ UNICEF survey, December 2009*) and the devastation caused by the fire is beyond their means to cope.

2. Impact (if already having occurred)

Affected households lack basic needs for their survival including food, shelter, clothing and household equipment.

3. National and international response

The government health department distributed 75 blankets and 75 mosquito-nets to the affected population.

DCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo are working together to respond to the needs of the survivors after a rapid assessment on the 20th August 2010.

4. ACT International response

DCA is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo to gather resources for a coordinated response.

The requesting member is the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo with technical support by DCA. DCA will also support the post-crisis rehabilitation activities as part of the proposed response.

A Rapid Response Fund proposal is being worked on and will be issued very shortly.

5. Planned activities

The response will include: Food aid, Non food Items and emergency shelter to the affected households. Activities will include:

- Supply of sheeting for temporary accommodation
- Supply of bedding materials and mosquito nets
- Food ration
- Supply of basic house equipments

The two ACT members have development activities in the area and there are no security concerns. The road to the two villages is passable most times of the year and the emergency response is expected to be uninterrupted.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Roshan Rajaratne, ACT Finance Officer (rra@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

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