

Alert

Angola

Heavy floods in Angola

Geneva, 01 March 2011

Brief Description of the Emergency

Several provinces of Angola are grappling with flooding caused by heavy rains which have pounded Angola continuously for two weeks. The provinces of Uige, Huambo, Benguela, Moxico, Cuando Cubango and parts of northern and south eastern Angola are the most affected. According to UNOCHA (*Southern Africa Floods and cyclones situation update number 6 of 23 February 2011*) 6, 797 households have been affected, 34, 380 people have been displaced or evacuated and 4, 980 houses destroyed.

Impact

Fields have been washed away and children are not attending school where they have to cross rivers. Most of the areas are inaccessible. Most of the villages have been cut off by flooding. Some affected districts are only reachable by air transport to supply villages with food and medicine. In Uige alone, where ACT member IERA is working more than 5,000 houses have collapsed. Reports from Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA) pastors working in Bungela indicate that 180,000 people have been rendered homeless, whilst in Cuando Cubango 65,000 people have been affected. In Uige province, protection issues for the returnees from the Democratic Republic of Congo are becoming a major concern.

National and International response

The Angola civil protection unit reports that they have conducted a needs assessment and have submitted a request to central government for allocation of resources. However the budget has not yet been approved. IOM is working with returnees in the affected areas to ensure that they have proper documentation. Caritas is responding in Uige through the local structures of the Catholic Church. Some churches are collecting food and non food items (e.g. bags of rice and clothes) which they are distributing to some of the affected people. Though the floods have not yet been declared a national disaster, there are several calls from the provincial government structures for help.

ACT Alliance response

ACT Angola forum convened a meeting on 28 February to discuss the situation and agreed to issue an alert and conduct a through needs assessment.

ACT members currently working in Angola are Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA), Council of Christian Churches in Angola (Conselho de Igrejas Cristãs em Angola (CICA), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), DanChurchAid (DCA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Bread for the World (BfW), Christian Aid and ICCO. The ACT Angola Forum is currently trying to fundraise for an appeal and is communicating the needs for funding purposes. An appeal will not be issued if there are not enough pledges received. IERA and IECA will be the requesting members.

Planned activities

ACT members are planning to provide tents, cooking utensils, and medicines during the crisis phase but also to provide seed for recovery and to work on protection issues in Uige where there are large numbers of returnees. Disaster mitigation is another priority.

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

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