

Alert

China

Flash floods hit Wangmo County

Geneva, 10 June 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

On 6 June 2011 heavy rains lashed Wangmo County in China's south west Guizhou Province for more than three hours, triggering flash floods which affected more than 200,000 people in the province and forced the evacuation of more than 60,000 residents, according to the civil affairs bureau. The heavy rain caused the level of the Hongshui River to rise more than three metres above the danger level and caused severe flooding. Further heavy rain has been forecast across the province from 9 to 12 June with warnings of more possible flooding.

2. Impact

According to statistics released by local civil affairs bureau, over 21 people have lost their lives and 32 people are missing. A total of 2,804 houses have collapsed and 9,629 are seriously damaged. One kindergarten, three middle schools and one high school were flooded. Over 5,000 hectares of farm lands have been inundated. Communication and power supply lines, along with other infrastructure, were also severely affected. The direct loss has accounted to over RMB 1.08 billion (around USD 167 million).

3. National and international response

Immediately following the disaster, the provincial Disaster Alleviation Bureau and Civil Administration Office dispatched a working group to the affected areas. On 7 June the Ministry of Civil Affairs mobilized the first batch relief materials to the area.

The Red Cross in Guizhou Province has set up a working group and sent its first batch of relief materials ie 15 tons of rice, 200 quilts and 20 tents to the affected area.

4. ACT Alliance response

ACT Alliance member, the Amity Foundation, is in contact with local partners in Guizhou Province which are carrying out a rapid emergency assessment.

5. Planned activities

According to information collected by Amity's partners, the affected people urgently need food, shelter and other daily necessities. The Amity Foundation is assessing the possibility of an ACT Rapid Response Fund request.

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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