

Alert

India – No. 26/2010

Geneva, 11 August, 2010

Steady rains and flash floods in southern Orissa, east coast of India

1) Brief Description of the Emergency:

Low pressure caused by the monsoon over the Bay of Bengal has caused heavy rainfall and flash floods in southern parts of Orissa state since last week. Particularly affected are Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkangiri and Kalahandi districts. According to ACT member United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI), 700mm of rainfall has been recorded in the last three days, the highest level recorded in these districts this monsoon season. Nabarangpur and Koraput districts received over 400mm on 5 August and left 100,000 families marooned with the river Indravati reaching a dangerous level in the neighbourhood of Surli, at the border of Orissa and Chhattisgarh states.

2) Impact:

Roads have become inaccessible in Koraput to Kalahandi, Rayagada, Malkangiri and the neighbouring Chhattisgarh state. A preliminary report from the Government indicated that as many as 50,000 houses in Koraput and Nabarangpur districts were damaged and over 40,000 hectares of crop lands washed away. Nineteen people are reported killed, as well as loss of livestock and damage to property and belongings. Communication networks have been disrupted. Worst-hit are poor, small farmers and their families in the rural areas. Schools and colleges remained closed.

3) National & International Response:

The Government emergency relief operation has been extended to parts of the affected area. A total of 10,000 people have been evacuated and about 50 relief camps have been organized in government school buildings. However, many urgent needs remain unmet, especially in remote and difficult to access villages. It is feared that many families are marooned in these places.

4) ACT Response:

ACT member UELCI is assessing the situation and collecting information along with its member churches, in particular the Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) in Jeypore, Orissa. The operational capacity of churches in the area has also been affected by the floods. UELCI is sharing all information received with other ACT members in India and coordinating its plans with its member churches.

5) Planned Activities:

UELCI, with JELC, is now assessing the flood situation and its effect on the poor and marginalised people. UELCI has indicated that it will be making a request for funding from the ACT Rapid Response Fund to provide life-saving assistance within the next two days.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jessie Kgoroadira, ACT Chief Finance Officer (jkg@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.

For further information please contact:

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