

Alert

Central America – No. 31/2010

Tropical Storm Matthew, Nicaragua

Geneva, 1 October 2010

1. Brief description of the emergency

The tropical storm Matthew hit the North Atlantic Autonomous Region in Nicaragua on Friday, September 24 and was followed by intense rains. The most affected communities were Cape Gracias a Dios and Bismona. The government declared a yellow alert for the region and a green alert for the rest of the country.

2. Impact

According to official figures, the intense rains have affected 255 communities in nine provinces in Nicaragua. Up to now, one person was reported dead and more than 1,000 families (6,200 people) in situation of risk were evacuated with the support from civil defense organizations. Access to the 255 most affected communities is difficult because bridges have collapsed and approximately 400 km of roads and highways are destroyed. In addition, the heavy rains seriously threaten the harvest beans and corn.

3. National and international response

The evacuation of the affected communities continues and 72 temporary shelter units were set up. The Government has also provided assistance by transporting humanitarian aid including food, chloride water, and medicines.

4. ACT Alliance Response

The ACT Alliance members in Nicaragua have met regularly since the onset of the tropical storm. The Lutheran Church of Nicaragua (ILFE), Lutheran World Federation (FLM) and the Council of Protestant Churches (CEPAD) are planning to submit a request for Rapid Response Funds (RRF).

5. Planned activities

The RRF funds will be used to implement activities to complement the governmental support in the municipalities of Villanueva and Somotillo in Chinandega and San Francisco Libre in Managua. A detailed assessment will be carried out by the ACT members to determine the number of people in need of immediate assistance. The plan is to provide support in the sectors of water and sanitation management, health, food and non-food items.

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

For further information please contact the ACT Secretariat:

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Thank you for your attention