

Alert

Angola – No. 41/2010

Heavy rains badly affect Angolan returnees in Uige province

Geneva, 17 November 2010

Brief Description of the Emergency

Rains which started in the month of October 2010 have now severely affected Angolan returnees in Uige province of Angola. Other provinces such as Moxico, Kwanza North, Bie, Huambo, and Lunda North and South have also been affected. The National Meteorological Service of Angola (INAMET) has reported that this year's rainfall season which ends in April 2011 will be more severe compared to last year.

Most roads are currently impassable. More than 3,215 houses have been destroyed. The Department of Civil Protection has reported that 53 schools, 25 churches, four medical centres, and five social centres have been partially damaged. A total of 10 bridges have been destroyed, 21 people injured, and 12 people have died.

With the rains continuing, the situation is worsening for the more than 24,000 Angolans returnees in Uige who live in makeshifts and houses made of wood poles, mud and grass.

Impact

Due to the heavy rains most of the houses are collapsing and people are now seeking shelter with their neighbours and in some instances in churches.

Most people used to survive on working in the fields for a fee to buy food, but with the fields destroyed by the rains, people are now food insecure. The situation is getting dire every day compelling people to sell household utensils including non food items they receive as donations to buy food and medicines.

Children, women and the elderly are the most vulnerable.

National and International Response

The Department of Civil Protection reports that they have conducted a needs assessment and have submitted a request to central government for allocation of resources. The Ministry of Social Welfare (MINARS) has assisted 400 people with rice, clothing and soap.

Caritas is one of the faith based organisations working in Uige and is responding to this emergency. They have been mobilising support from local Catholic churches. In the housing sector Caritas is providing corrugated iron roofing sheets to households on condition they have made bricks for proper housing construction.

ACT Alliance Response

ACT members with physical presence in Angola are Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), DanChurchAid (DCA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF). They are also working closely with the Council of Christian Churches in Angola (Conselho de Igrejas Cristãs em Angola, CICA).

ACT members in Angola are taking a two pronged approach to this emergency. They are engaged in advocacy with the government and the private sector as well as responding to the immediate basic needs of people. Angola ACT Alliance Forum members have met with a senior official of the civil protection to lobby for assistance.

Prior to the emergency, the ACT Forum members had conducted a pre-emergency assessment of the needs in case of flooding. Using information from the survey and on-going assessments ACT member IERA is working on an appeal with support from the ACT Angola Forum.

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

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