

Alert

India – No. 43/2010

Tamil Nadu Floods

Geneva, 3 December 2010

Brief Description of the Emergency

Tamil Nadu has been receiving heavy and prolonged rains over the past two weeks, resulting in a rapid increase in water levels in dams, reservoirs and other water bodies across the State. Heavy rain continues to lash most parts of the state.

Impact

Close to 100 people have died over the last two weeks due to the heavy rains. In various rain-related incidents in Madurai district, 10 people died and 302 dwellings in the district were damaged. Nearly 13,600 huts were partially damaged, of which 8135 were in the Cuddalore district. Around 2925 huts were severely damaged, according to a senior official of the Revenue Department.

Crops cultivated on 142,000 hectares remain submerged in Madurai, Villupuram, Dharmapuri, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur, Ariyalur, Perambalur and Dindigul, according to a state government release.

National and International Response

An official at Thanjavur reported that 100,000 sand bags were being kept ready in case of breaches in canals. The Cuddalore district officials have distributed food packets to 14,100 people affected by the incessant rain and the administration has set up a 24-hour toll-free control room to help the victims of the rains.

The Tamil Nadu government announced that around US\$ 22,000 has been set aside for disaster relief and management during the ongoing north east monsoon. In remote villages, dalit and tribal people are not covered by the Government for relief programs and they are consequently struggling for survival

ACT Alliance members response

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELICI) has been in contact with other ACT India Forum members – Churches Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and the Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT). They are monitoring the situation closely and will inform the ACT Secretariat within the next two days whether they will request help through an appeal.

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

Thank you for your attention.

For further information please contact:

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