

# Alert

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## Ghana

# Floods in parts of Ghana

Geneva, 31 October 2011

### 1. Brief description of the emergency

A heavy rain in Ghana has resulted to flooding in various parts of the country killing more than 70 people and displacing 280,000 people.<sup>1</sup>

A five hour downpour of rain was experienced in Accra and its environs affecting thirty-five populated settlements. The rains which started around 10pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> continued till 4am on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> morning.

About nine people are confirmed dead in various parts of the city which includes - a mother and her baby, after a fence collapsed on them. Data is still being gathered on the affected population to determine numbers, sex, age etc, to enable the government and humanitarian agencies to provide the necessary support.

According to the Ghana Meteorological Services forecast, there is high possibility of continued rains in the coming days. Meanwhile, the Weija dam, the main source of water supply to Accra is also said to be swelling up and its flood gates could be opened any moment to save the dam from bursting its banks. This may result to further flooding.

The situation as it stands can be described as fluid. The population has been advised by the meteorological department to move to safer grounds to minimize the loss of lives and properties.

### 2. Impact

Initial assessment of the effects of floods shows that flood waters have inundated market stalls soaking foodstuff and other items. The livelihoods of small traders in these markets have been affected since they have lost all their wares. Households have also lost their stored dry foods (grain) exposing their families to hunger.

Schools have been closed down to safeguard the lives of children and to enable relevant officials to deal with the damage caused by the floods. The actual damage suffered in this sector is still to be determined.

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<sup>1</sup> UN OCHA assessment 27<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011

Infrastructure such as the road networks in the affected areas has been severely damaged. Electricity supply to parts of the city has also been disrupted due to flooding of Volta River Authority (VRA) substation. This has compounded the problems of the survivors.

Hundreds of people have had their homes flooded and their properties destroyed including clothing. Most of the affected people were counting their losses when the assessment team visited.

It is feared that stagnant waters and debris from the receding flood waters could generate diseases such as cholera and typhoid fever. It could also serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes which will eventually lead to incidents of malaria.

### **3. National and international response**

The government has made a direct appeal to the UN Resident Coordinator and humanitarian agencies for support in emergency cleaning of drains (as an immediate measure) and construction of more storm drains (longer term measure) to help deal with the perennial flooding situation in the capital.

### **4. ACT Alliance response**

ACT members in Ghana are Presbyterian Relief Services and Development (PRSD), Christian Aid and ECLOF. PRSD was part a rapid assessment mission in Accra together with UN and other agencies. 5,000 families in Accra and its environs were identified as the most affected and in need of immediate assistance with shelter, food and clothing.

### **5. Planned activities**

Presbyterian Relief Services and Development (PRSD) will lead the ACT forum to provide humanitarian assistance to the most affected people in Accra in coordination with other agencies. PRSD are preparing a rapid response request to ACT Alliance to assist the neediest survivors with food and non-food items.

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

Thank you for your attention.

#### **For further information please contact:**

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Katherine Ireri: [kir@actalliance.org](mailto:kir@actalliance.org) (phone +41 22 791 6040 or mobile phone +41 79 433 0592)

or

ACT Deputy General Secretary, Rebecca Larson [rsl@actalliance.org](mailto:rsl@actalliance.org) (phone +41 22 791 6069 or mobile phone +41 79 376 1711)