

Alert

El Salvador

Floods and landslides in El Salvador

Geneva, 14 October 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

In Central America, more than 40 people have died and 60,000 have been affected, by floods and landslides due to heavy rains caused by the tropical depression 12E. This phenomenon has crossed the southern part of Mexico with winds velocity of 60-70 kms per hour and with an extended low pressure system causing heavy rains in Mexico and some other Central American countries.

2. Impact

In El Salvador 9 municipalities have been affected. A total of six people have been killed, 4 are missing, 8,000 people have been evacuated and more than 4,300 people have taken refuge in shelters. The most affected area is San Francisco Menendez, in the western seashore of the country, 125 kms southwest from the capital city. Red Alert has been issued for this area. Relief assistance is being provided to 1,100 people, out of whom 1,000 are living in shelters currently. In the most remote communities, around 4,000 people are still marooned in the flood water and remain inaccessible due to damaged roads.

In the mountain region, roads are affected by a number of landslides which are cutting the contact with the communities, but according to governmental sources, there are also shelters and evacuation camps in such region.

3. National and international response

The Salvadorian government has set up 35 shelters, accommodating 2,226 displaced people. The government has declared the State of Emergency in 5 of the 14 departments and released USD 800,000 to address to the humanitarian needs.

4. ACT Alliance response

The ACT forum has activated the emergency committee which is in contact with the authorities as well as with the affected communities. An assessment is being undertaken to determine the needs and thereby to address this emergency situation. ACT team has coordinated with the local government in order to give some relief to these people, who are losing livelihoods and crops.

5. Planned activities

Today the local forum will release their plan to assist the affected communities.

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

Thank you for your attention.

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