

Situation report

Brazil: Floods in Northeastern state of Alagoas – Rapid Response Payment Request No. 9/2010

August 06, 2010

Background

The previous situation report dated of 23 July, identified that according to the evaluation of FETAG-AL, local partner, the situation in Santana do Mundaú demanded a different strategy regarding the distribution of the ACT Alliance's solidarity action. Indeed the delivery activity of ACT Alliance through KOINONIA and FETAG-AL was performed independently of the Civil Defense.

The delivery of the food and water

More than 600 hundred families have been identified in the registration process. Amongst those, 508 were identified as the most needed ones (408 in the rural areas and 100 in the urban area).

The delivery of life-sustaining goods, food and water, took place from 28 to 31 July. The benefit of women and children were guaranteed in the distribution. The following logistical aspects were fine tuned in the process: the criteria of the delivery to the rural families as well to some urban families; the meeting of the implementing partners with the local leadership; the finalizing of the families' registration; organizational strategy for the delivery; the final checking of logistics for the transportation of the goods and the crossing to the affected areas by ferryboats. The implementing partners have also met with the local police which was mobilized to provide accompaniment to the delivery process. This strategy was considered necessary and was put into action to avoid any attempt type of riots.

The delivery was structured on the following actions:

1. Arrival of the trucks with the ACT Alliance's aid package for delivery; (photo)
2. Final checking of the families' registration and their communities; (photo)
3. Reorganizing of the transportation to attend the rural communities; (photo)
4. Formation of the teams to accompany the delivery in rural communities; (photo)
5. Delivery to the rural communities according to registration; (photo)

The life-sustaining goods to be delivered to registered families in the urban area (100) were stored adequately as that distribution is only to take place on the 10 August. Implementing partners decided to do the urban delivery on a different day to mark clearly that the solidarity action being provided by ACT Alliance was a civil society action (not to be mistaken as a government action which was been done in the urban area on the 31 July). The delivery for the registered families in the urban areas will be accompanied by Protestant Churches and the Roman Catholic Church. FETAG/AL, the local rural workers trade union and KOINONIA are responsible for articulating that accompaniment.

Evaluation elements

An evaluation was done by the implementing partners on the 2 August 2010. The following points were highlighted:

1. The delivery process was successful in providing food and water to the rural communities. The choice of places for the delivery avoided incidents.
2. The communities were made aware by the local leadership that the delivery of provisions was a solidarity action of foreign countries, of the churches, through the mediation of an international ecumenical organization, ACT Alliance, and one of its national ecumenical member organizations, KOINONIA. The banner and stickers that were made for the day of the provisions' delivery further made clear that information given by the leadership.
3. The local the rural workers' trade union was strengthened with the action as it was instrumental in the organizing of the activities. Its leadership has worked hand in hand with local leadership on the delivery process.
4. The logistical hiccup identified was the fact that some means of transportation of provision have broken and were not replaced. That delayed the delivery process as only the small trucks could be used.
5. The implementing partners had to by-pass local politicians who, on the 31 July, were interested in taking political advantage of the delivery for their own promotion, as mention before.

Alagoas, 06 July 2010.