

Alert

India

Heavy Rains hit Tamil Nadu & Chennai Coastal Areas

Geneva, 4 November 2011

1. Brief description of the emergency

Due to the north east monsoon, heavy rainfalls have lashed the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu for the last few days. If these conditions prevail heavy flooding is anticipated. Most of the water reservoirs and tanks in the area are full to over flowing. Furthermore, the meteorological department has announced that a new trough of low pressure is extending from Sri Lanka to the northern Tamil Nadu coastal areas bringing more heavy rains.

2. Impact

The heavy rains along the Tamil Nadu coast have impacted the most vulnerable of the population, namely the daily wage labourers who are unable to go out to earn their living due to the rains and the small and marginal farmer families whose crops have been damaged. In some villages there is water logging and homes have consequently been damaged. Village roads have also been damaged causing difficulties accessing some affected areas. Due to the difficulties in access, prices of basic commodities have increased.

3. National and international response

The Tamil Nadu government has requested various government authorities, including government revenue officials, block development offices as well as town panchayats and municipalities, to be on high alert and to monitor the situation closely. So far no assistance has been delivered to any of the affected population.

4. ACT Alliance Response

ACT member the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) is closely monitoring the situation and keeping contact with other India ACT Forum members Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) and the Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT). UELCI will keep the forum members and the ACT Secretariat informed of the situation.

5. Planned activities

UELCI is assessing the situation with member churches and if the situation worsens a rapid response fund request will be made to support 2,500 families in Chennai and the Tamil Nadu Coastal areas 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).

Thank you for your attention.

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