

**ALERT**

**FLOODS**



**actalliance**

**Chennai, India**

Date: 04/11/2017

Bangkok

***SITUATION***

On the morning of Friday the 3 November 2017, the state of Chennai, Tamil Nadu in India, was severely affected by a low pressure area that had formed over Sri Lanka and South West Bay of Bengal bringing heavy and incessant rain falls to Chennai and Tamil Nadu. This has exacerbated the flooding caused by rains since Thursday. Fishermen venturing into the sea have been warned and advised not to go into the sea for fishing. North east monsoon is strengthening and officials have predicted more rain and thunder showers to continue for next three days in most places over the northern coast, Southern Tamil Nadu including Chennai city. The southern districts of coastal Tamil Nadu have recorded heavy showers in last 24 hours. According to local authorities five people are recorded to have died due to heavy rain related incidents. Two eight year old girls were electrocuted while playing outside their home in Kodungaiur as the electricity lines fell into the water.

In Chennai city school and colleges have been closed due to the rains and heavy rain affected other districts in Tamil Nadu since last three days. Chennai has been facing water logging, traffic jam and flash floods in several places. The day to day normal lives of the people have been severely affected due to heavy rain falls. In several places the electricity supply was stopped due to heavy rainfall.

***NEEDS***

The floods have put the district in a state of crisis. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to: food, safe shelter and non food items. The rains and the flooding has meant that people have lost their livelihoods and dependent on external support. There is need for sufficient food, safe shelter and basic non-food items. The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities especially for those people discriminated because of caste. The government has initiated 115 relief distribution centers which is not enough to reach to all the slums areas in Chennai city and remote villages. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

#### National government

The District collectors have been directed to order the relief teams for rescue and relief operations. The meteorological department has predicted more rainfall in next three days in Chennai and Southern coast of Tamil Nadu state. The Fisheries Minister, the Development Minister, Revenue Minister and other senior officials met reviewed the relief and rescue work carried out by civic staff at the Chennai Corporation.

The ACT Alliance emergency response is currently being coordinated by LWSIT. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Meetings will continue over phone, e-mail as well as in persons) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

### **ACT Alliance**

ACT Alliance has been working in India since inception of ACT International and ACT Alliance. The UELCI slum women advancement programs in Chennai and member churches have presence in Tamil Nadu. The affected poor people have requested UELCI to extend support with relief assistance.

ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the floods, and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in not having food and non-food and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide Food and Non-Food assistance to 2000 households to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to Food and Non-food items.

ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing with food and non food needs to 2000 affected households in the coming weeks.

Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the floods are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration,**

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