**SITUATION**

During the night of Sunday the 19 January 2020, the region of Boeny, Melaky and parts of the Highlands in Madagascar, were affected by heavy torrential rains, which have been ongoing for the entire week. The heavy rainfall and flooding caused by a tropical disturbance have affected nearly 107,000 people, including more than 16,000 displaced, and caused at least 31 deaths in Madagascar since 20th January. The heavy down pour of more than 100 litres per metres square (m²) within 1 hour reflect the intensity of these rains experienced. The situation has led to massive floods, including a rapid rise of rivers with enormous water flow, corresponding landslides and massive destruction of the surrounding infrastructure (roads and bridges) and agricultural areas. The local dwellings of the rural population have been damaged and food reserves have been destroyed. The regions of Boeny and Melaky, which were affected by cyclone Belna on January 10th, are in the center of the disaster. Local churches and the ACT Member FJKM (The Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar) which is the second-largest Christian denomination in Madagascar have mobilized their volunteer network and have started to respond. The Government of Madagascar has declared the flooding a State of Emergency on 24 January and activated the humanitarian response, led by the National Committee for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

**NEEDS**

The floods have put the region 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:

- **sufficient food**
- **safe shelter and basic non-food items**
- **basic health services and facilities**
- **safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure**
- **adequate nutrition**

The dire situation is further compounded for the flood affected people with vulnerabilities more specifically for people of lower castas their habitations and sources for water and food are destroyed or heavily affected. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

- **National government**
  - BNGRC (Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes) the National Disaster Management Agency, the BNGRC. and Army are on highest alerts but have already indicated not to have efficient food reserves. A CRIC (national coordination meeting) is scheduled for (22nd January 2020) in the afternoon.

- **UN Agencies**
  - Depending on figures and impact news the UN agencies are supposed to open the humanitarian cluster system and with next week the first assessments are supposed to happen.

- **INGOs**
  - German Agro Action, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Worldwide Fund For Nature (WWF), ADRA and others are present in Madagascar, response capacities need to be checked in coordination meetings

- **Red Cross Red Crescent Movement**
  - Madagascar Red Cross with IFRC, GRC and ICRC are present - response capacities to be evaluated and coordinated
Military presence

Malagassy Army is present in all areas of the country

National NGOs

CSO and National Organisations are present but lack of finances is reducing response capacities

Civil society groups

Are present, most of them not trained in disaster relief; SAF/FJKM is the chair of the National Alliance, the strongest CSO network at Madagascar.

Faith based groups

FKJM and FLM (ACT Alliance members), Catholic Church are the main faith-based groups active in Madagascar with response capacities as financial resources are provided through their respective networks (if available)

Host communities

The affected regions (Boeny, Melaky, and Haute Terre) with the towns of Mahajangar, Soalala and the capital Antananrivo with a total population of approximately 3 Million people

Affected communities

Will be reported in detail after first information/assessments have been collected and are disseminated.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by BNGRC. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (in cluster and coordination meetings) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Madagascar Forum has been working in Madagascar since 1974, now helping/planning to help people affected by the floods

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

ACT Madagascar Forum is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.

ACT Madagascar Forum is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Madagascar forum has identified a gap in 1.) safe access to water, 2.) provision of shelter and 3.) access to Food and NFI through distribution or most likely cash distribution and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.

The ACT Madagascar forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide aqua tabs, shelter and food/cash to ensure that the floods affected persons’ basic needs are met with regards to reduce mortality and morbidity of cyclone affected population through 1.) contaminated water, 2.) reduce vulnerability through non existing or heavily destroyed shelter and 3.) starvation through non-existence of food.

ACT Madagascar Forum is ready to respond, providing aqua tabs, shelter kits and cash to 2000 rural affected households in the coming weeks.

Furthermore, ACT Madagascar Forum 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, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

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