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Coordinating Office

Rapid Response Payment Request No. 24/2008

Funds Sent To: Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus - Development and Social Services Commission (EECMY DASSC)

Amount Sent: US\$ 60,000

Date: 9 September 2008

Details of Response

Emergency: Floods in Gambella District, Ethiopia

Date of Emergency: August 16 - 29 2008

Implementing Member(s): Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, EECMY-DASSC and it's local implementing church units, East and West Gambella Bethel Synods

DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY: Every year from the end of July to mid-October almost all districts in Gambella region are affected by flooding. Intense rain and thunderstorm in the upper highland of Oromiya, mainly in Illubabor Zone and West Wellaga Zone, have caused all streams and rivers to over flow their natural courses. Particularly, continuous rains in these areas from mid-August to the end of August 2008 have caused overflowing of the rivers, resulting in sudden flooding of major rivers in Gambella area. These rivers are Baro, Gillo, and Akobo, all flowing across the districts of the region. These rivers have flooded Lare, Itang, Abobo and villages around Gambella town and the distant district of Akobo.

To date, due to the flooding, over 28,337 people (5,668 households) have been displaced, four people and 921 animals killed and 6,502 hectares of maize and sorghum destroyed. The majority of the population of Gambella region live along the rivers and are entirely dependent on water from the big rivers for household consumption, fishing and growing maize and other crops.

The flooding have also damaged social and economic infrastructure such as clinics, schools, roads, telephone and power lines and other service centers. Many government and household properties and local resources are also damaged. Threats of communicable and water borne diseases such as malaria are a serious concern in the flooded areas. There is no fresh water available and the people in these areas have no other choice but to use the flood water for drinking. The people in these flood-affected areas of Gambella, have already depleted most of their livelihood assets and many have exhausted available coping mechanisms due to similar flood disasters that occurred last year. For these groups – flooding could ultimately lead to destitution.

ACT is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide.

The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

Summary of the damage caused by Gambella Flood -2008

SN	Affected District	Displaced No of People	Displaced No of house Holds	No of Death (people)	No of Death (Animals)	Damage Farm lands (Hectares)
1	Itang	7558	1512	2	368	1749
2	Abobo	761	153	-	328	1195.6
3	Akobo	7714	1543	1	92	2058
4	Lare	11879	2376	1	133	1500
5	Gambella Town & Surrounding villages	425	85	-	-	0
	Total	28337	5669	4	921	6502.6

ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS:

ACT Ethiopia Forum mobilized a rapid assessment team which consists of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), EECMY-DASSC and the ACT Ethiopia Forum Coordination Office to the flood affected areas of Gambella Regional State since August 27, 2008.

The team visited both East and West Gambella for two days and was involved in extensive interaction with affected villagers in Lare, Itang and Abobo districts. It held discussions with the local administrations of the districts, government officials (Regional Disaster Prevention and Food Security Bureau) and exchange of ideas with ACT member Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS) Gambella Office as well as NGOs ZOA Refugee and CARE.

The team had the opportunity to be briefed on the latest information released from the joint Government-NGO Coordination meeting that took place while the team was in the region. The team also obtained updates on the efforts by the government and local and international humanitarian agencies in responding to the emergency, and the prevailing resource gap to meet the humanitarian needs. It was confirmed that the gap between the need and supply is enormous, and the resource supplied and pledged so far by humanitarian actors was far from sufficient in meeting the immediate needs.

World Food Program (WFP), Samaritan Purse, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Ethiopian Red Cross (ERC) and Food for the Hungry have physical presence in the region and have visited the affected woredas. With the exception of the latter, so far, none of these organizations have responded to the floods. Food for the Hungry has provided 200 quintals maize, while Disaster Prevention and Food Security Department has supplied 25 cartoons of oil and 400 quintals of Famix to the affected population in Lare *woreda*, and 10 cartoons of oil and 200 quintals of Famix to Itang *woreda*. UNICEF is said to have pledged non-food items (NFI) such as medical supplies through the regional Health Bureau. The assistance provided so far is far from being adequate and could not cover all the flood-affected communities. The team also witnessed that so far, with the available resource, distribution is taking place on a blanket approach and the needs of special groups have not been taken care of.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

With the proposed Rapid Response Fund, EECMY/DASSC (East and West Gambella Bethel Synods or EGBS and WGBS respectively) plans to meet the most pressing needs of the flood survivors and the most vulnerable groups in the three districts (Lare, Itang and Abobo) of Gambella Regional State. The AEF understands that in such emergencies, the provision of food and related relief assistance to the flood affected people should have preceded all other assistance. However, due to the high cost of food, transportation and distribution in the region from Addis, the budget anticipated through the RRF falls short of meeting the cost of food supplies. In addition to this fact, taking into account the government approved minimum standards for food ration distribution which includes grain, pulse, oil, and supplementary food as a package, it is unrealistic to consider the provision of food to flood survivors, and it was also ruled out as an expensive solution.

In an effort made to find a viable option to respond to emergencies based on the next possible needs of the affected communities and after consulting the local authorities and the implementing EECMY- Church units, the following non-food items package was identified and included in this RRF: bed sheets, mosquito nets, metal cooking pots and soap.

OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE: TARGET POPULATIONS:

To reduce further suffering of flood affected households, and contribute in addressing their immediate needs through the provision of non-food items (bed sheets, mosquito nets, soaps and cooking pots) as these items are desperately needed to protect those affected from malaria infection. The NFIs are also needed for proper hygiene and sanitation and for cooking.

PROPOSED ASSISTANCE:

The major purpose of the EECMY-DASSC and the implementing church units East and West Gambella Bethel Synods is to meet the emergency humanitarian needs of the people affected by the floods. In emergencies of this nature where floods have either destroyed or washed away household properties of the displaced population, it is not debatable that the provision of non-food items in the form of relief assistance is tantamount to any other life saving assistance. The need for emergency food and other needs will be covered by the government and other NGOs.

The planned NFI assistance and number of beneficiaries are the following:

SN	Districts	Total No of Benef.(hh)	Allocation			
			Bedsheet (pairs)	Cooking pot (NO)	Mosquito Net(NO)	Soap (No)
1	Itang	1512	1512	1512	1512	3024
2	Abobo	153	153	153	153	306
3	Lare	2376	2376	2376	2376	4752
	Total	4041	4041	4041	4041	8082

EECMY- DASSC and the implementing Church units will provide the assistance to flood-affected people in line with the minimum Sphere Standard requirement. During implementation, all possible awareness- building on the Code Of Conduct On Sexual Exploitation, Abuse of Power and Corruption for Staff Members of the ACT International Alliance and open and participatory discussions will be carried out to inform the affected people about the program, their rights and the requirements for beneficiary identification. The beneficiary representatives will also participate in the local Task Force for active participation in the decision- making process.

All services and assistance given to the affected people in implementing this RRF will be done in accordance with the principles set out in the Principles of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

BENEFICIARY INFORMATION AND LOCATION OF RESPONSE:

The RRF plans to assist those who are directly affected and displaced by the floods, in particular children, women, the disabled and the elderly. Based on the requests of the local authorities and assessment reports the following districts were prioritized for this intervention:

SN	District	Total affected People	Total House Holds	Implementing Church Unit
1	Itang	7558	1512	EECMY-East Gambella Bethel Synod
2	Abobo	761	153	EECMY-East Gambella Bethel Synod
3	Lare	11879	2376	EECMY- West Gambella Bethel Synod
	Total	20198	4041	

The displaced people had moved from the flooded areas to schools, other communal houses and relatives' homes. So far, there is no conflict created between the displaced and host communities. The local authorities are monitoring the situation and in all districts, local task forces were organized to coordinate support.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

The EECMY EGBS and WGBS will implement the planned assistance in their respective operation areas. They have the responsibility to implement and administer the project. The EECMY EGBS will have the overall responsibility of implementing the RRF in Itang and Abobo while the EECMY- WGBS DASSC will implement activities in Lare District.

The two church units will work very closely to cooperate and consult with the local community and with the regional and district government officials throughout the project implementation. At the District /wareda and Kebele level, there will be committees for emergency relief operation which are responsible for beneficiaries' screening and NFI distribution.

The implementing bodies, (EECMY- EGBS & WGBS) are also responsible for the recruitment and employment of local staff and making the necessary arrangements to ensure safe storage of relief commodities and resources. The project manager and the project management team will also have the overall responsibility for coordinating the project implementation with local community, local administration and other NGOs working on this emergency.

The EECMY- DASSC, will be responsible for the monitoring and reporting on the project implementation to ACT Ethiopia Forum (AEF), ACT CO and other relevant bodies. ACT Ethiopia Forum members will have access to monitor and evaluate the operation and implementation of the RRF for Gambella to draw lessons and bring about further improvement in the quality of services to be rendered to disaster-affected people. The overall implementation process is supported by the relief committees which are already organized and functional at the DASSC Central and at the EECMY- Church units levels, and are in collaboration with the respective local administration and the communities.

COMMUNICATIONS: The EECMY/DASSC Relief Coordination unit works closely with AEF Coordination Office. All information pertaining to the implementation of the RRF will be updated and shared with the AEF Coordinating Office through which they are shared with the AEF members and the network of local and international humanitarian and UN agencies (UNOCHA, FAO, etc), Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Agency and other international communities. ACT Ethiopia Forum Coordination Office works closely with ACT CO in sharing of information on the progress of the program to enable it to provide updates to the wider ACT alliance.

PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: The implementation is planned to take two months. (September to October 30, 2008)

BUDGET

Description	Unit type	No of units	Unit cost (Eth.Birr)	Total Budget Eth. Birr)	Budget USD
Bedsheet	No	4041	64	258,624	26,662
Soap	No	8,082	4	32,328	3,333
Cooking pot	No	4041	30	121,230	12,498
Mosquito Net	No	4041	30	121,230	12,498
Transportation from Addis Ababato to Gambella				10,000	1,031
Local transport to	Sites	2	3,000	6,000	619
Teamleader	No	2	7,000	14,000	1,443
Distributors/4/	No	4	3,000	12,000	1,237
Communications	lump				179
Audit	lump				500
Total				575,412	60,000

Exchange Rate : 1 USD = ETB

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ACTION

The ACT Co-ordinating Office has approved the use of US\$ 60,000 towards the budget from its Rapid Response Fund and would be grateful to receive contributions to wholly or partially replenish this payment. Should there be an appeal for this emergency, the RRF payment will be considered as an advance.