



SOUTHEAST ASIA EMERGENCIES

October 2, 2009 – [Canadian Lutheran World Relief](#) (CLWR) is appealing to Canadians for financial support for relief operations in the aftermath of multiple natural disasters that have struck Southeast Asia in the past week. The agency is working in partnership with other members of the ACT International alliance to address people's basic needs and support rehabilitation efforts.

In the Philippines, the government's national disaster coordinating council says a total of 1.87 million people were affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana. Up to 375,000 people are staying in 600 evacuation centres. ACT partners have initiated plans to address the needs of urban poor families through distribution of relief goods including food, water, clothes, candles, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, pots and pans.

The same storm system also severely damaged areas of Vietnam leading to the evacuation of 52,000 households. To date, 162,000 houses have been damaged and 6000 houses totally destroyed. Response activities are likely to focus on early recovery and rehabilitation, as people appear to be meeting their immediate relief needs, together with response by Government and other organisations. ACT partners will give priority to water and sanitation (rehabilitation and flood-proofing hand pumps, latrines, wells and hygiene promotion), repair and upgrading shelters, and restoring livelihoods (providing seeds and seedlings).

In Indonesia, a 7.6 Richter Scale quake has inflicted heavy damage on the Padang region. The death toll has reached over 1000 people, and is expected to rise further. Thousands are still trapped in several buildings in Padang city. A total of 10,062 houses in the district have collapsed. Around 19 public facilities are badly damaged; 50 schools are badly destroyed. ACT partners already in the damaged areas are beginning to address shelter, water, food and medical needs. More detailed reports on specific aid needs are expected in the coming days.

A series of four tsunamis struck Samoa as well as nearby American Samoa and some of the smaller islands of Tonga on Tuesday morning, local time, following a massive undersea quake about half an hour earlier. A State of Disaster was declared by the government and assistance requested from foreign missions and the United Nations. The Samoa Council of Churches has highlighted the need for food, drinking water and clothes.

Contributions for this emergency response can be made at www.clwr.org/donate or by calling toll-free 1.800.661.2597.

Updates will be available at: www.clwr.org/What-We-Do/SouthAsia.cfm

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CLWR carries out international emergency relief, development programming, refugee resettlement and alternative trade merchandising on behalf of the two major Lutheran church bodies in Canada (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Lutheran Church–Canada) and Canadians of goodwill. As a registered not for profit agency, funding comes through donations and through agreements with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). CLWR is a member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, the Canadian Council for International Cooperation, the Lutheran World Federation and Action by Churches Together (ACT) International. The agency's head office is located in Winnipeg, with regional offices in Vancouver, Toronto and Santa Cruz (Bolivia) and Lima (Peru).