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ACT MEMBERS SCALE UP ACTIVITY IN HAITI

Winnipeg, January 22, 2010 – Action by Churches Together (ACT) is issuing updates on the situation in Haiti every two days. Below is the latest report of these reports.

Donations to the Appeal for Haiti issued by Canadian Lutheran World Relief on January 13, 2010 will be used to support the immediate relief as well long term redevelopment for Haiti. In addition to these funds, CLWR will be part of a coalition of nine Canadian churches and church-based development agencies that is in the process of applying for additional resources from the \$50 million announced by the Canadian government.

actalliance

Action by Churches Together

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Geneva, January 21, 18h30

Situation update

A strong 6.1-magnitude aftershock hit the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince yesterday, shaking residents who survived the devastating January 12 earthquake. The extent of damage is being assessed; early reports indicated some buildings had been damaged. No reports of casualties. The aftershock was centered on Gressier, a town west of the capital city. Meanwhile, security has improved in Port-au-Prince for ongoing international relief efforts, according to reports.

Reuters Alertnet reports today that the search for survivors has started to wind down as international rescue teams begin pulling back and aid, though more plentiful, is still not enough for the tens of thousands left homeless and injured. There are also growing signs of coordination in aid efforts to help towns outside Haiti's capital devastated by last week's earthquake and frightened anew by Wednesday's big aftershock. Medecins Sans Frontieres, has accused the US of mishandling aid operations and causing severe delays to doctors trying to bring vital help to victims of the earthquake.

Thousands of people are leaving PaP and other affected areas. Organization are trying to bring help where the displaced are. Some people are trying to pass the border which can later create problems in DR. Wounded have been evacuated to DR.

ACT Member Coordination in Haiti:

Regular meetings with ACT members and partners taking place. Working conditions are difficult due to lack of transportation. Psychosocial support is needed. ACT members are participating in shelter, watsan and logistic clusters as well as in humanitarian forum. LWF office in PAP is reaching the limit in term of hosting people (CWS, SCH and RST) Some space might be available nearby, will be confirm on Friday.

ACT Member Coordination in Dominican Republic:

CWS is providing support to ACT members in DR (not in PAP!) to facilitate logistics. One LWF staff arrived yesterday in DR. A meeting took place today with Elsa to plan activities in DR (incl. activities in Haiti to be done from DR)

HIA is present in DR through Kriszta – heard that the DR government is planning to set up a refugee camp along the border needs to be confirm. Kriszta will coordinate with ACT members.

Rapid Support Team

Coordinator Elsa Moreno has arrived in Santo Domingo bringing hygiene equipment, water purification tablets, sleeping bags, seven days of field rations, laptops, torches, and satellite phones for the three-person RST.

Elsa expects to arrive in PaP after lunchtime today (January 21). She has requested all ACT members forward their sections of the preliminary ACT Appeal to her emoreno960@gmail.com by 17h00 today (Haiti time).

Already photos of RST communicator Paul Jeffrey have attracted international media interest, notably from Associated Press and Agence France Presse, which request continued supply of photos. Paul Jeffrey photos at <http://photos.act-intl.org> (user name: actmember and password: act4you). Paul is based at the LWF office.

Communications

ACT secretariat planning already now to have replacements on the ground once present communicators leave. Material for ACT Alliance visibility being produced in El Salvador, to be shipped to Haiti, including t-shirt, caps.

Preliminary appeal:

Preliminary appeal is planned for Friday January 22. Members are preparing respective appeals. As of now, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is planning an immediate response in the areas of water and sanitation, tents, blankets and hygiene kits. Christian Aid (CA) is planning to immediate life-saving food, non-food and cash assistance to 15,000 – 25,000 of the most vulnerable individuals, including encouraging assistance to people at the border. Other activities will be discussed and added to the proposal. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) plans to support ACT members LWF and CA. In addition, it will be a requesting member of the appeal in the areas of water and sanitation with one local partner. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) has indicated it wants to join the appeal. Other members are still examining the possibility of joining the appeal. The full appeal is targeted to be issued by February 15.

Member updates

All members report a scaling-up of activities. Highlights of **updates of activities** as reported by members to the ACT secretariat follow:

- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) January 19

LWF will scale up its team in Haiti and is preparing for the appeal in the immediate response phase in the areas of water and sanitation, tents, blankets and hygiene kits.

- Church World Service (CWS) January 20

Distributions have included CWS kits and blankets, that had been pre-positioned for disasters in a Santo Domingo warehouse by SSID, arrived in Port-au-Prince from Santo Domingo last week along with water and sanitation equipment that been shipped as part of CWS-supported efforts by the ACT Alliance. CWS has scheduled an air shipment for Thursday, January 21, of medicine boxes (containing enough essential medicines and medical supplies to treat the routine ailments of about 1000 adults and children) into Port au Prince. With ocean shipping schedules backed up, CWS has diverted part of a 40-foot container shipment of emergency kits to go by air on tonight, with the remainder to be expedited by fastest means available. This is a separate shipment from the shipment of medicine boxes.

- DanChurchAid (DCA) January 21

DCA has proposed establishing a 'clearing house' in Copenhagen to manage the distribution of relevant CVs requested by members. This proposal needs further discussion.

- Church of Sweden (CoS) January 18

Thomas Brundin, former LWF Haiti country representative, was scheduled to arrive at 18h00 to support ACT and LWF in coordination and communication. Tents: CoS is able to offer 141 tents (appropriate for 3-4 persons) and free transportation to Santo Domingo. LWF has accepted this contribution and flight details will be provided as soon as possible.

- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) & Kerk in Actie January 21

ICCO & Kerk in Actie will not enter into the appeal at this stage as a requesting member. However, ICCO & Kerk in Actie would like to be mentioned as an ACT member implementing certain interventions with some of its partners outside the ACT Appeal. Through these partners (normally dealing with human rights and democracy, including good governance and training police officers) it will focus on monitoring the compliance of other organisations to the eight common standards of Sphere. ICCO & Kerk in Actie will possibly enter the appeal at a later stage.

- Christian Aid (CA) January 21

CA is working with plans to work with affected communities in west PaP, Nippes, Petit Goave. Additional locations will be added as further partners are identified. As part of the immediate relief distribution and medium-term rehabilitation with the help of following partner organizations: KORAL, GRAMIR, VETERIMED. We are currently seeking additional partners to assist in the scaling up of the programme.

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) January 19

Louis Dorvilier will be joining the ACT response in DR for a minimum of two weeks as a transport logistician in support of LWF staff entering Haiti. Lutheran Services Florida is working to receive refugees incoming from Haiti. This work commenced yesterday.

ELCA has been in conversation with other North American partners, namely UMCOR, CWS, UCC and IOCC to discuss future coordination of volunteer mobilization. The ELCA has had a historical working relationship with Habitat for Humanity and contact will be made soon to see how the ELCA could facilitate that aid with our ACT Haiti Forum.

- Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) January 20

HIA has a resident representative, Krisztina Fogarasi, in Santo Domingo who is ready to join the ACT mission and humanitarian assistance in the coming days. She is fluent in English and French. HIA has also contacted its long-standing partner UMCOR, which is delegating a team to the region. HIA has offered an expert to the team, experienced emergency worker Gábor Sasvári. HIA will cover his costs (travel, accommodation, per diem, etc.) during his possible mission. He could arrive in Haiti from DR on January 25.

HIA is sending an air cargo shipment from Hungary to DR next week. The shipment will include medical supplies: water purification tablets, disinfection powder, disposable rubber gloves, masks,

blankets, bandages, etc. HIA has initiated a fundraising campaign among its donors (firms, schools and individuals) as well, and also the Hungarian MFA is going to release some funds to assist the victims of the earthquake.

- HEKS/EPER January 21

HEKS is working on distribution of 2500 hot meals and beverages per day nearby its office in Pétiön Ville. HEKS HQ in Zurich is about to employ one architect and one civil engineer to carry out an assessment mission regarding opportunities for rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools and houses as well as the respective WATSAN infrastructure in rural areas west of PaP. All HEKS staff are briefed to coordinate with ACT Forum in Haiti.

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.act-intl.org> (new ACT Alliance web site will be launched sometime in February)