**Situation Report No.4**

**Flooding in Thailand - Emergency Response & Early Recovery**

**Date of Report: 11 November 2011**

**CONTEXT**

Nearly four million tons of garbage float in the contaminated waters of Bangkok, devastated by the worst floods of the last 50 years, which have killed a reported 533 people an increase of 96 since the last situation report. For over two weeks, garbage trucks have not had access to different districts of the capital, where the population is at risk of suffering epidemics. Every day nearly 200 new cases of diarrhea, fungus infections and other diseases, caused by contaminated water, spread in centers that shelter over 100,000 evacuated people.

Floods have affected over two million Thais, while more than 200,000 people are still evacuated in 25 provinces and in Bangkok. In the neck-deep floodwaters of an industrial zone in Bangkok, workers are using Jet Skis and small wooden boats to transport stacks of computer components out of waterlogged factories.

Three weeks after monsoon run-off swamped more than 1,000 factories across central Thailand, the brown, corrosive floodwaters have only slightly receded, leaving the world's largest computer makers without a reliable forecast about when crucial parts will be available once again.

The image of Thailand as a land of temples, beaches and smiles has over the years been reinforced by the country's tourism advertising campaigns. But the flooding here, the worst in at least five decades, has revealed to the world the scale of Thailand's industrialization and the extent to which two global industries, computers and cars, rely on components made here.

Until the floodwaters came, a single facility in Bang Pa-In owned by Western Digital produced one-quarter of the world's supply of “sliders,” an integral part of hard disk drives. Over the weekend, workers in bright orange life jackets salvaged what they could from the top floors of the complex. The ground floor resembled an aquarium and the loading bays were home to jumping fish.

The flooding, which is now spreading through the northern reaches of Bangkok, is the second reminder this year of the vulnerability of global supply chains, coming just a few months after the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan and shut down facilities that produce crucial car electronic components.

Today, as a measure of Thailand's importance to the global automotive supply chain, the flooding has forced Toyota to slow production in factories in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, North America, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa and Vietnam. Honda, the carmaker most affected by the Thai floods, has also slowed production at factories in several countries.

The slow-moving floodwaters, which are an accumulation from this year's unusually strong monsoon rains in northern Thailand, are gradually draining into the sea. At what is known as the Bang Pa-In Industrial Estate, trucks have delivered massive pumps. Workers said they would start trying to remove water from the area on Monday. Workers have caught and killed crocodiles swimming in the area, he said.

A large share of the industrial growth in Thailand has occurred on the flood plain north of Bangkok. Rice paddies were paved over to make way for factories, suburban housing and shopping malls, blocking the natural path and absorption of water during the monsoon season. Last week, Thailand's Science and Technology Minister Plodprasop Surasawadi told a Thai newspaper that he was “one million per cent sure” there would be flooding again next year. “This is a natural phenomenon that you cannot escape,” he said. “We are living in a period of climate change.”

**HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THAILAND**

* The Disaster Prevention & Mitigation Department reported Wednesday 9 November that flooding was still affecting 24 of 77 provinces with 2.8 million people and 1.1 million households. It also reported that since July floods have affected 3.3 million households and approx 11.3 million people in 64 of the 77 provinces.
* 533 people have died primarily due to drowning and electrocution. This is an increase of 96 in the last week.
* The Government has announced that compensation will be paid to 62,155 households in Bangkok; each household will receive Baht 5,000 as other provinces. Up to date, Bangkok’s 32 districts out of 50 have been affected by floods.
* Authorities last month released more than 9 billion cubic meters of water to run its course from the north to the sea. Rainfall this year has exceeded the average by about 40 percent, according to government data.
* While water levels in lower northern and central areas show signs of receding flooding continues to spread in Bangkok & nearby provinces of Nakhon Pathom, Samut Sakorn.
* Up to now central Bangkok has been saved from flooding however the situation is reviewed every day and flood preparations continue.
* Industrial Areas have been flooded and stopped production in more than 1,000 factories leaving up to one million people unemployed. Thirty affected Japanese factories are taking their employees to their headquarters in Japan for up to 6 months duration.
* Bangkok supermarkets have also run short of necessities, such as rice, instant noodles, eggs and bottled water, because of hoarding and supply-chain disruptions. Thailand continues to import essential goods such as drinking water and eggs.
* Suvarnabhumi Airport Bangkok’s main international airport, is protected by a 3.5-meter-high flood barrier, and has remained open throughout the flooding. The domestic airport at Don Mueang was shut on Oct. 25 as floodwaters covered the runway and began seeping into the terminal buildings.
* 2,536 Education Institutions have been affected, the opening of the current semester has been postponed until later in November and some in December.
* Evacuation centers are still being opened by the Government to shelter those who are forced to leave their homes, in addition some church buildings are being used.
* The vulnerability of Migrants has increased (legal status, lack of employment, psychological uncertainties). Please see story below.

**CARITAS THAILAND RESPONSE**

* The ‘Emergency Response Committee (ERC) set up by Caritas Thailand continues to meet twice daily for planning and reporting purposes.
* Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continues to facilitate the ERC by providing expertise in emergency management, WASH, livelihood & general support.
* ERC continues to coordinate with the Diocesan Social Action Centers (DISACs) at Nakhon Sawan and Bangkok as well as other DISACs in northeast of the country and the responsible Desks for Caritas Thailand.
* The appointed personnel for Emergency Relief and Early Recovery including Distribution, WASH, Livelihood, and Health continue to meet, plan and execute planned interventions.
* For sustainability purposes particularly in livelihood and health interventions communities and volunteers are being trained.
* Good base Line surveys are being promoted by the active involvement of communities and volunteers in the process.
* In the present phase, many people including victims, young adults from high school to university level, volunteer to help in the activities towards the flood victims.
* Flood Response Appeal launched to the Caritas Confederation was made by Caritas Internationalis on October 29, 2011.
* Appeals and acceptance of support from within Thailand continues.
* Media coverage continues such as the use of local church newspaper, TV and radio channels as well as an introduction of **www.facebook.com/THAIcatholics.Floods** for people participation, all of these have been operated with the close coordination and collaboration with Catholic Social Communications of Thailand and Social Commissions in all dioceses.

**Support/Assistance Provided by Caritas Thailand** (from 3rd to 11th November 2011)**:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Support/Assistance** | **Achievements** |
| **Food and non-food items/supplies;**  Food item; rice, Instant noodles, canned fish, other food items, medicines, drinking water, etc.  Non-food; flashlights, sanitary napkins, tissues, soaps, shampoo, mosquito repellent, etc. | * **Distribution:** food and non-food packs to over 3,400 families in 2 provinces through collaboration with Diocesan Social Action Centers (DISACs) and volunteers. * **Procurement:** 3,000 packs of food and non-food items including water treatment were ordered. Donations of food items including water are still being received at CBCT office. |
| **Water and Sanitation & Health**  **(WASH)** | * Finalization of the content of the WASH kit * Procurement of finalized items * Design and printing of leaflet for water treatment * Design and printing of leaflet for solid waste management * Developing training plan for volunteer teams * Developing presentations for water treatment and solid waste management * On 11 Nov 2011, a training and distribution at evacuation center in the church in Bangkok. |
| **Health Services** | * Mobile medical services provided in conjunction with distribution of supplies at 2 provinces at which a total number of 1,020 people came to collect supplies, out of this number, 180 requested consultation with the doctors. This medical service was in collaboration with Camillian Fathers and Catholic Health Care Provider Association of Thailand. * Doctors without borders provided medical treatment to flood victims in migrant community through coordination with NCCM. |
| **Livelihood** | * Visits made by the livelihood team to the diocese of Ubon Ratchathani, to Sapan Mai in Bangkok and to Nakhonsawan Province to conduct baseline survey in order to assess the situation and needs and plan for the possible activities. * Consultation with priests from affected areas. |
| **Other supports** | * 8 boats to migrant communities in Sapan Mai, Bangkok * Incontinence pads and nappies distributed to evacuation center in Ratchaburi Province. |

**Donation Update/Pledges received:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Caritas Member Organizations** | **Amount – EUR** | **Remarks** |
| Caritas Thailand | 73,000 | Contribution from local fundraising |
| Caritas Germany | 40,000 |  |
| CRS | 143,000 |  |
| Trocaire | 10,000 |  |
| Caritas Korea | 35,750 |  |
| Caritas Austria | 30,000 |  |
| Caritas Italiana | 30,000 |  |
| Development & Peace (Canada) | 35,750 |  |
| Caritas Australia | 22,500 |  |
| Total | 420,000 | 72.9% of CI Appeal of 576,000 Euros |

Note:

1. Donations in-kind have been received from the Thai and non-Thai people such as drinking water, canned fishes, plastic sheets, blankets, rice, dried food,
2. Through coordination with FROC, Caritas Thailand has received and distributed 12,667 food packs (since mid-October 2011).
3. Apart from this, Caritas Thailand is in communication with Caritas Hong Kong, CHARIS of Singapore, Caritas Belgium and MISEREOR (with specific proposal).

**Coordination:**

Caritas Thailand continues to be in coordination with organizations on the response as follows;

**Church groups**

* + Catholic Relief Services (CRS); Specific expertices; emergency response management, WASH and Livelihood
  + Caritas Asia; Communication
  + COERR Volunteers; Food making, transportation & distribution
  + Camillian Task Force; Mobile medical services & expertise
  + St. Louis Foundation (St. Louis Hospital); Mobile medical services & expertise
  + Catholic Health Care Provider Association of Thailand; Providing doctors and nurses
  + Catholic young Executive Society (C-Yes); Emergency response and coordination
  + Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS); Emergency response and coordination (in Migrant community)
  + Religious Congregations; Sisters of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sisters of St. Paul De Chartre, Sisters of St. Josep of Apparition, Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), Redemptorist fathers, etc.

**Non-Church groups**

* + Save the Children; Emergency response and coordination
  + Doctors without Borders; Mobile medical services
  + Embassy of Myanmar; support towards Burmese migrants
  + Mirror Foundation; Emergency response and coordination

**Government ministries/agencies**

* + Flood Relief Operations Center (FROC); donations of flood relief supplies
  + Ministry of Public Health; water and sanitation
  + Ministry of Labours; transportation
  + Royal Thai Army; transportation & delivery

**Stories:**

1. **Response from Ratchaburi Diocesan Social Action Centre (DISAC Ratchaburi)**

**Migrants receiving a check up**

NGOs including Church bodies in collaboration with the government have set up a shelter for migrant workers who have fled flooded industrial estates in central Thailand.

“Thai workers can go back to their home provinces or stay with relatives. But migrant workers have nowhere to go,” said Father Prasit Rujirat, director of Ratchaburi diocese’s social action centre.

“It is also difficult for them to go to various other relief centres due to the language barrier and people’s animosity towards them,” he added.

The new relief centre, which is helping Cambodian, Laotian and Myanmar migrant workers is in the compound of Raikhing Wittaya School in Sam Phran, west of Bangkok.

Among the NGOs helping to run it are Caritas and other Church organizations.

“Caritas is providing milk and food supplements for children while Bangkok archdiocese is providing water, rice and meat,” said Jirawat Chenphasuk, program coordinator of Caritas Thailand.

Health checks, haircuts and sporting activities are being provided for the 560 migrants presently staying at the center, said its director Chokchai Srithong. Most were working in factories in Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani provinces before flooding forced them out.

During a visit to the centre on November 2, Thailand’s Labour Minister Padermchai Sasomsap said the centre is also trying to find new jobs for the workers with firms registered with the Labour Ministry. “Around 150 migrant workers have gotten temporary jobs. For those who want to return to their home countries, we are coordinating with their embassies,” the minister added.

Pan Lai, from Myanmar who used to work in Ayutthaya, said: “When our factory was overwhelmed I didn’t dare seek refuge at the local relief centre because many Thai people were staying there and I was afraid they wouldn’t like us Burmese being there. Here, we are being looked after.”

<http://www.ucanews.com/2011/11/04/edit-migrant-workers-get-attention-in-flood-crisis/>

1. **Photos**

Photos of Caritas’ flood relief work in Thailand: <http://flickr.com/gp/27673812@N05/Yf971j/>

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