

Rapid Response Fund Payment Request No. 01/2017

Funds Sent To: Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania - AIDRom

Amount Sent: 34, 161 USD

Date: 17.01.2017

Details of Response

Emergency: Support to cold snap affected people in East Romania

Date of Emergency: 12th of January 2017
(Forecasted to continue also through 16-19 January)

ACT Requesting Member: Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania - AIDRom

I. NARRATIVE SUMMARY

DETAILS OF THE EMERGENCY

The arctic conditions from the beginning of January 2017 have already claimed lives across Europe. Conditions remain tough and constitute a small-scale, local emergency in south-eastern Romania¹. The severe winter weather hit Romania a week ago, when it started snowing heavily and temperatures dropped consecutively to -25 degrees Celsius. At the beginning, no one could anticipate that the situation will escalate to this extent. Snowfall, combined with powerful winds caused the situation to degenerate into a real danger for many rural communities.

The cold snap claimed the lives of many elderly people dying of hypothermia. 40,000 are affected by the weather and cut off by the blizzards in the South and East of Romania and in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. People have been trapped for more than a week inside their houses leaving many with no access to food and medicine. Furthermore, affected people have no access to safe and sufficient amount of drinking water, as water supply infrastructures in the affected regions have significantly deteriorated. Many villages do not have a water pipe line system and are still relying on the water well fountains from the yards. Additionally, animals are left without food, causing a threat to the livelihood of many affected people in the rural areas.

Village shops are closed and the Romanian Post is unable to deliver the pensions for elderly people from the rural areas. Therefore access to fresh water and food is very limited. The heavy snow sealed off towns

¹ Affected regions are under a Code Orange which constitutes the level of emergency stand-by used by help and rescue authorities: above Code Orange is Cod Red, which already means disaster preparedness and intervention.



and 115 villages in 19 counties of eastern and south eastern Romanian², leaving them without electricity and unheated homes, as well as making communication with affected people a serious challenge. The roofs of about two dozen houses collapsed under the weight of the snow. Additionally, around 2,700 schools nationwide are closed down, 64 roads and highways, railways and boat traffic is shut down or traffic is restricted at the peak of the emergency, and so is the boat traffic on the frozen Danube River. 103 trains were cancelled, and three ports were closed.

Local authorities in the Romanian counties of Buzau, Vrancea, Galati, Braila and Constanta which have been the most severely hit by the snow and blizzard, have asked the central authorities in the country to declare the state of high emergency in these counties. Detachments of the Ministry of National Defence were deployed on emergency support missions in the areas affected by snow and blizzard. Authorities have slowly started to reach some isolated villages and bulldozers were clearing off paths in villages, leaving walls of snow meters high. Meanwhile, authorities are also warning of flooding, when the snow thaws and breaches dams. According to meteorologists it will continue to heavily snow on the south and south – east of Romania also during the week of 16-22 January, returning also the strong winds and the very low temperatures by minus 17 to minus 20 degree Celsius. These regions are under a Code Orange for snowfall.³

Evaluation of the damages on county levels is continuously ongoing and figures are constantly changing according to the incoming local and regional reports. Currently, the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania, AIDRom, is finding that access to the affected regions is difficult. As soon as this becomes possible, a nationally coordinated major action of crisis phase assistance is anticipated to be implemented in the affected area, where AIDROM will join in.

ACTIONS TO DATE, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS

The response from the Government and State institutions to this emergency was relatively sound and good; however, it is unable to meet all the various needs of the affected population at the same time. The Government's Operative Committee for Emergency and Crisis Situation started urgent distribution of drinking water, food and non-food supplies from the national reserves. The Ministry of National Defence is monitoring the situation in the affected regions through the specialized structure of the General Staff, and has troops and technical means ready for emergency action in support of local and central public authorities to mitigate the effects of heavy snowing. Access to the most affected regions is still very difficult at the moment, but local and county authorities are working to re-establish road access to all areas in order to create conditions for humanitarian aid deliveries foreseen for the upcoming days, from various directions.

Appeal has been made by the Government and Ministry of the Interior through the national media to NGO's and volunteers to help and assist as much as possible the people in need. Several public institutions and companies from various parts of the country have already started collecting food, clothes and medicines for the cold snap affected people in rural areas of eastern and south-eastern counties.

ACT member AIDRom is in contact with several communities through local church-ministers, who are giving updated information and data regarding the scale of the calamity and the needs of the people

²Mehedinți, Gorj, Dolj, Olt, Vâlcea, Argeș, Teleorman, Giurgiu, Dâmbovița, Prahova, Ilfov, Ialomița, Călărași, Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila, Buzău, Vrancea and Galați.

³ Level of emergency stand-by used by help and rescue authorities: above Code Orange is Code Red, which already means disaster preparedness and intervention, including the counties Teleorman, Giurgiu, Ilfov, Ialomița, Călărași, Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila, Buzău, Vrancea and Galați.



regularly. As of 9th January AIDRom Emergency Unit deployed two staff members and four volunteers⁴ covering the six most affected counties of Buzau, Galati, Braila, Vrancea, Tulcea and Cosntanta, in order to carry out a damage survey linked with a rapid need assessment. Furthermore, the following items have been brought with them: power generators, sleeping bags and electrical heaters, which are in the technical resource of AIDRom Emergency Unit and which are anytime possible to be used and deployed for assisting the affected populations. This equipment were handed over for the rural community crisis teams⁵. After the crisis will end, AIDRom will collect its equipment and place it back to its technical warehouse.

During 14th/15th January AIDRom Team have conducted a need assessment in the six worst affected counties. It was managed to also reach some of the really affected villages. We have discussed about the necessities both with the affected people, local community council and church ministers. First assessment finding reveals that affected population has unmet needs in the sectors of Food Security, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene as well as Non-Food Items. Hence, needed Emergency relief commodities comprise of vital food staples such as canned food, flour, rice, sugar, oil, water and tea, as well as infant baby food along with basic household necessities like laundry detergent, dish soap, male and female personal hygiene items, and towels are urgently required.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OVERALL GOAL:

To contribute to the alleviation of human suffering of cold snap affected people.

OBJECTIVE(S) OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Disaster affected people's basic needs such as food, water, hygiene and other Non-Food Items are adequately met.

PROPOSED ASSISTANCE:

Based on identified needs, AIDRom wishes to distribute **400 household food parcels, 200 household hygiene kits and clothes to 400 households.**

The 400 household food packages will be comprised to meet the basic nutritional needs for an average household during for 1 month based on a 2.400 kcal/person/day, taking in calculation that the daily bread ratio is provided on a daily basis by the local emergency response state authorities. It is aimed that the food parcel should increase the food security of the affected population during the emergency phase and the immediate period after the crisis phase has passed. The standard content of the non-perishable food parcels will be wheat flour, vegetable oil, sugar, rice, corn flour, salt, pasta, milk powder, canned fish, canned beef, canned pork, canned ready meals, tomato paste, margarine, fruit jam, canned beans, canned peas, hard cheese and liver pate. Additionally, 15 litres of mineral drinking water will be provided. This is not to be used as constant source for drinking water, but to strengthen also drink water security in case of frozen wells or scarce access to water source.

⁴ AIDRom has a limited reserve fund earmarked for emergency purposes. Usually, when an emergency occurs, these funds are used for the immediate intervention of a team of four persons to the calamity areas, in order to evaluate the situation and to carry out a need assessment. Meanwhile, intervention hardware from the technical resource of the Emergency Unit are transported and distributed/placed in function (sleeping bags, mattresses, water pumps, home dehumidifying equipment, and power generators). Large scale intervention is always relying on the international goodwill channels.

⁵ Each rural community has such a team formed by civilians with support of local community council and/or the local church and are not part of AIDRom structure.



The 200 household hygiene kits will contain dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, regular soap bar, disposable razors, shaving foam, toothpaste and toothbrush, bath towels, washcloth, sanitary napkins, toilet rolls, litter bags, matches, paper handkerchiefs. As all targeted households are very poor all listed items are highly needed. They might not need every item in the emergency phase, but – and with the aspect of bouncing back better – households will be enabled to make savings and spend their little income on other needs such as medicine.

AIDRom plans to carry out also **clothing distribution for 400 households**. An appeal will be made through the Bishop's offices of various churches (Orthodox, Hungarian Reformed, German Lutheran) to parishes situated in large urban areas from unaffected regions of the country, in order to initiate a collection action within the next two weeks, in order to make possible their distribution in the affected areas from end of January onwards. Clothing will be collected, sorted, in order to be gender and age appropriate, and packed by members within the church parishes. AIDRom will seek support through this Rapid Response Fund to cover the transportation expenses of the collected clothing directly to the affected locations, based on the indication of AIDRom Emergency Field Officer. Transport expenses will be accommodated within the "Truck Rental" budget line.

INDICATORS:Food Security

400 of households receiving food parcels,
95 % of people stating that food received met their needs fully and alleviated their suffering;

Sanitation and Hygiene

200 of households receiving hygiene kits
95 % of people stating that hygiene kits received met their needs fully and alleviated their suffering;

Non-Food Items

400 of households receiving clothing
75 % of people stating that clothes received met their needs fully and alleviated their suffering;

MEANS OF VERIFICATION:

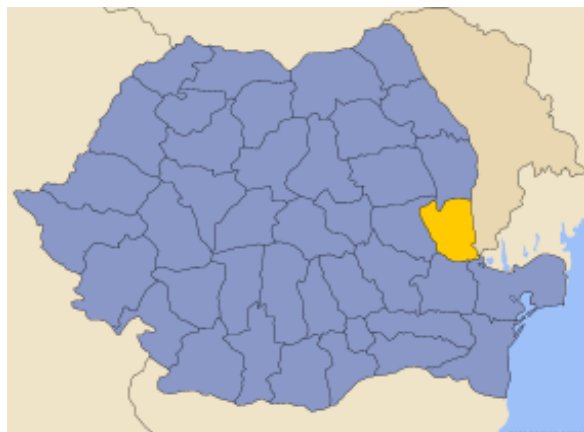
Purchase Orders, Distribution lists, Post Distribution Surveys

TARGET POPULATIONS:

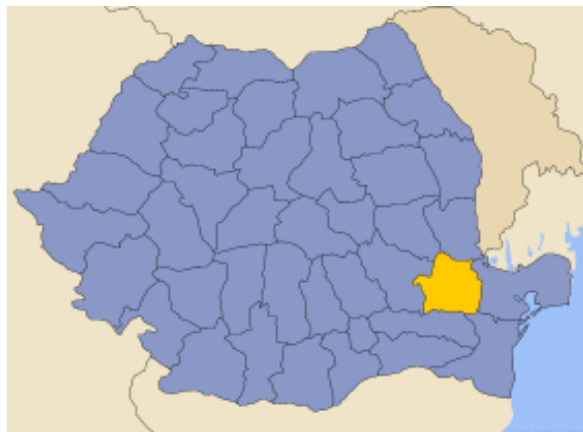
The assistance of AIDRom will focus on isolated rural places, hard-to-reach areas from the four poorest counties of eastern Romania: Buzau, Galati, Braila and Vrancea (see maps below) and complementary to the assistance by other aid agencies in order to cover all needs adequately. The selection of the assisted villages will be decided upon further coordination with local implementing partners: regional Orthodox archbishop and dean offices, community councils and local church parishes.



County Galati



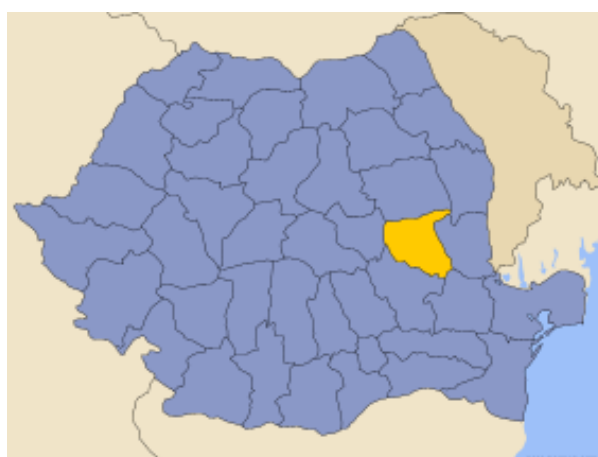
County Braila



County Buzau



County Vrancea



Demographic Information on Counties Targeted for Assistance

County	TOTAL POPULATION			URBAN AREAS			RURAL AREAS			Density Sq.km
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	
Galati	632452	311764	320688	361339	174140	187199	271113	137624	133489	141.6
Braila	294410	144551	149859	139489	67569	71920	154921	76982	77939	66.1
Buzau	480552	234574	245978	203763	97275	106488	276789	137299	133490	78.8
Vrancea	388943	190526	198417	146521	70047	76474	242422	120479	121943	80.1

While above you will find an overview on demographic data of targeted counties, AIDRom will primarily focus on rural farmer families with a planned target of approx. 400 households. The average size of a Romanian rural family is between 4 and 5 persons, taking into consideration that very commonly also elderly parents are living under the same roof. Therefore, we expect that our input will reach up to 2.300 people. Information on target population and disaggregated by gender, age and diversity (ethnicities, religion, people with disabilities) will be possible to be delivered only in the final report, since for the moment it is just impossible to screen this beforehand. The majority population (more than 95 %) in every targeted county is Romanian of Orthodox religion.

It is worthwhile to note, that the cold snap affected population in the rural areas of eastern Romania is already highly vulnerable. Vulnerability is further exacerbated by the harsh winter conditions. Land ownership is highly scattered and there is a mismatch between access to land, labour and capital at household level. Farmers live below the nationally recognized poverty line and mostly rely on subsistence farming. Hence, the purchase capacity of many is very low.

Selection criteria will be the socio-economic status of the families, the level of damage suffered and vulnerability exposure as well as the nutritional and health status. The targeted groups will include female headed households, families with elderly or disabled members, families with more than three children aged from 1 to 14, two-generation families under one roof and single elderly people. Specific gender needs as well as needs related to particular groups (handicapped and socially marginalized people - members of the Roma community) will be taken into consideration.

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

Items will be distributed in multiple rounds and by both AIDRom Emergency Unit directly and local partners, who will help to distribute packages in a centrally organized place (i.e. churches, Community Council Halls) where the parcels will be transported by AIDRom. The food and hygiene articles will be delivered by wholesale companies. Packaging of the emergency relief items in strong hold cardboard boxes will be carried out in hired warehouses, given the fact that all items will be delivered on palletized bulks. The transportation of the parcels will be carried out with hired trucks. In hard-to-reach areas, the Emergency Unit's 4 WD pick-up vehicle and trailer will be used for carrying and distributing the goods. The identification process of those most reliable on the assistance offered by AIDRom via ACT Alliance RRF, the Emergency Unit coordinator and field worker will be closely assisted primarily by parish ministers and also by the mayors/community council members from the affected communities. The selection will be carried out in close co-operation with the local churches (social surveys). AIDRom, together with its local partners will inform beneficiaries in due time about time and place of distributions. Beneficiaries will sign up reception forms for the received parcels. To enhance transparency, local church ministers or mayor offices will also sign the distribution lists.

COORDINATION: Coordination will be done by AIDRom Emergency Unit Team, from Bucharest Head Office and Brasov Regional Office, together with bishop and dean's offices from the targeted areas, but most importantly with the local partners. AIDRom will maintain close contact with the implementing partners and will request status reports on a regular basis. Coordination meetings will be held by AIDRom Emergency Unit on the various implementation sites in order to review the progress of the assistance of the affected population and to harmonize the distribution of relief supplies, as well as to identify possible further needs. The cooperation will be based on regular information flow, sharing of responsibility, transparency and credibility.

Further coordination will be carried with other organizations, working in the same regions or sectors. Whenever possible, AIDRom Emergency Team will attend other meetings and events that are relevant to the humanitarian aid program. The transition from disaster relief to the follow-on phase of recovery is sometime a difficult grey area, with the risk that maybe not everything is in right place after humanitarian relief is phased out. To reduce this risk, AIDRom is always searching to build in an exit strategy which is materialized either by hand back control to a local authority or church leadership on completion or, if this is not possible, ensuring that other aid structures can replace them after leave.



VISIBILITY: Communities, churches, local authorities, the press and public will be informed in advance about the time and place of the distributions. The food and hygiene parcels will be labelled with the AIDRom/ACT Alliance logo. In addition, banners with the AIDRom/ACT Alliance logo will be posted on the transportation vehicles and at the distribution places.

COMMUNICATIONS: There will be no Communication Officer in charge within this program, but communication will be handled by the AIDRom Emergency Unit staff, which will give regular reports of the intervention and be in contact with the media and the ACT Alliance to keep the public informed about the joint AIDRom/ACT Alliance action.

PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS: The proposed project follows a participatory and rights based approach and ensures that ACT Alliance policies and guidelines, along with the SPHERE Code of conduct and the CHS Principles with a particular focus on a proper complaint mechanism in place, will be followed. All the staff, volunteers and local implementing partners participating in the relief aid are oriented and sensitized to follow these policies in all of the stages of the program. Assessing and distribution of relief commodities is done by following the core standards, key indicators and guidance notes of the above mentioned codes and procedures. AIDRom Emergency Unit, together with local implementing partners are paying special attention to promote solidarity within the communities between those severely and less affected by the severe winter.

DURATION: Planned Implementation Period is 2 months, as of 17th of January up to 15th of March 2017.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS:

HUMAN RESOURCES: A total of four staff will be assigned to the proposed project comprising of the program director, a program assistant, a field coordinator and a logistics and monitoring officer assisting the field coordinator. The program director in co-operation with the field coordinator is responsible for overall management of the project. The program director will supervise the work of the assistant, the field coordinator and the logistics and monitoring officer.

The program assistant will assist program implementation in office and in the field by assuring data collection and prepare distribution. The field coordinator is responsible to the program director for management of local project activity, including the organization and supervision of local teams, procurement, distributions and coordination with other actors involved in the assisted areas. Given the fact that an extended range of inputs will be provided, the field coordinator will be constantly present on the various implementation sites, in order to assure the sound implementation of the post emergency rehabilitation, selection of beneficiaries, distribution of goods, etc. The logistic and monitoring officer will transport commodities to different project locations and will assist the project field coordinator during the distribution of different items, maintaining contact also provide data to the program assistant.

ADMINISTRATION of FUNDS: AIDRom program director - together with AIDRom's general accountancy department, will be responsible for the financial management of the program. The program director will constantly overview to what extend the available resources were used. Goods, transportation and other higher value services will be paid via bank transfers, while small amounts will be made in cash disbursements.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

MONITORING: Post Distribution Monitoring and regular surveys will be carried out to monitor changes in needs and progress in project implementation.

INTERNAL EVALUATION: The impact of the aid program and achievements of the overall goal and objective as well as the collaboration and coordination with the target population, implementing partners and other stakeholders involved will be evaluated. Furthermore, the conformity of the program according to Sphere Standards and Code of Conduct, as well as the Core Humanitarian Standards, the visibility assured and public perception of the program as well as lessons learned will be evaluated. Internal Evaluation will be done internally after AIDRom finishes implementation of relief activities and disseminate the result in the final report. Hence, cost for internal evaluation will not be budgeted to the RRF.

REPORTING

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	Monthly
Final narrative and financial report	15 th May 2017
Audit report	Not required



II. FINANCIAL SUMMARY / BUDGET

Requesting ACT member: AIDRom
RRF Number: RRF_01/ 2017
RRF Title: Support to cold snap affected people in East Romania
Implementing Period: 17.01. 15.03.2017

EXPENDITURE

	Type of	No. of	Unit Cost	RRF	RRF
				Budget	Budget
	Unit	Units	Romani an Lei	Romanian Lei	USD
DIRECT COST (LIST EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR)					
Food Security					
		400	RON	RON	16'923
				71'414	
Wheat Flour	Kg	800	2	1'928	457
Vegetable Oil	Lt	800	5	3'968	940
Sugar	Kg	800	3	2'576	610
Rice	Kg	800	5	4'008	950
Corn Flour	Kg	800	4	2'816	667
Salt	Kg	400	2	616	146
Pasta	Kg	360	9	3'294	781
Milk Powder	Kg	200	8	1'684	399
Canned Fish	Kg	320	17	5'552	1'316
Canned Pork	Kg	320	10	3'136	743
Canned Beef	Kg	320	12	3'722	882
Canned Ready Meal	Kg	600	12	7'440	1'763
Tomato Paste	Kg	200	5	1'046	248
Margarine	Kg	200	9	1'898	450
Fruit Jam	Kg	400	14	5'700	1'351
Canned Peas	Kg	480	5	2'472	586
Canned Beans	Kg	480	5	2'318	549
Hard Cheese	Kg	400	20	7'920	1'877
Liver Pate	Kg	200	18	3'680	872
Mineral Water (6 x 2.5 Lt.)	Pack	400	14	5'640	1'336
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene					
		200		25'296	5'994
Dishwashing Liquid 1 Lt.	Flask	200	4	846	200
Laundry Detergent 3 kg	Pack	200	21	4'234	1'003
Soap Bars 6 Pcs.	Pack	200	7	1'422	337
Razors 5 Pcs.	Pack	200	6	1'278	303
Shaving Foam 330 ml	Tube	200	8	1'530	363
Toothpaste 125 ml	Tube	200	6	1'186	281
Toothbrush	Pcs.	400	3	1'380	327
Bath Towel	Pcs.	400	12	4'820	1'142
Shampoo 500 ml	Tube	200	4	790	187
Wet Hygiene Towels	Pack	200	3	680	161
Chlorine	Lt.	200	4	768	182
Paper Napkins 10 pcs.	Pack	200	3	566	134
Toilet Rolls 12 roll	Pack	200	5	930	220
Litter Bags 2 rolls x 20 pcs	Pack	200	6	1'280	303

SECRETARIAT: 150, route de Ferney, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switz. TEL.: +4122 791 6434 – FAX: +4122 791 6506 – www.actalliance.org



The ACT Alliance secretariat is certified with the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership's 2010 HAP Standard for accountability and quality management.

Dishwashing Cloth 5 pcs	Pack	200	8	1'642	389
Dishwashing Sponge 10 pcs	Pack	200	4	876	208
Scouring Powder 500 g	Pack	200	3	640	152
Matches 10 box	Pack	200	2	428	101

Other Sector Related Direct Costs (List expenditure by sector)

Staff Salaries **16'710** **3'960**

Program Director	Month	2	2'540	5'080	1'204
Program Assistant	Month	2	1'815	3'630	860
Field Coordinator	Month	2	2'185	4'370	1'036
Logistics and Monitoring Officer	Month	2	1'815	3'630	860

Travel Costs **9'780** **2'318**

Staff Per Diems (Food & Lodging)	Days	18	210	3'780	896
Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)	Km	5'000	1	6'000	1'422

Communication / Visibility Costs **1'600** **379**

AIDRom/ACT Alliance Labels & Banners	Lump	1	1'600	1'600	379
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TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE **124'800** **29'573**

TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING

Transport Operations **7'830** **1'855**

Hire/Rental of Vehicles for Relief Item Transport	Km	1'800	4	7'830	1'855
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Warehousing **2'500** **592**

Rental of Warehouse & Lifting Equipment	Lump	1	2'500	2'500	592
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Handling **6'430** **1'524**

Strong Hold Cardboard Boxes for Relief Items	Boxes	600	4	2'370	562
Packing & Handling of Relief Items	Packages	600	4	2'100	498
Plastic bags for Clothing Items	Bags	800	2	1'960	464

TOTAL TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING **16'760** **3'972**

CAPITAL ASSETS (over US\$500)

TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS **0** **0**

TOTAL DIRECT COST **141'560** **33'545**

INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT

Office Operations

Office Stationary & Consumables

Lump

1

1'000

1'000

237

CommunicationsTelephone - Land and Mobile, Fax,
Internet

Lump

1

1'600

1'600

379

**TOTAL INDIRECT COST: PERSONNEL, ADMIN. &
SUPPORT****2'600****616****AUDIT, MONITORING & EVALUATION****TOTAL AUDIT, MONITORING & EVALUATION****0****0****TOTAL EXPENDITURE****144'160****34'161****EXCHANGE RATE: local currency to 1
USD**

Budget rate

4.22

ACTION

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$ 34'161 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.

For further information please contact:

ACT Regional Representative – Middle East & North Africa, Gorden Simango
(gorden.simango@actalliance.org)

ACT website address: <http://www.actalliance.org>

Florine Jobin

ACT Alliance Humanitarian Officer

