

## Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

<b>Section 1: Overview of response</b>	
EL SALVADOR	Drought in El Salvador
<b>Summary</b>	<b>ACT Requesting Member</b>
Implementation period	24 September to 24 December 2018 3 (months)
Geographical area	4 municipalities in the Departments of: Chalatenango: Nueva Concepción; La Paz: San Pedro Masahuat y El Rosario la Paz; San Miguel: San Rafael Oriente;
Sectors of response	Food Security
Targeted beneficiaries (per sector)	250 households (1,250 individuals) in four municipalities will receive food security assistance through cash transfers. <b>Selection Criteria for target beneficiaries</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Households that have lost greater than 50% for basic grains (corn, beans, sorghum and rice)</li> <li>- Households which cultivate an area of land less or equal to 1 ½ manzanas (equivalent to 2.58 acres).</li> <li>- Assistance will be provided to households and not to individual farmers affected.</li> <li>- Sixty per cent of the affected population will be female led households.</li> <li>- Households which primary means of livelihood is agriculture</li> </ul>
Requested budget (USD)	\$41,200.00
Is there an updated ACT Forum EPRP?	YES
<b>Section 2: Narrative Summary</b>	
<b>Background</b>	
<p>After a good start of the 2018 rainy season in April, a reduction in the quantity and distribution of rains has been observed and is likely to impact basic grains crops in Central America's Dry Corridor. Specific areas in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have reported more than 25 days without rain, yields reduction and crop losses, particularly affecting subsistence farmers. Typically, there is little to no rainfall in August, which is called the canicula in Spanish. However, since the canicula arrived much earlier than usual this year, crops losses have been significantly higher in the affected areas due to the sustained drought conditions.</p> <p>El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) confirmed that the drought has affected approximately 57,000 hectares of land, of which around 22,000 hectares of cropland has been destroyed, resulting in the loss of 2.7 million quintals of corn and USD\$37 million in damages. The Salvadorian Chamber of Small and Medium Agricultural Producers (CAMPO) estimates that the corn crop losses to date are even higher at 4.1 million quintals and that they could surpass 6 million quintals if the drought continues since 2.3 million quintals are at risk. The drought has affected 77,322 agricultural households in El Salvador. The General Direction of Civil protection declared a red alert for 143 municipalities in the central and eastern parts of the country on 24 July 2018 to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected households.</p> <p>According to the last COF (Climate outlook forecast for Central America), below average precipitation and an early end as well as irregular rains during the <i>Postrera (second sowing season) campaign</i> could affect the harvest of the basic grains, especially for subsistence farmers.</p>	

<b>Humanitarian Needs</b>	
<p>The ACT Forum in El Salvador, carried out an evaluation of loss and damages in the geographical areas included in this response, finding that Food reserves are exhausted in the poorest households, especially in areas subject to repeated droughts. There are minimal sources of work and no access to wild food in rural areas during this period. Rising basic grain prices mean more households will face problems in meeting their food needs. There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize food insecurity and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.</p>	
<b>Capacity to respond</b>	
<p>The ACT Alliance El Salvador Forum has humanitarian response experience dating back to 1998 and has responded in various emergency situations since then; Hurricane Mitch in 1998, two major earthquakes in 2001 and other tropical storms and hurricanes such as Ida, Stan, and 12E, droughts from 2015 - 2016, and the volcanic eruptions of Ilamatepec and Chaparrastique, among others.</p> <p>The Forum has experience in implementing all ACT prerequisites: Codes of Conduct and Norms for humanitarian response, accountability, external evaluations and continuous training of humanitarian assistance personnel in the implementation of new RRF formats and Appeals.</p> <p>In addition, the Forum has successfully implemented the Cash Transfer methodology during the last humanitarian assistance response during the 2016 drought. The ACT Alliance El Salvador Forum has presence in all of the country's fourteen departments.</p> <p>The ACT Forum has established coordination with the Civil Protection System, municipal governments, the Country Humanitarian Team led by the United Nations, social organizations and other institutions that facilitate the evaluation of damages and early alert systems for emergencies.</p>	
<b>Proposed response</b>	
<p><i>Does the proposed response honors ACT's commitment to Child Safeguarding?</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
Problems	<p>The basic grain crop with a primary emphasis on corn and beans suffered losses of 80% to 100%, which has led to serious food insecurity problems for small farmers. Another effect of this drought situation is the migration of women, men and minors to other countries in search of opportunities for survival and to pay off the debts they have acquired for planting, as they are now not able to recover what they invested.</p>
Target beneficiaries	<p>250 households affected by the drought, representing a total of 1250 individuals.</p>
Activities	<p>The following activities will be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selection and hiring of the project coordinator.</li> <li>▪ Regular meetings with members of the ACT Alliance.</li> <li>▪ Coordination with local and national authorities.</li> <li>▪ Establishment of formal agreements and coordination mechanisms with the affected households.</li> <li>▪ Coordination with financial entities.</li> <li>▪ Formal agreements with the entity selected.</li> <li>▪ Two deliveries using the unconditional cash transfer modality.</li> <li>▪ Preparation of reports.</li> <li>▪ Evaluation of best practices and lessons learned.</li> </ul>
Specific objective/ Outputs	<p>250 affected households have access to food security as laid out in the basic food basket for two months through unconditional cash transfers.</p>

Overall objective	Provide food support through unconditional cash transfer for households affected by the drought.
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### Reporting Schedule

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	24 October 2018
Final narrative and financial report (60 days after the ending date)	22 February 2019.
Audit report (90 days after the ending date)	NA

### Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation activities consist of regular visits to follow up on the achievement of results, and coordination meetings at forum level, as well as with local authorities and target groups. ALFALIT and the Lutheran Synod will lead meetings to make appropriate decisions for successful implementation. A final report will be submitted by ALFALIT following the guidelines provided by ACT.

Project coordination will be the responsibility of the Christian Association for Education and Development (ALFALIT), a full member of the ACT Alliance El Salvador Forum, with coordination established with the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS), local authorities and beneficiary families.

### Section 3: ACT Alliance coordination

#### Coordination

Coordination has been established with the local government in order to facilitate the implementation. The implementing organizations work locally and are going to work in close coordination with local authorities, local leaders in the concerned communities as well as with relevant stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts. Information concerning the response will be regularly provided to the forum and to the humanitarian country team.

#### Implementation Arrangements

ALFALIT, will be responsible for project implementation and general coordination of the response. For implementation, ALFALIT will establish coordination with local governments and other local entities that are representative of the communities. Processes for the response will be open and transparent to guarantee accountability and the quality of the response. The members of the Alliance El Salvador Forum will sign an agreement denoting this. As the administrator of the funds, ALFALIT will sign a formal agreement with the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod (SLS), for the joint implementation of activities in the proposal and ALFALIT will also sign an agreement with the Agropecuario Promotion Bank (Banco de Fomento Agropecuario) for the cash transfer to the 250 beneficiary households.

Two unconditional cash transfers per family will take place, which will permit families the ability to purchase the basic food basket supplies for their subsistence during this period of crisis. There will be two transfers because after consultation with families affected by the drought regarding the possibility of cash transfer; they suggested that two transfers would help families to better administrate the funds. Each family will decide what supplies they will purchase and they will purchase them locally in bulk to guarantee of the lowest prices for the products.

## Human resources and administration of funds

The ACT Alliance El Salvador Forum has a procedures manual which comes from the financial administration guide at the institutional level where there is a commitment to a project audit. ALFALIT will hire a coordinator who will be responsible for the monitoring and supervision of the activities for an effective and efficient implementation of the RRF resources.

A coordination team will be established made up of ACT Alliance El Salvador Forum members to define the procedures and controls for the delivery of the cash transfers to the beneficiaries.

## Communications

There will be a collection of photographs, written testimonies and short videos to build the historical memory of the project, including the impact on the lives of the participating families. The results of the project will be made visible through publication on social media and with press, radio and television.

### Section 4. Budget Summary

	Type of	No. of	Unit Cost	Appeal	Appeal
	Unit	Units	local currency	local currency	USD
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>					
<b>1 PROGRAM STAFF</b>					
1.1.	Coordinator	month	3	\$750.00	\$2,250.00
	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM STAFF</b>				<b>\$2,250.00</b>
					<b>\$2,250.00</b>
<b>2 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>					
2.1	Food security				\$32,500.00
2.2	cash transfer	transfers	500	\$65.00	\$32,500.00
2.3	Coordination meetings	Monthly	6	\$50.00	\$300.00
2.4	Internal Evaluation	Meeting	1	\$300.00	\$300.00
	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES</b>				<b>\$33,100.00</b>
					<b>\$33,100.00</b>
<b>3 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION</b>					
3.1	Communication / visibility	unit	1	\$600.00	\$600.00
3.2.	Monitoring & evaluation	Unit	1	\$930.00	\$930.00
	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION</b>				<b>\$1,530.00</b>
					<b>\$1,530.00</b>
<b>4 PROGRAM LOGISTICS</b>					
4.1.	Perdiem	Months	2	\$400.00	\$800.00
4.2.	Fuel	Months	3	\$250.00	\$750.00
4.3.	Vehicle rental	Months	2	\$450.00	\$900.00
	<b>TOTAL PROGRAM LOGISTICS</b>				<b>\$2,450.00</b>
					<b>\$2,450.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT COST</b>				<b>\$39,300.00</b>
					<b>\$39,330.00</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>					
	Salaries for accountant	Month	3	\$175.00	\$525.00
	<u>Office Operations</u>				
	Office Utilities	Month	3	\$150.00	\$450.00
	Translation	global	1	\$700.00	\$700.00
	<u>Communications</u>				
	Telephone and fax	Month	3	\$65.00	\$195.00
	<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COST: PERSONNEL, ADMIN. &amp; SUPPORT</b>				<b>\$1,870.00</b>
					<b>5%</b>
					<b>5%</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>\$ 41,200.00</b>
					<b>\$ 41,200.00</b>

## **ACTION**

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$ 41,200 USD from its Rapid Response Fund and would be grateful to receive contributions through the Global RRF Appeal 2018 (GRRF18) 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:**

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