

Rapid Response Fund (RRF)

Section 1: Overview of response													
Armenia	Assistance to Hailstorm Affected Communities												
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Requested budget (USD)	60,000 (USD)												
Is there an updated ACT Forum EPRP?	Yes												
Section 2: Narrative Summary													
<p>Background</p> <p>On Monday morning, 01 October 2018, the villages of Dsegh in Lori and Arapi, Voskehask, Harij in Shirak mountainous regions in Armenia were affected by sudden heavy rains and hailstorms that swept away 130ha of crops in Dsegh and 185,8 ha - Arapi villages, 28,2 - Voskehask, 64,29 - Harij. The dwellers lost 70 to 80% of their crop. Local authorities have declared these regions in state of emergency due to the damages caused by the natural disaster and asked national and international organizations to support the affected population.</p> <p>The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development asked the Armenia Round Table Foundation (ART) for humanitarian assistance to help the affected communities. According to the official information from the ministry, the damages affected 300 communities in 9 regions out of 10. More than 7000 hectares of wheat, barley and grain, fruit, vegetables/orchards, and vineyards were damaged. According to government official information, the total damage to agriculture is estimated to be 8,7 billion AMD which equals to 18,125,000 USD. The hailstones and storm were so heavy that they broke the roofs and windows, and flooded houses.</p>													
<p>Humanitarian Needs</p> <p>The hailstorm and heavy rains put the rural communities in a state of crisis as winter frost is already starting this October-November.</p>													

Based on the official information from government, the ACT Armenia Forum (AAF) selected 4 affected regions to conduct Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA). The RNA concluded that Dsegh, Arapi, Voskehask, Harij of Lori and Shirak regions were heavily affected.

The affected population find themselves in a desperate situation as they lost their harvest to the storm and hailstones. The harvest from the crops was going to be their main source of food.

The impact is more severe for people with special needs, including people with mental and physical disabilities. The socially vulnerable families require additional support to access assistance for spring harvest utilities, especially because heavy rains are still continuous and the upcoming winter could be severe in mountainous regions.

There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered.

Capacity

The ACT Armenia Forum has since 2011, implemented humanitarian, development and Rapid Response Fund (RRF) projects both in Armenia and Syria. 5 ACT Alliance RRF projects have been implemented by ART to date, providing food and non-food items (NFIs) to displaced and affected populations.

For the current RRF, 3 staff members, namely the ART Project Officer, Chief Accountant and the Director of the Social Department of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC) will be In Charge of project implementation. They are all experienced and competent.

ART has taken the primary role in implementation of RRF in close collaboration with AAC which will provide logistical support in preparation of food distribution. Relief items will be purchased based on a procurement policy which complies with the Armenian legislation. ART has already arranged the details of distribution with village mayors. Besides the social department of AAC, volunteers from each community will assist the distribution process timely and reaching out to the targeted beneficiaries.

4-5 staff of forum member organizations will participate in distribution of aid and monitoring and evaluation.

Currently ART has secured communication with local authorities, assessed needs of families; made home visits to assess the needs, and has helped village mayors to prepare beneficiary lists.

Proposed response

Based on the result of RNA; the ACT Armenia Forum has applied to the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund to support the people in the hailstorm affected communities.

Accordingly and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partners, the ACT forum is planning to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable of affected people to meet their

basic needs.

More specifically, the proposed response will provide immediate relief assistance through food packages to 4620 persons/1222 HHs from the four (4) selected villages of the two (2) regions within four - six weeks (4).

One food parcel contains (for each person): vegetable oil - 1 litres, flour – 25 kilos and costs 5,500 AMD and each person will get one parcel. Total amount for emergency support to 4620 persons is 25,410,000AMD. The number of parcels depends on the number of HH members.

Indicator: 4620 persons received adequate food for 2-3 months.

Means of Verification: purchase order, receipts, distribution lists with signatures.

All proposed activities are in accordance with the humanitarian principles and the ACT Strategic Aim 2, namely ensuring human dignity by consistent and verifiable application of humanitarian principles with quality and accountability standards in RRFs.

Does the proposed response honour ACT's commitment to Child Safeguarding?

Yes No

Please see the RRF Guidance Note for concrete examples; for additional guidance please refer to <http://actalliance.org/documents/act-alliance-child-safeguarding-guidance-document/>

Problems	Due to the loss of the harvest season (which is the main source of income to the intervention-targeted population) thousands of HHs are unable to secure the daily needs of basic food items.								
Target beneficiaries	<p>4620 persons/1222HHs will be benefited from food distribution as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- 1391 persons / 355 HHs in Arapi village, Shirak region. 2- 509 persons / 138 HHs in Voskehask village, Shirak region. 3- 925 persons / 210 HHs in Harij village, Shirak region. 4- 1795 persons/519 HHs in Dsegh village, Lori region. <p>Special consideration will be given to the vulnerable groups, among them pregnant and lactating women, people with disabilities (PWDs), elderly, and children.</p> <p>The total number of targeted HHs is 1222. The size of the family is 4-5 members. The number of persons by age/sex and with specific needs: (unaccompanied children: N/A, persons with disabilities: 57, chronically-ill: 700, elderly: 950, single-with children-headed HH: 63, pregnant and lactating women: about 48 and 74). Those people with special needs will be given the priority at any distribution point.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">% sex ratio</th> <th rowspan="2">Age</th> </tr> <tr> <th>M</th> <th>F</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4 %</td> <td>4.5 %</td> <td>under 5 years old</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	% sex ratio		Age	M	F	4 %	4.5 %	under 5 years old
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M	F								
4 %	4.5 %	under 5 years old							

		12 %	10 %	6- 17 years old	
		25 %	25.5 %	18-65 years old	
		9 %	10 %	over 65 years old	
Main activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation and finalization of the distribution lists together with village municipalities. 2. Purchase of food for 4620 persons. 3. Packaging the food parcels. 4. Arrangements for transportation, accommodation (communication and paper work). 5. Coordination the distribution with local authorities. 6. Distribution of food parcels containing food to 4620 affected people/1222 families in four damaged communities. 7. Monitoring and Evaluation. 8. Reporting. 9. Ensuring ACT Armenia Forum and ACT Alliances' visibility are used. 				
Specific objective(s)/ Outputs	The disaster affected population will have access to food stuff for 2 months.				
Overall objective / Outcome(s)	Contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of the disaster affected population.				

Reporting Schedule

Type of Report	Due date
Situation report	20/12/2018
Final narrative and financial report (60 days after the ending date)	15/4/2019
Audit report (90 days after the ending date)	15 /5/ 2019

Monitoring and evaluation

ART management team will deploy the following monitoring tools and methods to ensure everything is done as planned:

- 1- Announced and unannounced filed visits to the area of intervention.
- 2- Bi-weekly meetings with the staff and produce bi-weekly reports.
- 3- Compare achievements against the plan to measure progress.
- 4- Giving the target group the opportunity to complain and provide feedback on the project.
- 5- Meeting with the beneficiaries.
- 6- Collect stories of change

Section 3: ACT Alliance coordination

Coordination

Coordination of the project implementation will be done by the ART Emergency Programme Officer, ACT Forum members, with close assistance from Fr. Markos Mangasaryan, the Director of the Social Department of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, local authorities, and clergymen. ART established a local emergency network consisting clergymen from all regions of Armenia to act and assist ART in emergency situations.

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AAF members are also part of the Disaster Management Country Team (DMCT) and always respond to emergency situations in the country.

AAF will ensure ACT visibility by using ACT Alliance logos on banners in the distribution points, preparing and submitting articles on their web sites and social media, and will be part of annual and DMCT reports.

Implementation arrangements

ACT Armenia forum members organized a meeting in mid - October to discuss the impact of the natural disaster and mechanisms of possible support; and actions by different actors and ACT members in the field when a disaster strikes.

AAF members will assist ART in procuring, organizing and implementing of purchases, food packaging, arrangements with trucks, transfer of the aid to regions. They will also help in distribution of the aid, and monitoring and evaluation

The overall response will be conducted in an accountable and participatory manner, ensuring the involvement of forum members/communities/local volunteers/local authorities in the project planning, implementation and evaluation.

To ensure adequate level of community involvement, ART is going to:

- 1) Consult with community members in setting beneficiary priorities;
- 2) Hire people from the communities to help HHs in need of help in moving aid received to their homes.

Human resources and administration of funds

ART is taking the responsibility for the management and distribution of funds for the humanitarian assistance. It's also responsible for implementation, administration control, monitoring, reporting and project evaluation, and also for audit. The human resources and administration of fund will be managed according to already established procedures.

Human Resources	No. of staff	Period of Work	Notes
Project Manager	1	3 months	Full time
Community Organizer	4	1 months	Full time
Finance Staff	1	3 months	Partially
Logistic Staff	2	3 months	Partially
Labour Staff	5	1 months	Full time

Communications

Information will be shared in various ways from the project team through field reports, audio-visual materials and featured articles. Information about the distribution will be shared with different stakeholders in the field. The materials - interviews, pictures, articles - will be published on the ART web site and on social media. Information will also be shared with the ACT Alliance communications unit, the DMCT, Ministry of Territorial Administration and

Management, local media.

The communications focal point will be ART Public Relations officer.

ACT Alliance posters and banners will be used for publicity and visibility purposes.

Section 4: Budget Summary

Budget rate 1 USD = 483 AMD

		Type of unit	No. of unit	Unit Cost	Appeal budget AMD	Appeal budget USD
1	Direct costs					
1.1	Direct assistance					
	Food Security (4,260 packages)	Package	4,620	5,500	25,410,000	52,609
1.2	Transportation and handling					
	Hire/ Rental of Vehicles	Estimate			300,000	621
	Fuel	Litre	400	470	188,000	389
	Salaries / wages for labours	person	5	135,000	675,000	1,398
	Accommodation and meals for 4 people	Day	5	200,000	1,000,000	2,070
	Visibility materials	unit	10	1,000	10,000	20
	Total Direct costs				27,583,000	57,107
2	Indirect costs: Personnel admin & Support					
	Salaries e. g % for Programme Director)	month	2	373,800	747,600	1,548
	Salaries e. g % for Finance Director)	month	2	269,250	538,500	1,115
	Office Utilities	Estimate			38,640	80
	Office stationery	Estimate			36,225	75
	Telephone and fax	Estimate			36,225	75
	Total Indirect costs				1,397,190	2,893
	Total expenditure				28,980,190	60,000

ACTION

The ACT Secretariat has approved the use of US\$60, 000 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:

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