

Appeal – GRRF19

Global Rapid Response Fund 2019

Total Appeal Target: 3,240,000 USD

Balance Requested: 2,689,435 USD

Geneva, 30 April 2019

Dear Members,

ACT Alliance has the privileged position of being a network of local, national and international actors committed to partnerships amongst each other. This commitment enables international and global members of ACT to enhance the capacity of local and national actors, through resources, training and/or other support, allowing for first response in the beginning of a crisis or disaster to come directly from the community itself.

ACT Alliance prioritizes approaches that attempt to ensure a commitment of responsibility towards communities in emergency response. As part of the commitments made by ACT at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in 2016, we have identified the **localization agenda** as a banner for humanitarian advocacy, recognizing the primary role that our national members and local faith communities play in humanitarian response. Dignity, community empowerment and capacity-building are cornerstones of our local and national responses. Our members at the local and national levels are embedded within communities, familiar with the needs of communities and able to respond before any other actor in times of crisis. It is the role of the ACT Alliance, in the context of its emergency response mechanism, to ensure that the tools and resources available lend towards reinforcing this ambition.

The Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is a global fund of the ACT Alliance administered by the ACT secretariat. Funds for the RRF are provided by ACT Alliance members and non-members on the basis of an annual appeal, and is intended to be accessed exclusively by ACT national members in pursuit of the localization agenda and in recognition of their distinct advantage of being at the forefront of emergency response in their own localities.

In certain cases the RRF can also be requested by national members, through the Forum, as an advance on a forthcoming appeal for immediate life-saving or humanitarian needs assessment activities. This would act as an immediate “start-up” fund, allowing for a maximum of 150,000 USD to be used in the first 6-8 weeks of a large-scale/global emergency. This amount will be reimbursed in the appeal. This practice was introduced in 2017, based on the recommendations from the Emergency Response Review and the Humanitarian Policy (2015). Detailed information on the ACT Humanitarian Policy and operational guidelines for the RRF can be found on the ACT website: <http://actalliance.org/documents/act-alliance-humanitarian-policy/>.

In 2018, the RRF Appeal was launched with a funding target of \$2,983,403. By the end of 2018, the Appeal had received the following contributions:

Appeal Target	New Contributions	Carryover from 2017	Total Contributions
\$2,983,403	1,131,182	708,403	1,839,585

Over the course of 2018, a total of \$1,316,250 was disbursed by the ACT Secretariat to 27 national members, and the remaining balance of **\$550,565** was carried over to this new Appeal, GRRF19. Some discrepancies are noted owing to returned balances, and these will be reflected in the **GRRF18 report in June 2019**. For reference, the details of the GRRF18 disbursements can be found here:

<http://reports.actalliance.org/report/Appeals%202016-dynamic.aspx>

Using GRRF18 funds, ACT national members were able to respond to small to medium-scale crises in the Philippines, Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Kenya, Egypt, Tanzania, Cuba, Serbia, Indonesia, Peru, El Salvador, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Uganda, Guatemala, DRC, Armenia, and India.

In line with ACT Alliance messaging towards the World Humanitarian Summit, the RRF is a unique tool for empowering national members and local partners as frontline and first responders at the onset of an emergency. Over the past several years since the RRF mechanism was introduced, the ACT Alliance through its national members has been able to ensure that it is able to respond to emergencies that may not always attract the attention of the media and donors. In such contexts, the impact of impact of emergencies at community level is not much different than in large-scale mega emergencies, and it is in these cases where the relevance of local and national actors and faith-based organizations, as well as ACT Alliance's reach in far-flung communities, is clearly demonstrated.

GRRF18 FUND REQUEST:

This year, in light of the priorities set by the new ACT Global Strategy 2019-2026, including *inter alia* the continuing strengthening of the ACT Humanitarian Mechanism, the full rollout of the digitalized Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning (EPRP) process, and improving adherence to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and Sphere, the request for funding is for **\$3,240,000**.

In addition to funding RRF projects of national members, the Secretariat proposes to utilize **7.5%** of RRF funds resource parallel mechanisms that will strengthen the humanitarian mechanism and primarily benefit the RRF. As in the 2018 GRRF, the Alliance continues to recognize the challenges that remain so that we are able to deliver high-calibre and accountable humanitarian response, and there remains a strong need to address issues around quality, capacity and preparedness especially in the work of national members. In 2018, the GRRF was able to support the development of the digital EPRP mechanism, the work of the EPRP Working Group, and some monitoring visits done by humanitarian staff of the Secretariat. For 2019, this approach will be continued as we further invest in specific areas of capacity development that are expected to benefit national members and our humanitarian mechanism in the long term.

The following critical support areas are being lined up to be supported under the RRF mechanism:

- i. Strengthening of the Secretariat's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and coordination support to RRFs, including quality and efficiency improvements to the RRF proposal and reporting system
- ii. EPRP Working Group and Secretariat technical support to ACT national forums in country-level rollout of the revised EPRP mechanism
- iii. Capacity building for forums and national members on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and Sphere Standards

The GRRF19 Appeal is issued with recognition of the planned review of the ACT humanitarian model led by the Secretariat and the HPPG, where it is initially envisioned that ACT Appeals will have a stronger focus on large-scale and mega emergencies, complemented by a stronger and better-funded RRF mechanism for small to medium-scale emergencies. As such, this Appeal is issued with a particular intention of encouraging other modes of fundraising with members (including a projectized approach to access possible back donor funding).

Further, while the core of the RRF will remain to be life-saving work, holistic approaches to emergency programming that fall within the priorities of the ACT Global Strategy will be given consideration within the

context of a humanitarian crisis, e.g. emergency preparedness, survivor and community-led approaches, gender justice, addressing climate and conflict drivers, and investments in local humanitarian capacity. This operational flexibility is expected to result in new learning to inform the Alliance of ways to further improve its humanitarian work within the RRF framework.

Budget Summary (in USD)

Description	GRRF19 Appeal	Balance from GRRF18	% of RRF funds
Rapid Response Fund (core projects)	3,000,000	550,565	93%
Strengthening of M&E and coordination support by ACT Secretariat	100,000		3%
Support to Forum EPRP process by Working Group and Secretariat	60,000		2%
Capacity building on CHS and Sphere Standards	80,000		2.5%

Total GRRF Appeal Budget (in USD)	3,240,000
Balance Requested (in USD)	2,689,435

Kindly send your contributions to GRRF19 to the following ACT bank accounts:

Account Number: 240-432629.60A (USD) or Account Number: 240-432629.50Z (Euro)
 IBAN No: CH46 0024 0240 4326 2960A IBAN No: CH48 0024 0240 4326 2950Z
 Swift Code: UBSWCHZH80A

Account Name: ACT Alliance
 Bank Name and Address: UBS SA, P.O. Box 2600, Geneva 2, SWITZERLAND

Please inform Line Hempel, Head of Finance and Administration (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Marjorie Schmidt, Finance Officer (Marjorie.Schmidt@actalliance.org) of all pledges/contributions. RRF funding levels may be tracked through this link: <http://reports.actalliance.org/report/Appeals%202016-dynamic.aspx>, Appeal Number GRRF19.

For further information please contact:

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ACT Website: <http://www.actalliance.org>

Alwynn Javier

Head of Humanitarian Affairs
 ACT Alliance Secretariat