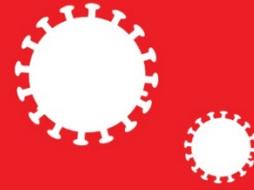


COVID-19

ACT Alliance programmatic response →



actalliance

ACT Alliance

The **Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance** is a network of 135 churches and church-based agencies who engage in humanitarian relief, sustainable development, and advocacy in over 120 countries around the world.

ACT members work together in **ACT Forums** at the national, sub-regional and regional level, which bring together all members who work in that context for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination that lead to an effective, coherent and relevant response.

Faith-based, localized response

Faith communities often play a vital role in helping the most vulnerable to have access to soap, water, hygiene kits etc., and can mobilise the wider community to take away the stigma of quarantine and sickness, and to support families in self-isolation.

Religious actors' status and trust in communities can be an effective factor of positive change. There is huge potential in the involvement of faith actors in a rights-based and gender-sensitive response.

Our experience in the Ebola response and other public health crises is that traditional humanitarian actors do not always have the capacity, partnerships or ways of working that are conducive to engaging on the ground with faith leaders without support from faith-based humanitarian agencies.

Over 70% of our members are local, national organisations who are engaged with communities throughout their countries, working with and caring for the most vulnerable people regardless of their religion, politics, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality.

Lenses of the response

ACT Alliance brings a variety of lenses to the COVID-19 response, which position it uniquely in its response as a faith-based organisation:

Gender: COVID-19 will significantly impact women and girls where factors affecting gender inequalities will get worse. Gender will be mainstreamed in the ACT response, ensuring that assessments will include the gaps and needs of



Photo: LWD

different gender groups. We will safeguard the participation and voice of the communities and various groups, including LGBTI, during this response.

Migration and Displacement: People on the move, including refugees and migrants, especially those without status, are facing an increased risk of exposure and infection during the COVID-19 crisis. ACT is working to ensure all persons, especially those on the move, have access to accurate information, hygiene and health services, food and livelihoods, and psychosocial supports. We are advocating for the release of detained migrants, suspension of detention and deportations, and protection of those with refugee and asylum claims in process.

Humanitarian response

ACT's humanitarian response will be decided at the local level to meet the needs of the communities ACT members are serving. Overall, ACT's response will focus on:

- **Public Health:** Contribute to prevention, management, and stopping the spread of COVID-19, provide healthcare services to all community members in need.
- **Community Engagement:** Share timely and accurate information with communities, combat misinformation, build trust with communities, support community-led solutions and keep people at the centre.
- **Community Preparedness and Prevention:** Support health care systems with supplies and equipment, educate vulnerable communities, provide medical expertise and other assistance.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Hygiene training, access to clean water and hygiene supplies, and gender-sensitive sanitation facilities.
- **Livelihoods:** Support livelihood options for informal workers, including skills training and enterprise promotion, promote business continuity, and cash transfers for essential needs.
- **Education:** Better hygiene in and around schools, provide hygiene supplies, ensure adequate water, cleaning and disinfecting of schools, and social distancing, support alternative and distancing learning, integrate psychosocial support for children, teachers, and others engaged in the education system.
- **Shelter:** Integrate disaster risk reduction to reduce long term hazard risks, identify families and areas most at risk due to overcrowding and high density, mitigate where possible, increase shelter standards, ensure adequate latrines and cooking facilities.
- **Food Security:** Cash support to daily wage earners to buy food, providing food to vulnerable people, provision of nutrition supplements to pregnant women, nursing mothers and children.
- **Community-based Psychosocial Support:** Ensure communities know how to access support, provision of psychosocial support to children, people with disabilities, gender-based violence survivors, and other vulnerable adults, disseminate factual information to help decrease social stigma.



Photo: Pelkesi

For more information:

www.actalliance.org/covid-19