

ACT Alliance Appeal – GRRF21

Global Rapid Response Fund 2021

Total Appeal Target: USD 2,500,000

Balance Requested: USD 1,812,286

1 June 2021

Dear ACT Alliance Members and Donors,

At the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul in 2016, ACT committed to prioritising the **localisation agenda** as a key area of focus for our humanitarian advocacy, recognising the primary role that national members and local faith communities play in humanitarian response. ACT members at the local and national levels are rooted within communities, familiar with their needs and positioned to respond rapidly in times of crisis. Dignity, community empowerment and capacity-building are cornerstones of our local and national responses. As a network of local, national and international actors working in partnership, international and global members of ACT Alliance are uniquely placed to strengthen the capacity of local and national actors. It is the role of the ACT Alliance, in the context of its emergency response mechanism, to ensure that the tools and resources available to members support this response capacity.

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 as part of an annual appeal. The fund is designed to prioritise ACT national members in line with our localisation commitments and in recognition of the distinct advantage these members have in being at the forefront of emergency response in their local contexts.

In 2020, the Global RRF Appeal was launched with a funding target of \$3,569,761. By the end of 2020, the Appeal had received the following contributions:

Appeal Target	New Contributions	Carryover from 2019	Total Contributions
\$3,569,761	\$1,332,303	\$458,989	\$1,791,292

Over the course of 2020, a total of \$1,103,578 was disbursed by the ACT Secretariat to 17 members across 16 countries, and the remaining balance of **\$687,714** has been carried over to this new Appeal, GRRF21.

The RRF is a unique tool for empowering national members and local partners as frontline and first responders at the onset of an emergency. ACT Alliance through its national members has been at the forefront of supporting local responses, often in contexts that may not always attract the attention of the media and donors. In such contexts, the impact of disasters at community level can be profound, and it is in such instances where the relevance and effectiveness of local and national actors and faith-based organisations, as well as ACT Alliance's reach, is clearly demonstrated.

Global Humanitarian Needs, 2021

As of April 2021, 237 million people needed humanitarian assistance as they faced hunger, conflict, displacement as well as the impacts of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic in 56 countries.¹ More than 34 million people are at risk from famine or famine-like conditions, most living in Burkina Faso, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen. IASC'S Early Warning and Readiness Analysis (May – Oct 2021) has raised concern over Central America (crop losses), Niger, (conflict and harsh lean season), a high level of concern for West Africa (Ebola virus outbreak with risk of regional spread), and with very high levels of concern for Myanmar (escalation of conflict). The total number of additional people living in extreme poverty is forecast to reach between 110 and 150 million this year. The largest increases are projected to be in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.² The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the situation as countries all over the world declared lockdowns causing economic fallout and rising food insecurity. There has been a sharp rise in extreme poverty and significant loss of livelihoods.

Some of the world's most severe humanitarian crises are in contexts where ACT Forums are present, and ACT Appeals are active. Humanitarian needs within protracted crises will also remain exceptionally high in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and South Sudan. Conflict remains a key driver of humanitarian needs in Yemen and Syria, with more people in acute need, whilst the situation in northern Ethiopia and Mozambique continues to worsen. In the Sahel, displacement has dramatically increased, and hunger has reached critical levels. In the Lake Chad Basin, the humanitarian crisis shows no signs of abating as it enters its seventh year. Humanitarian needs have also grown significantly in several other countries, including Afghanistan, where almost one quarter of the population is likely to need humanitarian assistance. In Venezuela, a deepening economic crisis has led to a severe reduction in the income of many households and a sharp deterioration in water, power and health services, prompting many to migrate. A deepening political and socioeconomic crisis has also significantly increased needs in Haiti, with 4.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2021.

COVID-19

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly changed the global context. COVID-19 will continue to impact the scale of needs, operational environment, and broader socio-economic context especially in the Global South, where health systems remain relatively weak. Most of the world's economies have contracted as most countries imposed lockdowns to curb infection. Unemployment has increased significantly impacting vulnerable populations especially in the informal sector. Of particular concern are displaced populations and people living in areas that are not under the control of national governments. It is estimated that up to 167 million people worldwide could be excluded from COVID-19 vaccination programmes unless deliberate action is taken.³

GRRF21 FUND REQUEST

With the Governing Board's approval of the new Humanitarian Policy (May 2021), roll-out preparations to operationalise the policy have commenced. The request for funding for GRRF21 is for **USD 2,500,000**, with the intention that the 2022 GRRF appeal will be issued in December of this year, as the revised Humanitarian Policy comes into effect in January 2022.

In addition to funding RRF projects of national members, the Secretariat proposes to utilise **5 percent** of RRF funds to resource the roll-out of the new Humanitarian Policy and its mechanisms which

¹ OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview: 31 March 2021 Update

² World Bank, Poverty and Shared Prosperity, Oct 2020

³ <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/maps-and-graphics/2021/coronavirus-humanitarian-update-map-data-vaccine-aid-response>

strengthen the RRF. The secretariat recognises the need to help ensure that the Alliance can deliver high-quality and accountable humanitarian response. Programme Quality, member capacity and emergency preparedness will be central to our reformed humanitarian mechanism. Over the past two years the GRRF has supported the rollout of the digital EPRP, the work of the EPRP Working Group, and monitoring visits undertaken by humanitarian staff of the Secretariat. The intention is to further invest in specific areas of capacity development that are expected to benefit national members and our humanitarian mechanism in the long term. It is planned that the following areas will be supported under GRRF21:

- i. EPRP Working Group and Secretariat technical support to ACT national forums in country-level rollout of the revised EPRP mechanism and the maintenance of the EPRP online platform
- ii. Development of the Humanitarian Operations Manual
- iii. RRF monitoring and capacity strengthening of national members on reporting compliance and quality and accountability, i.e. Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), Sphere

Budget Summary (in USD)

Description	GRRF20 Appeal Budget (USD)	% of RRF funds
Rapid Response Fund (core projects)	2,340,000	94%
Support to Forum EPRP process by Working Group and Secretariat	35,000	1%
Support to the new Humanitarian Policy roll-out	60,000	2%
RRF Monitoring and Capacity Strengthening	60,000	2%
Total GRRF20 Appeal Budget (in USD)		2,500,000
Less: Carry-over from GRRF20		687,714
Balance Requested (in USD)		1,812,286

Kindly send your contributions to GRRF20 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 the Director of Operations, Nancy Ette (Nancy.ette@actalliance.org) and Head of Humanitarian Affairs, Niall O'Rourke (niall.orourke@actalliance.org) with a copy to the Finance Officer, Marjorie Schmidt (marjorie.schmidt@actalliance.org) of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the requesting members. Please also be sure to inform us at the time of your pledge of any back donor or other special requirements relevant to the donation.

In line with Grand Bargain commitments to reduce the earmarking of humanitarian funding, if you have an earmarking request in relation to your pledge, a member of the Secretariat's Humanitarian team will contact you to discuss this request. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation. RRF funding levels may be tracked through this link: <http://reports.actalliance.org/report/Appeals%202016-dynamic.aspx>, Appeal Code: GRRF21.

For further information please contact:

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