

Appeal

Global Rapid Response Fund 2018 – GRRF18

Total Appeal Target: 2,983,403 USD

Geneva, 05 March 2018

Dear Members,

Subject: Appeal for ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund (RRF) Contributions

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 exceptional cases the RRF can also be requested by implementing 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 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 2017, the RRF Appeal was launched with a funding target of \$3,000,000. It received new contributions of \$1,072,984 from donors, and \$905,664 was carried over from 2016, bringing the total cover to \$1,978,648 (66%). A total of 25 RRFs were issued for 2017, amounting to a total of \$1,270,245. The carry-over amount for 2018 is \$708,403.

Using RRF funds, ACT national members were able to respond to crises in Romania, Ukraine, Peru, Malawi, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, China, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Liberia, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. What these represent are responses mainly for small to medium-scale emergencies that are delivered by national ACT members and local faith actors. 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. This is particularly relevant for emergencies that take place outside the view of donors and the media – emergencies that affect the lives of populations but are not large enough to draw the attention or resources of global humanitarian actors.

Following is financial summary for 2017 (unaudited) as of 31 December 2017:

	USD
Cash balance as at 1 st January	905,664
Add: Income received in the year	1,072,984
RRF payments made to requesting members in the year	(1,270,245)
RRF payments reimbursed, as subsequently followed by an appeal	0
Unspent balances refunded by requesting members in the year	0
Cash Balance as of 31 December 2017*	<u>708,403</u>

Please note that the full narrative and financial reports for GRRF17 will be available by 01 June 2018.

GRRF18 FUND REQUEST:

This year, in keeping with the full rollout of the revised Humanitarian Mechanism, strengthening of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning (EPRP) process of ACT Forums and national members, and improving compliance to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and Sphere, the request for funding is for **\$2,983,403**.

In addition to funding RRF projects of national members, the Secretariat proposes to utilize **7%** of RRF funds resource parallel mechanisms that will strengthen the humanitarian mechanism and primarily benefit the RRF. The Alliance recognizes the challenges that still 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. For 2018, this approach will be introduced in recognition of the need to invest in additional areas of capacity that would benefit national members and our humanitarian mechanism in the long term.

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

- i. Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation support (and developing functional systems) for RRFs as part of internal ACT systems and mandatory WHS reporting
- ii. Support to ACT national forums in country-level rollout of the revised Humanitarian Mechanism; continuing capacity building for national members on the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and Sphere Standards; and developing Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRP), which is a priority mechanism towards strengthening national forums

Budget Summary

Description	GRRF18 Appeal	Balance from GRRF17	% of RRF funds
Rapid Response Fund	2,100,000	708,403	93%
Strengthening of RRF Monitoring by ACT Secretariat	25,000		1%
Humanitarian Mechanism, CHS and Sphere capacity building, and EPRP support to forums and national members	180,000		6%
Total GRRF Appeal Budget		2,983,403	
Balance Requested		2,275,000	

Kindly send your contributions to GRRF18 to the following ACT bank account:

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 Lorenzo Correa, Senior Finance Officer (Lorenzo.Correa@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 GRRF18.

For further information please contact:

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

Alwynn Javier

Global Humanitarian Coordinator
 ACT Alliance