

# Alert

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## Serbia – No. 38/2010

### Earthquake

Geneva, November 5, 2010

#### 1. Brief description of the emergency

A series of earthquakes hit central Serbia on Wednesday 3 November 2010. Two people were killed and over 50 injured by the 5.4 earthquake. The greatest damage was recorded in and around the cities of Kraljevo and Kragujevac, with around 120,000 people affected. Many of these are refugees from Croatia and from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and displaced people from Kosovo and Metohija. Over 70 percent of houses had major damage. By 4 November, 4000 buildings had been analysed, with one third being assessed as unsuitable for habitation. Five schools were completely destroyed. The public water supply system and public health care centres were also heavily affected by the earthquake.

#### 2. Potential Impact

A high proportion of the affected population was already vulnerable, living on the edge of or below the poverty line, and are now unable to rebuild their homes. More than 15,000 people in Kraljevo and 23,000 in Kragujevac are registered as unemployed. This earthquake will provoke a new wave of social vulnerability. Local authorities say the most urgent needs are for construction materials such as tiles, cement and lime, bearing in mind it is autumn and raining. In a second phase, Kraljevo will need emergency shelter for the most vulnerable people. However, support to the affected population is limited as the local authority budget has only 30% of funds necessary to cover the damage.

#### 3. National and international response

The Government of Serbia has provided approximately 46,000 Euro and the same amount was provided by the City of Belgrade. This amount is being used to ensure regular electricity supplies to hospitals, and for temporary collective accommodation.

#### 4. ACT Alliance response

Philanthropy and IOCC are the only ACT members operating in Serbia. Philanthropy, which has been active in the region from the early 1990s, has a regional office in Kraljevo. After the earthquake, staff established immediate contact with representatives of local authorities and carried out an initial assessment and plan to support the most vulnerable people.

## **5. Planned activities**

Philanthropy plans to carry out the following activities:

- identify the most vulnerable families and individuals affected by the earthquake.
- provide potable water and basic food and hygiene supplies for most vulnerable population.
- specify construction materials and other inputs.
- purchase construction materials and other goods.
- transport materials to Kraljevo, and consequently to affected areas.
- provide several construction teams of skilled individuals.
- organise distribution materials.

### **For further information please contact:**

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**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jean Daniel Birmele, ACT Chief Finance Officer ([jbi@actalliance.org](mailto:jbi@actalliance.org)).**

**Thank you for your attention.**