

ACT Situation Report

Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan – No. 04/2010

Between Hope and Fear – Constitutional Referendum in Kyrgyzstan

Bishkek, June 27 2010

Current Overview

- On June 27, citizens of Kyrgyzstan were called to a referendum on the new constitution and to confirm the legitimacy of the interim president, Roza Otunbaeva, until 1 January 2012.
- On June 27, deputy head of the interim government, Omurbek Tekebaev, announced the establishment of a commission in the near future which will investigate the civil conflict in Osh and Jalal-Abad. According to Tekebaev, this commission will include scholars, independent and international experts.

Constitutional Referendum

- By 6 pm local time, 55,91% (1,548,603) of the total number of registered voters (2,767,138) took part in the referendum (Voter turnout in Bishkek: 66,04%; Jalal-Abad municipality: 46,53%; city of Osh: 45,45%; Osh municipality: 48,02%)
- Following the conflict in southern Kyrgyzstan, many citizens remain without passports. Kyrgyz authorities, therefore, accepted other documents as means of identification, such as driver licenses and pension cards. Where all documents were lost, at least two of the election officers at the election point have to know and identify the voter.
- By the time of closure of the accreditation period for international observers, 189 representatives of 18 international and inter-state structures, electoral process experts and diplomats from 31 states had been accredited.

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Security

- Local ACT Alliance partners report that the overall atmosphere in southern Kyrgyzstan remains tense.
- In the suburbs of Osh, some streets are still guarded by their populations at night.
- According to national authorities, 7800 police officers and about 8000 members of citizen patrols (“patriots”) were deployed to provide security on the day of the constitutional referendum (two police officers at each polling station).
- On 26 June, the curfew was lifted in Osh city and Osh municipality. However, people are still afraid of walking the streets of Osh at night.

Returns and IDPs

- By June 26, according to preliminary official figures, 1386 houses were burned down in Osh and Jalal-Abad oblasts (municipalities). ACT Alliance partners have provided a detailed preliminary list of houses burned down, which reports a total of 1553 burned houses (1145 in Osh, and 408 in Jalal-Abad).
- The official number of returnees to Kyrgyzstan from Uzbekistan had reached 78,675 by June 27. Around 380 citizens of Kyrgyzstan remain in Uzbekistan (with their families or in hospitals). All refugee camps in Uzbekistan have been closed.

Government and International Response

- International coordination in Osh is happening but should be strengthened. Overall coordination is still poor. Among the UN agencies, UNHCR and WFP have a strong presence. UNICEF is considering opening an office. Amongst international NGOs, coordination meetings are organized in Osh under the lead of ACTED or Mercy Corps.

UNICEF is looking for local organisations to distribute NFIs and hygiene kits. They will cover distribution and monitoring costs, in addition to the supply of the materials.

UNHCR has tents available for immediate distribution. While the deadline for the receipt of proposals from NGOs was June 26, they may extend this in light of the recent situation.

ACT Alliance Response***Coordination***

- In Bishkek, the ACT Alliance Central Asia Forum participates in all UN sector meetings. ACT members are currently discussing how to also ensure representation in the coordination meetings in Osh.
- The ACT Alliance assessment team recommends that UN OCHA (humanitarian coordination agency) should open an office in Osh and to set up a proper coordination mechanism that includes local as well as international NGOs.

ACT Appeal

- On June 25, the USD 1,001,134 ACT Preliminary Appeal for Kyrgyzstan was issued: <http://www.actalliance.org/resources/appeals/KGZ101Prel.pdf>

ACT Emergency Personnel Deployment

- International humanitarian staff members have been deployed to support the ACT Central Asia Forum team in Bishkek for the short term:
Michael Paratharayil (Christian Aid) from June 19 till July 4
Lisa Henry is to be replaced by Sudanshu Singh (DanChurchAid) on June 26
Martin Schuster (seconded by APRODEV) until July 10.
- Additional emergency personnel support has been requested for deployment from the ACT Rapid Support Team roster and is currently being mobilized.

ACT Advocacy Statement and News Releases

Please see the ACT website homepage, www.actalliance.org.

Next ACT Situation Report

The next report will be issued on or around 30 June 2010.

For further information

ACT members and other international supporters are encouraged to contact the ACT Secretariat for information in the first instance to minimize overloading of staff in-region focused on emergency response:

ACT Regional Program Officer, Michelle Yonetani (phone +41 22 791 6035 or mobile phone +41 79 285 2916; myo@actalliance.org)

ACT Assistant Communications Officer, Sandra Cox (phone +41 22 791 6711 or mobile +41 79 681 1868; <mailto:sec@actalliance.org>)

Otherwise, key contacts for the ACT Central Asia Forum based in the joint DCA/ICCO and Kerk in Actie office in Bishkek are:

Regional Manager DCA, Tatiana Kotova (tk.russia@dca.dk)

Regional Manager ICCO, Pepijn Trapman (Pepijn.Trapman@ICCO.nl)

Information Officer ACT Alliance, Martin Schuster (m.schuster@aprodev.net)

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to Jessie Kgoroadira, ACT Finance Officer (jkg@actalliance.org).

Thank you for your attention.