

# ACT Situation Report

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## Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan – No. 03/2010

### Nervously Facing Constitutional Referendum in Kyrgyzstan

**Bishkek, June 25, 2010**

#### **Current Overview**

- Despite considerable risks to national security and stability, the interim government is preparing for a constitutional referendum on June 27. A particular challenge is assuring the participation of IDPs. According to official information issued yesterday, more than 400,000 people in the municipality of Jalal-Abad will be unable to take part in the referendum. Staff of ACT Alliance organizations will return to Bishkek on June 26 for security reasons.
- A US\$ 1,001,134 ACT preliminary appeal will be issued this afternoon.

#### **Refugees and IDPs**

- On June 25 the ACT Alliance assessment team received reports by partners of more than 1400 houses burned down in Osh.
- According to Kyrgyz authorities the total number of returnees from Uzbekistan had reached 74,320 by June 24.
- The government of Uzbekistan has revised downward the number of refugees to 15,000 people, with returns continuing to take place.
- Organised support for people returning to Jalal-Abad and Osh remains low, especially for people whose houses were burned and who are in urgent need of shelter.
- The overall estimated number of IDPs in Kyrgyzstan remains 300,000, according to UN figures of June 23.

#### **Security**

- The security situation in Osh remains calm but the need for caution remains high. Many armed men continue to patrol the streets. Most residents ensure they are home by 5pm and remain indoors throughout the night.
- Additional soldiers and volunteers are being mobilised in preparation for Sunday's constitutional referendum.
- The Kyrgyz army continues weapons searches and efforts to locate people ('cleanings') deemed responsible for the civil conflict.

- According to local human rights defenders, groups of soldiers taking part in the ‘cleanings’ are not provided with sufficient food, water and shelter and are also in need of rest.

### **Government and International Response**

- While international coordination in Osh is occurring, it could be improved, ACT Alliance members and partners believe.
- The UN in Bishkek invited NGOs to an inter-organisational meeting on assessment of the situation in Osh and Jalal-Abad. About 30 organisations met to contribute input on assessments to date. Save the Children, ACTED, German Agro Action, MSF, ACT Alliance and Oxfam have carried out partial assessments but nothing comprehensive so far.
- Little assessment in villages and border areas has been carried out. No assessment to date has been made of destroyed villages/homes.
- A few NGOs noted that the INGOs should use government ministries as points of reference, as ministries have resources, census information and are keen to cooperate.

### **ACT Alliance Response**

#### ***Needs Assessment Mission***

- The ACT Alliance assessment team arrived in Osh on June 23. Emerging needs as confirmed by the assessment team so far include:
  - Food assistance
  - Shelter (ACT Alliance partners have started assessing destroyed villages/homes.)
  - Special attention for women and children, especially among refugees and IDPs.
  - Psychosocial support. The team heard terrifying stories about children and women (including pregnant women) being abused, tortured and killed.
  - Peace-building and reconciliation between communities. ACT Alliance partners near Osh have taken the lead in bringing communities together by initiating discussions between traditional Kyrgyz and Uzbek leaders.
- The ACT Alliance team continues to support partners’ capacity for food distribution and humanitarian aid management.

#### ***ACT Appeal***

On June 25, the US\$ 1,001,134 ACT Preliminary Appeal for Kyrgyzstan was issued, aimed at assisting 26,000 people. The appeal is being requested by DCA on behalf of the ACT Central Asia Forum (DCA, Christian Aid, and ICCO and Kerk in Actie). Four local partners are also implementing. Pledges to the ACT Appeal amount to about US\$ 430,000 to date:

DanChurchAid	US\$ 24,754
DanChurchAid/DANIDA	US\$ 123,770
ICCO and Kerk in Actie	US\$ 36,846
ICCO and Kerk in Actie	US\$ 85,974
FinnChurchAid	US\$ 61,900
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	US\$ 24,564
Christian Aid	US\$ 73,965

DCA is also working to approach USAID/OFDA and will also present a concept paper to UNHCR (for up to US\$ 100,000 for NFIs) and to ECHO, if necessary.

***ACT Emergency Personnel Deployment***

International humanitarian staff deployed to support the ACT Central Asia Forum team in Bishkek are:

Dr. Michael Paratharayil (Christian Aid) from June 19 - July 4

Lisa Henry (DanChurchAid) until June 24

Martin Schuster (seconded by APRODEV) until July 10.

**Next ACT Situation Report**

The next report will be issued on or around June 28.

**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](mailto:myo@actalliance.org))

ACT Assistant Communications Officer, Sandra Cox (phone +41 22 791 6711 or mobile +41 79 681 1868; [sec@actalliance.org](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](mailto:tk.russia@dca.dk))

Regional Manager ICCO, Pepijn Trapman ([Pepijn.Trapman@ICCO.nl](mailto:Pepijn.Trapman@ICCO.nl))

Information Officer ACT Alliance, Martin Schuster ([m.schuster@aprodev.net](mailto:m.schuster@aprodev.net))

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

**Thank you for your attention.**