

# ACT Situation Report

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## Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan – No. 06/2010

### Quiet and tense as humanitarian needs and protection issues become clearer

Bishkek/Geneva, 07 July 2010

#### Current Overview

##### *Security*

- While the overall situation in southern Kyrgyzstan seems to be calm, the atmosphere in Osh city remains very tense. Isolated incidents of police harassment, rapes, disappearances, and sporadic gunfire at night are reported every day. The curfew, which was re-instated after June 27 (the day of the referendum) until August 10, is heavily imposed.
- In the night of July 5, shootings were heard again in the city of Osh. On July 6, the commandant of the Osh municipality explained, a drunk, armed soldier was arrested and is held responsible for the shootings.
- On July 6, the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Ruslan Kazakbaev, reported in a press conference, that the government is considering deployment of an unarmed OSCE mission of police experts to Kyrgyzstan.
- On July 2, the Foreign Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Ruslan Kazakbaev, said in a meeting with EU Special Representative, Pierre Morel, that the security situation in Kyrgyzstan has reached a post-conflict phase.

##### *Refugees and IDPs*

- With approximately 1500 houses burnt down in Osh, according to latest indications from an on-going ACTED/UNHCR shelter assessment, roughly only 10-15% of the inhabitants are still living in or around what is left of their houses. The others have moved elsewhere in the city, staying with friends, family in the same or nearby neighborhoods. Other IDPs are on the outskirts.
- UN OCHA estimates 75,000 returnees and 300,000 persons in Kyrgyzstan displaced by the recent violence, as of July 6th.
- Estimates continue to fluctuate as there are daily movements of people in and around the city. Assessments in more rural areas of surrounding municipalities show a high number of families residing on the outskirts of Osh in Shark, Mady, and beyond (east), Kyzl Ksyhlak (west), and beyond.

##### *Needs, damages and rights violations*

- By July 6, the number of officially registered deaths had risen to 309.

- According to local authorities, more than 22,000 persons have lost their official documents to claim state pension support due to the April riots in Talas city and the June events in the Osh and Jalal-Abad municipalities. A representative of the State Registration Service has suggested paying an average pension “for cases where loss of documents is officially proven”. Otherwise, he continued, “many people will be at risk”. According to current legislation, in cases of lost documents only the minimum pension is provided.
- While the affected communities now have general access to receive food assistance, aggression towards people distributing the food is being reported with accusations of discriminatory practice. To mitigate against this, ACT Alliance is trying to be as transparent as possible towards the affected population and working to build accountable relationships with beneficiaries. The World Food Programme is adjusting its work towards more targeted food distribution. UNICEF is worried that food distribution is not yet balanced enough regarding children’s needs.
- On July 2, the Civil Control Committee, a human rights association of Kyrgyz citizens presently living abroad and mainly composed of ethnic Uzbeks, reported increasing harassment of human rights advocates by law enforcement agencies. This has also be confirmed by local ACT partners.

## **Government and International Response**

- On July 3, Roza Otunbaeva was inaugurated as president of Kyrgyzstan. Local media, “AKI press”, highlighted her commitment to work in an honest, transparent and open way. Her speech was held in Kyrgyz, with translation into English, but not into Russian, although Russian is the second official language of Kyrgyzstan.
- For 27 July 2010, the government of Kyrgyzstan is planning a donor conference in Bishkek.
- The State Commission for the Assessment of Damages in Osh city, Osh and Jalal-Abad region has been set up to conduct a damage assessment of houses, business and public building from June 28 to July 12 (cf. UN OCHA SitRep18).
- Assessments are also being undertaken by the UN-led coordination clusters for protection, gender-based violence, shelter (s. above), health, education, food security and water and sanitation. The results of most cluster assessments are expected to be available by 16 July and will inform the upcoming revision of the Flash Appeal June 2010 (cf. UN OCHA SitRep18).
- A more comprehensive UN needs assessment, covering more regions of the country, is planned to follow the current rapid needs assessment and the revised UN Flash Appeal.
- While the government in Kyrgyzstan is focusing on the (re-)construction of permanent housing for IDPs and returnees before winter, the international aid community is investing more immediately in temporary shelter. UN is developing a shelter strategy, which will have to be coordinated with the government plans of the government. INGOs have agreed to follow the line of the UN shelter strategy and local NGOs are being included in the cluster-led discussions.
- On July 5, the interim government announced the construction of two multi-storey buildings for IDP families in Osh. According to the official press-statement, the location of the buildings has been identified, but the statement does not say where they will be build: on the properties of the burned private homes or somewhere else in the city.
- The UN-led Humanitarian Country Team is discussing the harmonisation of pay scales for local employees.
- The European Union is planning to allocate an additional 7 million Euros to support the upcoming parliamentary elections and social rehabilitation in southern Kyrgyzstan through EuropeAid’s financial “Instrument of Stability”.
- On July 6, the European Parliament is discussing a resolution on Kyrgyzstan, which includes the call for more EU long term assistance for Kyrgyzstan through its Development and Co-operation Instrument (DCI), the call for an impartial investigation into the civil conflict with participation of international actors (as advocated for by the ACT Alliance and others), and the deployment of an OSCE policy mission with the aim to prevent the outbreak of new violence.

## **ACT Alliance Response**

### ***Coordination***

ACT Alliance continues to participate in Humanitarian Country Team coordination meetings in Bishkek. As humanitarian aid coordination is increasingly moving from Bishkek to Osh, ACT is strengthening its links with the coordination networks in Osh, while staying involved in policy coordination concentrated in Bishkek.

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

A second more in-depth ACT Alliance assessment team will arrive in Osh on July 11. The assessment findings, along with the findings of other UN and NGO assessments will inform the revision of the preliminary ACT appeal, also to include recovery assistance. The ACT Secretariat expects to receive a fully elaborated version of the ACT Appeal by July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### ***ACT Appeal***

On June 25, the USD 1,001,134 ACT Preliminary Appeal for Kyrgyzstan was issued. The appeal is being requested by DanChurchAid (DCA) on behalf of the ACT Central Asia Forum (DCA, Christian Aid, and ICCO and Kerk in Actie), partnering with four local organisations. Income pledged and received to date amounts to **USD 812,271**. Please see the appeal at:

<http://www.actalliance.org/resources/appeals/KGZ101Prel.pdf>

DCA is also working to approach UNICEF for funding. New ECHO funding might be accessible to the ACT Alliance following an ad-hoc decision by ECHO within the next two weeks. Other ACT members around the world are also fundraising for this response.

### ***ACT Emergency Personnel Deployment***

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

- Sudanshu Singh (DCA consultant), arrived on July 1 and will stay until the end of July.
- Martin Schuster, Information Officer (seconded by APRODEV) until July 17
- Psychosocial advice is also extended to the team by Church of Sweden

### ***ACT Advocacy Statement and News Releases***

- On July 1, ACT Alliance issued a statement to call on the international community to lead independent investigation into the civil conflict in Kyrgyzstan:  
[http://www.actalliance.org/stories/resources/alerts\\_and\\_situation\\_reports/ACT%20Alliance%20statement\\_call%20for%20independent%20conflict%20Investigation\\_01July2010.doc/view](http://www.actalliance.org/stories/resources/alerts_and_situation_reports/ACT%20Alliance%20statement_call%20for%20independent%20conflict%20Investigation_01July2010.doc/view)

For further information see the ACT website homepage, [www.actalliance.org](http://www.actalliance.org).

## **Next ACT Situation Report**

The next report will be issued on or around 14 July 2010 from Osh.

## **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 ; [Sandra.cox@actalliance.org](mailto:Sandra.cox@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.**