

# ACT Situation Report

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## Kyrgyzstan/Uzbekistan - Conflict IDPs and Refugees – No. 01/2010

Geneva, June 18 2010

### Current Overview

- Preliminary information indicates that the destruction in Osh is widespread, with hundreds of buildings and homes destroyed and that this is a major humanitarian crisis. Interim Government claims official death toll of 190 may be up to ten times higher in reality. The situation remains unpredictable and volatile
- The primary concern for the ACT Alliance is security and humanitarian access to deliver impartial aid to all persons in need of assistance. Reports are that many of those most in need are not receiving aid made available by the interim government authorities or private sources
- UN agencies yesterday were estimating around 400,000 people have been affected by what appears to be planned and orchestrated murder, banditry, rape and forced displacement, including up to 100,000 refugees who have fled over the border into Uzbekistan, and around 300,000 displaced persons within Kyrgyzstan. The latest estimates from the World Food Programme for people in the south in need of assistance are even higher at 520,000
- Many of those affected are located in isolated and border areas, and have little or no access to food and basic protection. Markets are starting to resume as in some places people are able to leave their homes to buy essentials. Members report massive price inflation due to scarcity in the affected areas. Members also report Uzbek people continuing to barricade themselves inside their villages in fear and living off existing food stocks.
- Whilst some humanitarian aid has been made available, distribution has been irregular and has not been able to meet the needs of those affected by the crisis. ACT members are concerned over reports that distribution has not been impartial. In affected Uzbek provinces (six districts) more than 48 shelters are being used to accommodate refugees. 73 empty schools have been designated by authorities for refugee accommodation. (UNCHR, June 17<sup>th</sup>) Local media report poor conditions and overcrowding in makeshift camps
- Members report that some displaced people are still camping in open areas, while others are beginning to move back from the Uzbek border to their own villages and towns as they have received little or no assistance at the border.
- Greatest needs identified are for food items, hygiene kits, medical supplies and emergency shelter. Early shelter needs are likely to transform into longer term needs including continued food aid and support to host families. Initial indications are that 40,000 of the Internally Displaced Persons require emergency shelter, with the balance accommodated in host families (UNHCR, June 17<sup>th</sup>)

### Government and International Response

- Kyrgyz provisional government has deployed Ministry of Social Welfare staff to pursue stabilization mechanisms and has activated an emergency cell. A constitutional referendum is still planned for June 27<sup>th</sup>.

- UN cluster mechanism has been activated. UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) will assume leadership for the emergency shelter and protection cluster, with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights leading a sub-cluster on human rights monitoring.
- UN emergency teams have been deployed with 15 emergency staff arriving by today in Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the UN Resident Coordinator and other members of the UN Coordination team
- Airlifts to Andijan have begun (tents, plastic sheets, blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats), with the Provisional Government taking the lead in onward distribution
- 11 million USD activated from UNHCR's operational reserve for initial response, including for airlifts, emergency staff mobilization, overland transport, protection needs, assessment, monitoring and coordination
- UN Flash Appeal for IDPs in Kyrgyzstan to be released today. Appeal for refugee crisis in Uzbekistan foreseen possibly for next week. World Food Programme (WFP) is also about to release a flash appeal, estimating 520,000 people in the south in need of assistance.
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is present in affected areas and distributing Non-Food Relief Items for 2,000 people from the UNHCR warehouse in Osh

### **ACT Response to date**

ACT Central Asia Forum, including members DanChurchAid, ICCO & KerkinActie and Christian Aid, are working in close collaboration, with offices in the Kyrgyz capital, Bishkek (DCA/ICCO) and the Tajikistan capital, Dushanbe (Christian Aid). The Secretariat is being kept informed and will continue to issue Situation Reports and updates to the wider alliance.

### Emergency response mobilization

The ACT Forum has partners working in the southern regions and is currently assessing the evolving security situation and the capacity of partners to respond, including in relation to their own safety and mobility in the affected areas. Logistical preparations for relief delivery are underway.

ICCO & KerkinActie expects to use its established network of farmers and suppliers related to their local market development programme to distribute relief assistance through local partners. DCA are working with partners to plan response, with procurement of relief items at the Bishkek level for distribution by local partners in Osh.

The ACT Central Asia Forum members are able to immediately mobilize from own resources approximately US\$ 350,000 towards an initial emergency response. The Secretariat expects that a Preliminary ACT Appeal may be developed next week.

### ACT Advocacy Statement and News Releases

A joint ACT Alliance advocacy statement was issued yesterday for the Kyrgyzstan interim government, UN and EU from the three Forum members and the ACT Secretariat, calling for impartial humanitarian assistance and joining the UN call for the establishment of a secure humanitarian corridor. News releases were also issued in Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK as well as at international level. (Please see the ACT website homepage, [www.actalliance.org](http://www.actalliance.org)).

### Questions and Answers external messaging guidelines

A Q&A sheet has been developed by the ACT Forum communications staff to guide ACT members' communications with external media. Please contact Sandra Cox at the ACT Secretariat.

### ACT emergency personnel deployment:

International humanitarian staff members have been deployed to support the ACT Central Asia Forum team in Bishkek: Michael Paratharayil (Christian Aid) from June 19<sup>th</sup> till July 4<sup>th</sup> and Lisa Henry (DanChurchAid) till June 24<sup>th</sup>, to be replaced for one month by Sudanshu Singh (DanChurchAid).

All staff are mandated to support the ACT Forum's response with local partners and in support to the Bishkek staff. Roles and priorities are to be clarified in the next few days, and are likely to include

support to the further generation of coordinated Situation Reports and the preparation of a Preliminary ACT Appeal.

Coordination

ACT members are participating in UN coordination meeting in Bishkek, and in regular communication with fellow International NGOs.

Potential for joint needs assessment with other (non-ACT) agencies is also being explored.

ACT Alliance global working groups on Protection and Security are also being kept in the loop.

**Next ACT Situation Report:**

Scheduled for June 22 or 23<sup>rd</sup> next week.

**For further information**

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

Tatiana Kotova ([tk.russia@dca.dk](mailto:tk.russia@dca.dk)) and Pepijn Trapman ([Pepijn.Trapman@ICCO.nl](mailto:Pepijn.Trapman@ICCO.nl))

**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.**