



Action by Churches Together

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Coordinating Office

Appeal

North Caucasus - Chechnya

Assistance to IDPs in Chechnya - EUNC-31 Appeal Target: US\$ 745,662

Geneva, 15 January 2003

Dear Colleagues,

The new Ingush Government is determined to speed up the return of Chechen refugees to their homeland. Although life in refugee camps in Ingushetia is far from a durable solution, Chechen refugees are unwilling to head back for Chechnya due to the problems of surviving severe winter conditions in minimal and non-winterized houses, serious security concerns and non-existence of infrastructure.

Furthermore, camps in Chechnya proper are being closed by Russian authorities forcing Chechen IDPs to settle either with relatives and friends or 'temporary accommodation' in the Grozny area. The security situation is further exacerbating already difficult working conditions for international and local NGOs, in addition to lack of public and financial support for their humanitarian actions.

One of the ACT members with a foothold in Chechnya, **Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)** seeks urgent financial support in order to provide life-saving aid to Chechen IDPs who were forced out of the camps.

HIA will deliver the aid in the following manner:

- distribution of family food parcels for IDPs
- opening of soup kitchens for IDPs
- reconstruction and equipment for kindergartens for internally displaced children

ACT International is calling for an immediate attention and urgent support for this cause.

ACT International will soon call an emergency meeting with its implementing and funding members to discuss humanitarian plans and strategies for Chechnya.

ACT is a worldwide network of churches and related agencies meeting human need through coordinated emergency response.

The ACT Coordinating Office is based with the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Switzerland.

Project Completion Date:

31 July 2003

Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested

	<u>US\$</u>
Total Appeal Target(s)	745,662
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>0</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Network	745,662

Ms. Geneviève Jacques
Director of Programme
WCC

John Nduna
Acting Director, ACT

Robert Granke
Director
LWF/World Service

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

- **Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)**

I. IMPLEMENTING ACT-MEMBER

Hungarian Interchurch Aid Pjatigorsk Field Office

Hungarian Interchurch Aid has been active in the North Caucasus since 1995. It has been implementing a number of relief programs in co-operation with the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) and UNHCR. During the first war, activities mainly focused on Dagestan (assistance for IDPs), later on Grozny and Central Chechnya as well as on North Ossetia and Stavropol Region. Current programs are targeting Northern Chechnya (2001-2002).

Reacting to the humanitarian situation at the outbreak of the second Chechen war in 1999, ACT/HIA implemented a relief project in Stavropol region, North Ossetia and Ingushetia. In the subsequent programs it relocated its activities from Ingushetia to Chechnya (Northern and Central territories). In 2001 HIA reconstructed seven schools in Northern Chechnya using UNHCR-funds.

With the current project ACT/HIA wishes to focus on Chechnya exclusively.

Since September 2002 HIA has been implementing relief programs in the North Caucasus on its own. Reacting to the floods in the region, ACT/HIA has implemented two relief programs in ACT Appeals EURU21 and EURU22.

HIA was registered in the Russian Federation in April 2001.

II. DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY

Background

The beginnings of the current humanitarian crises date back to 1999, when the second Chechen-Russian war broke out. It forced 320,000 – 350,000 inhabitants of Chechnya to leave their homes for Ingushetia (140,000 – 160,000), Dagestan and North Ossetia (2,200) and Stavropol region (5,000). They were accommodated with host families and in tent camps. Beside them about 170,000 found shelter inside Chechnya. This situation means serious, almost insoluble humanitarian challenges both for the international assistance community and the Russian authorities.

Current situation

In March 2001 the withdrawal of Russian forces from Chechnya started. The Chechen Administration along with different ministries and related authorities were re-established and work started on the establishment of a basic legal framework for the return of Chechen IDPs. According to the authorities the return of IDPs from the camps in Ingushetia into receiving centres - in Grozny, Gudermes, Sernovodsk and Assinovka - was commenced in October 2001. However due to the critical security situation the majority did not return to their original homes. After 11 September 2001 the situation became further exacerbated with intensified fighting. The approaching winter has also hindered the return process as the receiving centres are not winterized with no heating and cuts in the water supply.

Due to these reasons the Russian government decided to postpone the return process till the elections in Ingushetia in April 2002. As of July 2002 only 4,417 of the 151,417 IDPs in Ingushetia and Northern Chechnya (Znamenskoye) could return. According to the initial plans 100 – 200 families should have gone back on a monthly basis. This meant that under normal circumstances the process would take 33 – 35 months.

The effects of terrorist actions in Moscow at the beginning of November 2002 hampered this process further. The withdrawal of the Russian forces was stopped and new military actions commenced.

Even though slowly the return process continues. According to the latest figures in Ingushetia there are about 110,000 IDPs. 20,000 of them live in camps. The number of IDPs in Znamenskoye (Northern Chechnya) has decreased to 2,200. On 6-7 December the camp in Aki- Yurt in Ingushetia was closed.

The returned IDPs are accommodated in Chechnya as follows:

Receiving centre	No of builds	Capacity (person)	No of families to be accomm	No. Accomm	No of Children	Doctor	Water supply	Elect.	Gas	Heating	Bath room
Secondary school (Gudermes)	1	2,000	335	1,875	949	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel #1-2 (Sernovodsk)	2	1,810	366	2,051	963	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel (Assinovka)	3	2,500	305	1,695	776	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kindergarten #1 (Argun)	1	360	56	280	139	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kindergarten #2 (Argun)	1	140	29	161	75	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel (Argun)	2	429	80	483	216	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Yaltinskaya (Grozny)	1	318	76	360	145	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel Koshevoy Mayak	1	564	161	796	340	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kindergarten ul. Hmelnickiy (Grozny)	1	318	147	743	216	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Mayakovskaya (Grozny)	1	1,134	334	1,771	770	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Ponyatkova (Grozny)	1	900	248	1,303	423	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Viborskaya (Grozny)	1	1,000	172	941	373	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Novatorov (Grozny)	1	926	98	476	187	+	+	+	+	+	+
Hostel ul. Depovskaya (Grozny)	1	1,000	156	1,020	435	+	+	+		+	+
Kindergarten ul. Zheleznodar (Gudermes)	1	270	93	224	82	+	+	+		+	+
TOTAL		13,669	2,656	14,179	6,089						

In the above-listed collective centres there is no catering for the returnees. INGOs do provide some food for them but not on a regular basis. There is a serious food shortage and they only have reserves for a couple of days. In the near future 5,000 more returnees are to be accommodated in five new receiving centres. However, there are no plans for provision of food.

With the closing down of the IDP camps in Northern Chechnya, only IDPs staying with host families remain. Due to the worsening military and security situation their return is still impossible. Even their food supply is not secured as state subsidies were stopped with the introduction of the return program. According to the latest figures collected by ACT/HIA Pjatigorsk FO in the north there are 8,734 registered IDPs with host families in Nadteretsniy, 3,629 in Naurskiy and 2,487 in the Shelkovskiy region. The two IDP camps in Znamenskoye (northern and southern) Nadterechniy district will be closed in the forthcoming months.

Locations for Proposed Response

- Nadteretsniy region (Northern Chechnya)
- Naurskiy region (Northern Chechnya)
- Grozny region (Central Chechnya)

Current security situation

Security after the three-day siege of the Moscow theatre at the beginning of November worsened considerably. Fighting intensified in Chechnya, the borders were closed and population movements were restricted in the republic.

At the end of December the conference of Caucasian people took place in Grozny. This is seen as the first step towards autonomy for the republic. Currently the elaboration of the Chechen constitution is taking place and in March there will be a referendum. Its acceptance could result in an independent Chechen republic inside the Russian Federation. Consequently, improvements in the security situation can be anticipated.

However, regardless of this progress, the security situation remains critical and winter is usually the time of increasing military clashes.

III. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Goal: To provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Northern Chechnya and Grozny district for the first six months of 2003.

- To provide food assistance on a monthly basis for IDPs in Nadterechniy and Naurskiy districts (Northern Chechnya),
- To reconstruct and equip 6 kindergartens in Naurskiy district (Northern Chechnya),
- To equip and operate three soup kitchens (2 in Grozny and 1 in Naurskiy district) to provide one hot meal daily for 1,500 people.

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Number of targeted beneficiaries

- 3,629 people in Naurskiy district,
- 500 people in Naurskiy district,
- 8,734 people in Nadterechniy district,
- 1,000 people in Grozny district

(Total of 13,863 IDPs).

Criteria for Beneficiary Selection

In both districts in Northern Chechnya IDPs registered with the district administration and living with host families will be targeted. As ACT/HIA has been operational in this area for 3 years, the list of beneficiaries is available in ACT/HIA Pjatigorsk FO.

- In the case of the six kindergartens to be reconstructed, only those admitting IDP children will be selected.
- The beneficiaries of the 2 soup kitchens in Grozny will be the inhabitants of the selected receiving centres.

Number of Targeted Beneficiaries According to Proposed Activities

- 12,363 IDPs on a monthly basis in Nadterechniy and Naurskiy regions,
- In the case of the 6 kindergartens their number is not available yet.
- 1,500 IDPs will be reached on a daily basis through 3 ACT/HIA soup kitchens.

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Distribution of food items

This project component has been a traditional element in ACT/HIA programs in Chechnya since 2000. On a monthly basis ACT/HIA wishes to distribute the following food items to IDPs with host families in Nadterechniy and Naurskiy districts: 1 kg wheat flour, 1 ltr edible oil, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg pasta and 1 kg rice. The monthly value of these food items per beneficiary is USD 3,16.

This type of assistance is very important for the survival of beneficiaries as assistance from other sources is scarce. Some assistance is provided by WFP and DRC, but not on a regular basis. Northern Chechnya is not currently in the INGOs focus.

ACT/HIA procures the food items in bulk, delivers the necessary quantities from Pjatigorsk to the distribution points in both districts. Distributions take place in co-operation with the local administrations after informing and collecting the beneficiaries. The transport monitors of ACT/HIA Pjatigorsk FO are present during the distribution and registration of the beneficiaries.

Reconstruction of six kindergartens

ACT/HIA wishes to rehabilitate 6 kindergartens in Chechnya focusing on Naurskiy district. If the situation allows, ACT/HIA will choose 3 of them in Grozny. Kindergartens attended by IDP children will be prioritised.

ACT/HIA will carry out masonry, carpentry, casing and roughcasting works as well as furnishing the kindergartens. Toys will also be provided.

ACT/HIA will conclude contracts with the responsible departments of the local administrations to realize the reconstruction works. For the supervision of this project component ACT/HIA will hire an Engineer.

Soup kitchen

ACT/HIA will select three locations for soup kitchen activities. Premises having some kitchen facilities will be chosen. In Naurskiy settlement the kitchen of kindergarten #1 will be utilised for this purpose, while in Grozny 2 premises with kitchen facilities in two receiving centres. They will be appointed in co-operation with the local administration in Grozny.

ACT/HIA will reconstruct the soup kitchens to be able to prepare daily hot meals in each for 500 beneficiaries. Kitchen equipment – plates, pots etc. – will be purchased as well.

ACT/HIA will conclude contracts with the soup kitchens stipulating that ACT/HIA will provide them USD 1.1 for each hot meal. From the lump sum received the soup kitchens will need to cover all relating operational costs like public utilities, salaries as well. This practise was followed during the realisation of ACT Appeal EURU82. The soup kitchens will distribute hot meals seven times a week.

Beneficiaries will receive tickets on a weekly basis.

VI. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

Field Office

ACT/HIA's IDP Assistance project will be implemented from ACT/HIA Pjatigorsk Field Office. Trips to the different project locations in Chechnya will be made from there following certain security procedures. Depending on the security situation ACT/HIA will consider the opening of a sub-office in Grozny for a better implementation.

Procurements

ACT/HIA will procure all the necessary food items, reconstruction materials and kitchen utensils on the local market – preferably in Chechnya and Stavropol region after collecting at least three different quotations on each bulk procurement.

Administration

The project will be directed from ACT/HIA Pjatigorsk FO. The Programme Director is a Hungarian expatriate having managed relief programs in the North Caucasus since 1999. Besides 1 Office Director, 2 Logisticians and 2 Transport monitors will be hired. All of them are locals who have gained experience during the implementation of previous ACT programs in the North Caucasus.

From HIA HQ a Co-ordinator will be responsible for project management and reporting to ACT CO, ACT members and the UN.

Finance

Finances will be directed from HIA HQ in Budapest and the audit will be carried out there by KPMG.

The implementation period of the current project may take place simultaneously with the realisation of ACT/HIA Rehabilitation of Flood Affected North Caucasus (ACT Appeal EURU22). This is the reason why for the parallel period ACT/HIA will pay 50% of the normal salaries of the Project Director, 1 Logistician, 1 Transport monitor, Co-ordinator and Financial staff delegated to the project. After finishing EURU22 their

salaries will be supplemented to 100%. HIA anticipates that the period concerned is 1 January – 28 February 2003.

One Office Director, one Logistician, one Transport monitor and one Engineer will exclusively be hired for the realisation of this project.

Monitoring is the responsibility of ACT/HIA HQ.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

1 February – 31 July 2003

VIII. COORDINATION

ACT/HIA will co-ordinate its relief activities with UN and ACT-members active in the ground (NCA/CPCD and ROC). ACT/HIA will co-operate with the local authorities.

IX. BUDGET

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE - Crisis Phase				
Relief Food Distribution				
Standard food parcel	parcel	74,178	3.16	234,402
Nutritional feeding				
Soup kitchen rehabilitation	kitchen	3	5,000	15,000
Nutritional feeding	portion	270,000	1.10	297,000
Rehabilitation				
Kindergarten rehabilitation	kindergarten	6	15,000.00	<u>90,000</u>
Subtotal Direct Assistance				636,402
MATERIAL TRANSPORT, STORAGE, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING				
Truck rental & Related Costs	month	6	5,000.00	30,000
Warehouse Rental	month	6	400.00	<u>2,400</u>
Subtotal Material Transport, Storage & Warehousing				32,400
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT				
Desktop	unit	1	1,000.00	1,000
PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION & SUPPORT				
Project staff salaries				
Programme Director	month	6	2,916	17,500
Office Director	month	6	800	4,800
Logistics (2)	month	6		5,500
Transport monitor (2)	month	6		4,400
Engineer	month	6	600	3,600
Coordinator	month	6		5,000
Finance staff	month	6		7,500
Project staff housing (MOW)	month	4	300	1,200

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget US\$</u>
Staff travel				
International travel	month	4	500.00	2,000
Local & Regional travel	month	4	400.00	1,600
Office Operation				
Office Rental & Utilities in Pjatigorsk	month	4	250.00	1,000
Suboffice Rental in Grozny	month	6	150.00	900
Office Stationery & Supplies	month	6	100.00	600
Communications				
Telephone & Fax	month	4	1,200.00	4,800
Vehicle operations				
Vehicle Rental with driver	month	4	500.00	2,000
Bank fees (1%)	lump sum			7,460
Subtotal Personnel, Administration, Operation & Support				69,860
AUDIT & EVALUATION				
Audit of Appeal Funds	lump sum			2,000
Evaluation & Monitoring	month	4	1,000.00	<u>4,000</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				<u>745,662</u>