

# Appeal

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Romania

## Assistance to Flood Affected - EURO41

### Appeal Target: US\$271,124

Geneva, 6 August 2004

Dear Colleagues,

Due to dramatic weather changes over the past years, seasonal floods have been a recurring problem in Romania, thus weakening its primarily agriculture oriented economy. Last week of July saw extremely heavy rain falls throughout the country (from 70 to 100 liters per square meter), causing heavy damages to 12 counties of Romania (some 21,190 km<sup>2</sup>). The number of victims recorded is 5 and 7 persons are still missing. Some 1,200 houses were damaged by the floods, about 2,000 persons were displaced, 213 bridges and overpasses were damaged along with 230 km of road and 32,000 hectares of crops.

ACT member in Romania **AIDRom (Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania)** has built a considerable operational capacity over the past years to respond timely to the consequences of the recurring disaster. Following an initial rapid needs assessment, AIDRom plans on responding in the following manner:

- meeting immediate humanitarian needs by distributing food parcels, hygiene kits, medicines, disinfectants and other NFI;
- rendering post-crisis assistance in form of home reconstruction and small-scale rehabilitation of infrastructure

**Project Completion Date: 30 March 2005 (6 months)**

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

	<b><u>US\$</u></b>
Total Appeal Target(s)	271,124
<b><u>Less:</u></b> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	0
<b>Balance Requested from ACT Alliance</b>	<b>271,124</b>

Thor-Arne Prois  
Director, ACT Co-Ordinating Office

Full details of programme and budget are on following pages.

## I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

- **Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania – AIDRom / Emergency Unit**

## II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION

**AIDRom** is the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania, a charitable organisation of high public utility and of ecumenical spirituality, founded in 1991 and started as a co-operation between the Orthodox, the Reformed and the Lutheran Churches of Romania, coordinated by the Unit IV of the World Council of Churches, for the purpose of providing assistance to those in need regardless of gender, race, nationality and religion, right after the changes from 1989.

In July 1993 AIDRom was registered with the name of "Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania". Initially, the main task of AIDRom was to distribute humanitarian relief aid through specific projects in social, diaconal and ecological fields, but it was also to be an ecumenical platform for Romanian churches.

As an ecumenical, non-governmental body, its primary aim is to ensure an ecumenical co-operation between the member churches (Romanian Orthodox, Hungarian Reformed, German Lutheran) on common issues of interest such as education, mission, social and diaconal matters, ecology, training for transformation, as well as financially assisting various ecumenical projects of these churches through the co-ordination of the Bishops Offices.

As an ACT member, AIDROM has been implementing emergency programs in Romania since 1997, but the Emergency Unit was already actively involved in this field since its establishment in 1991 (the earthquake in Banath region and the flood in Moldavia in 1991; landslides in Transylvania in 1995; floods in Transylvania, Moldavia and Southern Romania in 1997 through 2002).

Through these activities, AIDRom Emergency Unit rendered immediate help to the victims of various natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, landslides), consisting in immediate humanitarian assistance (provision of food, hygiene items, clothing), agricultural seed inputs, live stocks, home reconstruction and rehabilitation of small infrastructures (bridges, drink water systems, wells).

The **Emergency Unit** of AIDRom has as a general objective the disaster preparedness and emergency response in case of natural or human generated disasters.

The main tasks of the disaster preparedness component are:

- To stimulate the cooperation among churches and local government in emergency preparedness
- To educate and train the population for disaster situations
- To create local structures, which are able to respond in emergency situations
- To introduce and improve the emergency awareness in schools and parishes.

The objectives of the emergency response component are:

- To identify the most affected regional areas
- To participate in coordination of effective work after disasters
- To assist the churches, the local authorities and the people in the process of decreasing the damages and alleviation of human suffering.

### **III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION**

#### **Background**

Most of the rivers from Northern Romania spring from the Carpatian mountains, which at their lower end have a fast flow and a high water abundance. The population from both sides of the Carpatian mountains (West: Northern Transylvania – East: Northern Moldavia) have adopted over the centuries a specific life style for these regions, populating the lower ends of the mountain river sides, where the lands were just perfect for agriculture and farming.

Due to dramatic weather changes during the past decade, seasonal floods have been a recurring problem in Romania, and which seriously and at all times impacted on the lives of the rural population which depends on agriculture and farming. Small and poor communities from the up-streams of the mountain rivers are also very vulnerable in case of heavy rainfalls, which in most of the cases leads to extraordinary destruction due to powerful flood. In spite of their desperate situation, these communities get little attention from the local governments. Usually, only when the damage is done are they taken into consideration, but as soon as the crisis phase passes, they are left again to their fate.

Nevertheless, their suffering should never be underestimated. They have always paid a large price in the days of calamities in the form of damage to houses and property, the loss of livestock, and the destruction of crops. In many instances, they also pay dearly in terms of ill-health and sometimes they pay the ultimate price - loss of lives. Romania is affected by floods year after year. This frequency and severity of floods appears to be worsening in terms of human health and economic losses and will certainly affect the general situation in Romania in the future.

The vast majority of those affected by annual floods has incomes of less than 5 US dollar a day. This level of income makes them vulnerable to floods aftermath and gives them no opportunity to break out of a cycle of poverty, even though they cope as best as they can.

The floods that occurred in Romania during the past 12 years led AIDRom to assist the affected population in almost every region of the country. The conclusion drawn by AIDRom Emergency Unit during these years was that flood risk strategies, such as training workshops and simulations with the aid and the participation of local authorities and skilled personnel, should be implemented regionally. These workshops could significantly reduce the impact of floods, limit the social disruptions, and speed up the recovery after a flood. Recovery strategies are supposed to be more sustainable than the constant process of raising the dikes, but there are regions where the latter is the only solution due to the given natural morphology of the land.

The extent of wrong river control projects undertaken during the socialist era clearly had an adverse effect on many important rivers in Romania. A large number of dams, dikes and other water control structures have inevitably caused changes in flow patterns and damages to the functions of the rivers.

#### **Current Situation**

The week of 25 to 31 July 2004 has brought extremely heavy rain falls for the whole country (from 70 to 100 liters per square meter), which caused massive damages throughout vast regions within a few hours, seriously affecting 12 counties of Romania. Smaller local floods following the rain falls were recorded in other regions of Romania, lasting a few hours or a day. On the other hand, the North (Moldova) and South-Eastern (Muntenia, Dobrogea) regions of Romania were strongly devastated by a number of extremely strong floods caused by mountain rivers, lasting more than two days and under the condition of continuous rain falls. During the first days of the calamities, access to some of the regions was possible only with military vehicles and with helicopters. The most affected counties

are those in the Moldova (Botosani, Neamt, Suceava, Bacau, Vaslui) and Muntenia regions (Buzau, Vrancea, Prahova), followed by those in the Dobrogea region (Tulcea, Galati, Braila) and the valleys of the rivers Olt and Arges. The situation in the counties of Northern Romania is the most desperate, as the mountain streams feeding two major rivers, Siret and Prut, have turned into raging torrents, devastating the villages on their way.

The Government and the National Civil Protection announced a high alert situation in the area (Code Red), and started supplying the victims with food and water the help of the Army supply. The Prime Minister, who toured the flooded areas, reported that the senseless and uncontrolled cutting down of trees were among the main reason that added to the serious conditions in the afflicted areas. The general conclusion of the visit by state officials was that the current catastrophe will have a long-term influence on the development of the poorest region of Romania. The Orthodox Patriarchate made an appeal on the national TV, calling all the churches for solidarity and compassion, and to start helping the victims in every possible ways as soon as the situation will permit.

The situation per counties is the following:

**Buzau:** the most affected is the village of Nehoiu, with 1,000 persons isolated in 200 houses and 80 farms, without electricity, fresh water or food. Moreover, with 9 pedestrian bridges washed away; other seriously affected communities were: Calvini, Catina, Chiosdu, Siru, Bontu Mare and Bontu Sec counting about 100 flood-damaged houses. A first estimation of the damages in this county indicates a total amount of over 4.5 million USD. State officials declared that only those who suffered total losses will be assisted, but the total amount which will be allocated for private persons in this affected region will be not higher than 350,000 USD.

**Bacau:** 60 % of the rural houses in this county are flood-damaged. The most affected are the villages of Agas, Asau, Comanesti- Bolovanesti, Doftana, Asau, Brustureasa, Ocna, Tomas, Podu Turcului, Ciughles, Palanca, and Slanic Moldova. A total of 16 houses were washed away, another 800 houses were flood-damaged and partially destroyed. The population under 15 and over 55 was given vaccins against typhus and hepatitis.

**Arges:** the most affected villages are Curtea de Arges, Albesti de Muscel, Aninoasa, Baiculesti, Bailesti, Berevoiesti, Bradulesti, Musetesti, Nucsoara, Vladesti, Tutana, Gruiu, and Rotaresti. In another 17 small communities 210 houses, 365 annexes, 36 bridges and 497 hectares of crops are in danger.

**Suceava:** the affected villages were Ulma, Udesti, Bunesti, Sadova, Partestii de Jos, Todiresti, Simnicea, Dragoiseti, Dolhesti, Vama, Granicesti, Bosanci, Paltinoasa, Manastirea Humorului, Preutesti, Frasini, Valea Moldovei, Ciprian Porumbescu, Fundu Moldovei, Porasti, Liteni, Solca, Cacica, Falticeni, and Campulung Moldovenesc. A total of 574 houses were flood-damaged.

**Iasi:** the affected villages were Ciortesti, Comarna, Cotnari, Cristesti, Cucuteni, Bunesti, Harmanesti, Lespezi, Ruginoasa, Tatarus, Tornesti, and Ungheni,

**Prahova:** the affected villages were Alunis, Cosminele, Stefanesti, Curtea de Arges, with 188 houses and 17 bridges destroyed.

**Tulcea:** 28 remote houses were almost totally damaged, and 2 persons were reported dead.

#### IV. GOAL & OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the Emergency Unit of the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania – AIDRom, is to alleviate the human suffering of the victims, to mitigate the effects of the floods on

persons in the small rural communities, and to place them on the path of recovery. This goal is set to be achieved through the following objectives:

- Providing immediate humanitarian assistance in form of distribution of food parcels, hygiene kits, medicines and disinfectants, clothing, blankets and bed-clothes, cleaning and disinfection of wells.
- Providing post crisis assistance for home and farm rehabilitation, contributing to home reconstruction, retrieving personal properties, crops and livestock, contributing to rehabilitation of small, and repairs or replacement of local infrastructure elements (pedestrian bridges).

## **V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES**

### **Number and Type of Beneficiaries**

During the implementation of this project AIDRom wishes to provide assistance to those families whose houses have been destroyed or seriously damaged.

At the current stage of the emergency, and while some of the villages are still inundated, statistical data is insufficient for elaborating all details of the proposal. Some of the evacuated population is moving from one place to the other without informing the local authorities about their departures and arrivals. Other victims of the floods have left the affected regions in order to find shelter with relatives in other areas of the country. However, basic lines of project activities can be determined, and selection of beneficiaries can be carried out.

AIDRom plans to assist families in those villages most damaged by floods in the following affected counties: Buzau, Bacau, Arges, Tulcea, Suceava, Prahova, and Galati. The originally planned number of beneficiaries will be 500 families, to receive food, health kits, and clothing parcels in the crisis phase, and 200 families to be assisted in house reconstruction in the post crisis rehabilitation phase according to the various levels of damages suffered. The precise assessments will be done as soon as the villages will be reachable by road.

Another 300 families are targeted for farm rehabilitation (seeds and live stocks), and 10 communities are targeted for infrastructure rehabilitation (bridge repairs).

### **Criteria Applied in the Selection of Beneficiaries**

Selection of beneficiaries will be made in close co-operation with local authorities and churches, taking into consideration the social situation of the families. The beneficiaries will be selected according to the level of damage suffered, vulnerability, nutritional and health conditions, socio-economic background, vulnerability factors (e.g. women and children, age), as well as based upon the requests and the proposals AIDRom will receive from local churches and mayor offices.

The targeted beneficiary groups are expected to comprise large families with children aged 1 to 14, two-generation families under one roof, severely handicapped and socially marginalized persons (e.g. members of the Roma community).

## **VI. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Location for Proposed Response**

AIDRom wishes to select and assist flood victims in the most affected communities in the counties mentioned earlier. It is expected that AIDRom's traditional implementing partners will provide

information and specifics about the most affected families in those communities having the most needs. As in previous years, beside AIDRom's implementing partners, the local Mayor Offices will be expected to take part in the assistance action initiated and led by AIDRom. The surveys of the Emergency Unit Team will also be an important basis for decisions.

### **Implementation Procedures**

AIDRom wishes to implement the current program in two phases:

- Immediate humanitarian assistance
- Post crisis rehabilitation

During the first phase of the implementation, the most urgent needs of the flood-affected population will be addressed : food, hygiene items, clothing and blankets. AIDRom Emergency Unit will supply the recipient villages through the local churches and implementing partners. Each 30-kg food parcel will each contain both non perishable food items such as wheat and corn flour, edible oil, sugar, rice, salt, pasta, canned soup, but also meat and vegetables, cottage cheese, jam, and milk powder.

The hygiene parcels will each contain items sufficient for up to 8 weeks per family, as already requested: washing powder, disinfectants, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrush, sanitary napkins and baby diapers. Two transport monitors will be responsible for transporting relief items to the different project locations.

During the second phase, and on the basis of surveys made by AIDRom's Emergency Unit co-ordinator and of local church reports, private houses will be rehabilitated. The exact data of the surveys is not yet available from all locations. The beneficiary families will be helped either directly by AIDRom via its field coordinators, or through the local churches, whose ministers will provide information to their Bishops offices about the most vulnerable families needing assistance based on the selection criteria presented above.

Once the information will have been received from all the affected regions, the Bishop Offices will send their lists to AIDRom, who will transfer, according to its possibilities, the requested amounts to the Bishop Offices. In turn the Bishop Offices will send the available funds to the churches, with the specifications of the financial assistance to be allocated to each family. Each family will decide which are the most urgently needed construction items in keeping with the financial assistance it was allocated. The procurement of the necessary items will be coordinated by the local church and its presbyteriums, who will be responsible for locating the closest procurement site (local or regional) as well as the cheapest means of transportation.

The reconstruction work will be carried out by each family using its own person resources, or by appealing for volunteer help. The private house rehabilitation program will be continuously monitored by AIDRom's Emergency unit co-ordinator. Another way of implementing the rehabilitation of houses will be by supplying families with utensils, household goods and reconstruction kits. The beneficiaries will sign receipts for all type or items of assistance received, and confirmed by the local administration through whom the assistance was channelled (project field coordinator, church ministers, mayors).

Points of local common interest, such as water springs, channels, and wells will be rebuilt or repaired by the local Mayor's office, who will apply for financial assistance directly to AIDRom. AIDRom will decide on the amount to be allocated to each request based on the seriousness of the situation..

## VII. ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, MONITORING & REPORTING

### Administration

A programme assistant and a field coordinator will be employed for the whole duration of the project. In addition, two transport monitors will assist the project field co-ordinator of the Emergency Unit. These monitors will transport relief items to different project locations. The program director (coordinator) cooperates with the program assistant and field coordinator and supervises their work, and is responsible for the overall management of the project. The administrative assistant will assist program implementation and ensure timely reporting to AIDRom's head office and to ACT Geneva. The field coordinator is responsible to the program director for management of local project activity, including the organization and supervision of local teams, as well as for procurement, distribution and negotiations with local authorities. Procurement and related activities will be done according to ACT Guidelines. The transport monitors, under the supervision of the field coordinator, will maintain contact and provide all necessary data for efficient coordination to/with the program director.

### Finance Management and Controls

The AIDRom Emergency Unit who will report to the ACT Coordinating office according to ACT's Reporting Guidelines and will carry out finances controls. Financial control for ACT Appeal funds will be the responsibility of AIDRom head office.

Each Bishop's Office will appoint a counselor from the Bishop's Council to be in charge of accounting. The counselor will send his reports and remarks to AIDRom. Beneficiaries will be requested to sign a protocol, which will confirm the type and quantity of the material or financial assistance received and their value for accounting purposes.

### Monitoring Procedures

The program monitoring will be carried out by AIDRom's Head Office in Bucharest and by the regional office in Brasov. Bishop's Offices will appoint a counselor in charge of making on-site surveys of implementation stages, of the use of funds, etc. AIDRom's Emergency Unit will also make monitoring surveys through its program coordinator. The program coordinator will visit at least once a month the regions where projects are being implemented in order to monitor progress, disburse funds and deal with problems that might arise, referring issues to the Head Office or to ACT, if necessary.

### Reporting

AIDRom Emergency Unit coordinator will provide ACT CO with needed updates, interim and final narrative and financial reports. The Refcont Auditing Company will carry out an audit of the final financial report.

## VIII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

Project Assessment	1 – 15 August 2004
Start Up and Implementation of Crisis Phase Assistance	15 August – 15 September 2004
Start Up Post Crisis Phase Rehabilitation	01 September 2002
Implementation	01 September – 30 March 2005*
Interim Narrative and Financial Reports	November 2004
Close Out	March 2005
Final Narrative and Financial Report	April 2005

\*It is unlikely to be able to carry out the post crisis rehabilitation during the winter months December and January. Therefore, the operation which will start in August will stop at the end of November. During the two – month break (December and January), there will be no cost incurred, including salaries. The operation will be resumed in February.

## **IX. COORDINATION**

The project coordination will be done by AIDRom Emergency Unit Team, together with the help of the Bishop Offices and local partners participating in the aid program. AIDRom will maintain close contact with these implementing partners and will ensure the receipt of reports on a regular basis. The co-operation will be based on information channeling and sharing, responsibility, accountability and credibility.

Coordination meetings will be held by the AIDRom Emergency Unit once a month on various affected sites with the participation of Bishop counselors, in order to monitor, co-ordinate and review the progress of reconstruction and rehabilitation process, to harmonize different aspects of the work and of the distribution of relief supplies, as well as to identify further needs.

At the regular surveys of the Unit coordinator will be evaluated the activities, being discussed and set out eventual new plans.

**X. BUDGET**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost ROL</u>	<u>Budget ROL</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
<b><u>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE</u></b>					
<b><u>DIRECT ASSISTANCE:</u></b>					
<b><u>Crisis Phase</u></b>					
Relief food distribution	Family	300	3,400,000	1,020,000,000	29,192
Health & medical inputs	Family	300	2,890,000	867,000,000	24,813
Clothing	Family	200	1,700,000	340,000,000	9,731
<b><u>Post Crisis Phase</u></b>					
<b><u>Construction materials:</u></b>					
For completely destroyed houses	Family	15	85,000,000	1,275,000,000	36,490
For severely damaged houses	Family	50	34,000,000	1,700,000,000	48,653
For highly damaged houses	Family	135	17,000,000	2,295,000,000	65,682
<b><u>Other inputs:</u></b>					
Agricultural seed Inputs	Family	150	1,700,000	255,000,000	7,298
Animal inputs	Family	150	3,400,000	510,000,000	14,596
Well cleaning & disinfection	Family	50	1,700,000	85,000,000	2,433
Pedestrian bridge reconstruction	Family	10	34,000,000	340,000,000	9,731
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>8,687,000,000</b>	<b>248,619</b>
<b><u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE &amp; RELATED HANDLING COSTS</u></b>					
Truck rental	Km	3,900	34,000	132,600,000	3,795
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>132,600,000</b>	<b>3,795</b>
<b><u>PERSONNEL, ADMIN., OPERATIONS &amp; OTHER SUPPORT COSTS</u></b>					
<b><u>Staff Salaries &amp; Benefits</u></b>					
Emerg. Progr. co-ordinator	Month	6	20,400,000	122,400,000	3,503
Program field co-ordinator	Month	6	17,000,000	102,000,000	2,919
Assist. to prog. co-ordinator	Month	6	13,600,000	81,600,000	2,335
Transport co-ordinators	Month	6	6,800,000	40,800,000	1,168
<b><u>Travel costs</u></b>					
Per Diem (Food/Lodging)	Day	60	2,380,000	142,800,000	4,087
<b><u>Vehicle Operations costs</u></b>					
Fuel (diesel and gasoline)	Km	4,000	5,100	20,400,000	584
<b><u>Communications costs</u></b>					
Telephone	Lump Sum			17,000,000	487
E-mail	Lump Sum			6,800,000	195
<b><u>Other</u></b>					
Bank fees	Lump Sum			85,000,000	2,433
<b>Sub total</b>				<b>618,800,000</b>	<b>17,710</b>
<b><u>AUDIT FEES</u></b>				<b>34,941,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>9,473,341,000</b>	<b>271,124</b>

**Exchange Rate**

Budget: 1 USD = ROL 34,941