

Appeal

Iran

Bam Earthquake - Rehabilitation MEIN – 42 (Rev 2) **Appeal Target: US\$ 3,133,786** **Balance Requested from ACT Network: US\$599,794**

Geneva, 7 December 2004

Dear Colleagues,

The earthquake in Bam that left behind 26,000 casualties, 75,600 homeless and 5,204 orphans is approaching its first anniversary.

Almost one year after the earthquake, the general situation can be characterised as that of transition from recovery to longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction. The most important reconstruction activity to take place now is the rebuilding of the city of Bam itself. Iranian authorities opted to first engage in the reconstruction of destroyed or damaged houses in the rural areas while working on the formulation of a Master Plan for the city of Bam, which has been recently completed. In total, 25,000 housing units (of 60 – 120m²) will be constructed. Iranian authorities hope that international NGOs and aid agencies will take responsibility for 3,000 – 4,000 housing units in Bam.

ACT members who have responded to the life-saving needs in Bam, Iran are Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid) and ACT Netherlands/Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (ACTNL/PDA). They have all also got involved in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts in Bam, which, given the bureaucracy-related obstacles on the ground, may take several years to complete.

This revised appeal includes ACTNL/PDA's updated and extended proposal consisting of new elements as follows:

- construction of shelters for female-headed households
- technical advise on urban shelter construction
- water/sanitation
- construction of a treatment center for substance abusers
- publication of the ACT psycho-social manual in Persian
- photography activities for children and youth

The program of HBAid was closed in September 2004, while NCA's program is approaching its official closure on 31 December 2004. For information on their programs, please refer to the original ACT appeal MEIN-42 and its first Revision.

Project Completion Date:

NCA – 31 December 2004

PDA/ACT NL - 30 July 2005

HBAid – 31 August 2004 (closed)

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

	NCA	PDA/ACT NL	HBAid	TOTAL US\$
Total Appeal Target	1,009,040	1,836,146	288,600	3,133,786
Less	1,049,479	1,236,352	279,600	2,565,431
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	-40,439*	599,794	9,000**	

* **oversubscribed**

****the balance will not be requested due to the program closure**

Jenny Borden
Interim Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

Full details of programmes and budgets are on following pages.

I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER

- **ACT Netherlands (Kerkinactie and ICCO) – the Netherlands**
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) - USA**

II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER & PARTNER INFORMATION

ACT Netherlands is the joint relief and rehabilitation programme of ICCO and the United Protestant Church in the Netherlands and continues the emergency work previously carried out by Dutch Interchurch Aid and, later, the Disasters and Refugees Unit of Kerkinactie.

ACT Netherlands has been involved for more than five years in supporting Afghan and Iraqi refugee-related projects in Iran through partner organisations IRAC (the Iraqi Refugee Council) and Ockenden International. It is also a member of the Tehran-based International Consortium for Refugees in Iran (ICRI), which seeks to mobilise support to the refugees in Iran, co-ordinate the work of international organisations, and engage in advocacy and lobbying on refugee issues.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is an ecumenical ACT member based in Louisville (KY) in the United States. It is active in supporting emergency work through the ACT network, with particular emphasis on Malawi, Liberia, and El Salvador.

PDA is one of the ACT members that has developed an expertise in the field of post-disaster psychosocial work. It has a pool of psychosocial experts who provide training and consultancy, as well as assist local organisations in designing and developing context-responsive psychosocial programmes. Through some of its staff members, PDA has good knowledge of Iran, and of the churches operating in the country.

III. DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY SITUATION

Description of the Current Situation in Bam

The earthquake, measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale, left behind more than 26,000 dead, 30,000 injured, and up to 75,600 homeless. About 85 percent of housing and infrastructure was destroyed. In the rural areas, 14 villages were affected, with 90% of the houses completely or badly damaged and in need of reconstruction.

Detailed statistics about specific population categories reveal the scale and extent of the human tragedy resulting from the earthquake. The quake left behind 5,204 orphans (of whom 2,322 lost both parents). Of the 2,500 women who head their households in Bam and surrounding areas, 80% (or 2,000) were widowed in the earthquake. Looking at the number of fatalities, this is an area that has lost at least one quarter of its population, with loss affecting almost every single family.

According to the UN, the number of people affected by the loss of economic activity (due to damage to property and infrastructure) is as high as 200,000. The World Bank's estimate of cumulative losses attributable to the earthquake is \$ 1.5 billion, while Iranian government sources give a higher figure.

The official Task Force on Reconstruction also regularly publishes lists of needs and projects for which international support is requested. These lists include various sectors (social services, educational institutions, rehabilitation services, prevention services, and sports / culture).

After the initial co-ordination structures and mechanisms, which UN-OCHA had facilitated, formal meetings between the Task Force (representing Iranian authorities) and international organisations present in Bam are now held regularly. International organisations, including ACT Netherlands / PDA, are also required to

submit regular progress reports and plans to the Task Force.

The number of international NGOs present in Bam has substantially dropped once the immediate relief phase was completed. As for Iranian NGOs and community-based organisations, a survey conducted by ACT Netherlands / PDA in September concluded that they generally lack capacity and project experience. Amongst them, there is consensus on disaster preparedness and disaster management training as a priority.

Project Completion Date:

The revision of the appeal will extend the project completion date from 28 February to 30 July 2005. The reasons for the extension are as follows:

- Delays in starting the programme (explained in the interim narrative report)
- Delays in granting permissions by the Iranian authorities to international organisations to start shelter construction in the urban areas of Bam and Baravat. The ACT Netherlands / PDA programme includes a substantial shelter construction component, which can only be completed by the end of July 2005.

IV. BENEFICIARIES

For the new activities, listed and detailed below, programme beneficiaries will be:

Activity	Households	Individuals
Urban shelters (60 and 85 sq.m)	75 (female-headed)	min. 300
Technical Advice on Shelter Construction	300 (direct consultancy)	general public
Water and sanitation (latrines / rural shelters)	60	350
Water and sanitation (infrastructure rehabilitation)	villages of Eslam Abad and Dar Bagh	
Water and sanitation (training)		70
Treatment Centre for Substance Abusers		5,000
Photography Activities for Youth and Children		min. 250
EMT		20 participants

V. NEW ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN THE REVISION

CONSTRUCTION OF 75 SHELTERS FOR FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN BAM AND BERAVAT

The most significant change to planned activities is the addition of a component for the construction of 75 shelters for female-headed households in Bam and Beravat. This will cost an estimated USD 750,000 (at \$ 10,000 per unit).

The go-ahead to international organisations to start assessment and planning processes for urban shelter construction was only given recently by the Iranian authorities. ACT Netherlands / PDA has already signed a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding with the Housing Foundation concerning the 75 units. Currently, ACT Netherlands / PDA are conducting further negotiations with the Housing Foundation, which could result in the increase of shelter units proposed.

For urban shelter construction, the Iranian authorities commissioned the building of 12 prototypes. International NGOs, the Iranian private sector, and governmental construction companies, all built prototypes, using different materials and construction techniques, which are now being exhibited for

potential beneficiaries to visit and examine.

The idea is to present people with options, which have been approved by the official Iranian agencies, as meeting the minimum requirements for earthquake safety and which, at the same time, is affordable. Prices vary, according to the quality of materials used and depending on total shelter size (ranging from 60 to 120m²). Once people have chosen the model they want, they face the task of choosing the construction company they want to contract from more than 100 companies that have been licensed to work in Bam.

The authorities will grant each family entitled to a new house the equivalent of USD 4,300. People then have to cover the remaining costs, either through their own means or through loans (at an interest rate of 2%, going up to a maximum of 15% depending on loan size, repayable in 15 years). In other words, the governmental grant will cover 43% of the minimum shelter construction cost (the minimum being 60 square meters in size).

Even with the availability of loans, the most vulnerable sectors of survivors will find it difficult to take the burden of repaying the costs of construction and sustaining their households. Consequently, there is strong justification for engagement in this activity with careful targeting of the most needy of survivors.

The Iranian authorities, as indicated in the introduction to this revision, are expecting international NGOs to assist 3,000 – 4,000 families in constructing their homes.

The ACT Netherlands / PDA programme will target the most needy of female-headed households, mainly composed of families which lost the male breadwinner in the earthquake.

The decision to target this specific category was taken in light of the findings of a detailed report prepared by the ACT member Norwegian Church Aid and UNICEF on the situation of female-headed households in Bam. ACT Netherlands / PDA presence in the field, and contacts with women's groups, have both strengthened motivation to serve this particular group.

The NCA / UNICEF report described the vulnerable situation of FHHs as follows:

With the great loss of family members and the total destruction of homes, the women have been put in a vulnerable situation. The feeling of insecurity colours every aspect of their lives, and makes it difficult to cope. Not only is there a physical threat, but also the women are left with anxiety and possible isolation. Also, the possibility to cope in such a situation is very difficult, because the women are left without feeling protected – even by police or other authorities. Because these women's everyday life is filled with problems, it is often difficult to meet new challenges. There is just not enough energy and space.

The uncertainty of the widows' housing situation makes it very difficult to have a sense of control. To be able to plan for the future, or even for the next few weeks, is almost impossible because of the lack of knowledge about whether or not they are moving to a guest village. The difficulty of planning can make it hard for the women to feel that they can deal with eventual challenges and that they master the overall situation.

And:

The financial situation for the widows is very difficult (...) The women's financial problems are not only related to providing food for themselves and [their] families, but also to enabling further education for the children. In addition, the financial situation will be closely related to the feeling of coping.

Unemployment has been and is a great problem [for women] in Baravat [and the Bam area in general]. Not having a steady income is of grave financial concern, and might cause distress and psychosocial

problems. It may also, for those already poor, keep them in a life of poverty, without the possibility to improve their situation. In addition, particularly problematic to the [Bam region], the lack of employment [coupled] with its negative social implications and the feeling of not mastering different challenges, may lead women to turning to drugs as a means of escape.

PDA / ACT Netherlands field staff will use questionnaires (used previously in selecting beneficiaries for the rural shelters component) in identifying the 75 beneficiaries. ACT Netherlands / PDA are already in contact with 65 women who head their households through the income-generating project (see interim report), but will be surveying a larger number for more accurate targeting.

There is a possibility that the number of urban shelters to be constructed will be higher than the stated 75. ACT Netherlands / PDA are at present negotiating with the Housing Foundation, which offered to channel the grants allocated for the 75 beneficiaries to ACT Netherlands / PDA, so that they can reach a higher target. If an agreement is reached donors will be informed.

One shelter model was decided on for all 75 beneficiaries. Two types of houses will be provided, depending on the household size:

- 60 square meters for households with up to 4 members
- 85 square meters for households with more than 4 members

The projected start date for construction of urban shelters is January 2005 and the completion date is foreseen as July 2005.

TECHNICAL ADVISE ON URBAN SHELTER CONSTRUCTION (THE YOUNG ARCHITECTS' ASSOCIATION - YAA)

The scheme outlined above, i.e. providing people with the freedom to choose the model of house they want (from 12 available models) and the contractor they want (from more than 100 possible companies) is –on the one hand- a democratic measure that is to be commended, while –on the other hand- it will cause those who are not knowledgeable about the technical and financial aspects of construction a lot of confusion.

To make good choices, people have to be well informed. Acting on this principle, ACT Netherlands / PDA have developed –together with the Kerman-based Iranian NGO, the *Young Architects Association*- the idea of providing technical and financial advise to people on the qualities of the various prototypes, and on the financial and contractual aspects of entering into agreements with constructors and banks that provide loans.

The Young Architects' Association will:

- Organise collective workshops / meetings to explain in a simplified form the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the various available prototypes, as well as the basic issues that need to be taken into account when taking a loan, or signing a contract with a construction company.
- Provide individual, more detailed consultation to 300 families, with priority to low-income families
- Prepare and disseminate booklets containing the essential information on the technical, contractual and financial aspects of house construction

These activities will not only provide a much-needed service to earthquake survivors, but also contribute to building the capacity of a young and inexperienced NGO by involving it in a project that is demanding and challenging. The project will be a learning process for the Association, and will bring to the fore many issues related to disaster preparedness, earthquake safety construction, and “how to work with people” in a practical way.

ACT Netherlands / PDA are working closely with the YAA in developing the project, and will be ready to provide it with the needed advice once implementation starts.

The projected period for this activity is November 2004 – January 2005.

WATER & SANITATION (WATSAN)

In NCA's Bam appeal (MEIN-42) and also in the original PDA / ACT Netherlands appeal (MEIN-42, revision 1) it was indicated that NCA will complement the ACT Netherlands/PDA programme's shelter component with water and sanitation activities. This has now been worked out and an Agreement of Co-operation signed with NCA to this effect.

Training on water and sanitation issues has been identified as a priority (both for Iranian NGOs and for state agencies) as there is a general lack of knowledge and skills in this area. The themes to be covered are: conducting water and sanitation assessments after a disaster, planning and organising immediate watsan interventions, and the Sphere standards as they apply to the watsan sector. This is another intervention contributing to capacity building of local structures.

This training will be provided to 70 people from NGOs and different state agencies (national and local). Two training sessions are planned and will take place in November – December 2004. The NCA-seconded expert will deliver the training. NCA is covering the trainer's costs.

Other water and sanitation activities that will be implemented are:

- Building 60 latrines for the constructed rural shelters in the villages of Eslam Abad and Dar Bagh
- Solving the problem of a problematic canal in the village of Eslam Abad.
- Installing water and sanitation facilities at the four constructed community centres
- Assessing, planning, and implementing the water and sanitation works at the 75 urban shelters

CONSTRUCTION OF A TREATMENT CENTRE FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

Even prior to the earthquake, the rate of substance abuse among adults and children was high in Bam. The disaster, with all the loss, uncertainty, and traumas it brought about, has led to the exacerbation of the problem. Some reports indicate that the rate of substance abuse in Bam could be as high as 70%. The problem is so pervasive that adults who are addicts give opium to their children (to quiet them down, or even as a form of medication for ailments).

While the problem is at such a scale, facilities and services to deal with it are extremely few and poor in terms of staffing. An indication of the general lack of resources allocated not only to this problem, but to meeting the psycho-social needs of the survivors, is that the State Welfare Organisation (one of the main organisations providing psycho-social support) had to decrease the number of centres it operates in Bam from eight (immediately after the earthquake) to three, due to financial problems. Similarly, the number of psychologists working in the area has decreased, and SWO is unable to provide minimum financial support to the 150 psychosocial volunteers it recruited and trained after the earthquake.

At present, there is no active programme in Bam dealing with the problem of substance abuse. The list published by Iranian authorities of public places to be reconstructed, and for which funding is sought, includes only two "treatment and rehabilitation centres for the addicted". Even assuming that these are indeed constructed, they will not be sufficient to deal with the large number of people who are substance abusers in the Bam area.

PDA/ACT Netherlands will be constructing a treatment centre of around 300m². The counterpart organisation for this project is the State Welfare Organisation. It has provided ACT Netherlands / PDA with the specifications of the facility it needs (number of rooms, and the size of each room).

The centre will have the capacity to deal with 114 clients per day, and a total of 3,000 clients per month. SWO's concept paper for the centre also states "training and prevention programmes, such as life-skills training, psycho-education, family education; and psycho-social health programmes for the general public could be added for more coverage. Occupational therapy could also be included for effectiveness of interventions".

The treatment centre will be staffed by two psychiatrists, four clinical psychologists (with MSc. Degrees, two social workers (for outreach), two nurses, and one technical administrator who is a psychiatrist.

NON-CONSTRUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOUR COMMUNITY CENTRES

Of the four community centres whose construction was planned, one has already been completed and it is hoped to complete the remaining three in the period November – December 2004. In light of needs brought to ACT Netherlands / PDA's attention by SWO (which will operate and manage two centres) and the Kerman NGO House (which will be responsible for the other two centres), the following items have been added to the revised budget:

- Contribution to furnishing the centres (at USD 1,169 each, with a total cost of USD 4,675)
- Support to SWO staffing costs (both in the two community centres and in the treatment centre for substance abusers)

PUBLICATION OF THE ACT PSYCHO-SOCIAL MANUAL IN PERSIAN

SWO accessed the ACT community-based psychosocial manual through NCA and UNICEF. Of the various available manuals dealing with this topic, it has opted to translate the ACT manual and has used it in training staff and volunteers.

The manual is ready to be printed for wider use, and also as a form of institutionalising knowledge. SWO has done the translation itself and asked ACT for a partial contribution to the printing costs.

It is planned that one of the authors of the ACT manual conducts training on the use of the manual, concomitant to its publication. The visit by the author will also be useful to the enrichment of the manual itself, since SWO has made a number of cultural adaptations to the text.

PARTICIPATION OF 4 IRANIAN EXPERTS IN THE ISTANBUL "DISASTER AND TRAUMA" CONFERENCE

As part of contributing to building local capacity and facilitating networking and exchanges with regional counterparts, ACT Netherlands / PDA will be covering the travel and accommodation costs of four Iranian experts (two from SWO and two from the Ministry of Health) participating in the conference on "Disaster and Trauma" in Istanbul.

The conference is organised by the Turkish Psychiatric Association and the Association of Turkish Psychologists, both of whom were ACT Netherlands partners in the post-quake programme implemented in Turkey. With ACT Netherlands / PDA mediation, the conference organisers have invited the Iranian experts to participate in panels. The themes of the conference are highly relevant to the situation in Bam.

After the conference, the Turkish and Iranian teams will meet to discuss possible co-operation.

PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

In the framework of the appeal revision, PDA/ACT Netherlands will implement an activity directed at youth and children, which teaches them photography and uses this as a therapeutic tool as well as a medium of expression that stimulates creativity.

A similar activity was successfully implemented in ACT Netherlands' post-earthquake programme in Turkey. The Turkish partner organisation, which implemented that project, will be invited to set up the activity in Bam, in collaboration with youth groups and the Foundation of Iranian Photographers. It is expected that setting up the activity and launching it will require two months, after which the Iranian counterparts can assume responsibility.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL CONSULTANTS

With the increasing difficulties in obtaining visas for expatriates, ACT Netherlands / PDA are considering more reliance on regional expertise, particularly from countries, which experienced earthquakes in the past few years (Turkey, India, Armenia). In addition, the diminishing investments in psycho-social activities by the Iranian authorities leave funding gaps which result in lower quality of services, since the more experienced Iranian psychologists and psychiatrists cannot be retained in Bam.

The mid-term review that PDA/ACT Netherlands conducted in the field in September highlighted the need to allocate more resources to meet the costs of psychosocial consultants (both from Iran and the region) as well as to contribute to the essential costs of psychosocial volunteers and their training.

CHANGES TO THE FIELD OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

The past seven months of presence in the field has tested the budget allocated to the field office for administrative and logistic purposes. The changes requested here reflect real needs, and real costs. The changes are:

- Extending the contract period for the field co-ordinator, and the number of budget items in line with extending the implementation period of the programme
- Hiring an assistant co-ordinator for a period of four months (November – February), which will see intensive preparations and detailed tasks
- Hiring local support staff (mainly for assistance with translation)
- Raising the monthly allocation for office / accommodation space, to reflect real costs
- Breaking down transportation into two items: first for transportation in Bam, and the second for costs of commuting between Bam and Tehran

Staff and other administrative and logistic costs will remain low in the revised budget, at 10.5% of the total.

VI. BUDGET**INCOME** (up to 15.11.2004, carried over from MEIN-42/revision 1)**1,236,352****ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Orig Bud US\$</u>	<u>Rev Bud US\$</u>
Construction/watsan					
Tempory shelters (36 square meters)	house	60	5,600	336,000	0
60 sq.m. Rural shelters (skeleton)	house	60	5,447	455,000	326,820
Completion of rural shelters (exterior walls and internal partitions)	house	60	420	0	25,200
Latrines for the rural shelters	latrine	60	510	0	30,600
Technical Supervision (rural shelters)	lumpsum		8,000	8,000	8,000
Water and sanitation training	lumpsum			0	5,000
Community centres	centre	4	12,390	32,000	49,560
Contribution to furnishing centres	centre	4	1,169	0	4,676
Treatment Centre (290 sq.m)	centre	1	30,000	0	30,000
Urban shelters for FHHs	house	75	10,000	0	750,000
YAA – Info dissem. & technical advice	lumpsum		31,750	0	<u>31,750</u>
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION/WATSAN				831,000	1,261,606
Psycho-social and Youth Activities					
Training of Trainers (psycho-social)	Lumpsum			5,000	5,000
Placement of psycho-social workers	monthman	12	2,700	32,400	32,400
Publication of ACT manual (Farsi)	Lumpsum			0	3,610
Assessment of NGOs	Lumpsum			0	3,000
Support to SWO staffing costs	Lumpsum			0	25,000
Iranian delegation Istanbul conference	person	4	1,250	0	5,000
Support to Youth and Women's NGOs	Lumpsum	5	10,000	50,000	50,000
Women's Sewing Project	Lumpsum			0	35,670
Vocational Training for Youth	Lumpsum			50,000	50,000
Photography activities for youth & children	month	8	5,000	0	40,000
Psycho-social consultants	Lumpsum			0	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL PSYCHO-SOCIAL				137,400	274,680
Training and Capacity Building					
Disaster Preparedness and Sphere Training	session	2	5,000	5,000	10,000
Search and Rescue Training	lumpsum			5,000	20,000
Search and Rescue equipment	lumpsum			10,000	10,000
Publications (Sphere in Farsi)	lumpsum			5,000	15,000
Trainers	trainer	2	2,000	4,000	4,000
EMT	lumpsum			0	20,000
EMT trainers	trainer	2	4,000	0	<u>8,000</u>
TOTAL TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING				29,000	87,000
Field office and staff					
Expatriate staff (Field Coordinator)	month	16	4,500	54,000	72,000
Expatriate staff (Assistant Coordinator)	month	4	1,845	0	7,380
Expatriate staff (Finance Manager)	month	4	4,500	18,000	18,000
Expatriate staff (Psycho-social)	month	4	4,500	18,000	18,000
Local support staff	month	12	1,390	0	16,680
Office / Accommodation	month	16	1,650	18,000	26,400
Communication	month	16	300	3,600	4,800

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Orig Bud US\$</u>	<u>Rev Bud US\$</u>
Accommodation (Tehran)	lumpsum			6,000	6,600
Transportation (Bam)	month	12	1,500	12,000	18,000
Transportation (Bam – Tehran)	lumpsum			0	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL SALARIES/P DIEM, ACCOMMODATION & TRANSPORT				129,600	192,860
Admin/monitoring					
ACT Netherlands PDA	lumpsum			10,000	10,000
External Audit	lumpsum				10,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE					1,836,146
Less Income to date					<u>1,236,352</u>
BALANCE REQUESTED FROM ACT NETWORK					<u>599,794</u>