

Appeal

Bulgaria

Europe Floods – Assistance to Flood Affected EUBU 61 Appeal Target: US\$ 265,974 *Balance Requested from ACT Alliance: US\$ 229,743*

Geneva, 24 May 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Several countries in eastern Europe have been affected by severe flooding as major rivers overflowed due to heavy rains and melting snow in the month of April. The ACT Co-ordinating Office has been approached by its members in Romania, Serbia and Bulgaria and is in the process of issuing three appeals for the Europe Floods. The appeal for Romania (EURO61) was issued on 22 May.

This appeal deals with the floods in **Bulgaria** and the response of **ACT member Pokrov Foundation**.

A comparatively mild winter in Bulgaria was followed by an extremely wet spring resulting in rivers flowing at a higher than normal level in the whole Balkan region. This culminated in several weeks of serious flooding in the northern part of Bulgaria where seven municipalities were inundated. The areas worst affected were those near rivers flowing into the river Danube and near the Danube itself which was swollen with water from melted snow. A large swathe of farmland and low-lying villages in Bulgaria and Romania have been swamped by the overflowing Danube, which forms the border between the two countries. The areas most severely affected in Bulgaria include the municipalities of Vidin, Veliko Tarnovo (Svishtov county), Vratza (Kozloduj county), Pleven (Nikopol county), Montana (Lom and Vylchedram counties), Ruse (the villages Nova cherna, Brashlen, Rjahovo, Babovo, Slivo pole county) and Silistra municipality (the city itself). A state of emergency was declared in 12 districts in Bulgaria.

The affected regions happen to be among the poorest in the country and their population depends mainly on subsistence agriculture. In most of these areas there is a mixed population – Bulgarian, Roma, Vlahos and Turkish families. The most seriously affected in the small villages are the poor families with more than 3 children and elderly people. Many of the buildings that have been totally destroyed are made of sun-dried bricks and belong to extremely poor families.

ACT member, the **Pokrov Foundation**, plans to assist in the crisis stage with food parcels, household equipment, blankets and animal fodder. During the post crisis, Pokrov will assist the most vulnerable families with building materials and agricultural inputs – including livestock.

Project Completion Date:

30 November 2006

Reporting Schedule

- ▲ Mid term report to be submitted to ACT CO by 30 September 2006, within one month of mid-term of project.
- ▲ Final narrative and financial reports to be submitted to ACT CO by 31 January 2007, within two months of closure of project
- ▲ Audit report to be submitted to ACT CO by 28 February 2007, within three months of closure of project.

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

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Total Appeal Target(s) | <u>US\$</u> 265,974 |
| <u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd. | <u>36,230</u> |
| Balance Requested from ACT Alliance | 229,743 |

John Nduna

Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

I. REQUESTING MEMBER

- ▲ Pokrov Foundation – Emergency Desk

II. IMPLEMENTING MEMBER INFORMATION

The **Pokrov Foundation**, established in 1994 to serve the mission of the Orthodox Church in Bulgaria, has been an ACT partner since 1997 and has implemented various ACT rapid response/appeal (EUBU81, EUBU71). The Pokrov Foundation has been the coordinating unit of the Bulgarian National Christian Committee (the national ecumenical platform) since 1996.

In 2005 Pokrov Foundation implemented an emergency project for the victims of the spring and summer floods. The Emergency Desk of Pokrov Foundation monitors national emergency situations and collects data from national institutions and organizations, such as the Civil Protection Agency, the Bulgarian Red Cross and others. In crisis situations, it provides nation-wide coordination for church-related emergency response, based on the existing Pokrov network of parishes, churches, faith-based NGOs and other structures.

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

Background

A comparatively mild winter in Bulgaria was followed by an extremely wet spring resulting in rivers flowing at a higher than normal level in the whole Balkan region. This culminated in several weeks of serious flooding in the northern part of Bulgaria where seven municipalities were inundated. The areas worst affected were those near rivers flowing into the river Danube and near the Danube itself which, on its journey through countries that had gone through a hard, snowy winter, was swollen with water from melted snow. A large swathe of farmland and low-lying villages in Bulgaria and Romania have been swamped by the overflowing Danube, which forms the border between the two countries. These areas included the municipalities of Vidin, Veliko Tarnovo (Svishtov county), Vratza (Kozloduj county), Pleven (Nikopol county), Montana (Lom and Vylchedram counties), Ruse (the villages Nova cherna, Brashlen, Rjahovo, Babovo, Slivo pole county) and Silistra municipality (the city itself). A state of emergency was declared in 12 districts in Bulgaria.

In the affected areas, particularly along the Danube's riverbank, army and civil defense teams have been building dams and walls of sandbags to barricade the floodwaters.

The State Civil Protection Agency, together with the army and groups of volunteers prepared a tent camp in "Bojurishte", near the village of Sinagovtzi, in Vidin municipality, which could shelter between 1,200 and 4,000 evacuees.

The affected regions happen to be among the poorest in the country and their population depends mainly on agriculture and farming. In most of these areas there is a mixed population – Bulgarian, Roma, Vlahos and Turkish with large families. The most seriously affected in the small villages are the families with more than 3 children and elderly people. Many of the buildings that have been totally destroyed are made of sun-dried bricks and belong to extremely poor families.

Current situation in the areas of proposed response

- ▲ As at 19 May reports from municipal authorities indicate that more than 1,200,000 people have been directly affected by the floods. More than 2,700 buildings in areas near the Danube have been inundated.
- ▲ 160 families in the villages of Botevo, Simeonovo and Dunavci villages in the municipality of Vidin have been affected by the floods. In Lom (municipality of Montana) over 5,000 people have been affected with 120 houses totally and 10 partially destroyed.
- ▲ In Orjahovo (municipality of Vratza) – 26 houses are totally destroyed and 22 families were evacuated (they are still in temporary shelter) and 10 houses are partially destroyed. 32 families were directly affected by the floods and following landslides.
- ▲ In Gorni Vadim village – 10 people were affected by the floods – 3 families were evacuated.

- ▲ Nikopol – 135 families were affected by the floods, 53 people were evacuated are still in a local hotel. 3 public buildings – the kindergarden, the school and the hospital - are still inundated.
- ▲ In the municipality of Ruse (the villages Nova cherna, Brashlen, Rjahovo, Babovo, Slivo pole county) – thousands of hectares of wheat were flooded.
- ▲ Silistra – 600 buildings were flooded and many hectares of wheat destroyed.
- ▲ Many of the affected people are elderly, sick or disadvantaged people, poor Roma or Turkish families. Many of them live, usually 2 or 3 generations, under the same roof, not only because it is their custom, but also because they cannot afford to have separate households. Consequently, the whole extended family is affected.
- ▲ Hundreds of thousands of hectares of wheat were flooded in the Danube area and the damages are still being estimated. Many of the affected mentioned above live by agriculture and consequently they will be without any means of income in the near future.

Security situation in the area of proposed response

All electricity and phone connections to the villages and cities have been restored. Roads have either been fully or partially cleared and are passable.

Location for proposed response

Pokrov Foundation is targeting the following places: Botevo, Simeonovo and Dunavci villages in Vidin municipality, Lom (Montana municipality), Orjahovo (Vratza municipality), Nikopol (Montana municipality), Ruse municipality (the villages Nova cherna, Brashlen, Rjahovo, Babovo, Slivo pole county).

The main priority for the state authorities is to cope first with infrastructural damages in larger, more easily accessible municipal centres. However, most of the severely affected are in underprivileged and isolated villages, where the population is very poor - mostly minorities. Many are far from the main roads and access is difficult. Pokrov plans to assist in some of the more poor and remote localities where they already have local partners – communities, parishes – which are ready and able to carry out projects with Pokrov.

In Ruse Holy Diocese Pokrov partners – the Orthodox community – are recognised in the area, they have a good name and good relationships with local civil authorities. The statistics received from that region were provided through the partner. They were also fully involved in emergency flood projects in 2005 and have a proven capacity.

The Red Cross has provided general disinfection in the streets and some buildings. Caritas (the Catholic humanitarian organisation) has provided packages of sanitary or washing materials.

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Pokrov plans to assist the most affected and vulnerable families in the poorest rural areas, especially those who have lost their houses, personal goods and farms.

During the first phase of the project:

- ▲ 280 most vulnerable families (those who have lost their homes or whose homes are severely damaged) will be supported with food and sanitary materials;
- ▲ 180 families will receive beds,
- ▲ 280 families will receive carpets

During the second phase:

- ▲ assistance will be provided for the reconstruction of 40 collapsed and 180 severely damaged houses;
- ▲ 160 households will be assisted with farm inputs (livestock, fodder);
- ▲ 180 households will be supported with agricultural seeds;

- ▲ 3 communities in the poorest regions will be assisted in the reconstruction of their kindergartens, schools and medical clinics.

Location

The Pokrov Foundation is planning to provide assistance to vulnerable flood affected families in the most affected villages: Botevo, Simeonovo and Dunavci villages (Vidin municipality), Orjahovo and Gorni Vadim village (Vratza municipality), Lom and Nikopol (Montana municipality).

Criteria in Beneficiary Selection

- ▲ Large families with more than 3 children
- ▲ Families with elderly members
- ▲ Lonely, sick and elderly people
- ▲ Mixed population – affected regions with mixed Bulgarian and Turkish population, where both ethnical groups will be equally supported.
- ▲ Economically poor regions.
- ▲ Localities and people with the same needs, who have not received support from the Civil Protection Program or otherwise.

The lists of the flood affected people will be prepared together with local authorities' representatives, the local priests. Each family is carefully screened for their exact needs.

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION

Goal

The goal of the appeal is to support the most vulnerable flood affected in their immediate basic needs following the floods and in the second phase to assist them in rehabilitation and returning to normal life.

Objectives

- ▲ To provide immediate assistance in the form of food and disinfecting materials as well as household equipment to those who have lost their homes.
- ▲ To support the reconstruction of houses and rehabilitation of farms in order that the people can again become self sufficient and survive through the next winter season.
- ▲ To support the rehabilitation of community centers in three villages in order to assist the kindergartens and church communities.

Activities

The implementation will be carried out in the following phases:

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This stage started with the project preparation and will continue with a preparation of lists of vulnerable people from the different localities. An assessment will be carried out by the local co-ordinator in co-operation with the local authorities and church leadership (where available) to identify those most needy of assistance. A list will be compiled of all the beneficiary families along with an inventory of the most urgently needed items (food parcels, household appliances, reconstruction, etc.) In addition, the support received from other sources will be identified and relevant adjustments to the Pokrov support plan will be made to avoid duplication.

1ST STAGE: EMERGENCY HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

This stage will include distribution of basic humanitarian supplies such as food parcels, household equipment, blankets, fodder, etc.

- ▲ 280 families will be assisted through provision of food (flour, beans, rice, conserved vegetables, sunflower oil, sugar, paste, tins of fish and meat, tomatoes, etc.), sanitary and hygienic materials, detergent, soap, carpets or linoleum.
- ▲ 180 families will receive beds,
- ▲ 280 families will receive carpets

The distribution will be carried out by the local coordinators, according to the lists prepared in stage 1. For the distribution, the assistance of the local authorities and the church communities' leadership will be sought. During this stage, an additional assessment of the needs will be performed, and a plan for the reconstruction support will be developed.

2ND STAGE: POST-CRISIS REHABILITATION

During this phase, Pokrov will provide support in the reconstruction of some residential and public buildings; buying livestock, fodder and supplying of seed. The identification process has already started.

- ▲ 40 families with totally destroyed houses will be supplied with building materials.
- ▲ 180 families will be supported with materials for reconstruction and remodeling activity: wood, cement, bricks, glass, etc.
- ▲ 180 families will receive sowing-seeds depending on crop damages.
- ▲ 160 will be supported in buying livestock (sheep, chickens and pigs as well as fodder). It has been decided to provide chickens as these are the main source of food for many families. The only cases of avian flu that have so far been registered in Bulgaria are in wild birds. However, the chickens will all be certified as free of any such diseases.
- ▲ three communities in the poorest regions will be assisted in the reconstruction of their kindergartens, schools and medical clinics.

On receipt of the goods, all beneficiaries will sign a receipt indicating the amount and the type of goods received. During this phase, the rehabilitation of community centres will be supported in three of the villages that have suffered the most damage. Materials will be provided to fortify the foundations, renovation of the internal stucco and the electrical supply systems.

All activities will be carried out with the participation of the local branches of the Civil Protection Agency. Diocesan authorities of locally presented churches will be asked to assist with the distribution of the aid.

Project implementation methodology

For the implementation of this project:

- ▲ **1 project co-ordinator** will be employed, responsible for the administration, monitoring, financial control and reporting. The Project coordinator is under the direct supervision of the executive director and the financial and accountant office.
- ▲ **1 project assistant** will be employed for assisting the communication and timely reporting of the project.
- ▲ **3 local project co-ordinators** will be employed in the rejoin of Vidin, Lom and Nikopol.
- ▲ **3 Engineers** will be employed part-time as experts for each region to consult and manage reconstruction.
- ▲ Not more than **3 construction teams** will be hired for building activities.

The local co-ordinators are responsible for selecting the most vulnerable people (in co-ordination with the priests/pastors, local authorities and community leaders) and to organize implementation.

The local co-ordinators are also responsible for reporting regularly to the project co-ordinator and taking decisions in co-ordination with him. Local assistants will be hired for the most intensive periods of the project.

Pokrov foundation is preparing job descriptions for the co-ordinators and an action plan for the implementation stages. The whole implementation process will be in close co-ordination with the ACT Co-ordination Office. Regular reports will be provided according to ACT guidelines.

The project coordinator will be responsible for the overall management and reporting of the project.

The local co-ordinators will be based in the affected regions and will maintain the contact and feedback with the affected population, the local authorities and other relevant institutions. Their job descriptions will be developed on the basis of the action plan. Local coordinators will undergo a short training before allocation to the affected areas, in accordance to ACT guidelines for disaster response. Suggestions for purchase and delivery of goods will be approved by the project co-ordinator and the executive director of Pokrov Foundation. Church

communities in Vidin, Lom and Nikopol will be asked to provide personnel to assist on a voluntary basis the distribution of the aid.

It is expected that all professional and technical expertise will be available in each municipality.

All facilities such as telephone, computers, internet, stationary etc will be provided by Pokrov Foundation office. The local co-ordinators offices will be provided by local authorities or local Pokrov partners. There will be no need to rent offices for the project.

The staff of the Pokrov Emergency team will have the use of Pokrov Foundation's cars and the relief commodities will be transported by rented trucks.

However, it will be necessary to acquire a small jeep (second hand) as access /mobility in the areas is difficult due to the lack of good roads.

Planning assumptions, constraints and prioritisation

- The name and the representatives of the Bulgarian Orthodox church are well accepted everywhere. As long as there are priests attending each relief distribution, the people and local authorities will be open and ready to collaborate.
- Assessments are carried out regularly, so if funding is not adequate Prokov will prioritise as follows:
 - Decreasing the amount of goods during the post-crisis phase but targeting the same number of families or;
 - Decreasing the number of families for post-crisis rehabilitation – priority will be given for elderly, lonely and physically disable people.

Implementation Timetable

The project duration is 6 months (1 May – 30 November 2005)

Transition or Exit strategy

Due to Bulgaria' impending membership in EU, the country is preparing to become a donor rather than a relief recipient country. It is expected that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' strategy will indicate the counties and priority areas in Bulgaria for official development relief. Pokrov Foundation is actively participating in every forum that is held for discussions on priorities and NGO participation in this strategy for humanitarian relief and development.

Additionally, Pokrov is seeking to collaborate with local authorities in this development strategy and is one of the initiators of a national platform for NGOs and other relief organisations.

VI. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Pokrov Foundation provide reports to ACT Co-coordinating office according to the ACT Reporting Guidelines. All expenditures will be documented by official receipts and invoices according to Bulgarian legislation and internationally accepted practices. Reports on regular basis will be made by the project co-ordinator, the executive director of the Foundation and the account manager. Local co-ordinators are responsible for distribution of assistance and the financial responsibilities will be on the project co-ordinator. All donations will be described in protocols according to the requirements of the Bulgarian Finances Act. At the end of the project, an external audit will be performed. The executive director of the Foundation signs the funding/co-operative agreements.

VII. MONITORING & REPORTING

Pokrov foundation will manage and monitor the project. The Project Co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring the work of the local co-ordinators and implementation teams. The monitoring process includes: regular reports and site visits. Local co-ordinators are responsible for making weekly reports of their activities to the project co-ordinator. He/she will visit the implementation area once a month for monitoring purposes and any adjustments to the implementation process.

From the church communities' headquarters in the cities of Vidin, Lom and Nikopol supervisors will be appointed for monitoring the implementation process in the respective dioceses. A wider ecumenical representation will be sought, involving Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant, as well as Moslem religious leaders, wherever applicable.

Reporting Schedule

- ▲ Mid term report to be submitted to ACT CO by 30 September 2006.
- ▲ Final narrative and financial reports to be submitted to ACT CO by 31 January 2007.
- ▲ Audit report to be submitted to ACT CO by 28 February 2007.

VIII. CO-ORDINATION

The project will be implemented in collaboration with representatives of local authorities, the local Commission of Natural Disasters and Emergencies and the local parish priests/pastors. The co-ordination will be provided according to the principles of shared information, responsibility, clarity of the activity and common supervision and accountability. Co-ordination meetings will be held 6 times during the implementation of the project – one per month. Mayors and church leaders will be invited to monitor the project.

The co-ordination meetings will have the task of co-ordinating different teams efforts, to harmonize rules and procedures, to review the progress and to report the results of implemented work. These meeting will discuss and solve immediate difficulties and will identify further needs.

With the exception of the regular monthly meetings, the co-ordination with the local authorities and other parties involved will be carried out by the project co-ordinator. Missions will assist the Civil Protection headquarters and NGOs working in the field.

IX. BUDGET

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| INCOME | US\$ |
| Diakonisches Werk | <u>36,230</u> |
| TOTAL INCOME | 36,230 |

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Type of Unit</u> | <u>No of Units</u> | <u>Unit Cost BGN</u> | <u>Budget BGN</u> | <u>Budget US\$</u> |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| DIRECT ASSISTANCE | | | | | |
| Crisis Phase (if applicable) | | | | | |
| <u>Relief Assistance</u> | | | | | |
| Relief Food distribution | families | 280 | 20 | 5,600 | 3,709 |
| hygiene and sanitary materials | families | 280 | 20 | 5,600 | 3,709 |
| | | | | 0 | 0 |
| <u>House equipment</u> | | | | | |
| beds | families | 180 | 190 | 34,200 | 22,649 |
| carpets | families | 280 | 20 | 5,600 | 3,709 |
| Sub Total | | | | 51,000 | 33,775 |
| Post Crisis Phase | | | | | |
| <u>Rehabilitation - food Security, livelihood,</u> | | | | | |
| Agricultural seeds | families | 180 | 80 | 14,400 | 9,536 |
| animals (livestock) | families | 160 | 200 | 32,000 | 21,192 |
| <u>Reconstruction</u> | | | | | |
| construction materials destroyed homes | families | 40 | 1,500 | 60,000 | 39,735 |
| construction materials for damaged homes | families | 180 | 800 | 144,000 | 95,364 |
| rehabilitation community centres | vilages | 3 | 3,000 | 9,000 | 5,960 |

| <u>Description</u> | <u>Type of Unit</u> | <u>No of Units</u> | <u>Unit Cost BGN</u> | <u>Budget BGN</u> | <u>Budget US\$</u> |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Direct Programme Related Costs</u> | | | | | |
| 3 engineers | lump sum | | | <u>3,000</u> | <u>1,987</u> |
| Sub Total | | | | 262,400 | 173,775 |
| TOTAL DIRECT ASSISTANCE | | | | 313,400 | 207,550 |
| TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING | | | | | |
| <u>Transport</u> | | | | | |
| Hire/ Rental of Vehicles | km | 3,000 | 2 | 6,000 | 3,974 |
| Fuel | km | 4,500 | 1.0 | 4,500 | 2,980 |
| <u>Handling</u> | | | | | |
| Wages for labourers (12 persons) | lump sum | | | <u>12,000</u> | <u>7,947</u> |
| TOTAL TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING & HANDLING | | | | 22,500 | 14,901 |
| CAPITAL ASSETS (over US\$500) | | | | | |
| Jeep or car 4x4 | | 1 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 19,868 |
| TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS | | | | 30,000 | 19,868 |
| INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS & SUPPORT | | | | | |
| <u>Staff salaries</u> | | | | | |
| Programme Director | month | 7 | 800 | 5,600 | 3,709 |
| Finance Manager | month | 7 | 600 | 4,200 | 2,781 |
| Emergency Project coordinator | month | 7 | 500 | 3,500 | 2,318 |
| Project assistant | month | 7 | 400 | 2,800 | 1,854 |
| 3 Local coordinators | month | 7 | 1,200 | 8,400 | 5,563 |
| <u>Staff Travel</u> | | | | | |
| Per Diems | days | 20 | 50 | 1,000 | 662 |
| Vehicle operation costs | lump sum | | | 3,000 | |
| <u>Office Operations</u> | | | | | |
| Office Utilities | lump sum | | | 1,000 | 662 |
| Office stationery | lump sum | | | 1,500 | 993 |
| <u>Communications</u> | | | | | |
| Telephone and fax | lump sum | | | 3,500 | 2,318 |
| e-mail | lump sum | | | 420 | 278 |
| <u>Other</u> | | | | | |
| bank fee | lump sum | | | 1,400 | 927 |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL, ADMIN & SUPPORT | | | | 36,320 | 22,066 |
| AUDIT & MONITORING | | | | | |
| Audit of ACT Funds | Estimate | | | 2,400 | 1,589 |
| TOTAL AUDIT & MONITORING | | | | 2,400 | 1,589 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | | | | 404,620 | 265,974 |
| Less Income | | | | | <u>36,230</u> |
| BALANCE REQUESTED FROM ACT ALLIANCE | | | | | 229,743 |

Budget Exchange Rate: BGN 1.51 = 1 USD