

# Appeal

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## Russia

### Fires in Central Russia – RUS101

**Appeal Target: USD 132,882**

***Requested balance: USD 107,882***

Geneva, 25 August 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Forest fires, caused by abnormally high temperatures fluctuating around 40°C, have raged in many parts of Central Russia. In some areas, these fires have turned into powerful fire fronts. 22 regions are affected. In seven of them, including the Moscow region, a state of emergency has been declared. More than 2532 houses have been burnt down, 2046 families left homeless, 52 lives lost and 1500 people injured.

3,299 have received a one-time monetary support of 10 thousand roubles each (around US\$ 330). Families which have lost relatives are to receive 1 million roubles.

Most of those who have lost their homes have found temporary shelter with relatives and neighbours or are in specially arranged public buildings. Local authorities and the Ministry for Emergencies have provided medical aid, medicines, fire fighting appliances, water, food and clothes. Relief has also been provided by a number of public organisations and volunteers.

The Russian Orthodox Church has been providing aid through the dioceses, parishes and congregations, along with the Synodal Department for Church Charity and Social Service. The department has raised over 30 million roubles (around US\$ 1 Million) and sent over 110 trucks with humanitarian aid comprising 120 tons of food, water, medicines, clothes, footwear, fire-fighting appliances and beds from Moscow to the worst-affected regions of Ryazan, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Vladimir and Moscow..

As fires continue to advance, the situation in a number of villages and cities of the Ryazan and Nizhny Novgorod regions and the Republic of Mordovia is becoming catastrophic. These are traditionally agricultural and poor regions, and the fires have destroyed crops, the only source of subsistence for most people. Local authorities have no financial resources to provide aid, nor do church parishes have the resources, requiring them to appeal for help from outside.

The Russian Round Table at the Department for External Church Relations is in contact with these regions of Nizhny Novgorod and Ryazan as well as the Republic of Mordovia and plans to organize an emergency response there.

The assistance will consist of hygiene and bedding kits to be distributed to persons in needs, mostly aged people as the preliminary assessment has found that they are the most in need. School children will be provided with schoolbags and stationery to ease the financial burden of fire affected families.

**Project Completion Date: 15 October 2010**

**Reporting schedule:**

<b>Interim narrative &amp; financial</b>	N/A
<b>Final narrative &amp; financial</b>	15 December 2010
<b>Audit</b>	15 January 2011

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

Appeal Target	132,882
Less Pledges/Contr Recvd	25,000
<b>Balance Requested from ACT Alliance</b>	<b>107,882</b>

Please kindly send your contributions to either of the following ACT bank accounts:

**US dollar**

Account Number - 240-432629.60A; IBAN No: CH46 0024 0240 4326 2960A

**Euro**

Euro Bank Account Number - 240-432629.50Z; IBAN No: CH84 0024 0240 4326 2950Z

**Account Name: ACT - Action by Churches Together**

UBS AG

8, rue du Rhône, P.O. Box 2600, 1211 Geneva 4, SWITZERLAND

Swift address: UBSWCHZH80A

**Please also inform the ACT Assistant Finance Officer Roshan Rajaratne (rra@actalliance.org), Lorenzo Correa (lc@actalliance.org) Acting Regional Programme Officer, Geneviève Cyvoct (gcy@actalliance.org), of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the implementers.**

We would appreciate being informed of any intent to submit applications for EU, USAID and/or other back donor funding and the subsequent results. We thank you in advance for your kind cooperation.

**For further information please contact:**

ACT Deputy General Secretary, Jill Hawkey (phone +41 22 791 6069 or mobile +41 79 376 1711)

ACT Acting Regional Program Officer, Geneviève Cyvoct (phone +41 22 791 6334)



Jill Hawkey

Deputy General Secretary

ACT Alliance Secretariat

## **I. REQUESTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION**

### **The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC)**

## **II. IMPLEMENTING ACT MEMBER INFORMATION**

**The Russian Orthodox Church** is an ACT Alliance member, implementing emergency projects using its qualified and experienced staff and infrastructure. ROC work is supported by its dioceses, parishes and church organizations in various parts of the world.

In the last 19 years the Russian Orthodox Church has been actively restoring and developing its diaconal service, carried out by numerous parish-based groups and NGOs, monasteries, brotherhoods and sisterhoods. An important area of its social involvement is assistance to people suffering in emergency situations.

**The Russia Round Table** is a special institution of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate (DECR), dealing with emergencies on behalf of the ROC. The RRT was established in 1992 and has among its main goals: planning and implementation of various social, diaconal, educational and emergency programs, including programs supported by interchurch partners of ROC.

Over the past years ROC/RRT has implemented different ACT emergency projects both nationally and internationally:

- relief aid and rehabilitation projects for flood-affected people in Moldova, Tajikistan and different parts of Russia,
- support projects for IDPs in Chechnya and North Caucasus (Dagestan, Ingushetia, North Ossetia - Alania, Stavropol Kray),
- emergency food assistance project for needy children in different parts of Russia,
- emergency aid projects for IDPs in Serbia,
- emergency relief project for the Afghan refugees on the Tajik-Afghan border,
- emergency and rehabilitation assistance to victims of the hostage crises in Beslan, Republic North Ossetia – Alania, Russia,
- emergency assistance to displaced persons and post-conflict relief and recovery in South Ossetia.

This project will be implemented by ROC/RRT with participation and support of the church parishes and organizations in the region. This project implementation will support efforts of church parishes and organizations, that already have started raising donations and supplying foodstuffs, clothes and some other items to those in need. Their participation in the project implementation will also support the network of the local diaconical and emergency initiatives of parishes and will contribute to their capacity building.

## **III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION**

### **Background**

Forest fires, caused by abnormally high temperatures fluctuating around 40°C, have raged in many parts of Central Russia. Such high temperature and absence of rains for a long time is a unique phenomenon unprecedented for several centuries, the Russian Meteorological Service has reported. In some areas, these fires have turned into powerful fire fronts, erasing whole villages and city suburbs.

Wildfires were raging in 22 regions, there were 76 major hotbeds of fire in an area of almost 160.000 hectares. In seven of them, including the Moscow region, a state of emergency has been declared by a presidential decree.

As a result, forest hotbeds of fires and wildfires have affected 147 villages and cities in Central Russia, with 2,046 families left without roofs and 2,532 houses burnt down; 52 lives have been lost and 1,500 people injured.

Most of the victims have found temporary asylum at their relatives' and neighbors' house or in specially arranged public places such as schools, clubs, hostels and hospitals. Local authorities and the Ministry for Emergencies have provided first aid, such as medical aid, medicines, firefighting appliances, water, foodstuffs and clothes. Help has been given by a number of public organizations and volunteers.

Out of 3,745 people who have applied for aid, 3,299 victims have received one-time monetary support of 10 thousand roubles each (around US\$ 330). The families of those who died are to receive 1 million roubles (around US\$ 33,000).

The authorities have promised to build new houses for them before the winter comes and to pay out a compensation for the lost property and household appliances in the amount of 100,000 Roubles (around 3,300 US\$) per man. The Regional Development Ministry has drafted a time schedule for restoring housing for the victims of fires: 798 houses are to be restored in the Nizhny Novgorod Region, 242 houses in the Ryazan region, and 187 houses in the Lipetsk region. Most of the houses are planned to be put into service by the end of October 2010.

The fires and drought have been so disastrous that the Russian Government has imposed an embargo on the export of grain in order to prevent its deficit and an upsurge of prices within the country. It is estimated that the available crops in Russia will decrease by one third of what was expected before the fires and the yield of potato and sugar beet will decrease by 30-35%.

#### **ROC/RRT actions to date and emergency needs**

The Russian Orthodox Church has been actively involved in providing aid to the homeless victims of fires. Aid is given by parishes, dioceses, and individuals who have arranged the collection of clothes, medicines and money, and the Synodal Department for Church Charity and Social Service.

At present, this Department has raised over 30 million roubles (approximately 1 Million US\$) and sent over 110 trucks with humanitarian aid containing 120 tons of foodstuffs, water, medicines, clothes, footwear, firefighting appliances and beds. This aid is brought from Moscow to the most affected areas of Ryazan, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Nizhny Novgorod, Vladimir and also within the Moscow Region. It is planned to spend most of the raised funds for preparing new houses for the winter by providing victims with household appliances and utensils since the aid given for this purpose by the state is by far insufficient.

In spite of a decrease in the temperature in the last few days, wildfires and peat-bog fires continue to rage, making the situation in a number of villages and cities in the Ryazan and Nizhny Novgorod regions and in the Republic of Mordovia catastrophic. The situation has been aggravated by the fact that these are traditionally agricultural and poor regions, and the fires have destroyed not only houses but also crops, the only source of subsistence for most people there.

Reports continue to come from many affected places saying that the homeless victims of fire need hygienic means, bed linen and psychological help. Local authorities and Church's parishes do not have the necessary resources to provide the assistance required and have appealed for help from outside.

#### **IV. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

**Project Goal:** To diminish the suffering and offer some hope to the homeless victims of fires in Central Russia by providing emergency assistance.

**Project main objectives:** To alleviate the need of homeless fires victims for bedding and hygiene essentials, to support psychosocial rehabilitation, as well as helping school children (who start the new school year in September) with schoolbags, exercise books, school accessories and textbooks.

The project will also have the following impact:

- It will support a network of the local diaconal and emergency initiatives of parishes and develop the capacities of the parishes to respond to emergencies.

ROC dioceses, parishes and Church related volunteer groups are already involved into providing assistance to the affected people. At the same time in most cases they lack experience of organizing such work. They lack experience in raising external funds and pooling in-kind resources for emergency assistance. Immediate participation in this ACT project and a special training that will be held for them during project implementation will help to fill in these gaps and provide skills for professional emergency work.

#### **V. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES**

**Number of Beneficiaries and Beneficiaries Locations:**

**The project will be carried out in the regions with the highest concentration of homeless fires victims:**

- **Ryazan Region**
- **Nizhny Novgorod Region**
- **Republic of Mordovia**

The beneficiaries of the project will be up to 3,000 persons (see a table below). About 65% of the beneficiaries will be women, 35% men. They are currently staying in temporary accommodation shelters for homeless fires victims or at their relatives and friends.

The villages and suburbs in which the project is to be carried out will be chosen from a list of the most affected places prepared by local authorities and parishes, after a brief ROC/RRT assessment to be made in the beginning of the project implementation. In preparing the final list of the project places, the focus will be made on the level of needs the homeless victims of fire have experienced by the beginning of the project and the aid they have already received from other sources. The list will be prepared in consultation with the affected communities, local authorities, social services, parishes and NGOs working in the area.

This stage is necessary because of considerable statistic discrepancies (sometimes two or three times) in the data given by various governmental and non-governmental organizations on the number of affected settlements and people, as well as already distributed assistance and remaining level of needs.

For this reason ROC/RRT would like to reserve some flexibility in implementing the project within the developed budget.

<i>Name of sub-project</i>	<i>Number of beneficiaries</i>
<b>Sub-project № 1</b> Provision of individual hygiene kits	1,200 persons
<b>Sub-project № 2</b> Provision of individual bedding kits	1,200 persons
<b>Sub-project № 3</b> Provision of psychosocial rehabilitation	360 persons
<b>Sub-project № 4</b> Provision of individual school children kits	300 persons
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,060 persons</b>

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

### **Supplies**

The lists of distribution items have been prepared in cooperation with the local social services and ROC parishes, using ROC/RRT experience of emergency work.

### **Procurement**

Purchases will be made locally: depending on availability – either in the distribution areas or in the neighboring regions. Purchases will be made after a detailed market assessment and collection of information from several potential suppliers. The quantity and quality of products will be controlled by ROC/RRT.

### **Distribution and Accounting**

ROC/RRT will distribute the aid items to the temporary accommodation places for homeless victims of fire or directly to houses in which they have been put up. Project staff in cooperation with the local authorities will implement the distributions. The beneficiaries will sign special relief reception forms developed by ACT/ROC/RRT.

### **Visibility**

Affected communities, local authorities, the press and public will be informed in advance about the time and place of distribution. ROC/RRT will hold meetings with beneficiaries to inform them about the plans and tasks of project. In addition, special information sheets and ACT logo will be posted up at distribution places to keep the public informed about the work of ACT/ROC/RRT, aims of the distributions and components of the aid distributed.

### **Relief Composition**

**Sub-project № 1.** Provision of individual hygiene kits.

An individual hygiene kit will be composed of the following items:

Shampoo	1 p.
Toilet paper	2 rolls
Soap	3 p.
Washing powder	1 p.
Tooth brush	1 p.
Tooth paste	1 p.

The proposed hygiene kit is unisex and suites all ages including children. The preliminary assessment has shown that the most affected are aged people. There is little needs for kits for children as they are often

staying with relatives. If special hygiene items for children (i.e. diapers) or women (i.e. fem.pads) will be required, they will be provided for the affected people.

**Sub-project № 2. Provision of individual bedding kits.**

An individual bedding kit will be composed of the following items:

Blanket	1 p.
Towel	2 p.
Bed linen	2 sets

**Sub-project № 3. Provision of psychosocial rehabilitation**

Under this sub-project it is planned to provide victims with assistance from specialists in psychology with special emphasis on supporting women and children. The support will be organized through reception/rounds by professionals with adequate experience of work with victims and knowledge of the local context. Recommendations of these specialists may be used after the project completion for further work with affected local social services and healthcare bodies, especially for pedagogic attention given to homeless schoolchildren. Under this project it is planned to pay specialists; the facilities for their work will be provided by local authorities. One specialist will be employed in each region of the project.

**Sub-project № 4. Provision of individual school children kits.**

An individual school children kit will be composed of the following items:

Exercise book (12 sheets)	30 pcs.
Writing book (48 sheets)	10 pcs.
Sketchbook	3 pcs.
Ruler	2 pcs.
Pencil sharpener	2 items
Plasticine	1 set
Felt marker	1 set
Pen	1 pc.
Regular pencils	1 set
Coloured pencils	1 set
Schoolbag	1 pc.

In addition, the package may include textbooks to be specified in each particular case on the basis of the age of a schoolchild and the school requirements. The new school year starts in Russia on September 1.

## **VII. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION and FINANCE**

ROC/RRT will be responsible for financial management and reporting to the ACT Secretariat. An independent auditor licensed by the Russian Federation Finance Ministry, member of the Russian Auditors Union, will audit accounts and financial reports.

## **VIII. MONITORING, REPORTING and EVALUATION**

ROC/RRT will carry out monitoring of the project and coordinate the work. Field offices will be opened, if necessary, in church buildings in affected areas. The facilities for this will be provided for free by parishes.

ROC/RRT Moscow HQ will be responsible for reporting to ACT. After the project is completed, narrative and financial reports will be drafted. These reports will be subjected to both the ROC/RRT's internal and an independent audit and submitted to the ACT Secretariat within two months after the completion of the project.

At the close phase of the project an evaluation meeting will be held at the ROC/RRT HQ office in Moscow. ROC/RRT representatives, project staff, local authorities and social institutions, as well as beneficiary's communities will participate. The meeting will provide analysis of the project implementation and discuss future rehabilitation plans, especially the preparation of houses for winter and rehabilitation of farmlands.

From the ROC/RRT staff:

- The ROC/RRT emergency expert will direct the project. He will be responsible for providing a short training for all the staff (people hired and volunteers) that will work on the project,
- The ROC/RRT accountant will be responsible for the accounting and preparing the documentation for the financial reporting.

The following persons will be hired:

- 1 person as a translator,
- 3 logisticians, and 3 transport monitors who will be in charge of technical aspect of the work. In particular, they will: assess the situation, organize the purchase (including looking for providers and the making of the tenders), organize the transport, the work of the volunteers, help to compose the relief packages and organize their distribution. They will also cooperate with the local authorities,
- 3 persons as psychosocial experts/psychologists,
- 1 person as a driver with a car for the travels to the project area.

The ROC volunteers, parishes and church structures will support project implementation.

All the staff and volunteers will attend a short training which will include data collection, logistics, organizing the implementation, purchase, distribution, as well as ACT policies, standards and principles, rights based approach and gender issues.

**Implementation timetable :**

The implementation period of the project is estimated at one month from arrival of funds. A total of two months has been evaluated as necessary to allow time for funding to arrive.

The project will be implemented in conformity with the ACT rules and regulations, Code of Conduct, Sphere standards and IASC Guidelines.

## **IX. COORDINATION**

The project implementation will be coordinated with other organizations and NGOs providing aid to the homeless victims of fires and with local authorities and social bodies, the Ministry for Emergencies as well as all the church structures involved to avoid any kind of duplication of efforts.



## **X. BUDGET**

### **INCOME PLEDGED (USD):**

International Orthodox Christian Charities	25,000
<b>Total income pledged</b>	<b>25,000</b>

### **ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE:**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of unit</u>	<u>Number of units</u>	<u>Cost/unit Rub.</u>	<u>Total in Rub.</u>	<u>Total in USD</u>
<b>I. DIRECT ASSISTANCE</b>					
<b>Survivals Support</b>					
Hygiene kits	kit	1,200	410	492,000	16,400
Bedding kits	kit	1,200	1,740	2,088,000	69,600
<b>Psychosocial Assistance And Education</b>					
Psychosocial experts/psychologists Honorarium	person	3	60,000	180,000	6,000
School children kits	kit	300	1,580	474,000	15,800
<b>Subtotal Direct Assistance</b>				<b>3,234,000</b>	<b>107,800</b>
<b>Direct Project Related Costs</b>					
Logistics (3 pers.)	month	1	63,000	63,000	2,100
Transport monitors (3 pers.)	month	1	54,000	54,000	1,800
Driver with a car	month	1	40,000	40,000	1,333
Field staff fuel and travel costs (3 regions)	month	1	27,000	27,000	900
<b>Subtotal Direct Project Related Costs</b>				<b>184,000</b>	<b>6,133</b>
<b>Total direct assistance</b>				<b>3,418,000</b>	<b>113,933</b>

## **II. TRANSPORT, WAREHOUSING, GUARDING, HANDLING**

Transportation to places of distribution (3 regions)	month	1	105,000	105,000	3,500
<b>Total transport, warehousing, loading</b>				<b>105,000</b>	<b>3,500</b>

## **III. PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONAL COSTS**

<b>Staff salaries</b>					
Director of programm (part time)	month	2	18,000	36,000	1,200
Book-keeping (part time)	month	1	18,000	18,000	600
Translator	month	2	26,000	52,000	1,733
<b>Staff travel</b>					
Local&regional travel (3 regions)	month	1	30,000	30,000	1,000

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of unit</u>	<u>Number of units</u>	<u>Cost/unit Rub.</u>	<u>Total in Rub.</u>	<u>Total in USD</u>
<i>Accommodation</i>					
ROC/RRT representative (3 regions)	month	1	24,000	24,000	800
<i>Stationary &amp; supplies</i>					
Communication	month	1	15,000	15,000	500
Tel, fax, internet, mobile telephones	month	1	36,000	36,000	1,200
<i>Total personnel, administration, operational costs</i>				<b>211,000</b>	<b>7,033</b>
<b>IV. AUDIT</b>	lumpsum		18,000	<b>18,000</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>V. BANK FEES</b>	1.5 %			<b>58,350</b>	<b>1945</b>
<b>VI. EVALUATION, MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</b>	lumpsum		60,000	<b>60,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT BUDGET</b>				<b>3,870,350</b>	<b>129,012</b>
<b>International Coordination Fee</b>	3%				<b>3,870</b>
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>					<b>132,882</b>
<b>Income pledged</b>					<b>25,000</b>
<b>REQUESTED BALANCE</b>					<b>107,882</b>

Exchange rate: 1 USD = 30 Rub.