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Coordinating Office

Appeal

Romania – Banat Region

Assistance to Flood Affected

Appeal Target: US\$ 172,187

Balance Requested from ACT Alliance: US\$ 133,617

Geneva, 3 May 2005

Dear Colleagues,

After almost 6 months of harsh winter with massive amounts of snow and record breaking, subzero temperatures the snows melted gradually in the month of March without the usual flood problems. The first weeks of April saw significant improvement in the weather auguring a good agricultural year. However, the week-end of 16-17 April heavy rains affected many regions of the country. In south-western Romania, the rains quickly resulted in a disaster. The night of 19/20 April, the largest dam on the river Timis collapsed causing billions of tonnes of water to flood the territories of Timis, Caras-Severin and Mehedinti within a few hours.

One week after the events, the situation is still critical. The most affected counties are Timis, Caras Severin and Mehedinti. 93 localities are flooded, 3,840 persons have been evacuated, 787 persons are isolated by the waters, 2,504 homes are totally flooded, 511 houses have collapsed and 5,411 farms are under water. It is estimated that 30,000 hectares of grain crops have been destroyed.

ACT member, **the Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)** is proposing to support the most vulnerable families whose losses in terms of damage to houses and personal goods are the most severe, and whose farms suffered major damages to crops and animals. In the crisis phase they will provide food parcels, mineral water, hygiene kits, disinfectant and clothing to 250 families. In the post-crisis phase they will assist in reconstructing houses, rehabilitation of crops and cleaning and disinfecting of wells.

Project Completion Date:

31 October 2005

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

Total Appeal Target(s)	<u>US\$</u> 172,187
<u>Less:</u> Pledges/Contr. Recd.	<u>38,570</u>
Balance Requested from ACT Alliance	133,617

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: UBSW CHZH12A

Please also inform the Finance Officer Jessie Kgoroadira (direct tel. +4122/791.60.38, e-mail address jkg@act-intl.org) of all pledges/contributions and transfers, including funds sent direct to the implementers, now that the Pledge Form is no longer attached to the Appeal.

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 Director, White Rakuba (phone +41 22 791 6033 or mobile phone + 41 79 203 6055) **or**

ACT Program Officer, Mieke Weeda (phone +41 22 791 6035 or mobile phone +41 79 285 2916)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.act-intl.org>

White Rakuba

Director, ACT Co-ordinating Office

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 founded in 1991 in co-operation between the Orthodox, the Reformed and the Lutheran Churches of Romania for providing assistance to those in need regardless of gender, race, nationality and religion.

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. During these activities, AIDRom Emergency Unit rendered immediate humanitarian assistance to the victims of various natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, landslides) through the provision of food, hygiene items, clothing, agricultural inputs, livestock, home reconstruction and small infrastructural rehabilitation (bridges, potable water systems, wells).

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

The main tasks of the **disaster preparedness** component are:

- to promote co-operation among churches and local government authorities in emergency preparedness
- to educate/train the population in disaster mitigation
- to create local structures able to respond in emergency situations
- to introduce and improve the emergency education in schools and parishes

The objectives of the **emergency response** component are:

- to identify the regions that are most prone to various disaster
- to participate in co-ordination of effective work following disasters
- to assist the churches, local authorities and people in the process of minimising damages and alleviation of human suffering

III. DESCRIPTION of the EMERGENCY SITUATION

The south-western region of Romania – also named Banat – comprises one of the most fertile plains in the country, due to the large Timis, Mures and Bega rivers as well as the smaller Bega Veche, Moravita, Barzava and Aranca rivers - most of them tributaries of the Danube. The area is laced with irrigation channels and dams, some of them crossing the border into the Republic of Yugoslavia (the Bega Channel). In the past 60 years, the region has achieved relative prosperity compared with other regions of the country. The close geographical location to Hungary and the former Yugoslavian Federation has given a stimulus to the regional trade and commerce in agricultural and industrial products. This has led to a slight improvement of the peoples' living conditions in the area.

In the past decades, there were huge investments in building dams, dikes and channels along the main rivers in the area, improving the lifestyle and boosting agriculture. However, the misguided river control projects undertaken have clearly had an adverse effect on many important rivers in Romania. A large number of dams, dikes and other hydraulic structures have inevitably caused changes in flow patterns and damage to the river system and its immediate surroundings.

This is certainly the case in the Banat region as the hydraulic structures have considerably contributed to

the current disaster. The main threat to the region is flooding of the plains.

In many of the river systems in Romania where extensive flood control embankments and irrigation systems have been installed such as in the region of Banat, the handling of large floods becomes a process of crisis management because of the uncertainty in the ability of these “controls” to withstand the flood waters. Not knowing where or when flood embankments may fail, river basin authorities are forced into a state of constant alert, with large reserves of manpower and machinery kept on hand in case an embankment failure becomes imminent. At any time, a major disaster could be unleashed. Such situations have occurred with apparently increasing frequency in the past 10 years.



There is now a growing realisation that the predominantly engineering approach to flood control has not provided its intended benefits in terms of protection from floods. In spite of investments in flood control constructions, some regions of Romania are faced with the apparently anomalous situation in which both the flood risk and the damage caused by floods are increasing. This is partly a result of the success of earlier flood control measures, which removed, at least up to the limit of their design standard, the risk of flooding in formerly flood-prone areas.

This encouraged further investment and development within the floodplain which, in turn, required ever-larger flood control constructions to safeguard the investment. When an exceptional flood occurs, as is inevitable, the scope for damage is huge. In addition, experience has shown that few river basin authorities in Romania have the organisational capacity and means to maintain the flood control constructions in a good state of repair, even when the original construction was of an adequate quality.

Current Situation

After almost 6 months of harsh winter with massive amounts of snow and record breaking, subzero temperatures, the weather in early April improved significantly. During the month of March the fear of an instant snow melt kept most of the people on alert, especially those living in hilly or mountainous regions – at this time there are often flash floods caused by spring rains and rapid melting of snow and rivers often turn into raging torrents. However, this year the snows melted gradually and people were looking forward to a good agricultural year.

During the week-end of 16-17 April many regions of the country experience heavy rains, which for much of the country was good news for agriculture, however, in south-western Romania it quickly became a disaster. 53 litres/square meter – fell in some areas causing alarm too late for any major intervention.

During the night of 19/20 April, the largest dam on the river Timis collapsed. Billions of tonnes of water flooded the territories of Timis, Caras-Severin and Mehedinti within a few hours. 70 villages were totally inundated, 13,000 hectares of crops destroyed, 1,200 homes under water. Furthermore, under the pressure of the enormous quantity of water the smaller dams of the region collapsed one after the other.

By noon on 21 April a High Alert was declared in the 3 counties and the army started evacuating the people most under threat. By the morning of 22 April, more than 2,500 persons had been evacuated. Almost 5,000 farms and more than 30,000 hectares of crops were destroyed in the first 48 hours of the flooding.

For the first days of the emergency access was only possible with military vehicles, helicopters and motor boat as water levels in many places reached three metres. Hundreds of people who resisted evacuation were completely isolated in lofts or the upper levels of their houses. The Romanian Water Directorate in the Banat region declared that the floods surpassed even the massive floods of 1970 which were considered the worst in the history of the region. Those evacuated have been moved to safe areas from where they can return once the water levels recede - however, it could take up to a month in some areas. The National Government authorities have set up a Crisis Cell in the region and are trying to assist the evacuated people with shelter and food. However, they are simply overwhelmed by the impact of the flood.

A large number of people refused to leave their homes, fearing the loss of their belongings to thieves. Many of these people remain isolated without food or potable water - the army is making daily visits to provide items of basic survival.

The local authorities have proven to be totally unprepared for such an emergency, even though flooding is an annual occurrence. Rescue actions have been for the most part chaotic, with lack of means and/or total ignorance of the local administrative councils in some of the villages.

Damages

One week after the events, the situation is still critical. The most affected communities are Gataia, Seculea, Otelec, Foeni, Ionel, Cruceni, Denta, Deta, Recas, Rovinita, Ghizela, Sanmartinu Maghiar, Bodau, Rudna, Gad, Tomesti, Topolovanu Mare, Gialvaz and Crai Nou from the counties of Timis, Caras Severin and Mehedinti.

- 93 localities are flooded
- 37 are totally inundated and are almost completely destroyed
- 3,840 persons have been evacuated
- 787 persons are isolated by the waters
- 2,504 homes are totally flooded,
- 511 houses have collapsed
- 5.411 farms are under waters
- 30,000 hectares of grain crops have been destroyed
- 21,000 hectares of grazing ground are flooded
- 71 schools and community medical stations are flooded
- 753 wells are infected with muddy water

There is an urgent demand for fresh food and potable water - food reserves have been destroyed and the water wells have become contaminated. The Army and the Government are desperately trying to

control the events and see to the emergency distribution, however, they are overwhelmed by the situation.

All communications have been cut in the area and there is widespread destruction of the infrastructure. Large numbers of livestock have also been lost to the waters. These were the only means to a livelihood for most of the farmers affected.

Local authorities estimate that an amount of \$ 75,000,000 will be necessary for first phase rehabilitation of the region (infrastructure, hospitals, schools, kindergartens, crops, homes, farms, etc).

IV. TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Number and Type of Target Beneficiaries

AIDRom wishes to support the most vulnerable families whose losses in terms of damage to houses and personal goods are the most severe, and whose farms suffered major damages to crops and animals. Those families whose houses have collapsed will be incorporated into a Governmental reconstruction project, so AIDRom will not assist in the reconstruction of destroyed houses.

At the current stage of the emergency, AIDRom Emergency Unit has set a target of **250 families** to be assisted in the crisis phase. It is planned to assist families in remote localities such as Seculea, Cruceni, Rovinita, Ghizela, Rudna, Gad, Topolovanu Mare, Gialvaz, Sanmartinu Maghiar and Crai Nou. State aid is most often focussed on those areas where the damages are the highest and where the attention of the mass media is the most concentrated assuring high publicity. Consequently, many small communities who have suffered the same major damages and losses, are forgotten and left to their own devices. A total of **450 families** are targeted for assistance in Crisis and/or Post Crisis phase.

Criteria in Beneficiary Selection

AIDRom will be assisted in the beneficiary identification process by the parish ministers of the Orthodox and Reformed churches in the most affected communities in the Banat region. In the Crisis Phase of the assistance, all those families who have been evacuated will be assisted with food parcels, hygiene kits, mineral water and clothing. In the Post Crisis Phase, a more detailed selection will be made in close co-operation with the local churches, taking into consideration the social status of the families as well as criteria such as level of damage suffered, vulnerability, nutritional and health status, socio-economic background and also the vulnerability factor (i.e. women and children, age). There will be co-ordination with local authorities and NGOs that may be working in the area to ensure an equitable distribution of assistance.

The assistance will be distributed in the most appropriate way to contribute to the alleviation of the damages and the suffering. The targeted beneficiary groups for the Post Crisis Phase is expected to comprise families with children aged 1 to 14, two-generation families under one roof, handicapped as well as socially marginalised people (members of Roma community).

V. PROPOSED EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & IMPLEMENTATION

Goal & Objectives

The main **goal** is to alleviate the human suffering of the flood affected, to mitigate the effects of the flood on people 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 the form of family food parcels, mineral water, hygiene kits and disinfectants, clothing.
- Providing post crisis assistance in the form of rehabilitation of homes and farms through provision of construction materials for home repair and reconstruction (bricks, cement, roofing tiles, isolation materials, wood, iron bars, etc.), crops (seed inputs) and livestock along with cleaning and disinfecting of wells.

Location for Proposed Response

AIDRom plans to assist the most vulnerable flood victims from the most affected communities in the counties of **Timis, Cars-Severin** and **Mehedinti**. The targeted villages¹ are Seculea, Cruceni, Rovinita, Ghizela, Rudna, Gad, Topolovanu Mare, Gialvaz, Sanmartinu Maghiar and Crai Nou. Other villages may also be selected for assistance during implementation if they meet the specific criteria used and funding allows. AIDRom's regional traditional implementing partners will provide information about the most vulnerable, affected families in the communities targeted for assistance.

As in previous years, beside AIDRom's implementing partners, the local Mayor's Office will be asked to assist and take part in the aid action initiated and led by AIDRom. There will also be collaboration with any other organisations working in the area to assist the flood affected. The regular surveys of the Emergency Unit Team will represent an important basis for decisions to be taken during implementation.

Implementation Procedures

AIDRom plans to implement the program in **two phases**:

- Immediate humanitarian assistance
- Post crisis rehabilitation

The **first phase** of the implementation will include the provision of basic, urgently needed items to the most vulnerable of the population: food, hygiene items, clothing and blankets. 250 families will be assisted through provision of non-perishable food, mineral water, hygiene items and clothing. AIDRom Emergency Unit will cover the recipient villages through the local churches and implementing partners.

The food parcels will contain 30 kgs of non-perishable food comprising wheat and corn flour, edible oil, sugar, rice, salt, pasta, canned soup, meat and vegetables, cottage cheese, jam and milk powder along with matches. This will be packed in standard boxes labelled with the ACT/AIDRom logo.

The hygiene parcel will contain all the following necessary items for a family for a period of up to 6 weeks washing powder, disinfectant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, ladies' hygiene and towels. AIDRom also plans to provide clothes and blankets to the families among the target beneficiaries. Two transport monitors will be responsible for transporting relief items to the different locations.

During the **second phase**, on the basis of surveys made by AIDRom Emergency Unit Co-ordinator and in consultation with local church ministers, local authorities and NGOs working in the area, private homes and farms will receive rehabilitation assistance. The surveys and consultations have already

¹ The location of assistance may be subject to change depending on other aid organizations (Red Cross, Army, etc), NGO's or Governmental involvement.

started. It is planned to assist 250 families in the post-crisis phase as follows: 60 severely damaged homes (those with damage to structure) and 120 with moderate damage (structure remains sound, though damage is quite significant). Families will receive the most urgently needed construction materials as well as other inputs such as seeds, animals, tools, according to the gravity of losses. A further 70 families will be helped by other means - farm and crop rehabilitation, well cleaning, tools. All these families will be helped either directly by AIDRom via its field co-ordinator, 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.

After information has been received from all the affected locations targeted by AIDRom, the Bishop Offices will send their written reports to AIDRom Central Office. It is expected that assistance in most of the cases will be provided by AIDRom Emergency Unit directly for those in need, after each family decides on the most urgently needed construction items (cement, bricks, wood, lime, iron bars, roofing tiles, isolation materials, sand, stones, etc.) or farm rehabilitation elements (seeds, small livestock such as chicken, pigs, lambs or goats) depending on the funds available.

The procurement of the necessary items will be co-ordinated by the Emergency Unit Field Officer with the assistance of local church ministers or representatives of the Mayor's Office. Locating the closest procurement site (local or regional) as well as the cheapest means of transportation will be the duty of the local church leaders. The rehabilitation work will be carried out by each family using its own physical resources. Some families will be assisted with utensils, household tools and reconstruction kits.

During the last spring school holiday (mid May) and first twenty days of the summer school holiday (end of June) it is planned to organise a sort of psycho-social input, a series of three camps for children, ten days each (8 days effective stay with program, 1 day arrival, 1 day departure). The plan is to select and gather children between 10-14, whose families suffered severe damages and traumas during the flood.

Beneficiaries would be from the most affected communities in the Banat region. In this way a total of 180 children will benefit a free camping holiday, while their parents can proceed with the rehabilitation work.

All activities from both the Crisis and Post Crisis Phases will be continuously monitored by the AIDRom Emergency Unit Co-ordinator. For all type of inputs received, beneficiaries will sign acknowledgement receipts which will be confirmed by local church ministers.

VI. ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Administration

One program assistant for secretarial support and a field co-ordinator will be employed for the whole project period. Two transport monitors will assist the project field co-ordinator of the Emergency Unit during the distribution of different items (both in Crisis and Post Crisis phase). Transport monitors will also transport relief items to different project locations. The program director (co-ordinator) in co-operation with the program assistant and field co-ordinator are responsible for overall management of the project. The program director will supervise the work of the field co-ordinator. The secretarial assistant will assist program implementation and assure timely reporting to AIDRom head office and ACT Geneva.

The field co-ordinator is responsible to the program director for management of local project activities, including the organisation and supervision of local teams, procurement, distributions and negotiations

with local authorities. Procurement and all related activities will be done according to ACT Guidelines.

The transport monitors, under the supervision of the field co-ordinator, will maintain contact and provide all necessary data for the secretarial (program) assistant to be further processed.

Finance

The AIDRom Emergency Unit Co-ordinator will report to ACT Co-ordinating Office according to ACT Reporting Guidelines and will carry out regular financial controls and make any necessary adjustments to the implementation process. Each Bishop's Office will appoint a counsellor from the Bishop's Council to be in charge of project accounting should funds go through local church accounts. The counsellor will send his reports and remarks to AIDRom.

Beneficiaries will be requested to sign a protocol, which will confirm the type and quantity of received materials and the current value.

VII. MONITORING & REPORTING

The program monitoring will be carried out from AIDRom Head Office Bucharest and its regional office in Brasov. The program co-ordinator will visit the area of implementation at least once a month to monitor progress, disburse funds, deal with problems that arise, make adjustment to the implementation process as well as sharing and referring issues if necessary to the Head Office and ACT.

The Bishop's Offices will appoint a counsellor-in-charge to make on-site surveys controlling the stage of implementation, use of funds, etc.

Reporting

AIDRom Emergency Unit Co-ordinator will provide the updates, interim and final narrative and financial reports. The Refcont Auditing Company will carry out the audit of the final financial report.

Reporting Schedule

- Interim narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 31 August 2005 i.e. within one month following mid-term of project.
- Final narrative and financial reports due at ACT CO by 31 December 2005 i.e. within two months of end of project.
- Audit report to be received by ACT CO no later than 31 January 2006, i.e. within three months of end of project.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

Project Assessment:	26 – 29 April 2005
Start Up & Implementation of Crisis Phase Assistance	02 – 14 May 2005
Start Up Post Crisis Phase Rehabilitation:	01 June 2005
Implementation:	01 June – 30 September 2005
Interim Financial and Narrative Report:	July 2005
Close Out:	October 2005
Final Financial and Narrative Report:	December 2005

IX. CO-ORDINATION

AIDRom will maintain close contact with the implementing partners and will request status reports on a regular basis. The active co-operation will be based on free information channelling and sharing, responsibility and accountability. Co-ordination meetings will be held once a month by AIDRom Emergency Unit with the Bishops Counsellors, local church ministers and representatives from the mayors office at the various implementation sites, to monitor and co-ordinate the work, review the progress of the rehabilitation process, to harmonise different work and distribution of relief supplies, as well as to identify further needs.

AIDRom will co-ordinate its work in the field with local authorities and NGOs that are working in the area. There will be co-ordination in the field in the form of mutual assistance and support ensuring an equitable distribution to the flood affected. AIDRom Emergency Team will attend other meetings and events that are relevant to the co-ordination of the humanitarian aid program.

X. BUDGET

INCOME

Kerk in Actie Netherlands	38,570
TOTAL INCOME	38,570

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
DIRECT ASSISTANCE				
<u>Crisis Phase</u>				
Relief Food Distribution	Families	250	110	27,500
Mineral Water	20 ltr packages	250	5	1,250
Health & Medical Inputs	Families	250	100	25,000
Clothing	Families	250	35	8,750
<u>Post Crisis Phase</u>				
Constr Materials for severely damaged houses	Families	60	500	30,000
Construction Materials for mod damaged houses	Families	120	250	30,000
Agricultural Seed Inputs	Families	100	50	5,000
Animal Inputs	Families	50	100	5,000
Well Cleaning & Disinfecting	Families	100	45	4,500
Household tools	Families	150	35	5,250
Psycho-Social Inputs	Camp	3	4,200	12,600
(Spring/Summer Camp for Children – 10days/60children/series x 3)				
Sub total				154,850
TRANSPORT, STORAGE & RELATED HANDLING COSTS				
Truck Rental	Km	1,800	1.25	2,250
Sub total				2,250
PERSONNEL, ADMIN., OPERATIONS & OTHER SUPPORT COSTS				
Staff Salaries & Benefits				
Emergency Programme Co-ordinator	Month	5	650	3,250
Program Field Co-ordinator	Month	5	550	2,750
Assistant to Program Co-ordinator	Month	5	450	2,250
Transport co-ordinators	Month	4	200	800

<u>Description</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>No of Units</u>	<u>Unit Cost US\$</u>	<u>Budget USD</u>
Travel costs				
Per Diems (Food/Lodging)	Days	25	85	2,125
Vehicle Operations costs				
Fuel (Diesel and Gasoline)	Km	5.400	0.28	1,512
Communications costs				
Telephone	Lump Sum			500
E-Mail	Lump Sum			100
Bank Fees	Lump Sum			800
Financial Audit				<u>1,000</u>
Sub total				15,087
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE				172,187
Less Income				<u>38,570</u>
BALANCE REQUESTED FROM ACT NETWORK				133,617