

REACT Recovery Assessment Report

Following Floods and Mudflows in Districts of Kulyab Zone, Khatlon Province,
Republic of Tajikistan



Dushanbe, June 2014

Date Assessment was conducted: 10 June 2014

Team: UNDP, WFP

Methodology used:

A visit to each of the four district level Committee of Emergency Situations¹ offices and head of affected Jamoats. Information obtained:

- Latest damage information
- Latest information on the plans for recovery by local and national Government
- Additional recovery actions needed and not covered
- Key informant interviews with one affected household representative per each location to identify pre-disaster livelihood conditions

Summary of the assessment results:

- Coping mechanisms of affected population of Vose (Tugarak Jamoat), Kulyab (Ziraki and Zarbdor villages) and Khamadoni (Chubek Jamoat) districts were sufficient to undertake recovery activities by themselves. No clear recovery plans are developed. No recovery actions are underway by local or national authorities.
- Land spots for construction of houses were provided to 73 affected households² of Sarichashma Jamoat of Shuroobod district. Initial plans by the local authorities include supporting construction of 20 houses for the families, whose households were destroyed.
- Livelihoods and income generation mechanisms (mainly agriculture, livestock) of the affected population in Sarichashma Jamoat were affected.
- No clear recovery plans by the Government on supporting both livelihoods/income generation mechanisms and infrastructure recovery.
- Priority recovery gaps:
 - Drinking water system to newly allocated land spots
 - Livelihoods support to re-establish income generation
 - Construction materials (through food for work or cash for work scheme) to construct new houses
 - Establishment of health services and educational facilities at the newly allocated land spots

¹ Except for Shuroobod CoES officer, who was unable to meet with the team.

² No additional land spots for households of more than one family.

Rationale:

Two recovery coordination meetings were held in Dushanbe on May 23 and June 6 of 2014 amongst REACT partners, to plan an assessment visit to the most affected districts following April and May (2014) flash floods and mudflows. This initiative was based on the official request, issued by the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense to support the affected population to restore the damaged infrastructure and livelihoods. During the recovery coordination meeting conducted on June 6, 2014, partners have come to conclusion to conduct recovery assessment in the most severely affected districts of Khatlon province. This agreement was reached based on the damage and needs information received from REACT situation reports, assistance provided by national and international entities and the existing coping mechanism of the affected population. As a result, five districts of Khatlon Province (Kulyab zone) were selected for an assessment. These districts include: Shuroobod, Kulyab, Muminobod, Vose and Khamadoni. Assessment team, consisting of UNDP and WFP representatives visited Shuroobod, Kulyab, Vose and Khamadoni districts on June 10, 2014. A separate meeting with the local authorities of Muminobod district was not possible during the visit. However, relevant latest information was obtained.

Assessment results:

The team commenced the assessment with local authorities of **Shuroobod district**. A meeting with the deputy head of affected Jamoat (Sarichashma) was held. Following damage information was received³:

- Households affected: 73
 - Damaged: 53
 - Destroyed: 20
- 270 head of cattle killed
- 190 hectares of agriculture land damaged and not usable for current crop season
- Affected families were initially relocated to temporarily established tent camps, but had moved to their relatives in mid-May 2014

Information on recovery actions underway/planned by Government:

- 0.8 hectares of land provided to 73 affected households. As noted earlier, as per local tradition, most households include more than one family (e.g.: son living with his wife and two children under one roof). The area allocated is called Bobo Nosir and located in the same Jamoat⁴ (two kilometers away from most affected areas)

³ Note that the information on number of killed people remain the same as reported by REACT on May 29, 2014 and not included in this report.

⁴ Note that the area in general is considered mudflow prone, although the risk of potential damage reaching the newly allocated land spots is low.

- As per initial plans, local authorities plan to support construction of 20 households
- Land certificates and license issued with support of local authorities.
- Design of the houses to be developed by local authorities (not yet available)
- As per initial plans, a total of 3000 Tajik Somonis will be provided to each household for relocation purposes (by Ministry of Labor and Social Protection)
- Local authorities are providing trainings for women on sewing.
- No additional and/or detailed recovery plan is available or being drafted.

Additional recovery needs (as prioritized by head of Jamoat and assessment team):

- Support in establishing a sustainable drinking water system. The closest drinking water well is 2 kilometers away. Functionality and capacity of the well to cover additional 73 families are indicated in engineering report submitted separately⁵.
- Support in provision of construction materials
- Support in re-establishment of income generation mechanism (including shorter-term food for work and/or cash for work schemes). Note that the pre-disaster livelihoods and income generation mechanism of the affected population included: cattle breeding, agriculture and remittances through migration.

Key informant interview:

A short interview was conducted with one of the members of the affected families of Sarichashma Jamoat. The head of the family (whose name was asked not be mentioned) noted the following:

- Daily income was generated mainly from milk
- Agriculture production of the family/most of the families: wheat, cereals (beans). Prices for cereal have dropped significantly over the last two years.
- Some families, particularly women have private businesses (selling daily households products outside of their houses)
- Younger male residents transfer money earned from migration.

Asked if the population is ready for livelihood diversification, the interviewee replied that relevant trainings are needed to understand new methods of generating incomes. However, he noted that due to the location of the area (bordering with Afghanistan and far from Shuroobod district center and approximately 25 kilometers away from Vose town with mostly unpaved roads in the hills), the livelihood options are limited, especially for agriculture and private entrepreneurship.

⁵ Based on the engineering assessment report, developed by UNDP certified engineer.

The team proceeded with an interview with the local CoES officer of **Vose district**, where, **Tugarak Jamoat** was affected by floods and mudflow in April and May 2014.

Initial findings of the interview included the following:

- Households affected: 276
 - Damaged: 8⁶
 - Destroyed: 0
- 199.9 hectares of agriculture land damaged and usable for this crop season
- 128 heads of cattle killed

Recovery actions planned/underway by Government:

No recovery plans were developed or implemented, as the coping mechanisms of the affected population were sufficient to restore the livelihoods.

Additional recovery needs:

Construction materials are needed for 8 households to rehabilitate the damaged houses.

Following a meeting Vose district COES, a meeting was held with the head of CoES for **Kulyab district**, where the mudflow and floods affected **Ziraki and Zarbdor** villages. Following information was obtained:

- Households affected:7
 - Damaged: 7
 - Destroyed: 7
- 135.34 hectares of agriculture land damaged and not usable for this crop season
- 175 head of cattle killed

Recovery actions planned/underway by Government:

No recovery plans were developed or implemented, as the coping mechanisms of the affected population were sufficient to restore the households and livelihoods.

Additional recovery needs:

No additional recovery needs. Needs related to reducing the risks were raised such as fuel supply for cleaning the sai and rivers.

As mentioned above, no personal meeting with the head of CoES of **Miminobod district** was held. UNDP representative had a phone conversation with the COES of Muminobod and obtained the following information on the damage caused to **Balkhobi Jamoat** by floods and mudflow of April and May 2014:

⁶As per official Commission reports, only households where damage to infrastructure was observed are considered as damaged or destroyed.

- Households affected: 30
 - Damaged: 23
 - Destroyed: 7
- 69 hectares of agriculture land damaged
- 82 head of cattle killed
- 3 kilometers of drinking water system damaged.

Recovery actions planned/underway by Government:

- Land spots will be provided in the same Jamoat to seven households
- Main Geology Department is assessing the area of other 23 households. Based on the results, a decision may be taken to relocate the families to safer places.

No additional recovery actions are underway/planned.

Additional recovery needs:

- Support to establish a drinking water system (rehabilitate the damaged system)
- Provide construction materials to construct new houses (initially to 7 households)

Annexes:

Photos of the newly allocated land spots in Bobo Nosirov village of Sarichashma Jamoat, Shuroobod district⁷.

GPS coordinates: **N 37 45 54 7, E 069 51 01 1:**



⁷ Due to a large number of pictures shared on the damage to families and households in the recent past, no additional pictures were taken on that matter.