

Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT)

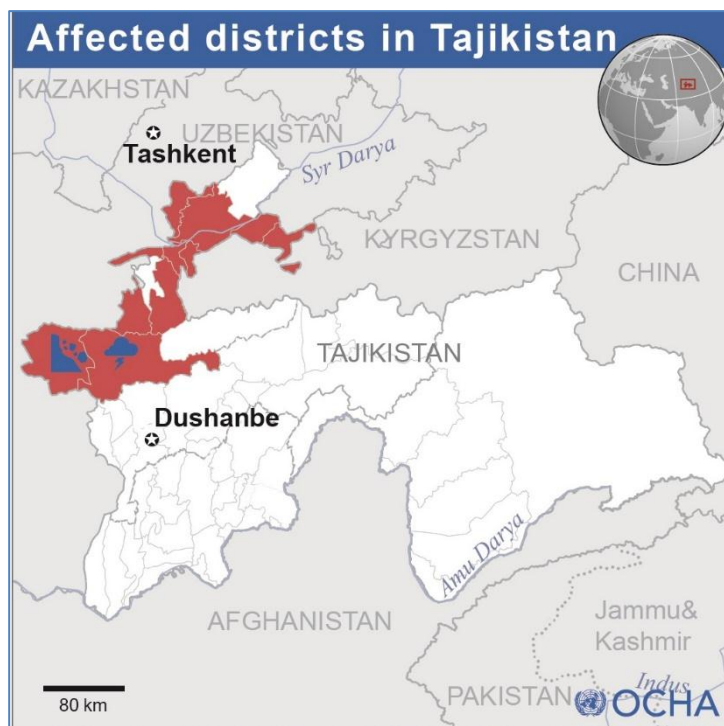
Mudflows, Sughd Province, Tajikistan

Flash Update 1

10 May 2016

Key Highlights

- Mudflows as a result of heavy rains and strong winds on 9 May 2016 affected at least 11 districts of Sughd Province.
- Mudflows killed at least three people, while damaging more than 147 houses and a number of critical social infrastructure, livelihoods and livestock.
- At least eight kilometers of Zebon river in Panjakent district were filled with debris, requiring immediate cleaning to avoid escalation of humanitarian situation should the rains intensify.
- Government formed State Commission for Emergencies conducts rapid assessment of damage and needs.



Situation Analysis

The 9 May 2016 heavy rains resulted in mudflows in several districts of Sughd Province. In addition, strong winds throughout the Province damaged roofs of a number of houses, social and education facilities, roads and other infrastructure, while killing more than 50 heads of cattle and damaging more than 603 ha of arable lands. According to Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) as of 10 May 2016, the most affected among the 11 districts is Panjekent, with a population of around 230,000. On a coordination meeting of Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) held in the afternoon of 10 May 2016, CoES confirmed mudflows affected at least 147 households in Panjekent District alone. It also damaged 17 houses and fully destroyed another 10 in several villages of the District. The mudflows have killed two local residents in Ayni District and one in Panjekent. Government has deployed a group of experts under the State Commission for Emergencies to assess the damage/needs, while local authorities and representatives of CoES are conducting evacuation of affected communities to safer areas.

Humanitarian needs

As of 10 May 2016, CoES briefed that initial results of the assessment indicate an urgent need for a diesel fuel in the amount of 10 metric tons to immediately clean the debris that filled the major river Zebon passing through the Panjekent town to avoid further flooding of the town, where around 33,000 people reside. Tajik Hydro meteorological services forecasts continuation of unstable weather countrywide until 15 May 2016, alerting national and local governments to take immediate risk mitigation measures.

Additional humanitarian needs identified by the Government as of 10 May 2016 are tents as well as hygiene kits for those, whose houses were fully and partially damaged. Also, it is expected that food support would be needed for about 147 households in Panjekent District as initial Government assessment reports indicated significant damages were caused to household food stocks, that are usually stored either in basements or weak structures.

CoES called for an ad-hoc REACT coordination meeting on 10 May 2016 to brief international humanitarian partners on the humanitarian needs and damage and called for coordinated action and support Government in relief and recovery assistance. The meeting agreed that due to local scale of the emergency, it would be sufficient for national Red Crescent Society, the representatives of Sughd Regional REACT and other partners present in Zeravshan Valley to join the Government assessment.

Several REACT partners expressed their willingness and readiness to support CoES and local authorities in humanitarian response. Save the Children already made a commitment to send 30 sets of non-food items and water containers to the most affected families.

REACT does not plan to issue a Situation Report. This may change if assessments reveal more serious needs.

The next Flash Update will be issued as soon as more information is available. For more information, contact ranoev@un.org or react.dushanbe@undp.org