

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Floods/mudflow countrywide, Tajikistan (GLIDE: MS-2016-000049-TJK)

Situation Report No. 2 (as of 18 May 2016)



This report is produced by REACT in collaboration with Government and humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 15 to 18 May 2016. The next report will be issued on or around 23 May 2016.

Highlights

- Continuous heavy rains resulted in additional floods/mudflow countrywide. As of 18 May, floods/mudflow killed at least five persons (Aini, Panjekent and Rasht districts).
- Government and humanitarian partners commence relief operations in affected areas.
- On 17 May, REACT presented results of needs assessment conducted on 13 May to Development Coordination Council in a bid to improve partnership and seek support.
- Government assessment results indicate at least 17 houses fully destroyed in Aini and Panjekent districts. Number of houses damaged/destroyed in other districts, including Rudaki is yet to be confirmed.
- Tajik Hydrometeorological services forecast intense rains until 19 May, alerting on risks of additional flooding.



Sources: OCHA, REACT, UNCS.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created 18 May 2016

17,800

Estimated people in need of assistance

2,550

Households potentially affected

To be confirmed

Displaced

Situation Overview

Continuous rains throughout the country for the period of 16 - 18 May have resulted in increase of level of water in several river basins, triggering additional floods. Since 9 May, floods/mudflows have affected Aini, Asht, Guliston, Panjekent and Zafarobod, districts (Sughd Province), Baljuvon, Farkhor and Jaloliddin Balhi districts (Khatlon province), Nurobod, Rasht, Rogun, Rudaki, Sangvor and Tojikobod districts (Direct Ruled Districts) and Darvoz and Vanj districts (Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast). On 16 May, in addition to four persons killed in Aini and Panjekent districts, mudflow has killed a resident of Qalai Surkh Jamoat of Rasht district, tallying the number of casualties to six persons. While Panjekent and Rudaki remain to be the most affected districts, where there is a significant humanitarian need in many sectors, other districts where the floods/mudflow have occurred resulted in damages to some households, roads, bridges, local agriculture and livelihoods.

Government-led damage and needs assessment results started to unfold. As of 18 May, total number of residential houses with structural damages caused by floods/mudflow in Aini and Panjekent district stands at 7 houses, out of which 2 are destroyed (Aini), and 21 houses, out of which 15 are destroyed (Panjekent). In addition, at least 132 heads of livestock (cows, sheep, horses) killed in these two districts.

Such figures for Rudaki District – one of the most affected by the 12 May floods/mudflow - are yet to be provided. The Government figures on number of houses fully or partially damaged may reduce significantly in comparison to estimated number of houses affected and people in need of assistance as identified by REACT. This discrepancy is mainly due to the two separate mechanisms of damage and needs assessment conducted by Government and

REACT. While Government-led assessment mainly focuses on actual damages caused to residential infrastructure, REACT assessment processes complement this by looking at actual humanitarian needs caused by the disaster (damage to livestock, food, water supply systems, latrines, non-food items, etc.)

State Hydrometeorological Services issued a statement with forecasted unstable weather to remain countrywide until 19 May. This poses additional threat of flooding in “Zebon” draining canal of Panjekent district and “Elok” river of Rudaki district, as mitigation works to clean the canal and restore the destroyed embankment are not completed due to interruption of civil works as a result of lack of diesel fuel.

On 17 May, OCHA, on behalf of the United Nations as Co-Chair of REACT delivered a presentation on the damage caused by the disaster and consequent humanitarian needs to the Development Coordination Council (DCC) – a coordination mechanism for development and donor community to streamline aid effectiveness to the Government of Tajikistan. Bi-lateral level cooperation will continue between the DCC and REACT members to ensure timely and effective delivery of relief assistance. In addition, CoES in Sughd province convened a regional meeting for REACT partners to coordinate joint response efforts to emergencies occurred in the province.

Both Government and REACT partners started to scale-up the delivery of assistance. Local authorities of affected districts are continuing to provide food and non-food items to affected population. However, there is a lack of predictable and systematic Government response-plan, which could help identify potential gaps for REACT partners to address. The REACT Secretariat will be working with the Committee of Emergency Situations to draft such plan in the coming days.

In addition, sex and age disaggregated data are still missing. The REACT Secretariat will work with affected jamoats, representatives of the State Commission for Emergencies and Committee of Emergency Situations to obtain such data to identify specific needs of vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian Response

The Committee of Emergency Situations and different REACT partners are providing continuous information on the needs of affected population and on the number of damaged and destroyed houses and any planned/ongoing response operations. As per the REACT multi-cluster/sector needs assessment conducted on 13 May in Rudaki and damage and needs assessment conducted by several REACT partners in Aini and Panjekent districts, sectors with immediate humanitarian needs are Health, Food Security, Shelter & NFI and WASH.

OCHA and REACT Secretariat will soon be compiling a matrix of ongoing and planned response (Government and REACT) to ensure coherent and coordinated relief assistance and avoid potential gaps and duplications in response.



Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs:

- Diesel fuel and water pump machines to support affected population move faster with cleaning of debris/contaminated mud from households and avoid any water-borne diseases.
- Fuel, cement and gabion nets to reconstruct the embankment destroyed as a result from flooding in Rudaki (around 400 meters) and clean debris in drainage canal in Panjekent (around eight km.)
- Any other livelihoods support to affected population to generate income.

Response:

- National and local authorities, Committee of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Defense and State Fire Department are undertaking debris removal of main roads, households in support of affected population utilizing labor (soldiers) and heavy machinery.
- Government of Rudaki District is restoring the destroyed embankment (approximately 300-400 meters). However, a more sophisticated engineering construction work is required with cement and gabion complementarities.
- FOCUS, through Committee of Emergency and Civil Defense and the REACT, responded to the disasters by assisting with a total of two metric tons of diesel fuel for clearing mud and removing the debris.
- In response to the flooding and mudflows in Darvoz and Vanj districts of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) FOCUS supplemented Government relief efforts with 2.3 metric tons of diesel fuel for clearing the mudflow.
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is planning to provide 5,000 Euros to the Committee of Emergency Situations to procure additional diesel fuel.

Gaps & constraints:

- Expected lack of heavy machinery, river embankment materials and fuel.
- Continuous rains to delay debris removal processes.



Education

Needs:

- Restoration of previous water supply to schools where floods have damaged such systems.

Response:

- Local Education Department has mobilized its resources and teachers to clean debris in the premises of the facilities. As of 16 May, education has been resumed in all three affected villages of Rudaki district.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.



Food Security

Needs:

- Food support for affected population for the period of at least two to three months, as all available household food supplies have been damaged and livelihoods opportunities reduced.
- Food for work as part of recovery and livelihoods opportunities.
- Kitchen sets and other kitchen belongings, as well as wood, gas or fuel and food, cooking devices/stoves.

Response:

- The Rudaki district authorities have provided to the Jamoat 10,000 Tajik Somoni to supply the affected population with hot food for the initial days after the emergency.
- Authorities of Panjekent Districts provided 15 metric tons of wheat flour and vegetable oil to affected population to cover their immediate food needs.
- Neighboring communities and individuals from different villages are providing hot food to affected population in all disaster-affected areas. However, it is not clear how long this practice lasts.
- Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and German Red Cross has expressed readiness to assist 80 families with food parcels (one parcel per family – wheat flour, rice, sugar, salt, macaroni, vegetable oil, tea) in Rudaki district.
- NGO “Good Neighbors” is planning to provide some more food support (quantity to be identified soon) to affected population in Rudaki district.
- World Food Programme will mobilize about 40 MT of food commodities from currently available stocks to provide an initial support to about 2,500 affected households in Rudaki District. Family food rations consisting of wheat flour, pulses, veg oil, and salt will be available within next three days. WFP closely coordinates its operations with CoES and relevant Government of Tajikistan authorities, local government, NGO partners and affected communities. WFP’s relief assistance is based on the rapid assessment conducted by REACT members on the 13 May and appeal received from the CoES to reach 17,000 people over a period of two months (May-June 2016).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Prolonged restoration of damaged houses may result in continuous/extended longer-term external food support to affected population, which may be of concern amidst limited resources.
- Lack of Government specific food support response plan may hinder gap filling by REACT partners.
- The food made available by WFP is the emergency contingency stock that needs to be replenished. Moreover, additional resources would be needed to fulfill the overall request received from the CoES and to be ready to respond for additional future emergency.



Health

Needs:

- Relevant population-awareness campaigns about risks of contaminated water/mud as people have been using hands with limited equipment to remove the mud in the households.
- Mobilization of more medical staff to the ground, as current human resource capacity is not sufficient to cover the needs of the affected population.
- Provision of psychosocial support to affected population, with special focus to women and children.

Response:

- First aid has reached affected communities in several jamoats through mobilization of local nurses.
- UNICEF has immediately released 50,000 sachets of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) and 130,000 Zinc tablets to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to prevent cases of water-borne diseases, diarrhea and dehydration among affected children.
- UNICEF is coordinating with jamoats of affected districts to mobilize a team to conduct additional assessment on the need in psychosocial support.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- Provision of rubber boots, spades and other type of equipment, including hand trucks to the affected families to speed up cleaning of debris.
- Matrasses and other bed clothing and carpets.
- Clothes for all categories, including men, women and children as all household belongings of the total affected have been damaged.
- Diesel fuel and automatic water pumps to clean debris.

Response:

- Government provided some diesel fuel and automatic water pumps to clean debris from affected houses.
- Save the Children has provided 30 sets and Red Crescent Society together with German Red Cross have provided 41 sets of NFIs to Panjekent district to support households whose houses have been severely damaged.
- Local authorities of Panjekent district provided 30 sets of non-food items (kitchen sets, matrasses, water cans and torches).
- FOCUS provided 200 pairs of galoshes (waterproof overshoes) to disaster affected women and girls of Rudaki district.
- NGO "Good Neighbors" is planning to distribute sets of non-food items (matrasses and bed linen) to the affected population in Rudaki District.
- Red Crescent Society together with German Red Cross provided sets of non-food items to the affected population in Nurobod, Rasht and Sangvor districts. In addition, Red Crescent Society is ready to assistance around 101 families with non-food items in Rudaki district.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources in heavy machinery, automatic water pumps, labor force and diesel fuel is a major challenge.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Access to sustained drinking water to people affected, which may include water containers, transportation of water, cans, water purification tablets in case the hand-made pumps restored in affected households.
- Provision of water for other uses, such as bathing and washing.
- Hygiene kits for affected people, including but not limited to soaps, toilet papers, diapers for children, tooth kits, female hygiene items and towels.
- Access to safe and dignified latrines for affected population, as toilets have been damaged in all affected households.

Response:

- Local authorities of two affected jamoats of Rudaki district have distributed water purification tablets to all affected households. However, a more systematic solution to existing water supply system issues is needed as population continue fetching water in different parts of the two affected jamoats.
- Operations Mercy has delivered 150 family sets of hygiene kits (towels, tooth paste/brush, washing powder, soaps and female hygiene articles) to local authorities of Rudaki District for further distribution among affected population.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.

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