



## TAJIKISTAN: EARTHQUAKE

MDRTJ001  
4 August 2006

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 100'000 (USD 81,700 or EUR 63,500) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population. This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 30 October 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 January 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity."

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- *The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, email: [rcstj01@mail.ru](mailto:rcstj01@mail.ru), phone: + 992372 24 03 74, fax number: + 992372 24 53 78*
- *Tajikistan Delegation, Head of Delegation, Elias Ghanem email: [elias.ghanem@ifrc.org](mailto:elias.ghanem@ifrc.org), phone: + 992372 244296 or 245981, fax: + 992372 248520*
- *Geneva Secretariat: Regional officer Sylvie Chevalley, email: [Sylvie.chevalley@ifrc.org](mailto:Sylvie.chevalley@ifrc.org), phone: + 41 22 730 4276.*

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

### Background and current situation

On 29 July 2006, two earthquakes of magnitude between 4.5 and 5.5 on Richter scale struck seven villages in Qumsangir district of Khatlon oblast. The epicentre of the quake occurred 145 km south of the capital Dushanbe, and 55 km east of Shartuz.

## Tajikistan : Earthquake DREF Bulletin

According to the assessment conducted by the team of international agencies and governmental commission 16,512 people were affected. Three children – a 6 year old boy and a girl and a 9 year old girl – were buried under the collapsed fence. A total of 19 injured people, mainly with collarbone and leg injuries, were reported. Six of them were evacuated to hospitals of the nearby Kolhozabad district. The relatively low number of casualties can be explained by the fact that the earthquake took place during the day time.



*The high number of damaged or totally collapsed houses is largely due to low construction quality- most houses are made of clay.*

Out of over 2,000 house affected by the disaster, 1,837 were assessed, with more than half of them deemed severely damaged as they are constructed of clay. (For details on the number of affected people and houses by districts please refer to the table below.) Some parts of the affected district are without electricity.

Great damage was done to the already poor infrastructure- five schools, four health centres and a central hospital, four transformers, 2 km of electric lines, a pumping station, a college building, a rest home, four shops and 20 administrative buildings were damaged.

**Table 1. Earthquake related disaster statistics for the period from 29 July to 2 August 2006**

No.	Places affected by the disaster	No. of monitored households	No. of completely destroyed houses	No. of partially damaged houses	No. of affected people
1	Village No. 8	361	248	113	3 349
2	Village No. 6	566	194	372	4 100
3	Zamini Naw village	133	120	13	1 003
4	Jamoat Dusti	599	42	557	6 224
5	Sholikori village	31	4	27	605
6	Jamoat Telman	93	57	36	720
7	Jamoat Qumsangir	54	19	35	510
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1 837</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>1 153</b>	<b>16 512</b>

The situation is still serious as weaker earthquake tremors are continuing to be felt and already partially damaged houses are under severe threat.

Tajikistan is a highly disaster prone country, with its specific geographical configuration in one of the world's most active seismic zones (Pamir-Alai, Hindukush) and a mountainous landscape (93 per cent of the country). The risk of earthquake disasters is very high, but besides earthquakes, Tajikistan is also exposed to almost daily mudslides, rock falls, floods and avalanches. The country suffers nearly 500 disasters per year. According to the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) estimates, in 2005 alone, 55 disasters occurred in the country affecting directly or indirectly about 11,011 people. In total 65 people died, 39 people were hospitalized, 527 houses were totally destroyed and 856 houses partly damaged.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



*16,512 people left on the pavement and lost their properties as a result of the disaster.*

Since the disaster occurred, the RCST disaster response team (DRT), comprised of six members, in Kurgan-Tube region have started to conduct a situation assessment in the affected areas. They visited 120-150 houses per day and distributed informational materials – on healthy life, clean water and first aid – to the victims of the disaster.

A first aid point was established in three affected areas, through which the Red Cross volunteers provided health services and distributed purification tablets to the affected people. Each family received 100 tablets. To date, 8,000 tablets were distributed to 80 families. The remaining 8,000 tablets will be distributed through home visits.

The following items were distributed to affected people:

- 86 tents
- 100 plastic sheets
- 8,000 purification tablets
- 150 informational materials

The following medicines were dispatched to the three health centres :

- 800 pieces of Co-trimaksazol, 480 mg
- 800 pieces of Metronidazol, 250 mg
- 600 pieces of Paracetamol, 500 mg

## Immediate needs

Homeless families are seeking temporary shelter with family members/relatives or are living outside in makeshift shelters in the backyard of their homes increasing the demand for emergency relief items such as tents for good quality temporary shelter. Priorities for health are related to the water and sanitation conditions in order to prevent and control outbreaks of water-borne diseases .

**Malaria** is also a concern since the population moved out of the houses to sleep and mosquito nets are not commonly used in an area and in a season favourable to plasmodium transmission. ACTED and Mercy Corps are setting up a laboratory to sew mosquito nets and they will operate the first distribution on Monday 7 August. Sworde-Teppa is ready to mobilize an expert of vector control upon request of Ministry of Health.

**Nutrition** is at present not a concern and a World Food Programme (WFP) team is assessing the food security. UNICEF mobilized 40 boxes of high protein biscuits and Action Against Hunger (AAH) is reinforcing the surveillance.

**Special vulnerable groups** (patients receiving long-term treatment, i.e. TB, diabetics or pregnant women) are not a reason for concern since health structures have residual capacity, but surveillance will continue some need surge.

**Drugs** have been delivered by different agencies (RCST/Federation, WHO, Merlin, Counterpart International). No drugs are needed at the moment although ORS may be pre-positioned to avoid delays in case of diarrhoeal diseases outbreaks.

## The proposed operation

This operation aims to combine various disaster management elements into an integrated plan that will allow RCST to meet both emergency and longer-term needs of the most affected populations. The DREF appeal for CHF 100,000 targets support for 200 families (1,000 people) from affected villages through provision of tents, self support construction kits and distribution of printing materials on health promotion in area of emergency relief, housing reconstruction and community health risk reduction.

## Objectives and activities planned

### Emergency relief (food and non-food items)

**Objective 1: 200 most affected families (1,000 people) in affected region have received 200 family tents**

#### Planned activities:

- Identification of most vulnerable beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities
- Immediate release of available tents from RCST Disaster Preparedness centres
- Procurement of tents
- Organization of a transport and distribution system by each of the local branches concerned
- Distribution of items with proper recording

## Rehabilitation and disaster reduction needs

### Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of housing

RCST has discussed and agreed with the Federation country delegation that there is a pressing need to provide material support to the most affected poor families, reinforcing their own rehabilitation efforts in coordination with local government efforts to address these needs. Furthermore several international NGOs are planning to conduct trainings for the targeted population on “shelter for life”, since one of the primary causes of earthquake damage to houses is the use of poor quality construction materials and lack of knowledge about building earthquake-resistant houses.

At the same time many farmers unable to afford cement and other proper materials, and consequently build houses with a mud-based sealant that is unable to stand up against floodwaters. Additionally, many of the poor farmers particularly the elderly, have difficulty to pay for laborers, hence provision with self support construction kit will enable families to cushion their purchasing power.

**Objective 2: 200 most poor families (1,000 people) living in highly affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes through supplements to local government response**

#### Planned activities:

- Identification of most vulnerable beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities.
- Procurement of supplies.
- Organization of a transport and distribution system by each of the local branches concerned.
- Distribution of items with proper recording.

## Capacity of the National Society

Capacity in disaster management (DM) over the years has been undermined by conflict in Tajikistan, collapsed public infrastructure, dire poverty, disrupted society, a whole host of disasters and the severe damage to the institution of the RCST. Despite these challenges, the RCST has been responding to varying community needs and at the same time building its own capacity for the past years. The RCST has developed a rapid response mechanism - disaster response team (DRT) - at the regional level, which is expanded further with community level Local Disaster Committee (LDC) development. Disaster Response Team (DRT) has been developed as part of the RCST/Federation's strategy to improve the rapid response capacity and to ensure RCST active participation in

## **Tajikistan : Earthquake DREF Bulletin**

disaster response activities. The primary purpose of the DRT is to ensure prompt, effective and concerted country level response to a disaster. The team comprises a trained group of RCST staff and volunteers together with their equipment and are based in nine regional disaster response centres ready to be activated within 2/3 hours after the notice is given. The DRTs provide first aid services to the disaster affected population and distribute, in case of necessity, emergency items pre positioned in nine Disaster Preparedness Centres, conduct rapid need assessment and design an action plan for emergency relief operation and, develop the emergency operation together with RCST concerned branch(es) and other actors in the area. DRT will mobilise more volunteers and available materials for the operation.

### **Capacity of the International Federation**

The International Federation's country delegation in Tajikistan comprises a head and specialist delegate in disaster management, backed by a committed team of local staff and relevant regional and technical departments at the Geneva Secretariat.

The Federation focal point for this operation will be the country disaster management delegate, whose key function will be to provide support, as necessary, to RCST in successful implementation of the operation and to be the interface with the Federation Secretariat and donors. Other in-country delegates will participate in monitoring the relief and rehabilitation activities.

### **Government response**

As is normal in Tajikistan, the government takes the main responsibility for responding to disasters both for the emergency phase and for the longer term reconstruction. Deputy Prime Minister Asadullo Ghulomov and Minister for Emergency Situations Mirzo Ziyoev went to the affected area on 29 July to assess the situation. Together with the representatives from the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES), Institute of Seismology, GlavGeology, the Governor of Khatlon Oblast, Ministry of Health, RCST, World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Disaster Risk Management Project (UNDRMP) four assessment teams were set up to prepare a detailed assessment of the affected villages.

The Government of Tajikistan supplied 20 tons of wheat flour, 10 tons of vegetable oil and 8 tons of sugar to the quake affected district. When it comes to longer-term recovery, the central government aims to ensure that adequate resources are made available to repair damaged infrastructure. For support to recovery at the community level, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan announced that some construction materials – such as cement and asbestos roof cover – will be provided to the affected population. The capacity of the local governments to meet the full needs of disaster affected communities is weak. Furthermore, authorities are looking for partners in co financing of the reconstruction of collapsed houses .

According to the latest information, the Tajikistan government has requested international assistance and is welcoming any help that can be provided from the international community. During the assessment visits conducted in the past three days by the Federation's DM delegate together with the RCST disaster response team, representatives of the local governments have clearly stated that they appreciate the assistance that the Red Crescent can provide for both relief and rehabilitation works and requested further support from the Federation.

### **International agencies and NGOs response**

Counterpart International provided cooking sets, second-hand clothing and hygiene items. FOCUS provided fuel for rescuers to reach the disaster stroke district. World Health Organisation (WHO) delivered emergency medical kits to the Ministry of Health which could cover 10,000 people for three months. The US Government through its partner Counterpart Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP) has provided first aid medical supplies as well as blankets, beds, clothing and other household items to assist the people from the destroyed homes. UNICEF has available 10 metric tonnes (MT) of chlorine powder, jerry cans, and high energy biscuits.

## Coordination

Coordination is a high priority to ensure the most effective use of available resources. Besides the central and local government authorities, RCST is the only other party currently engaged in disaster response activities on a nationwide scale in Tajikistan. The RCST carries out its activities in close coordination with the Ministry of Emergency particularly at the local operational level. In 2002, the RCST signed a Cooperation Agreement with Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) outlining the auxiliary role and responsibility of RCST in disasters.

The government authorities assume the major responsibility for both emergency disaster response and follow-up rehabilitation activities such as the restoration of damaged infrastructure. RCST focuses on providing supplementary disaster response in the immediate aftermath of disasters and, as far as resources permit, on the continuing humanitarian needs.

The RCST works closely with various partners through the Disaster Management Partnership in Tajikistan. Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) which was established by UNDP in 2001 for promotion and sharing of information, logistics and other resources between partners active in the disaster management sector, includes the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Government of Tajikistan. Beside Federation/RCST, the group involves over 50 state, local and international organizations and entities which meet regularly to coordinate and share experiences on issues related to various areas of disaster management, including preparedness, response, mitigation and capacity building activities with national bodies. During emergency situations the partnership works closely together, coordinating response and assistance.

Outside of such meetings, the International Federation's regional delegation liaises with donor country embassies and international agencies to keep them informed about the Red Cross relief activities in Tajikistan.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation on an ongoing basis will be conducted through RCST/Federation's normal accountability and reporting systems.

**Total estimated budget: CHF 100,000.**

**[Budget Summary below; Click here to return to the title page or contact information](#)**

## Budget Summary

Item	Quantity	Unit Price (CHF)	Total Costs (CHF)
<b>Supplies</b>			<b>54,330.00</b>
Tents	200	210.00	42,000.00
Self Support construction tools	200	61.65	12,330.00
<b>Transport</b>			<b>35,289.00</b>
Transportation Items		4,000.00	4,000.00
Fuel and car rent RCST		500.00	500.00
IFRC leasing vehicle		790.00	790.00
Transpotation tents including customs		29,999.00	29,999.00
<b>Geneva costs</b>			
Programm Management Support (6.5%)			<b>6,500.00</b>
<b>Personel</b>			<b>1,451.00</b>
PD for RCST staff 10 person			1,371.00
IFRC PD for DM Officer and driver			80.00
<b>Visibility</b>			<b>2,430.00</b>
Printing booklet and Distribution	300	0.81	2,430.00
<b>Total CHF</b>			<b>100,000.00</b>