

TAJIKISTAN: FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

**appeal no: 15/98
11 May 1998**

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS CHF 560,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 16,000 BENEFICIARIES***

Summary

Flooding and landslides in the past few weeks, brought on by seasonal rains and the spring snowmelt, have cut off many villages and left more than 16,000 people homeless. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan, with Federation support, has already sent relief supplies to those areas that are accessible and has three teams in the field surveying damage and needs. The operation plans to distribute basic relief supplies to the homeless.

The Disaster

After an exceptionally heavy snowfall during the past winter, seasonal rains and the spring snowmelt are bringing widespread flooding to the plains of South Tajikistan and triggering mud-slides in the mountains in the North. The meteorological department of Tajikistan estimates that this year's snowfall was equal to the total snowfall of last 10 years . When the snow stopped there was a brief sunny period which lasted about 10 days. In mid April the rains started, and have been continuing more or less unabated since. Throughout the country over 16,000 people have been made homeless when their homes were damaged or destroyed. On 7 May, the Director of the Government's State Emergency Committee expressed fears that the worst floods are yet to come. The RCST has alerted its staff to expect the situation to worsen in the weeks ahead, and to prepare a relief response.

The RCST and the Federation despatched three assessment teams to the disaster area last week. The following assessment of the disaster is based largely on their reports. The teams are continuing their survey.

Aini area

Landslides started on 21-22 April in villages in the rayons of Aini, Penjikent and Old Matcha. In Aini a total of 140 houses have been damaged in 15 villages. In some villages people are living in schools and hospitals and sleeping on damp concrete floors. Because roads are blocked by landslides and it would take up to 5 days to walk to remote villages, some locations were not visited by the assessment teams.

| **Aini rayon** - 900 people affected, of whom 700 need assistance.

- | **Old Matcha** - the local authority reported damage to 94 houses in 10 villages. The team could not visit the area as the road leading to the rayon was impassable. Old Matcha area : 800 people in need of assistance.
- | **Penjikent** - 42 houses have been damaged. Another 25 families have left their homes and are living in public places as their waterlogged mountainside land is slowly moving and could slide away at any moment. The local authority has also reported that more than 15 other villages have been affected. Penjikent: 1000 people in need.

Garm area

Landslides started on the night of 25 April. A huge landslide in Garm destroyed 54 houses and damaged a 3 km. stretch of road. More than 50 people have been confirmed dead, while 52 people were hospitalised and 1,500 left homeless. One primary school was damaged.

Kulyab area

Floods started on 25-26 April and, since the rain is continuing, more are expected. The main areas affected are Vose, Muminabad and Kulyab town.

- | **Vose rayon**
 - { **Navobod district** - 51 houses destroyed, 325 damaged
 - { **Mehnatabad district** - 98 houses destroyed, 173 damaged
 - { **Kaftarkhona district** - The road to the district has been washed away; 42 houses have been damaged.
 - { **Goib Safarzoda village** - 78 houses were damaged, and people are living in the hospital. Other major damage includes the police station and the school, a 7 km. stretch of the main road and 6 km. of electricity cables. An important problem is the contamination of the drinking water supply.
- | **Muminabad rayon** - 6 houses were destroyed, and 78 houses and one regional hospital were damaged. Four kilometres of electricity line, 4-5 kilometres of road, and 257 hectares of cultivated land have also been totally destroyed.
- | **Kulyab town** - 280 houses have been damaged. Approximately 325 houses have been damaged in other rayons in **Kulyab**. Total numbers affected are 12,000 from more than 1,456 families.
- | There are reports from **Shurabad and Parkhar** rayons of damage to houses and cultivated land. These locations have not yet been assessed due to access problems.

Varzob / Sakhrinav area

A total of 70 houses in Varzob and 31 houses in Sakhrinav were damaged. Two young girls died in Varzob. Approximately 600 people are affected.

Disaster Summary Table

	Houses destroyed	Houses damaged	Number of people			Other Damage
			Affected	Dead	Hospitalised injured	
Aini		276	2'500		2	Road, schools
Garm	54		1,500	53	37	Road, hospitals, schools, water pipes, electricity cables etc.
Kulyab	155	1'301	12'000	2	Not available	Road, bridges, schools, hospitals, water pipes, electricity cables, cultivated land
Varzob / Sakhrinav	5	101	600	2	Not available	Road, bridges

Total	214	1'678	16'600	57	39
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The Response so far

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action w

As soon as the first news of disaster reached Dushanbe the National Society and the Federation responded by sending assessment teams with 8.5 MT. of relief supplies for distribution in the remote mountainous region of the country. The National Society was the first organisation to reach the affected area in Kulyab.

The Federation Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) released CHF 50,000 for the immediate local purchase of non-food items and for logistic support.

Aini area - A total of 8.5 MT. of relief supplies comprising wheat flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, blankets, mattresses, clothes, shoes, tents have been distributed by the Red Crescent.

Garm area - The ICRC together with the local Red Crescent branch, plus GAA, AKF and MSF, have taken care of the initial needs in the area.

Kulyab area - The RCST/Federation have distributed 10 MT. of relief supplies, comprising tents, mattresses, blankets and clothes. WFP has distributed approximately 95 MT. of food items, Mission East has distributed some clothes and shoes and Merlin is looking after the medical and water/sanitation needs in the area.

Varzob/ Sakhrinav area -The RCST/Federation have distributed blankets and clothes in these areas. The RCST President, the Federation Head of Delegation, and the Regional Disaster Preparedness delegate had a meeting with the State Emergency Committee on 7 May. The President of the NS and the HoD accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister on a visit to the disaster area in Kulyab. The three assessment teams from National Society and Federation are still in the disaster area.

Co-ordination w

Excellent co-ordination exists among agencies providing disaster relief at both national and local level. OCHA is taking the lead as co-ordinator with the State Emergency Committee.

The Intended Operation

- | To provide the identified vulnerable with non-food items - blankets, mattresses, footwear and tents.
- | To replenish the RCST Disaster Preparedness stock, which has now been distributed to the disaster victims.
- | To assist RCST in establishing a close link between the Disaster Preparedness Programme and this relief operation, in accordance with the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Disaster Relief.
- | To assist the RCST in strengthening its capacity to respond to the needs created by disaster.
- | To provide assistance in close co-ordination with other organisations in the country involved in disaster relief.

Immediate Needs •

Aini area :

Aini rayon - The initial needs of the accessible villages are being met by the RCST/Federation but news from the inaccessible villages, which is still awaited, could be much worse than in the accessible villages.

{ Penjikent - Needs tents, mattresses, blankets, clothes, and food.

{ Old Matcha - Needs tents, mattresses, blankets, clothes, and food.

Garm area - Further tents are required and pre-positioning of a modest stock of relief supplies is essential as there is a very high risk of more landslides.

Kulyab area - It is very difficult to estimate quantities as the flood is continuing and information from a number of villages has still not reached Kulyab city or Dushanbe. The essential items required urgently are tents, mattresses, blankets, clothes and shoes.

Varzob, Sakhronav - No urgent needs at the moment but Varzob may experience many more landslides in the coming days.

National Society/Federation Plan of Action

The non-food items -- mattresses, blankets, bed linen and pillows for medical facilities, shoes and plastic buckets -- will be procured locally in Dushanbe, while the tents and plastic sheeting will be purchased regionally or internationally, depending on availability and price.

The Federation will take the lead role in purchasing the necessary relief materials and will hand these over to the National Society for distribution. The National Society will take the lead role in distribution, with the Federation playing a supportive and advisory role.

Capacity of the National Society •

The National Society has one 4WD vehicle with radio for disaster relief operations. It will receive back-up from the Federation fleet of 14 vehicles in Dushanbe. The National Society has a well trained Disaster Preparedness officer and a strong volunteer base in the area affected by the disaster. Its relief department has a Relief Co-ordinator and 4 field officers who will be actively used. The National Society has a solid reputation as an impartial humanitarian organisation in the country.

Present Capacity of the Federation in Tajikistan •

The Federation Delegation in the country has 11 delegates, supported by local staff. Its relief department has 3 delegates, 4 field officers and 3 drivers. The Federation has a warehouse with 5,000 sq. metres of storage space with a railway link; it also has one 10 MT. capacity truck. In case of need additional trucks can be hired in Dushanbe.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

Information on the disaster available so far reveals it has left 57 dead and more than 16,000 homeless. However, its full effects will probably not be known for approximately one month. The homeless are taking shelter where they can, often in poor conditions with no support. They have lost not just their homes but all their personal belongings, including their clothes and shoes, and most of these possessions will never be recovered.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan with the support of the Federation country and Regional Delegations, aims to assist the homeless with shelter and clothing while they rebuild their lives. Any need for rehabilitation programmes and capacity building of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan will be closely monitored during the emergency operation and will be addressed separately at a later date.

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BUDGET SUMMARYAPPEAL No. 15/98
IN CHF

ANNEX 1

TAJKISTAN: FLOODS & LANDSLIDE

Relief items

Tents (500 units @ CHF 250)	125'000
Plastic sheeting (300 rolls @ CHF 100)	30'000
Clothing & textiles	84'000
Cooking sets (500 sets @ CHF 50)	25'000
Mattresses (4.000 units @ CHF 11)	44'000
Blankets (4.000 units @ CHF 11)	44'000
Bedlinen sets (4.000 sets @ CHF12)	48'000
Pillows (4.000 units @ CHF 4,5)	18'000
Shoes & Socks	30'000
Plastic buckets (2.000 units @ CHF 6)	12'000

TOTAL NEEDS IN KIND (OR CASH)

460'000

NEEDS IN CASH

Transport, storage & vehicle costs	36'000
Personnel (1 delegate / 2 months)	20'000
Personnel (local staff)	6'000
Travel & communications	14'000
Administrative, office & general expenses	8'000
Secretariat operational support	16'000

TOTAL NEEDS IN CASH

100'000

TOTAL APPEAL CASH & KIND

560'000

LESS CASH ON HAND

0

NET REQUEST CASH & KIND

0

NB: all items can be procured locally