

TAJIKISTAN: EMERGENCY RELIEF

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situation report no. 01

period covered: 27 May - 18 June

The Federation Sub-Delegation in Dushanbe and local Tajikistan Red Crescent Branches moved swiftly to assess needs and distribute food supplies after heavy rains and the ensuing floods and landslides swept away most of the crops and belongings of some 26,000 people.

The context

The Federation, in co-operation with the Tajikistan Red Crescent (TRC), is carrying out large-scale relief operations throughout Tajikistan. The break-up of the Soviet Union left many segments of the population without sufficient access to basic necessities. In addition, a festering civil conflict keeps Tajikistan virtually isolated from the world market, further aggravating an already precarious situation. Many families and individuals have no back-up supplies of food or money to cover emergencies and so were very badly affected by the floods in late May.

Latest events

On 27 and 28 May, torrential rains triggered flash floods, mudslides, rockfalls and landslides throughout the mountainous country of Tajikistan. The floods destroyed crops, both on the private plots of individuals and the large fields of state or co-operative farms. Mudslides, rockfalls and landslides destroyed hundreds of buildings, either partially or completely. In some cases, the houses simply disappeared in a sea of mud when settled hills collapsed under the weight of the water. In most cases, families had evacuated their houses before the calamity, but at least five deaths were reported.

In affected towns, including Dushanbe, the capital, overflowing sewers contributed to a typhoid outbreak already noticeable in the south before the rains in late May. While the exact numbers of typhoid cases were difficult to assess, there was a sharp increase in reported cases after the floods.

On 13 June, the following number of typhoid cases had been reported: Kulyab 1,007, Shakhrinaw 663, Yavan 110, Muminabad 22, Kuybishev 1.

After receiving reports from Federation Delegates and Tajikistan Red Crescent chairpersons, the Federation Sub-Delegation in Dushanbe determined that some 26,000 people had been affected, many quite seriously. Some had lost their crops, their houses, their private plots, their back-up supplies -- or a combination of these.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

The Sub-Delegation in Dushanbe responded to the floods by dispatching Delegates to several areas of the country to assess the damage. During the first three days of June, Delegates reported on the situation in Dushanbe, Hissar, Kulyab, Khatlon, Leninski, Varzob, Shakhrinau, Kofarnikhon and Aini.

As a result of these reports the Federation organised the following relief distributions:

Dushanbe •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar and clothes for 154 seriously affected households.

Dispatched 300 family food parcels and soap for others affected.

Hissar •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, soap, blankets, clothes for 165 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 200 family food parcels and soap for others affected.

Kulyab •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes and soap for 330 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 250 family food parcels and soap for others affected.

Kofarnikhon •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes and soap for 110 seriously affected families .

Dispatched 60 family food parcels, soap and 60 blankets for others affected.

Varzob •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes and soap for 300 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 200 family food parcels, soap and blankets for 200 families affected.

Leninski •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes and soap for 117 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 400 family food parcels and soap for others affected.

Aini •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets and clothes for 180 seriously affected families.

Mekhnat (Kurgan-Tyube) •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, tents, blankets, clothes and soap for 120 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 200 family food parcels and soap to others affected.

Gozimalik (Kurgan-Tyube) •

Dispatched wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes and soap for 22 seriously affected families.

Dispatched 200 family food parcels, soap and clothes for others affected.

Komsomolabad •

Dispatched through ICRC wheat, oil, sugar, blankets, clothes, tents, family food parcels and soap to 80 seriously affected families.

Dr. Jura Inomzoda, the new Chairman of the TRC, contributed to the speed of the operation by gathering the chairpersons of most of the local branches for a meeting in Dushanbe on 3 June. Most arrived in trucks and returned the same day with stocks released from the Federation warehouse.

TOTAL AID DISTRIBUTION

Relief item	Amount distributed
Wheat flour	39,450 kg
Vegetable oil	7,890 kg
Sugar	2,651 kg
Family food parcels	1,728 pieces
Blankets	5,115 pieces
Tents	60 pieces
Soap	705 pieces
Liquid soap	14 Drums (2,800 litres)

Outstanding needs

All emergency needs have been met. Those families that must be relocated will get assistance from their local authorities and the national government. Tajikistan Red Crescent branches will monitor their progress.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

A regular meeting of Embassy and aid agency officials in Dushanbe was informed of the preliminary conclusions of the assessment carried out by the Federation just after the floods.

Additional consultations were held with all the major aid organisations in Dushanbe and several Embassies.

In a letter on 5 June the Minister of Health, Mr. Akhmedov, expressed "thankfulness for your systematic support to population of our country in almost every complicated critical situation."

The international media (Reuters, AP, BBC) in Central Asia were informed of Red Cross/Red Crescent action by news releases on 31 May and on 3 June. The BBC Tajikistan correspondent witnessed a food distribution.

Contributions

The US Embassy in Dushanbe contributed 25,000 USD toward the Federation's operation; the German Embassy contributed 30,000 DM, and the World Food Programme provided 57 metric tonnes of wheat and sugar to replenish Federation supplies.

Conclusion

The Federation Sub-Delegation in Dushanbe was the only international aid agency to assess the disaster immediately following the flooding. It was also the first agency to commit relief supplies to the affected areas in an operation that covered the entire country and made good use of both the national headquarters and local branches of the Tajikistan Red Crescent.

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