

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

TAJIKISTAN: FLOOD IN PENJIKENT

12 June, 2003

Information Bulletin N° 1/2003

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: N/A

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 over 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued based on the needs described below. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

Heavy winds and rain in early June 2003 caused damage to many parts of the country, but especially the Sughd region and Penjikent in particular. On 7 June information relayed via the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) branch in Penjikent, the Ministry of Emergencies and OCHA indicated extensive damage in Penjikent District affecting 2 villages and part of the city. Figures provided by the local authorities indicated more than 700 houses and some 10,000 persons affected. Assessments conducted by the joint Federation and RCST teams indicate 2 villages and part of the city has been affected. A total of 55 houses have been totally damaged, while 125 others are partially damaged to a degree that they are beyond repair or safe for occupation. There were reports of 3 dead while 3 are still missing. Approximately 80 heads of cattle were also reported to have died. Between 1,200 - 1,500 people are affected and are living with relatives or in other community areas. The affected villages of Socha and Koktash are without electricity, communication network and water supply. The water pipeline system has been destroyed due to the floods. In Vashny (the town centre), the water, electricity and communication system is still functioning. Several bridges and many kilometres of roads have been destroyed. The extent of the damage to agricultural land is not immediately available.

The immediate needs of the affected people are for shelter materials, hygiene items, clothing, food, cooking utensils, water supplies, and medication for the hospitals or health care centre. WFP staff is on the ground to assess the food needs. UNICEF has indicated that they will provide jerry cans and blankets.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the disaster the RCST's Penjikent branch staff and volunteers arrived at the disaster area to provide immediate assistance. The Federation's Office Manager from Khojent together with the Sughd Province Regional Disaster Management Co-ordinator also departed to Penjikent. Discussions were held with Government authorities on the extent of damage. On 8 June 2003 a preliminary survey was carried out together by the joint RCST and Federation team. The findings were relayed to the Federation delegation and the RCST headquarters in Dushanbe.

In co-ordination with OCHA and the Ministry of Emergency, the RCST and International Federation dispatched the following items loaded on five trucks (the trucks arrived in the affected area in the early hours of 9 June 2003).

Item	Pieces
Tents	150
Blankets	980
Quilts	1,000
Hygiene kits	200

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Shovels	200
Cooking sets	200
Hoe	100
Second hand clothes	1,650
Sleeping bag	10
Purification tablets	1,600
Plastic buckets	200
Medical kit	1 kit for 3,000 persons

The distribution of items started on the 9 June 2003. In the meantime the International Federation together with RCST in Dushanbe are putting together a Water/Sanitation team with some essential items. The International Federation and RCST teams are working in close co-ordination with the Ministry of Emergency, local authorities, UNOCHA, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and others. On 8 June the Federation Field delegate based in Khojent left for the affected area. The RCST headquarters also dispatched the Disaster Response Officer together with their Medical Co-ordinator. In total there are approximately 35 RCST staff and volunteers and 4 from the Federation in the affected area. They will be joined by the joint RCST / Federation Water / Sanitation team.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>