

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: LANDSLIDE

16 August 2002

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

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Depending on the evolving situation based on details from assessment reports, the Federation may consider requesting further international support.

The Situation

Following the report on landslide which occurred on 7 August 2002 in Roshtkala district of Gorno-Badakhshan and which reportedly caused damage and destruction in the villages of Dasht and Langar, joint efforts have been undertaken by humanitarian agencies and national government to respond to the urgent needs of the affected population and mitigate the consequences of the disaster.

On 12 August, the Tajik authorities confirmed the following updated sequels of the disaster: 24 people dead, 75 houses destroyed and 501 people are left without shelter. In addition, numerous other facilities including roads, bridges, electricity transmission systems, irrigation systems, were destroyed or damaged. The overall loss caused to the district's infrastructure is estimated up to 8 millions Somoni. The remains of houses are buried under 15 meters of mud and stones, and it was not possible to recover the dead bodies. The damaged houses are considered not to be subject to reconstruction.

After the President of Tajikistan's visit to the disaster site on 9 August 2002, the decision was made by the government to resettle the displaced 501 inhabitants of Dasht village to the Beshkent district of Khatlon region. The latest information is that 75 families will be sent on 50 trucks to Khatlon region on 17 August.

The governmental authorities certify that resettlement is carried out on a voluntary base. The Government appealed to the international humanitarian community for provision of any possible assistance to the suffered people. At the same time it was requested to redirect the humanitarian aid supplies to Beshkent after resettlement of the people.

The inter-agency meeting was held on 14 August 2002 in UN RC/HC with participation of humanitarian organizations, UN agencies and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in Tajikistan. The possibility of an assessment mission to visit the place of relocation was discussed.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

As reported in the Federation's Information Bulletin No. 2, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) in collaboration with the Federation Delegation has provided initial supplies to the disaster area. A total of 150 mattresses, 75 pillows, 75 hygienic kits and 79 sacks of second-hand clothes were distributed by the RCST to the affected population on 10 August. RCST volunteers have organized the first aid point in the Dasht village and

rendered first aid to 100 inhabitants. The RCST also has deployed a team of 25 volunteers to assist in tracing the lost members among the affected families.

According to the information received on 14 August from Khorog RCST branch, the local authorities have rebuilt the electric power lines and communications, and one outpatient department was organized on the disaster site.

In addition to the Federation and RCST action, WFP has provided food for ten days, FOCUS, UNICEF and AKF provided non-food items.

Distribution of relief items was hampered at the beginning as it was difficult to identify the affected persons who were accommodated in the neighbouring villages with relatives and friends.

Until a detailed assessment is done either in the relocation area or at the place of disaster if moving did not happen, RCST and the Federation are continuing their activity and the need will be to replenish the RCST DP stock and to have a provision of blankets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, and water purification tablets.

The International Federation and the RCST continue the monitoring of needs and situation development in close coordination with OCHA.

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

For further details please contact: Michaela Told, Phone 41 22 730 4424; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email told@ifrc.org

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>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

John Horekens
Director
Division of External Relations

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department