

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

27 August 2002

Information Bulletin N° 03

This Bulletin is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider a request for further support.

The Situation

Following reports of a landslide which occurred on 7 August 2002 in the 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.

A total of 73 families (the precise number of individuals is not available) left without shelter have been relocated to a new home-site in three localities (Bahor village, sovkhoz Beshkent -2, and Oltynsoi village) in Beshkent district, Khatlon region, some 220 km south of Dushanbe. A convoy of 26 buses and more than 20 large trucks departed from the affected area on 18 August and arrived in Beshkent on 19 August 2002. Before departure the affected people underwent a thorough medical examination organised by the local authorities. The local authorities also distributed food assistance and cash contributed by a number of humanitarian organisations and the government. Tents were also provided by the Ministry of Emergency Situation for those families temporarily without semi-permanent structures.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), jointly with the International Federation, have deployed a team to assess the situation and to explore the needs of the affected population. The results of the assessment are as follows:

- All newcomers are now living in tents or semi-permanent structures (one tent per family, 8-12 people in average). Each family was provided a one-month food ration consisting of wheat flour, rice, dried potato and vegetable oil. Families are in need of more clothes, shoes, bedding and kitchenware.
- Potable water is in limited supply, and drinking and bathing water is therefore being transported from the district centre by vehicles arranged by the authorities. There is an acute need for purification tablets, water-tanks and jerry cans. Several cases of water-borne diseases have been registered.
- Another vital problem is the limited access to proper medical services. There is a rural outpatient department (SVA) in each of the three villages, but their capacity is very limited and stocks of medicines are not enough to prevent the increasing threat of communicable diseases.

The RCST and the Federation continue to coordinate action with other organisations.

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
Africa Department