

# 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 FROM GLACIER MELT**

9 August 2002

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

*This Information 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 will consider international support through an Appeal.*

### ***The Situation***

On 7 August a landslide caused by a melting glacier caused damage and destruction in the district of Roshkala, some 45 kilometres north of Khorogh the capital GBAO region. In response, the Federation and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) have carried out a preliminary assessment to the affected region.

The local authorities have set up a coordination centre in the town and deployed local teams to assess the extent of the damage caused by the landslide in the villages. According to their assessment, the two villages of Dasht and Langar have been the most seriously affected by the disaster. In Dasht a total of 75 households were completely destroyed (housing 460 inhabitants), 24 people died, 13 people were injured (10 of them children). Five houses are completely destroyed (housing 41 inhabitants) in the village of Langar, but no information on fatalities or injuries is available. Two bridges, 3 km of the Roshkala-Khorog road, 1 medical centre, 1 library, 1 shop, 1 school of arts, 5 transformers, 5 km of electric supply system, the communication system, 10 km of water supply system, and 44 hectares of agricultural land have been seriously affected or destroyed. Some of the affected people are temporarily living with their relatives as there is no other available shelters. Access to the affected villages is very difficult due to the heavy rockfall caused by the landslide. Approximately 250 families are now without shelter. The Prime Minister visited the affected area yesterday (8 August). Meanwhile the Foreign Affairs Minister organized a meeting of all UN Heads, the International Federation, the ICRC, and the Aga Khan Foundation where he provided a summary of the situation, enquired what action the respective organisations were carrying out, and made a request for assistance.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Based on a more detail assessment which is underway by a team consisting of the RCST and Federation staff from the GBAO region, the Federation and Red Crescent Society will determine the required needs and the plan of action to the affected places. A meeting was held between the Federation and the RCST on 8 August to focus on disaster response and mitigation of the consequences of the landslide in the Roshkala district. There is an immediate need for temporary shelter as the affected population prefers to stay close to their livestock and possessions than with host families. Food, clothes, blankets, cooking sets, tents, coal, diesel, shoes, first aid kits, pillows, bed linens, as well as basic medicines are also needed. The RCST will immediately distribute 110 mattresses, 142 blankets, 20 cooking sets, and 12 tents from their only available stock at the GBAO.

Arrangements have made to transport the following items from the Dushanbe warehouse on 9 August to the affected area for distribution to the affected population in the two villages:

- 150 mattresses;
- 150 pillows;
- 150 blankets;
- 150 cooking sets;
- 35 plastic sheets.

Meanwhile one truckload of second hand clothing from the Kulyab warehouse is being prepared for transportation to the affected areas. Other agencies are also mobilizing support with WFP and Global Partners (NGO) coordinating food-assistance, UNICEF providing medicines, the Aga Khan Foundation supplying diesel, coal, tents, and shoes, while UNHCR will provide transport and fuel to transport items to the affected area from Dushanbe.

More information will be made available shortly on the outcome of the assessment, needs and what the other organisations are providing.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://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>*

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

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