

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: EARTHQUAKE

10 January 2002

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This Bulletin is intended for information only, and reflects the situation based on details available at this time. While the Federation is not currently seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation, the situation may change as more information is received. 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

A strong earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale occurred at 11:46 am (06:46 GMT) on Wednesday 9 January, killing three people, injuring 54, and destroying dozens of houses according to Tajik officials. The epicenter of the quake was registered around 240 kilometers east of the capital Dushanbe, and was felt particularly strongly in the Ragun region 100 km east of the city. The three villages of Talkalchachma, Taguyakhba and Pasimokhrukho were worst hit, with 52 houses destroyed. Some 600 people are without shelter according to the Tajik Ministry of Emergency Situations.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

On Thursday morning 10 January, the Disaster Preparedness Team of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), accompanied by the Head of UN/OCHA, the Federation Relief Coordinator and Logistics Delegate, left for an assessment of the site. The team is delivering some blankets and second hand clothes, and will collect information of further immediate needs in the affected area.

Direct contacts have been established with the Ministry of Emergencies regarding arrangements for the assessment team and further discussions regarding needs will be held upon their return. Local Red Crescent branches in other regions have been advised to provide additional information from other areas which may have been affected by this disaster.

At this stage the full extent of the earthquake is not known, and it is therefore foreseen to maintain a Field Assessment Coordination Team alert in case further action is needed to respond to the evolving situation.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see
<http://www.ifrc.org/publicat/partner/tjprofil.asp>

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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 in Tajikistan, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal which is also available on the website.

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