

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: FLOODS

21 May 2002

Information Bulletin N° 03/02

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.

The Situation

On 14 May, following a day of heavy rains in the southern region of Khatlon, the banks of the river Yakhsu bursted in five locations and caused flooding in five villages of the Vosse district: Lesapitomnik, Navobod, Angurboh, Kashar, Mechnatobod and Kurbonshaid. This was the third successive flooding in the region in the last two months. According to preliminary information, 136 houses were flooded, as well as the bridge in Kashar and the main road in Mechnatobod, which has made vehicle access to the village impossible. Over 250 hectares of wheat and cotton fields have also been destroyed. In the night between 14 and 15 May, some 100 people were evacuated from their houses and accommodated with neighbours and relatives.

By the afternoon of 15 May, the water level in the Yakhsu river receded to the level close to normal. However, the river banks are heavily damaged on several locations of approximately 800 meters in total, and have left the villages unprotected in case of repeated rains. The local authorities have started taking measures to repair the damaged bridge, while the evacuated population has been returning to their homes.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Due to heavy rains, the staff of the Federation's office in Kulyab, together with volunteers and field officers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) Kulyab branch, were monitoring the area when the water started reaching the houses, on 14 May mid-day. They immediately reacted by using all available resources to evacuate the population from the houses closest to the river. By the morning of the 15 May, approximately 100 people were evacuated and accommodated with their relatives and neighbours.

On the same day, the Federation delegation in Dushanbe sent an assessment team to the affected area, who confirmed that the water is receding, however the affected villages are left even more exposed to repeated flooding, which is likely to happen in the coming days or weeks, due to recurring heavy rains.

At the same time, the Federation and RCST Kulyab offices are continuing to assist the population affected by the two previous floods. On 14 May, staff of the Federation's field office in Kulyab, with help of the volunteers of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), distributed relief items.

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

For further details please contact :

- *Michaela Told, Phone 41 22 7304424; 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
Head,
Relationship Management Department

Lynette Lowndes
Head
Europe Department