

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

11 January 2002

Information Bulletin N° 02/2002

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

Following reports of an earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale, which occurred on 09 January at 11.46 a.m. (06:46 GMT) and reportedly caused damage and destruction in the district of Rogun, some 100 km east of the capital, a joint Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), composed of the representatives of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), the International Federation's delegation and UNOCHA, carried out an assessment visit to the affected region on the following day.

On 10 January, prior to the arrival of the REACT, the local authorities set up a coordination centre in the town of Obigarm and deployed local teams to assess the extent of the damage caused by the earthquake in all neighbouring villages. The teams confirmed that only two villages - Takhi Akbar and Talkhan Chashma - have been affected by the disaster. Takhi Akbar consists of 75 inhabitants (six households), and Talkhan Chashma of 1,440 inhabitants (40 households). Access to the affected villages is difficult due to heavy rockfalls caused by the earthquake.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

REACT visited the affected villages on 10 January. Three dead and six injured were reported, and over 90 percent of the houses were destroyed or seriously damaged, including the local school and the health care facility. An open kitchen has been set up and food is being brought in from the neighbouring villages. Most people have been temporarily relocated to neighbouring villages, and temporarily accommodated with host families.

There is an immediate need for temporary shelter as the rebuilding of houses will have to wait for the spring months and the affected population prefers staying close to their livestock and possessions than with host families. Food, clothes, blankets, kitchen sets, as well as basic medicines are also needed. The RCST and the Federation immediately distributed 100 blankets and three bales of second hand clothes in the village of Takhi Akba, however needs for those items are far greater than the available stocks delivered to the area. The Ministry of Emergencies distributed 60 bags of wheat flour and some sugar, however more food is needed as well. In addition, the local administration announced financial assistance of 300 Somoni (some 111 USD) per family to help them rehabilitate their houses.

During the course of today (11 January) the RCST plans to distribute the following items to the affected population:

- 20 bales of second hand clothes.
- 100 mattresses.
- 50 pieces of plastic sheeting.
- 50 buckets.
- 50 tool kits (picks and shovels).
- 50 jerry cans.
- 50 boxes of liquid soap.

Other agencies are also mobilizing support with WFP coordinating food-assistance, UNICEF providing hygiene kits, tarpaulins, cooking sets, and two water tank containers, with MSF assisting in the distribution of basic medicines. A number of agencies and embassies in the region offered to re-route part of their assistance planned for Afghanistan in case further needs are identified.

Humanitarian agencies are co-ordinating their response to the affected region with the Ministry of Emergencies, and at this stage it is estimated that the needed assistance can be provided with the existing resources and stocks in the country. Close monitoring of the response to this disaster will continue, and further developments, as well as eventual additional needs, will be communicated on a regular basis. Nevertheless, the RCST's depleted disaster preparedness stocks will have to be replenished and regularly upgraded, especially with winter clothes, blankets, and tents.

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

For further details please contact:

- *Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan in Dushanbe; Phone 992 372 24 03 74 ; Fax 992 372 24 53 78; email: rcstj@yahoo.com*
- *Susanna Söderström, Phone 41 22 730 44 24; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email: soderstr@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