

TAJIKISTAN: FLOODS IN ASHT RAYON

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The Disaster

On 7 July the Federation Delegation in Tajikistan was informed of a massive landslide or debris flow in Asht Rayon, Leninabad Oblast, in northern Tajikistan. The disaster was caused by heavy rains triggering debris flows and landslides in the narrow valleys in Asht Rayon which run south from the mountains on the Uzbekistan border. The landslides are substantial, covering a large area, and large boulders have been carried down into populated areas. The worst affected areas are the villages of Dokhana, Pongos, Shaidon, Bobodarkhon, and Hishton.

In Dokhana, 30 houses were destroyed and 74 damaged, 18 people were killed and 9 injured (one in intensive care), and between 10 and 30 are missing, according to the Federation Logistics Co-ordinator, who stopped there briefly. The following are government figures for the other locations: Pongos - 143 houses destroyed, 200 damaged; Shaidon - 15 houses destroyed, 70 damaged; Bobodarkhon and Hishton - no information. The government also reports that 11 bridges have been destroyed, 120 kilometres of road damaged, 4 water-pumping stations and 13 electricity installations destroyed, and 300 agricultural areas damaged.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Despite Asht's location in the inaccessible northern tip of the country, the Federation Logistics Co-ordinator from Dushanbe and the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan arrived with relief goods at the disaster site in under 24 hours -- the first non-government agencies to get there.

Action by the Federation and the National Society so far comprises the distribution of 140 blankets, 1 MT wheat flour, 4 bales of children's clothes, 60 hygiene sets and 20 tents in Shaidon and Dokhana.

The Federation and the National Society are planning the following steps:

- { Federation staff in Khojent are convening a meeting at Khojent tomorrow morning of NGOs, the NS, and the authorities, in order to co-ordinate the relief effort.

- { A distribution will be organised of cooking sets, tents, pillows, bedlinen sets, shovels, blankets, and perhaps a small (five-day) food package. The availability of remaining Federation and NS stocks and the logistics of moving these supplies to Khojent is being worked out.

Needs

For the moment, the TRCS/Federation is able to respond by using available resources and drawing on stocks bought as part of the Disaster Preparedness programme for Tajikistan featured in the Emergency Appeal 1999. The National Society has been trained at HQ and branch level to deal with this type of floods and landslide disaster and trained representatives from both levels are already present in the disaster area. An assessment is being carried out and National Societies will be kept informed of developments in the situation, and in particular of any outstanding needs.

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