

TAJIKISTAN: FLOODS IN ASHT RAYON

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The Disaster

Massive landslides caused by heavy rains earlier this month swept down the narrow valleys in Asht Rayon, Leninabad Oblast, in northern Tajikistan near the Uzbekistan border.

On 16 July, the Tajik authorities gave the following updated statistics on the disaster: 19 killed, 3 missing, 316 houses destroyed, 412 damaged, 799 lightly damaged. Total population of destroyed and badly damaged houses: 3,510 people. In addition, numerous other facilities including roads, bridges, electricity transmission systems, irrigation systems, etc., were destroyed or damaged.

Floods and landslides have also occurred in other parts of Tajikistan, including Jirgital, Faizabad, Shartuz, and Leninsky. Apart from Jirgital, where five people were reported killed, and Shartuz, where 56 houses were damaged, these incidents do not seem to be on anywhere near the scale of the Asht disaster. The RCST continues to collect information on these widespread but relatively limited incidents.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

As reported in Information Bulletin No 1 the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST)/Federation rushed initial supplies to the disaster area. On 16 July four Federation/RCST trucks reached Leninabad Oblast from Dushanbe with additional relief supplies: 54 quilts, 380 mattresses, 930 pillows, 1,000 blankets, 400 bed-linen sets, 120 cooking sets, 800 hygiene kits, 100 picks, 100 shovels, 30 buckets and 18 tents.

The authorities have already delivered to Asht Rayon 3,000 sheets of roofing slates, 500 cubic metres of timber, 50 MT of wheat flour, 10 tents, 200 bales of clothes, 100 blankets, and 20 mats. They also announced that the government of Uzbekistan had provided assistance in the form of 200 MT of cement, 40,000 sheets of roofing slates, and 3,000 cubic metres of glass.

Needs

The Federation's Delegations in Dushanbe and Almaty have been in contact with various embassies which requested information about eventual needs. They gave information about initial needs and have indicated that up to \$ 35,000 might be needed for replenishment of stocks and rehabilitation.

However, further needs may emerge over the next several days as a result of: (a) additional data on the widespread incidents, now being collected by RCST, (b) emerging rehabilitation needs (tools, seeds, etc.) for the victims of the Asht floods, and (c) a possible recurrence of flooding -- the weather at the moment is highly unpredictable and features outbreaks of heavy rain, almost unheard of in Tajikistan at this time of the year. The Federation and the RCST are therefore monitoring the situation closely and will keep National Societies informed of developments.

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