



TAJIKISTAN: EARTHQUAKE

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this update: 25 July 2007 to 3 August 2007.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 55,000 (USD 44,716 or EUR 33,196) allocated from the Federation DREF on 26 July 2007 to respond to the needs of this operation.
- This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will be completed by 25 October 2007; a DREF Bulletin Final Report (narrative and financial) will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 25 January 2007).

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity."

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for

national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and current situation

An assessment conducted at the site of the earthquake in Rasht district between 22 and 26 July by the Governmental Emergency Commission and Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) showed that three people had been killed and more than 1,393 houses affected- 293 totally destroyed and 1,100 partially damaged- in nineteen villages of two areas in Rasht district. Some 8,358 people were therefore affected by the earthquake.

Table 1

Statistics updated on 26 July 2007 of affected people, villages, houses and others administration buildings by the earthquake.

Location/Jamoat	Affected villages	Totally destroyed houses	Partially damaged houses	No. of affected people	Dead	Other damage
Kalai Surkh	8	128	534	4,680	3	3 schools 3 teahouses 2 libraries
Nusratullo Makhsum	11	165	566	3,678		3 schools 1 administration building 2 teahouses 2 libraries 1 youth centre
Total	19	293	1,100	8,358	3	

In total, 293 families (1,758 people) have been left without proper shelter. Some 141 tents have been provided by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES). Governmental Disaster response structures and international organizations continue to provide further support to the disaster victims.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) and the Federation, through the REACT, are taking an active part in responding to the earthquake in Rasht district.

The Rasht district branch of the RCST deployed the Rasht valley disaster response team (DRT), consisting of ten trained volunteers and branch staff, and its local disaster committees (LDCs) located in both affected areas to assist the injured, and other people affected by the earthquake. Since the disaster occurred, DRT and volunteers have provided first aid, conducted a situation assessment and distributed non- food items from its limited available central warehouse and Rasht valley disaster preparedness stock.

On 23 July goods were transported by truck from RCST Dushanbe disaster preparedness warehouses to the Rasht district disaster response operational point. Beneficiaries were identified based on the results of the assessments conducted by DRT in collaboration with communities, local authorities, CoES and REACT partners working in the affected areas and agreed with the Khukumat, or district government.



RCST DRT is monitoring the distribution in the affected villages.

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Families whose houses are totally destroyed and lost their homes have been identified as the primary beneficiaries.

Upon the request from the RCST, CHF 55,000 was allocated from the Federation's DREF to render assistance to 120 of the most affected families in Rasht valley. The procurement procedure of requested items has started and at the same time distributions are ongoing. Up to 31 July, the following non-food items have been distributed from the Red Crescent disaster preparedness stock: 37 tents, 150 lengths of plastic sheeting, 124 kitchen sets, 52 bedding sets (adult), 250 blankets, 133 mattresses, 220 bags of second hand clothes, 64 hoes and 64 shovels.

On 30 July, the following non-food items were delivered to Rasht valley from the RCST central warehouse: 370 pillows, 387 mattresses, 146 hygiene kits, 30 kitchen sets, 66 plastic buckets, 280 woolen blankets, 126 hoes, 121 shovels, 60 water cans, 488 sets of bed linen and 480 quilts. These items were distributed on 1 and 2 August.

A detailed situation assessment is continuing in the earthquake affected area and the DRT and volunteers are actively participating in response activities. The government requested an additional 210 tents to cover the needs of the affected population. Since the cold season in this mountainous part of Tajikistan is expected in three months, there is a high probability that at least half of the destroyed and affected houses will not be rebuilt in time and roughly 2,500 persons will require around 300 winter tents in which to spend the winter.

Another factor that will hamper the operation is the poor access to the region during the rain-snow season. This makes delivery of the construction materials and other assistance very difficult.

Government and Committee of Emergency Situations response

Besides providing 500 TJS (USD 176) from the Republic of Tajikistan President's Foundation for each affected family, the government/CoES continue to provide the following assistance to the affected people:

- **Non-food/shelter items:** 104 tents, 200 tones of cement, 1,500 roofing slates and 110 m³ timber wood;
- **Food items:** 10,000 kg of wheat flour, 3,000 kg of vegetable oil, 4,000 kg of rice, 5,000 kg of sugar

On 23 July, the Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan issued an appeal letter for humanitarian assistance and distributed it among the international, governmental and non-governmental organizations present in the country.

International organizations and NGOs response

On 27 July 2007, the UN issued a DRAFT UN/REACT emergency appeal in response to the Government/Ministry of Foreign Affairs appeal letter (issued on 23 July 2007) and based on the assessment results and needs. The appeal covering all required needs to respond to the disaster was presented to all REACT partners for discussion and to identify each partner's most appropriate potential involvement. The final version was discussed and approved by the REACT partners on 1 August 2007.

The appeal covers three major fields of intervention:

- provision of 300 winterized tents (short-term objective);
- provision of seismic-resistant construction trainings and construction materials for 300 destroyed houses (medium to long-term objective);
- rehabilitation of six affected schools and/or setup of mobile/temporary schools (short to medium-term objective);

The RCST and the Federation will not go into reconstruction, but will continue the distribution of non-food items and provide information material.

World Food Programme (WFP) responded by distributing food items. 8,750 kg of wheat flour, 328 kg of vegetable oil, 109 kg of salt, 875 of peas. WFP is planning to provide 175 affected families with food items for 25 days.

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) responded with non-food/shelter items, water and sanitation and health items: 200 bedding sets for children, 180 blankets for babies, 14 kitchen sets, 180 bedding sets for adults, 180 water collapsible containers (10 litre jerry cans), 150 water purification tabs (50 tabs per pack), two new emergency health kit units/sets of two boxes.

Coordination

Through REACT meetings, RCST/Federation is in constant contact with governmental and international agencies involved in coordinating activities in the field. Similar coordination exists in the field through representatives of the different partners. All assessments are conducted in coordination with the local government and representatives of CoES. Beneficiary lists are cross checked between the partners.

Discussion is ongoing between the National Society and its domestic and international partners to decide the best response to the emergency following the allocation of DREF.

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