

# 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

15 July 2004

*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 over 181 countries.*

### In Brief

**This Bulletin No. 1/2004 is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. Any change in this will be detailed in a later bulletin.**

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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### The Situation

Torrential rains accompanied by heavy winds and landslides during 13th and 14th of July have resulted in localized flooding in the Varzob rayon of Tajikistan. At this time the information is still sketchy but no casualties have been reported. An elevated water level in the Varzob river has swelled and swept away parts of the main road connecting Dushanbe to the northern city of Khujand, along the Dushanbe-Anzob-Istaravshan route.

Along a 30km stretch between Hushyori village and the Siama river, the road has become impassable in several parts. Reports on the number of vehicles trapped vary, but in total there could be over 100 cars and trucks, with up to 500 passengers. The bridges of Khoja Obigarm and Takob villages are heavily damaged. In addition, government officials are suspicious of possible problems in Dushanbe's water supply and sewerage caused by the consequences of the flooding. Residents of the city have been advised not to consume nor wash with the contaminated water. As a result, the authorities have shut down water supplies since the evening of 14 July.

As of this morning they have been providing water in water trucks. However the large population in Dushanbe (approximately 600,000 people) means there is a capacity problem.

### **Red Crescent action**

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) has set up a first aid tent with a team of volunteers in the affected area to render assistance for people, some of whom had walked up to 30 km because of the impassable roads.

The RCST has responded to the flooding by being the first and in many cases the only non-governmental agency to assess needs and where appropriate, provide domestic supplies. The first aid team has assisted a number of people mainly due to exhaustion after walking from their stranded vehicles. The current situation indicates that the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has the capacity to respond to the situation within its own resources and in coordination with other agencies. It is expected that the Red Crescent may be called upon to provide purification tablets to Dushanbe city residents. Confirmation of this is awaited. Further information should be available within the next 24 to 48 hours.