

Child Protection RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT KHATLON FLOODINGS, 2021 20-27 May 2021

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CRU DRR	Child Rights Unit Disaster Risk Reduction
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HH	Households
IACP	Inter-Agency Contingency Plan
ID	Identification Document
MOHSPP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PDNA	Post-Disaster Needs Assessment
PSS	Psychosocial support
PTSD	Post-traumatic stress disorder
RCST	Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan
SAHU	Social Assistance at Home Unit
TSA	Targeted Social Assistance
VAC	Violence against Children

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Executive Summary

UNICEF liaised with the relevant stakeholders to identify the child protection needs after the flooding in Khatlon Region. This report contains the child protection needs based on the initial data collected by UNICEF directly through the Household survey on Kulob and secondary data shared by the Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan (RCST). Partial information was collected through the different stakeholders, including the Child Rights Units and local NGOs.

Child Protection Rapid Needs Assessment mainly covers the issues of situation of unaccompanied and separated children and the need to provision of the psychosocial support for children in flood affected areas. Other specific areas of child protection that touches upon gender-based violence, loss of identify documents, need for social protection interventions and exploitation.

UNICEF had separate meetings at the Red Crescent Societies in national and local level to obtain additional data related to child protection, hence part of the report contributed by the Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan.

Based on the impact of the floods to child protection needs, based on the assessment carried by the RCST it was agreed that identified that child protection interventions will be focused on major three districts: Kulob, Vakhsh and Abdurahmoni Jomi.

Methodology

UNICEF liaised with the RCST at national and local level to carry out an assessment in Kulob. RCST additional shared information related to the need to provision of the psychosocial support to children in the most affected zones: Kulob, Vakhsh and Abdurahmoni Jomi.

The difference between Kulob and other two districts is families in Vakhsh and Abdurahmoni Jomi are temporarily residing in the tents, but in Kulob family members were placed together with the families.

Using the Rapid Child Protection Assessment Form the affected HHs were visited in Kulob and data collected. Mainly the head of HHs and caregivers were asked questions and in a very rare cases adolescents were given an additional question, taking the consent from caregivers. The following issues were assessed during assessment carried out by UNICEF and Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan:

- 1. Children left without parental care due to emergency
- 2. Psychological well-being of children who are affected by flooding

- 3. Physical safety of children
- 4. Existing coping mechanisms for children to deal with the stress
- 5. Observation of the involvement of children in labour
- 6. Observation of VAC and GBV
- 7. Children left out of school
- 8. Identification Documents
- 9. Social Protection to families

Additionally, UNICEF collected initial data related children who left out of schools due to multiple reasons: school damage, children left to live with other relative and other reasons. And questions related to health issues of children were asked during HH visits in Kulob. The local service providers NGO Zarshedabonu, an NGO providing the rehabilitation services at community level located in the flood zone visited and qualitative information obtained.

Rapid Child Protection Assessment Form is provided in Annex I and mainly focuses on Household Survey. Additionally, other observations were included during the visit to the families. Details of the Households is reflected in Annex II.

Findings

Children left without parental care due to emergency

Based on the information collected through the Rapid Child Protection Assessment Form, information received from the Child Rights Units, Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan there is no child left without parental care during emergencies. Children either living with their caregivers or staying with their extended families. In most cases children are staying with the extended families are accompanied by one of the caregivers, and in most instances with mothers.

Children in Vakhsh and Abdurahmoni Jomi staying with their caregivers, but in Kulob some children were sent out to their relatives and some of those children are accompanied by their mothers. Respondents in Kulob did not have any concerns when their children with their relatives, but some of them expressed their soonest return, since they think it may not be good to keep children for longer period avoiding overburden for extended families. Based on the assessment it was identified that children sent to their relatives are not living far away, some of the in a walking distance and some of them up to 5-6 kilometers far away. Out of 18 HHs only one family sent out children temporarily to Dushanbe. The is constant contact with children staying with extended families.

Based on the scale of emergencies, such caseload is usually addressed by the Commission on Child Rights. Communication established with the Secretary of the Commission on Child Rights in Kulob and previous statement is confirmed. No children sent to Residential Childcare Institutions due to flooding in Kulob, Abdurahmoni Jomi and Vakhsh.

Psychological well-being of children who are affected by flooding

The quantitative and qualitative data indicated that some children have issues related to mental health immediately after seeing he flood. The following signs were expressed by the caregivers: not sleeping for long period of time, having periodic fever and other sickness, sense of fear, existence of the venomous snakes (at least two caregivers noted that the flood washed down snakes from the hill in Kulob).

Caregiver are stressed of being excluded from required support to cope up with the situation. Families living is partially damaged houses have more expectation of restoration of their houses, but due to being excluded from the list of families that new houses constructed are stressed. Caregivers also expressed soonest return of their children who are staying with extended families, since it will be an overburden for extended families.

Physical safety of children

There is no data obtained related to physical harm for children, however the caregivers informed on the cases of sickness among children, such as fever, diarrhea, and skin problems. Based on the discussion, the medical care provided to caregivers and children based on the need.

Existing coping mechanisms for children to deal with the stress

The main coping mechanism of children to deal with the stress is support from the caregivers and extended families, especially the ones who provided shelter for the relatives.

NGO Zarshedabonu located is the flood affected area, but not damaged by the flood is still functioning and provides community-based rehabilitation for children with disabilities.

Observation of the involvement of children in labour

During assessment it was observed that some of the school children were involved in clearing the debris, doing the heavy work.

Observation of VAC and GBV

No relevant information received at this stage from the caregivers and no observation is made. Majority of children in Kulob were sent out to their extended families.

Children left out of school

Majority of children in flood affected areas in Kulob do not attend school during the time of assessment and from what caregivers provided. The Kulob Secondary School #52 was affected by flood, and it was promised by the local authorities that the school will open on 24 May 2021. Based on the assessment it was identified that many children do not go to schools due to fact that they lost their clothes and schoolbooks.

Some of children attending other schools not affected by the flood continue attending these schools, but there is still an issue for some children not attending due to loss of their clothes and schoolbooks.

Some caregivers noted of the end of the school year and not much interested to send out their children to school, since the schools will close soon.

In one case the caregiver noted of receiving school uniform for the child to continue attending school.

Caregivers have concern of returning the schoolbooks to school, since some of them completely lost, or has been damaged.

Quote from the caregiver in Kulob: "We really want our children to go back to their normal schooling, but given circumstances, and complex issues of absence of proper housing, lost schoolbooks and clothing is creating barrier for my children to go back to school after this flooding"



Identification documents

Half of the assessed families in Kulob lost their ID documents or documents are partially damaged, including passports for adults and birth registration for children. Some families lost some of their documents, stating that they kept these documents in a different location in the house.

No cases of refusal from the humanitarian assistance were observed during assessment, since the record for the families are maintained by the head of mahalla.

Social Protection to Families

Previously registered poor HHs were receiving TSA, the amount of TJS100.00 per quarter. Elder persons of pension age all are receiving either social or labour pension regularly. Some of the families have adults with disabilities. In one family children are receiving breadwinner pension.

No social assistance at home provided to assessed families before and after the flooding.

Short-term impact: Temporary placement of children in camps and with extended families

- Even though all children are accompanied by their caregivers in a camp or with the extended families, there is a concern of that these children may not have access to necessary service, at risk of violence, exploitation, and neglect.
- The caregivers are mainly focused on restoring their houses and cleaning debris and may not have sufficient time to communicate with their children and take proper care.
- The psychosocial wellbeing of the children involved remains a concern, since they witnessed this emergency and negatively had an impact.
- Children graduating from the school and lost their ID cards may face barriers to obtain passport and further process of getting admission to University/ college level.

Long-term impact: Institutionalization of children and referral to specialised services

- Children of the families not coping up with the situation, including restoration of the shelter, receiving an additional support may become at risk of being placed in the residential childcare institutions
- Lack of psychosocial support, especially for children with post-traumatic stress disorders may have the negative long-term impact, unless specialised services are made available.

Recommendations

- 1. Provide psychosocial support to children in the affected zone, specifically in Kulob, Vakhsh and Abdurahmoni Jomi using mobile group to serve as child friendly spaces.
- 2. Work with the families and local authorities to obtain the lost identification documents, including birth registration for children, focusing specifically on Kulob. This is urgently needed for children graduating the secondary school, since based on the birth registration they receive passport to apply to Higher Schools (Universities).
- 3. Consider an additional financial support for the poorest HHs to cope up with the situation.
- 4. Liaise with the local authorities to facilitate the support to children to attend the school.

5. Capacitate the staff of the RCST to carry out Rapid Child Protection Assessment in Emergencies in line with IACP for Child Protection in Emergencies.

Immediate Response (6 months):

- Work with children and their caregivers to provide the psychosocial support and identify children with PTSD.
- Liaise with the local service providers to refer children with signs of the PTSD to appropriate services.
- Identify the families whose children lost their identification documents, mainly the birth registration liaising with Registry Department and relevant school administration (for school age children).

Medium-term Response (1 year):

- Facilitate and support to families lost their identification documents.
- Carry out sensitisation capacity building interventions for child protection staff working at local level on emergency preparedness and response specifically on child protecting issues: family tracing & reunification, provision of PSS, prevent and respond to cases of VAC, abuse, exploitation, neglect and address the issue of children in contact with the law;
- Advocate with the MOHSPP and local authorities for creating of fiscal space to provide additional support to families who children at risk of being placed in residential childcare institutions;
- Continue supporting the COES for incorporation of the child protection in emergencies in training module for their staff
- Carry out additional training session for the NGOs and relevant government counterparts at local level to carry out Rapid Child Protection Assessment in Emergencies in line with IACP for Child Protection in Emergencies.

Required Budget:

An investment of an estimated **117,100.00 USD** is required to address the immediate needs as well as the medium-term disaster risk preparedness of identified local communities in three districts. A detailed budget is provided in Annex III.

Annexes

Annex I. Rapid Child Protection Assessment Form

Rapid Child Protection Assessment Form

1. Identification Inform	nation		
Assessor`s Name:		Date of asses	sment:
Contacts:		Time of asses	sment:
Organization/Institution:			
2. Location			
Name of village/town:	Hukumat:	Province:	
District:	Area or site?	Rural or Urban?	
GPS coordinates Latitude	: Longitude:		
3. Source of Informatic	on & Data collection met	hodology	
Source	Number and details	Name	Contacts
Key informants	· · · · ·		•
Community			
Youth			
Local Authority			
Humanitarian Actors			
4. Accessibility for Hun	••••		-

Means: 🔲 By road 🖾 By Air 🖾 Others								
Level: Easy Medium Highly difficult								
Reason: Security Situation	Reason: 🔲 Security Situation 🔲 Denial of Humanitarian Access 🔲 Natural causes 🗔 Others							
Specify Process to obtain access								
5. Demography								
Total estimated current p	opulation	of site: #p	people:					
Population	Host Con	nmunity	ID	Ps	Refu	igees		
Ethnicity								
Estimated No of population (Individual)								
Estimated No of population (HH)								
Estimated No of children (Below 18 years old)	Male	Female	М	F	М	F		
(Below 10 years old)								
	Total child			nildren		hildren		
	Comm	Community		IDPs		igees		
Source of these population Data	(several res	ponses possi	ble)					
Estimated by local a								
Census/name list (specif Registration	y date of cer her (specify)			Estim	ated by af	fected pop	ulation	
6. Physical safety								
Reported cases of children:								
Cases since onset crisis	Estimatior	n number	Gende availat	-	Age (i	f available)	Location/s	
Children killed in the disaster								
Children injured in the disaster								
Children victim of sexual violend	e							
Situations where sexual violence		the way to		e woods		nd water po	ints	
occurs	occurs In/around markets In houses Close to military camps Others (specify)							
	2.							

7. Separated children							
Have there been any reported cases of:							
	Total estimated (if	Gender Current care					
	available)	(tick one)	arran	gements			
a. Separated children		Mostly girls		Relatives			
		Mostly boy		 In institutions Foster families 			
		Don't know		Others			
b. Unaccompanied children		Mostly girls	s C	Living on the			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Mostly boy		street			
		About equa		Child headed			
		Don't know	/	households			
				Others			
Cases	Total estimated (if	Gender	Likely	situation			
	available)	(tick one)					
c. Missing children		Mostly girls	s 🗌	Recruited by			
		🔲 Mostly boy		armed			
		About equa		forces/groups			
		🔲 Don't know	/	Abducted			
				Displacement			
				Others			
What are the main causes of sepa	-						
Accidental separation during	displacement or conflict	Ongoing? U YES					
Death or fleeing of parent or	usual caregiver 🔲 YES						
Children sent away for safety	Ongoing? YES N	IO 🗌 DNK					
Sent to institutions Ongoing		IK					
Sent to institutions Ongoing? YES ON ONK							
Medical reasons Ongoing	? 🗌 YES 🛄 NO 🗌 DNI	K					
			f children? 🗔 YE	s 🗆 no			
Are there individuals who have assumed care responsibility for a large group of children? L YES NO If yes, was this out of an institutional responsibility? YES NO Any contact information:							

8. Children Associated wit	8. Children Associated with Armed Forces & Groups							
Are there reports of child recruitn	nent or use by armed forces and groups? 🔲 YE	IS NO						
Source/s of information								
Victim Parents/ca	Victim Parents/caregivers Perpetrator Direct eye witness Other							
Estimated # recruited	Age Ge	ender (tick one)						
	 Mostly under 14 Mostly 14-17 Don't know 	 Mostly boys Mostly girls About equal Don't know 						
Who is recruiting children?	Where does recruitment take place?	Current location						
1.	1.	1.						
2.	2.	2.						
3.	3.	3.						
9. Psychosocial wellbeing	of Children (please refer to IASC MH	PSS guidelines)						
9. Psychosocial wellbeing of Children (please refer to IASC MHPSS guidelines) a. What are the main sources of stress for children? Select maximum of 5 sources. Presence of armed group / fear of recruitment Fear of attack Fear of sexual violence Violence within the family Being out of school Being excluded from community life Inability to meet basic needs Concerns about poverty and financial issues Concerns about the future Separation from family members Problems with parents Others b. What are the main sources of stress for caregivers? Select maximum of 5. Presence of armed group / fear of recruitment Fear of attack Fear of sexual violence Violence within the family Being excluded from community life Inability to meet basic needs Concerns about poverty or financial issues Concerns about the future Separated from family members Oncerns about the future Separated from family members Not being able to care for children								
 d. What are the main coping Support from family Support from friends Support from teachers Support from neighbors composition 	cess to a safe space? YES NO g mechanisms of children to deal with stress? S or others in the community y activities (sports, social events etc)	elect maximum of 3						

 Keeping quite/putting up with Trying to find a solution on you 				
e. Who are the most common per difficulties? Select maximum of 3 Mother Father Teachers Religious grou Neighbors Health worker	Grandmothe	er 🔄 Brothers / sis	_	Relatives
f. Is there any trained staff on p If yes, specify who	-		/? □NO □Y	ES
10.Access to services				
Are children denied access to humanit	arian assistanc	e?		
The second secon	NO	Do Not Know		
If yes, specify:				
Services matrix				
Services available	Number	Locations & managed by whom?	Functioning?	Accessible for children?
Health facility (including therapeutic feeding centers)			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	Yes No Don't Know
Education			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Water & Sanitation			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Food distribution			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
CHILD PROTECTION QUESTIONS Num	ber Location	ns/managed by? Function	oning? Accessible for	or children?
Family tracing & reunification			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Birth Registration			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Child Friendly Spaces			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Social work services			☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't Know
Child care institutions			Yes No Don't Know	Yes No Don't Know

Awareness Raising programs Community based care Services to address Sexual and Domestic Violence			 Yes No Don't Know Yes No Don't Know Yes No Don't Know 	 Yes No Don't Know Yes No Don't Know Yes No Yes No Don't Know
11.Government Structure in th	ne area			
Name of the institution	Responsibility	# staff	Cont	act Info.
12.Community based structure associations etc)	es/networks in the	e area (e.g. reli	gious, youth, t	women
Name of the institution	Responsibility	# staff	Cont	act Info.
13.Direct observation – notes:	<u> </u>		1	

Annex II. Details of Households surveyed

			Number of		Number of Children			
	Town/		persons in	Number				
ΗН	City	Street	НН	of adults	Total	Girls	Boys	CWD
1	Kulob	Sodikov	10	7	3	0	3	0
2	Kulob	Sodikov	20	13	7	3	4	1
3	Kulob	Sodikov	15	9	6	3	3	0
4	Kulob	Sodikov	5	2	3	1	2	0
5	Kulob	Sodikov	19	9	10	5	5	0
6	Kulob	Sodikov	6	2	4	2	2	0
7	Kulob	Sodikov	5	2	3	2	1	0
8	Kulob	Khati Roh	9	6	3	1	2	0
9	Kulob	Khati Roh	4	4	0	0	0	0
10	Kulob	Khati Roh	8	5	3	2	1	0
11	Kulob	Khati Roh	5	3	2	0	2	0
12	Kulob	Khati Roh	6	2	4	3	1	0
13	Kulob	Khati Roh	12	3	9	4	5	0
14	Kulob	Khati Roh	24	9	13	7	6	1
15	Kulob	Khati Roh	6	2	4	1	3	0
16	Kulob	Khati Roh	7	2	5	1	4	0
		20 Years						
17	Kulob	Independence	8	4	4	0	4	0
		20 Years						
18	Kulob	Independence	5	2	3	0	3	0
TOTAL	.:		174	86	86	35	51	2

The breakdown of the families assessed on 21 May 2021 as follows:

Annex III. Detailed budget

#	ESTIMATED BUDGET (USD)					
π		Quantity	Unit	Unit cost	Total	
1	Short term response (3 months)					
1.1	Provision of PSS	45	staff	600	27,000	
1.2	Recreational Kit	10	set	250	2,500	
1.3	Training on psychosocial/mental health support	2	trainings	3,000	6,000	
1.4	Mentoring of the PSS in three districts	3	month	1,200	3,600	
	Total estimated for short term support				39,100.00	
2	Medium and Long term response					
2.1	Facilitate to obtain ID documents (2000 children and their caregivers)	2000	cases	25	50,000	
2.2	Capacity building interventions for child protection staff at local and national level	4	trainings	7,000	28,000	
	Total estimated for mid/long term response				78,000.00	
	GRAND TOTAL				117,100.00	

CODE OF CONDUCT

Given that the field visits are taking place in a post-disaster context, the consultations should be undertaken with the consideration of 'do no further harm' principles and with sensitivity to the physical and psychosocial impact that the disaster has had on people. To that end, teams participating in field visits and interacting with key informants should follow the below principles:

Flexibility: As there might be many urgent and emerging needs, the schedule that was agreed upon might need to be revised once arriving in the municipality. In these cases, the team should not put any pressure on education offices or communities to pursue the initial schedule and try to avoid stakeholders feeling obliged to redirect their time away from emerging priorities to accommodate the team or planned activities.

Sensitivity I: Please respect that people might not be in the right mental capacity or mindset to interact or reflect during the consultations. Do not pursue asking questions or posing any pressure on having people answering if they are unwilling to. However, this does not mean you could not check whether people have understood the question.

Sensitivity II: Please refrain from taking pictures unless people have explicitly given consent for this.

Ethical considerations: The PDNA process (data collection, analysis and consultations) involves all affected groups. It is particularly important to reflect the voice of children. In doing so, make sure that ethical considerations are adhered to avoid putting the affected groups, especially children, at risk. For surveying children, we have to ensure an appropriate approach and consent procedures are established. Remember that we are dealing with children in a post-traumatic stress context. Children will likely engage in a random conversation upon which it would be good to talk to them on whether they have been going to school or not.