

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Mudflow in Khuroson district, Tajikistan: 14 – 16 May 2020

Flash update # 2 (as of 20 May 2020)

Key highlights

- Tent-camp is established for 31 families left homeless.
- REACT partners supported affected families with food and non-food relief assistance.

Situation overview

Heavy rains between May 14 – 16, 2020 caused a mudflow in Khuroson, Asadullo, 18th Hizb¹ (Partsyezd) of Jamoat Ayni and village Pakhtaobod of Jamoat Hiloli, Khuroson district. Preliminary assessments indicate that in total 338 houses have been damaged, including 38 destroyed. Two people are reported to be dead due to negligent behavior, trying to film the event.

Reportedly, out of those destroyed houses, 11 have been dismantled by the owners before the assessment was conducted by the relevant services. The Local Disaster

Management Commission has invited additional experts from relevant agencies/services, for detailed assessment of the damaged buildings. While Khuroson district authorities have announced that land plots in safe locations will be allocated, the decision on eligible households will be guided by results of the assessment.

Currently, residents of destroyed houses are placed in the tent-camp erected nearby the local mosque. Residents of the tent-camp consume drinking water and use sanitation facilities of the mosque. While the tent-camp area is illuminated by projectors, individual tents are not supplied with electricity or cooking facilities due to safety concerns. Meals for the residents are prepared and served at the mosque. A first-aid point is established in the tent-camp by local healthcare services, while safety and security of the tent-camp is ensured by local police guarding the area around the clock.

Up to date, debris has been cleared from the streets of the village to enable movement within the villages, while inhabitants continue cleaning of the houses. Electricity supply in the affected villages has been restored, however supply of clean drinking water has not been arranged so far.

On 18 May 2020, Governor of Khatlon oblast - Qurbon Hakimzoda and Deputy Prime Minister - Davlatshoh Gulmahmadzoda visited the disaster site and had a meeting with the affected population.



Tent-camp in village 18th Hizb (Partsyezd), Khuroson district, 19 May 2020

Damage information

Assessment of the damages is still on-going by the Local Disaster Management Commission supported by sectoral experts, which will mainly guide the recovery efforts. Below are the results of the rapid assessment, which indicate number of households in need of relief assistance:

Villages	Total population	Number of damaged houses (HHs)	Including destroyed houses
N. Asadullo, Jamoat Ayni	2 452 (293 HHs)	175	25

¹ Affected village 18th Hizb has been hit by a similar mudflow back in 2009. At that time, a majority of affected households were provided with land plots and newly constructed houses in safe locations. Nonetheless, some of those relocated households restored their damaged houses in 18th Hizb village and returned to the village, while keeping ownership over property in safe locations. Among the 38 destroyed houses, 11 are houses that were partially restored following the 2009 mudflow.

18 th Hizb (Partsyezd), Jamoat Ayni	1 140 (179 HHs)	70	11
Khuroson, Jamoat Ayni	2 573 (289 HHs)	56	
Pakhtaobod, Jamoat Hiloli	3 268 (524 HHs)	37	2
Total	9 433 (1 285 HHs)	338	38

Response

- Local authorities, staff of Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) and local population are engaged extensively in removal of debris.
- District authorities have provided tents for establishment of the tent-camp. Furthermore, district authorities are providing meals, healthcare services and ensuring safety and security of the tent-camp.
- Khatlon oblast authorities have delivered food assistance (Wheat Flour, rice, Vegetable Oil, macaroni and vegetables) to be used for preparation of hot meals, as well as for distribution among affected households.
- National authorities delivered PPE and disinfectants to affected population.
- Aga-Khan Agency for Habitat has provided 5 MT of fuel to the Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) for debris removal works.
- UNICEF in partnership with USAID OFDA provided WASH related emergency supplies, including 338 hygiene and dignity kits, collapsible water containers and water purification tablets. It should be highlighted that in absence of clean water supply, availability of water purification tablets has been crucial at this point.
- WFP has allocated 16.9 MT of Wheat Flour (50 kg per household) to be delivered to the affected site in coming days.
- UNDP with SDC funding has allocated 338 sets of Non-Food Items to be delivered and distributed to the affected population on 20-21 May 2020. In addition, UNDP has allocated working gear to the staff of CoES involved in debris cleaning.

Humanitarian needs

- Diesel fuel and water pump machines to support affected population move faster with cleaning of debris/contaminated mud from houses and avoid any water-borne diseases.
- Further food and non-food relief assistance is required, as affected population lost all their houseware and food stocks, including crops on kitchen gardens.
- Clean drinking water supply to the affected villages.
- Construction materials and tools to enable quick repair of damaged houses.
- Livelihoods support to affected population to generate income.

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