

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Mudflows in Khuroson district and Vahdat city, Tajikistan: 14 – 16 May 2020

Flash update (as of 17 May 2018)

Key highlights

- Heavy precipitation between 14 – 16 May 2020 caused mudflows and flood, destroying 18 houses and damaging over 300 houses in two districts.
- Water supply in Khuroson has been damaged, limiting access of population to clean water for consumption and hygiene purposes.
- Debris removal is on-going by the state services and population in all affected areas.
- Almost all affected families are in need of relief assistance including food, clothing, non-food items and hygiene kits, due to the loss and damage of their assets.

Situation overview

Khuroson district

Heavy rains between May 14 – 16, 2020 caused a mudflow in Khuroson, Asadullo, 18th Hizb (former Partsyezd) and Pakhtaobod villages (total population: 6,165 people), Ayni Jamoat, Khuroson district. The preliminary assessments indicate that the mudflow has damaged over 300 houses (out of total 752 households), while 14 houses have been fully destroyed. The mudflow damaged other critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, electricity lines, and caused severe damages to the households, destroying the belongings, flooding the kitchen gardens and killing the cattle and poultry.

An inhabitant of Pakhtaobod village, Bekmurodov Kholboy (58 y.o) died in an accident, falling into a deep hole while filming the events on his phone's camera.

With continuing precipitation, a smaller volume of mud continues movement towards the villages, causing fear among the population who started dismantling their damaged houses in efforts to salvage construction materials.

Inhabitants of the village have evacuated vulnerable members of their families (mainly elderly, disabled, children and women) to the houses of their relatives in neighboring villages, while capable family members remain within their damaged houses trying to guard and save their belongings and removing debris from their houses. Local authorities have erected 15 tents on the territory of the local mosque to host residents of the destroyed houses.

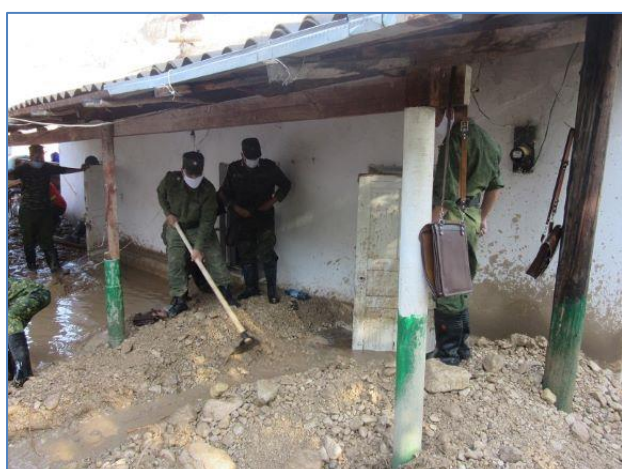
Affected villages did not have appropriate drinking water supply prior to mudflow and stored the drinking water, delivered by private water trucks in the reservoirs inside their yards. Currently most of the reservoirs are flooded by mud, leaving the population without clean drinking water. Due to the damages and weather conditions, electricity is supplied in a disrupted manner.

Currently, local authorities with the assistance of staff and machinery of CoES are cleaning the debris from the houses and streets.

On 17 May 2020, local media report that the population of the affected villages in Khuroson district blocked Bokhtar-Dushanbe road, demanding assistance to the affected families.



The roof of a houses flooded by mud. Khuroson district. 16 May 2020.
Photo credit: CoES



Cleaning of flooded house. Khuroson district. 16 May 2020.
Photo credit: CoES

Local Disaster Management Commission has been established on the site, chaired by District Head, which is assessing the damage and needs of the affected population.

Vahdat city

Heavy and continuous rains of 13 – 14 May 2020 caused an increase of water level in Kofarnihon river, leading to an outburst of the riverbanks, destroying 4 houses and damaging another 2 houses in Vahdat city. Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan reported that another 3 houses remain under the risk of flooding. Residents of these houses have been relocated to the houses of their relatives in safer locations.

Currently, civil services have started the cleaning works and ensured 24/7 guarding of the affected locations. CoES has allocated essential non-food and hygiene items to the affected families, while local authorities provided food assistance.

As the precipitation continues, reinforcement and recovery of the damaged parts of the riverbanks is very challenging. Nonetheless, the situation is being monitored to ensure immediate response in case of deterioration.



Destroyed bank of Kofarnihon river. 15 May 2020
Photo credit: CoES

Damage information

Currently, Local Disaster Management Commissions are conducting a damage assessment. Below are some preliminary figures, which will change upon the completion of the assessment:

	Khuroson district	Vahdat city
Destroyed houses	14	4
Partially damaged houses	<300	2
Other damages	Electricity supply lines Roads and bridges Cattle and poultry	Roads

Response

- Local authorities of the affected districts and local population are engaged extensively in removal of debris.
- Local authorities of Vahdat city have allocated food aid, while Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence has allocated sets of non-food items and hygiene kits to affected families in Vahdat city.
- Committee of Emergency Situations and Khuroson district authorities have allocated diesel fuel and heavy machinery for cleaning works.
- Khuroson district authorities have allocated 15 family tents to host residents of the destroyed houses.

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.
- Relief assistance, mainly non-food items (clothing and bedding items), hygiene kits.
- Livelihoods support to affected population to generate income.

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