

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Floods/mudflow countrywide, Tajikistan (GLIDE: MS-2016-000049-TJK)

Situation Report No. 1 (as of 14 May 2016)



This report is produced by REACT in collaboration with Government and humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 9 to 14 May 2016. The next report will be issued on or around 16 May 2016.

Highlights

- At least four people have been killed as a result of floods or mudflow in Panjekent and Aini districts.
- An estimated 17,800 people have been directly affected by floods or mudflows in several districts.
- The floods/mudflow have damaged more than 2,000 households, around 800 ha of arable land, livestock and other social infrastructure.
- Assessment led by the State Commission for Emergencies is on-going in all disaster-affected areas.
- Major humanitarian needs include food, water, sanitation and hygiene and non-food items.



Damaged household, Komsomol, Zaynabobod Jamoat, Rudaki District. 13 May 2016. Credit: REACT

17,800

Population affected by floods/mudflow

2,550

Households affected

To be confirmed

Displaced

Situation Overview

Heavy rains on 9-13 May 2016 have resulted in flash floods and mudflows in at least eight districts countrywide. The floods/mudflows have affected Aini, Panjekent districts of Sughd province, Baljuvon, Farkhor, Jaloliddin Balhi districts of Khatlon province, Rasht, Rudaki and Sangvor districts of the Direct Ruled Districts (DRD), and Davroz district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO).

As of 14 May 2016, the State Commission for Emergency Situations (Commission) has confirmed that the emergencies have killed at least four people in Sughd Province (Aini and Panjekent), while injuring more than ten persons. According to initial estimates as presented by the Commission as of 13 May 2016, the floods/mudflows affected at least 2,550 households. The most severely affected districts are the Direct Ruled District's Rudaki district (around 2,400 households) and Sughd province's Panjekent district (around 150 households). Significant damage in the affected households are related to structural damages to houses, full destruction of household auxiliary facilities such as kitchen, sanitation facilities, walls surrounding households, food storages, drinking water facilities and kitchen gardens.

In addition, on 12 May 2016, mudflows damaged several junctions of the Dushanbe-Khorog strategic highway, leaving 230,000 people living in GBAO disconnected from the country's capital.

According to initial estimates and based on information provided by the local authorities and Commission, at least 17,800 people might have been directly affected by the floods/mudflows. A Commission-led damage and needs assessment is on-going and the confirmed number of affected, including information on sex and age disaggregated data and other vulnerable groups, will be available once the assessment results are finalised.

The floods/mudflows have damaged more than 800 ha of arable land. Since the crop-planting season for major domestic agriculture products, such as vegetables (e.g. potatoes), wheat and corn has been completed, the damage caused to agriculture have left the affected population with seriously reduced livelihood opportunities. The number of livestock killed by of floods/mudflows is yet to be identified. In addition, education has been interrupted in at least

three schools in Rudaki district due to damages to school facilities. The total number of schoolchildren with interrupted education is yet to be identified.

A potential aggravating factor might be the forecasted unstable weather conditions countrywide, with expected intense precipitations until 16 May 2016. This may cause additional flooding/mudflow as major river basins in the affected districts are either filled with debris or destroyed dams have not been fully reconstructed yet.

The Committee of Emergency Situations and national and local authorities have immediately mobilized resources on the onset of the emergencies to evacuate people to safer areas. As of 13 May 2016, the number of people displaced is not confirmed. However, initial estimates indicate that at least half of the directly affected 17,800 people are staying overnight in either their neighbors' houses or relatives' while returning during daytime to their affected homes to clean debris.

National, local authorities and people living in villages close to affected areas are supporting affected and displaced population with hot food during initial days of response. FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance, Red Crescent Society, and Save the Children have already deployed assistance (diesel fuel and non-food items). REACT has conducted two coordination meetings on 10 and 12 May to agree on a joint needs assessment and humanitarian response coordination. On 12 May 2016, a team of regional REACT partners deployed to Aini and Panjekent districts, while on 13 May 2016 a national REACT Rapid Response Assessment team deployed to Rudaki District to complement the Government-led needs assessment process.

Humanitarian Response

Sector-specific information on needs, damages, gaps and constraints will be updated continuously in due time as more information is available. REACT Secretariat is in close contact with the Government to obtain this information. As of 13 May 2016, below information on needs has been made available by the Government of Tajikistan with an additional analysis of potential needs, gaps and constraints. It is expected that the number of needs and sectors of concern will rise as the results of the ongoing Government-led assessment unfold.



Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs:

- Diesel fuel and water pump machines to support affected population move faster with cleaning of debris/contaminated mud from households and avoid any water-borne diseases.
- Fuel, cement and gabion nets to reconstruct the dam destroyed as a result from flooding.
- Any other livelihoods support to affected population to generate income.

Response:

- The national and local authorities, Committee of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Defense and Fire Department are undertaking debris removal of main roads, households in support of affected population utilizing labor and heavy machinery.
- Government of Rudaki District is restoring the destroyed dam (approximately 300-400 meters). However, a more sophisticated engineering construction work is required with cement and gabion complementarities.
- FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance provided two metric tons of diesel fuel to support Government in debris cleaning process and reconstruction of destroyed dam in Rudaki district.

Gaps & constraints:

- Expected lack of heavy machinery, river embankment materials and fuel.



Education

Needs:

- Transportation for schoolchildren from the affected schools to the neighboring schools to continue the curriculum.
- Fuel and automatic water pumping machines to clean the debris from school classroom basements and other territories (including toilets) to reduce danger of outbreak of water-borne and other infectious diseases.
- Restoration of previous water supply to schools.

Response:

- Local Education Department has mobilized its resources and teachers to clean debris in the premises of the facilities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Continues rains to delay the debris removal process delaying resumption of education.
- Lack of transportation to transport schoolchildren to nearby villages to continue education.



Food Security

Needs:

- Food support for approximately 17,800 people affected for the period of at least two to three months, as all available household food supplies have been damaged and livelihoods opportunities reduced.
- Food for work as part of recovery and livelihoods opportunities.
- Kitchen sets and other kitchen belongings.
- Wood, gas or fuel and food, cooking devices/stoves.

Response:

- According to representatives of Jamoat of Zaynabobod, the Rudaki district authorities have provided to the Jamoat 10,000 Tajik Somoni to supply the affected population with hot food for the initial days after the onset of emergency.
- Neighboring communities are reportedly providing hot food to displaced population in all disaster-affected areas.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Prolonged restoration of damaged houses may result in continuous/extended longer-term external food support to affected population, which may be of concern amidst limited resources.



Health

Needs:

- Relevant population-awareness campaigns about the contaminated water/mud as people have been using hands with limited equipment to remove the mud in the households.
- Mobilization of more medical staff to the ground, as current human resource capacity is not sufficient to cover the needs of the affected population.
- Provision of psychosocial support to affected population, with special focus to women and children.

Response:

- First aid has reportedly reached affected communities in several jamoats through mobilization of local nurses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- Provision of rubber boots, spades and other type of equipment, including hand trucks to the affected families to speed up the cleaning of debris.
- Matresses and other bed clothing and carpets.
- Clothes for all categories, including men, women and children as all household belongings of the total affected have been damaged.
- Diesel fuel and automatic water pumps to clean debris.

Response:

- Government provided some diesel fuel and automatic water pumps to clean debris from affected houses.
- Save the Children has provided 30 sets and Red Crescent Society 41 sets of NFIs to Panjekent district to support households whose houses have been severely damaged.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources in heavy machinery, automatic water pumps, labor force and diesel fuel is a major challenge.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Access to sustained drinking water to people affected, which may include water containers, transportation of water, cans, water purification tablets in case the hand-made pumps restored in affected households.
- Provision of water for other uses, such as bathing and washing.
- Hygiene kits for affected people, including but not limited to soaps, toilet papers, diapers for children, tooth kits, female hygiene items and towels.
- Access to safe and dignified latrines affected people, as toilets have been damaged in all affected households.

Response:

- The local authorities provided affected population with drinking water through transported water tanks.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.

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