

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Murghob, Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan: 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake

Situation Update No. 2 (as of 8 December 2015)



This report is produced by REACT in collaboration with Government and humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 8 December 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 9 December 2015.

Highlights

- At least two people have been trapped and killed under the rock-falls, while more than 10 injured.
- As ongoing Government assessment results unfold, at least 500 houses are reported as partially damaged.
- More than 14 villages located in Darvoz, Murghob, Rushon, Shugnon and Vanj districts are affected.
- Three school buildings in Shugnon district have been damaged and are not safe for further use.
- Detailed damage and needs assessment is ongoing by State Commission of Emergencies led by Deputy Prime Minister complemented by international partners operating in GBAO.
- Geographic complexities of the area coupled with rock-falls may impede accessing the affected communities.
- Tajik Hydromet forecasts drop of daily temperatures by 10-15 degrees Celsius countrywide for 9-10 December, which may create additional impediments accessing the affected communities.
- Severe weather conditions imply winterized shelter and food are priority needs of affected communities for immediate response



Source: OCHA, UNCS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

124,500

Population living in 5 affected districts

Tbc

Population affected

Tbc

Displaced

Tbc

Women affected

Tbc

Men affected

Tbc

Children affected

Situation Overview

A 7.2 Magnitude earthquake occurred in Murghob district of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) at around 12.50 local time on 7 December 2015. At least 15 aftershocks of below 5 Magnitude have been recorded as of 8 December in Murghob district near the epicenter. Two people have been trapped under rock-falls and consequently killed according to reports from the Committee of Emergency Situations. Another 10 have sustained injuries with three considered as severely injured.

Late evening of 7 December, Government formed a State Commission for Emergency Situations led by Deputy Prime Minister. The Commission is conducting a rapid damage and needs assessment in the affected areas. Initial results of the assessment confirm at least 500 houses are damaged and unstable for further use across several districts of GBAO. The report also suggests that a number of families in Basid and Savnob villages of Rushon district have moved out of their houses to safer areas amidst fear of further aftershocks.

The President of the country ordered the Prime Minister, State Commission, as well provincial and district level authorities to take all necessary actions to address immediate relief needs of the affected communities. The Deputy

Prime Minister called for a Government, UN, NGO, and donor meeting on 8 December to brief the humanitarian partners on the impact of the earthquake.

Tajik Hydrometeorological agency issued forecast of approaching cold wave that could result in dropping of temperatures by up to 10-15 Degree Celsius countrywide and consequent snowfalls. Severe weather conditions put additional impediments reaching to affected communities, while compounding the vulnerability of these communities.

The REACT Secretariat is in close communication with Government, local authorities and humanitarian partners operating in Gorno-Badakhshan to obtain information. Depending on confirmed information on the severity of damage and humanitarian needs, REACT may call for an extra-ordinary meeting to take a decision for a quick joint Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment that could be deployed immediately, but no later than 10 December 2015.

Humanitarian Response

Sector-specific information on needs, damages, gaps and constraints will be updated in due time as more information is available. REACT Secretariat is in close contact with the Government to obtain this information. As of 8 December, 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

Needs:

- Construction materials to restore shelter and infrastructure.
- Potential interventions to restore livelihoods of affected communities.

Response:

- To be confirmed. The Government is undertaking debris removal of main roads blocked as a result of rock-falls.

Gaps & constraints:

- Roadblocks after rock falls at several junctures on the Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.



Education

Needs:

- As a result of the damage caused to at least three schools in Shugnon district, school space is expected to be a need.

Response:

- To be confirmed.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Roadblocks after rock falls at several junctures on the Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.



Food Security

Needs:

- Food support to around 500 affected families.

Response:

- To be confirmed. Local authorities and neighboring communities are reportedly providing hot food to displaced population.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Roadblocks after rock falls at several junctures on the Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.



Health

Needs:

- It is expected that psychosocial support may be required as well as direct support to persons injured.

Response:

- First aid has reportedly reached affected communities in several jamoats.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Roadblocks after rock falls at several junctures on the Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.



Shelter

Needs:

- Urgent need to support Government with provision of 500 winterized tents and/or yurts in all affected districts.

Response:

- To be confirmed. Affected and displaced families have been moved to their relatives and neighboring communities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Roadblocks after rock falls at several junctures on the Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- To be confirmed.

Response:

- To be confirmed.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to road blocks at several junctures on Dushanbe – Kyrgyzstan highway may impede access to affected communities. Unfavorable weather conditions impede using aerial transportation.

Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO) profile

Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast borders China in the East and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the North and West. The province is almost entirely mountainous, having virtually no level or arable land. The largest mountains in the Pamir and Tien Shan ranges are located in this region, up to 7,500m – Ismoil Somoni Peak (26,000ft). Although the province makes up 45% of the land area of Tajikistan, it represents only above 3% of the population (approximately 214,300). The largest city in GBO is Khorugh, population of approximately 32,000 and the second largest is Murghab, with above 4,000 residents.

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