

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Murghob, Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan: 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake

Situation Update No. 3 (as of 9 December 2015)



This report is produced by REACT in collaboration with Government and humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 9 December 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 11 December 2015.

Highlights

- At least two people have been trapped and killed under the rock-falls, while more than 14 injured.
- As of 8 December, at least 237 houses have been fully and another 598 partially damaged.
- At least 22 schools, including 4 medical points and 1 local hydro-power station among other social facilities are reported to have been destroyed and/or damaged in GBAO.
- An ad-hoc meeting by Government held on 8 December to conduct an aerial observation of Sarez lake and Usoi dam stability in coming days.
- Government started debris removal of roads connecting communities, but resources are limited.
- Additional heavy machinery requested from Government departments by local authorities to open Rushan - Bartang road to evacuate affected communities.
- Geographic complexities of the area coupled with rock-falls prove to be the major impediments accessing the affected communities with unfavorable weather conditions restricting air communication.
- 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 ¹

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 14 have sustained injuries with two considered as severely injured.

On 8 December, Committee of Emergency Situations, Main Geology Department and the Institute of Geology, Seismic Engineering and Seismology held a meeting to agree on an aerial observation of the lake Sarez and Usoi dam stability amidst catastrophic scenario of rupture of Usoi dam and possible devastating flooding across the region.

¹ Information on humanitarian caseloads as well as disaggregated data of vulnerable groups will be reflected as soon as available.

UN, non-government organizations and donors plan to hold a meeting with Government on 10 December to discuss initial information on damage and identify potential relief and recovery interventions in support of Government of Tajikistan.

As of 8 December late evening, at least 835 houses have been fully destroyed or partially damaged throughout the Gorno-Badakhshan. In addition, other life-saving infrastructure, including roads, medical points and hydro-power stations and schools have been damaged. Below is a breakdown of information on damage at district and Jamoat levels made available by Committee of Emergency Situations.

District	Jamoat	Houses		Schools		Medical points		Hydro-power station		Other social infrastructure	
		Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged
Rushon	Savnob	214	205								
	Basid	4	126								
	Bartang	5	146		6		1		1		2
	Abdulvosiev	1	26								
	Pasthuf		5		2		1				1
Sub-total		224	508		8		2		1		3
Shugnon	Vankala	8	47								
	Ver	3	9	1	3		1				2
	Shahbozov		21		7		1				4
Sub-total		11	77	1	10		2				6
Darvoz	TBC		3								1
Sub-total			3								1
Vanj	TBC	2	5								
Sub-total		2	5								0
Khorugh town			8		3						28
Sub-total			8		3						28
Total		237	598	1	21		4		1		37

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 9 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 and Livelihoods

Needs:

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

Response:

- 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.
- Expected lack of heavy machinery and fuel.

Education

Needs:

- School space and education kits are 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 as number are expected to increase.

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 and NFI

Needs:

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

Response:

- Affected and displaced families have been moved to their relatives and neighboring communities or living in school buildings.

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.

**Emergency Telecommunications****Needs:**

- Satellite imageries for assessment and response.

Response:

- A request has been made by UNOCHA to UNOSAT to issue images.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To be confirmed.

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 – Ismoili 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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