

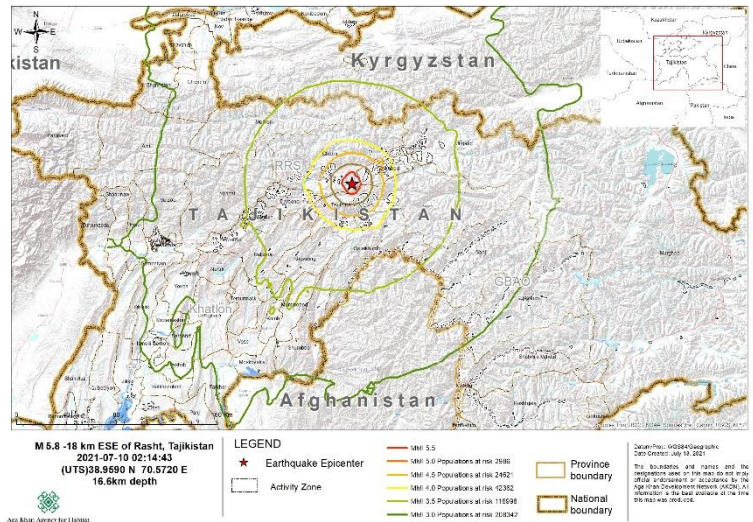
# RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

## Rasht Valley, Tajikistan: 5.8 Magnitude Earthquake

### Situation Update No. 2 (as of 17 July 2021)

## Highlights

- Government led assessment of infrastructural damage has been completed.
- A total of 306 residential houses are reported to be destroyed and damaged.
- Frequent and heavy raining causes additional hardships to those displaced and hinders response interventions.
- Some life-saving relief assistance has been provided by the authorities, private sector and some international partners, but it does not cover all the needs.
- Geographic complexities of the area impede the delivery of the humanitarian assistance.
- Recovery of housing is prioritized, as affected communities located in high elevations are expected to face cold weather conditions in 1,5 – 2 months period.



## Situation Overview

An **earthquake of M 5.8 M** occurred in Rasht Valley at 07:14 local time, on 10 July 2021. Field reports indicate that earthquake affected around 16 villages in Tajikabad, Rasht and Sangvor districts. Three high-mountain communities of Tajikabad district reported to be the worst affected facing largest fatalities, injuries, and infrastructural damages.

As of 14 July 2021, no aftershocks have been felt in the area.

Search and rescue operations have been completed in the affected areas and currently CoES soldiers and other relevant services are assisting population in debris removal and preservation of assets and belongings.

Displaced population is currently placed in the family tents installed in the yards or in the neighborhood by the houses. In many cases, provided family tents are not sufficient to host all the household members and mainly used to provide night lodging to women and children. While, displaced families can use undamaged WASH facilities of neighbors, unavailability of cooking facilities remains a challenge.

Population continue using the same pre-disaster drinking water supply systems (community taps of spring waters). However, electricity is supplied in scheduled manner to enable safe debris removal.

Frequent heavy raining and hails cause additional hardships to the affected families, especially those displaced and severely hinders the response interventions.

Logistical access to the affected communities remains a challenge due to the geographical complexities (isolated communities located at high altitudes of 2000 – 2300 m) and unstable weather conditions.

Government led assessment has been completed on 15 July 2021, identifying the destroyed and damaged houses. The total number of fully destroyed houses stands at 65 and another 242 are reported to be partially damaged. It should be pointed that while houses considered to be “partially damaged”, those are mainly unsuitable for living and



Destroyed house in Buston, Tajikabad district  
Photo credit: OCHA

require major reinforcement before they can be re-settled. Assessment also reports around 8 rural schools being damaged, where at least one in Tajikabad district is being completely destroyed.

Below are housing damage figures by districts, in line with the Government assessment results:

District	Destroyed houses	Damaged houses	Total
Tajikabad	60	208	268
Rasht	4	31	35
Sangvor	1	3	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>307</b>

## Humanitarian Response

Inter-Agency State Commission on Emergency Situations led by the Prime Minister of Tajikistan coordinates the response operations. The Chairman of CoES being deployed to the affected areas in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake leads the response interventions on the spot, including the damage and needs assessment.

On 16 July 2021, UN Resident Coordinator/ the co-Chair of REACT has visited disaster affected area. During the visit, UN RC visited number of affected houses, met with the Chairman of Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic Tajikistan, the CoES Chairman, the Head of Tajikabad district and discussed the situation, humanitarian caseload, and outstanding needs. UN RC reassured the readiness of the UN partners, to support the population and in her capacity of REACT co-chair committed to advocate for stronger support of REACT partners.

Displaced population is provided with hot meals, sponsored mainly by private entrepreneurs. In addition, national authorities have provided some food packages to affected families in Tajikabad district.

Around 139 tents provided by the State Agency on Reserves (79 pcs) and Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (60 pcs) have been installed in the yards of the destroyed and damaged houses of Tajikabad district. UNDP has committed to allocate 10 MT of fuel.

UNICEF has provided family and dignity kits, water purification tablets for all the affected families, as well as C4D materials for water purification tablets and COVID-19.

Government of Tajikistan made a commitment to provide set of construction materials to affected families, which include cement (10MT), railings (1m3), metallic wire/fitting (2 MT), roofing sheets (100 pcs). The delivery of the construction has already started, however logistical challenges are faced as heavy motor trucks can not reach the isolated villages. Heavy motor trucks need to be offloaded to smaller trucks increasing the logistical costs and prolonging the delivery time.



Meeting of UN RC, CoES Chairman and Chairman of Parliament in Tajikabad district, 16 July 2021

## Humanitarian Needs

Immediate humanitarian needs	Longer-term recovery needs
Tents and sets of non-food items, including clothing, kitchen utensils and tarpalium	Construction materials <i>CoES prioritizes construction materials over other needs, to ensure soonest recovery process.</i>
Fuels and lubricants	Multipurpose cash assistance
Hygiene items and PPE	Social infrastructure reconstruction
Mental health and psychosocial support	

Food assistance	
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Following **needs** have been **prioritized** following a field visit to the disaster site, interviews with CoES Chairman, local authorities (district and community level) and sporadic interviews with population:

Fuel – as reported above shortage of fuel hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

Essential non-food items – those limited belongings restored by the families, were severely damaged by the recent raining and hail and remain in urgent needs of NFIs. Up to date, no NFIs have been provided by partners.

Food assistance – most of the subsidiary buildings, used for storage of food stocks, livestock and agricultural inputs have suffered the major damages (due to quality of the construction) and most of those stocks were not recovered.

Housing recovery – the climate conditions of the affected communities foresee soon (in coming 1,5 – 2 months) drop of weather temperatures and precipitation, which will hamper any construction works, leaving displaced population in temporary shelters. Earliest commencement of construction works is vital.

Livelihood recovery - the core livelihoods of the affected population is heavily based on agriculture and limited wage labour, principally outside of Tajikistan (which has decreased earlier due to COVID). In addition, those capable family members can not return to their jobs and/or agricultural lands as they are fully involved in recovery.

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