

RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Floods in Khatlon: 7 – 13 May 2021

Situation Report # 2 (as of 19 May 2021)

Highlights

- Assessment of the damage is on-going by the authorities.
- Latest rough estimates indicate over 2000 affected households.
- Sectoral assessments are on-going/planned by REACT Sector Groups.
- Relief assistance is provided by REACT partners to Jomi, Kulob and Vaksh districts.

Situation Overview

The torrential rains of 7 – 12 May 2021 triggered floods, landslides and mudflows in many of the country's districts. The largest number of losses and destructions are faced by districts and cities of Khatlon province. Disasters affected following cities and districts: Kulob city and districts of Vakhsh, Jomi, Vose, Shamsiddini Shohin, Yovon, Dusti, Muminobod, Qushoniyon, Dangara and Khuroson.

Assessment of the damage is on-going by the authorities. Up to date, assessment reports confirm the destruction of at least 128 houses and significant damage to around 400 houses. Damages caused by disasters to private and social infrastructure have disrupted the livelihoods of over 14,500 people, according to initial estimations.

The Government of Tajikistan has activated an Inter-Agency Commission on Emergency Situations (Commission) in each disaster-affected district, which fully facilitate the response

respective local operations. Furthermore, Emergency Operations Centers (Shtab) have been set up in each disaster-affected district, which collects and analyzes relevant information and coordinates the relevant response activities.

Up to-date, response actions in every district include: debris removal, restoration of road access and sewage systems, constant disinfection of the affected territories, assessment of damages and needs, collection and distribution of immediate relief assistance, as well as recovery planning.

Summary information by district

Reported disasters affected districts to a varying degrees, causing different levels of damage. Below is the summarized updated information listed by districts and solicited from different sources. Please note that below list covers only those districts where the immediate response (liquidation) actions are on-going :

[Kulob city - 11 May 2021] Kulob city is considered as one of the worst affected districts. Government Assessment Teams are still conducting house by house assessment and identified over 41 destroyed houses. Updated estimates report over 850 households as affected and in need of assistance.

As no collective shelters or tent camps have been established, it is challenging to estimate the number of displaced populations. Field reports indicate that most of the affected have returned to their damaged houses from their hosting relatives and along with services are engaged in debris removal and rehabilitation of damaged facilities. Families left homeless are supplied with tents upon request, which will shelter them until new houses are constructed.

Sanitation conditions remain in critical conditions, as debris are not fully cleaned, and weather temperature is raising. Authorities are conducting regular disinfection, which is challenged by limited access to some affected territories. Debris removal is continued, along with restoration of road access and cleaning of sewage and water supply systems.



Tent Camp in Vaksh district
Photo credit: CoES

The relief assistance provided by different sources (Government, private sector, REACT partners) are collected and distributed at Emergency Operation Center (Shtab). Hot meals are also prepared and distributed at Shtab for responders and affected population.

Government has agreed on standard design of house to be constructed for families in need of housing. The estimated cost of such house is around 280,000 TJS. Apart from construction materials, different state and non-state entities (ministries, agencies and companies) have volunteered to support population in construction of houses. As of date of report, Ministry on Internal Affairs committed to support 4 households and started the construction works.

[Vakhsh district - 11 May 2021] The latest reports indicate that mudflows affected over 180 households and left 45 households homeless in three villages. Crops on over 1000 ha of land have been destroyed as significant damage has been caused to irrigation canals and roads.

A total of 256 displaced people (residents of destroyed houses) are hosted in a temporary tent camp established by the authorities straight after the disaster. Tent camp residents are provided with hot meals and drinking water (delivered by tankers). Some temporary toilets and washing facilities are also arranged in the tent camp, although reports from the field indicate that those services do not meet minimum humanitarian standards.

Cleaning of roads and removal of debris from private houses is continued. Electricity supply is restored, while supply of drinking water is complicated by existing pre-disaster breakages.

Commission agreed that destroyed and damaged houses should be reconstructed on the same land plots. As of date, most of the tents have been relocated to the yards of the destroyed houses and displaced population is expected to live in those, while their houses will be reconstructed. While relocation of tents is yet on-going, there are no reports whether washing, cooking and sanitation facilities will be arranged for the period of construction.

[Jomi district - 8 May 2021] Earth motion is continued at lower pace, posing a risk of destruction to another 12 residential houses. The Commission expects results of the geological survey to take a decision on relocation of the houses from risk zones.

Distribution of land plots to 20 homeless households (earlier collapsed houses) has been completed and tents have been relocated to the allocated land plots. While construction works have started on the new land plots, families lack basic services, including washing facilities, kitchens and latrines. Authorities are still delivering hot meals and drinking water to the displaced families.

[Dusti district - 11 May 2021] The mudflow in Village Umed of Jamoat Navzamin destroyed the water supply system, which was supplying both drinking and irrigation water to around 3500 people residing in the village. It is reported that system will be up and running latest by May 22, 2021, meanwhile population does not have access to drinking water.

[Vose district 13 May 2021] Mudflow disrupted the livelihood of three villages, destroying 3 houses and damaging another 157 houses. It is expected that by 20 May, all the affected houses will be cleaned from mud, however cleaning of roads and canals is continued. It was reported that shortage of fuel significantly challenges the cleaning works. Affected houses and streets are regularly disinfected, however there is a risk of chlorine stock depletion.

As of date, response is mainly provided by the means of local (district) authorities and limited assistance from Ministry of Finance, which is mainly focused on restoration of services. Affected population has received a limited relief assistance in form of food parcels and some construction materials (only families left homeless).

[Shamsiddini Shohin district - 11 May 2021] Only one family has been displaced by the mudflow, while another 30 households suffered damage to their property. Significant damages were caused to the social infrastructure, especially internal roads, irrigation canals and electricity supply lines.

Access to the disaster affected zones is not fully restored, slowing the debris removal and hampering regular disinfection. Road cleaning is challenged by a limited stock of fuel and appropriate machinery. Electricity and water supply have been restored temporarily, requiring additional resources for full restoration.

As of date, response is mainly ensured through local (district) authorities, which is focused on restoration of services rather than any relief assistance to population who have yet to receive

[Dangara district – 11 Many 2021] Along with mudflow, district suffered from strong wind as well. Disasters damaged over 130 households and one school. Crops have been destroyed and a big number of cattle has been killed.

Field reports indicate that cleaning of the residential houses is carried out by the local population (extent of damage is comparably low), while authorities are engaged in rehabilitation of social infrastructure.

[Muminobod district - 11 and 13 May 2021] Mudflow destroyed 3 houses and covered over 120 houses by mud and destroyed crops on over 150 ha of land. Up to date, population supported by civil services cleaned almost all the affected houses. Electricity and water supply have been restored temporarily, requiring additional resources for full restoration.

[Yovon district 11 and 13 May 2021] Mudflow has disrupted the livelihoods of over 400 households and caused a significant damage to the agriculture (crop destruction and loss of cattle). Cleaning of houses have been almost completed and main services restored.

The table below provides a very rough estimation of affected households based on the reports provided by RCST branches and CoES field staff (as of 19 May 2021):







Districts	Affected HHs	Affected people	Displaced HHs	Placed in tents	Hosted by relatives
Jomi	167	835	32	20	12
Vakhsh	181	958	45	45	0
Dangara	134	600	0	0	0
Dusti	180	900	0	0	0
Yovon	427	~2500	3	0	3
Kulob	850	6939	41	41	0
S. Shohin	31	201	1	0	1
Vose	160	880	3	0	3
Muminobod	120	960	3	3	0
Farkhor	15	105	0	0	0
TOTAL	2265	14878	128	109	19

Humanitarian needs

Below is the summary of humanitarian needs, reported from the disaster affected areas by the local Commissions, Red Crescent Society staff, Rapid Response Team and affected population. Given that immediate consequences of the disasters are very similar, needs are generalized and applicable to all the affected areas.

Immediate humanitarian needs	Longer-term recovery needs
Chlorine and appropriate tools for manual disinfection	Livelihood recovery assistance
Fuels and lubricants	Multipurpose cash assistance
Tents and sets of non-food items, including clothing, kitchen utensils and tarpalium	Construction materials
Hygiene items	Social infrastructure reconstruction
Access to clean drinking water	Legal advice on restoration of lost documents and property rights
Food assistance and complementary food to children under five	
Mental health and psychosocial support	
Basic construction tools	

Based on the rapid assessments and reports, following REACT Sector Groups (alphabetic order) are conducting or planning to conduct sectoral assessments, which will enable identification of all the needs and their prioritization:

	Education	Field Assessment
	Food Security and Nutrition	Field Assessment
	Health	Field Assessment through Public Health Emergency Operations Center of MoH
	Protection (child and social protection)	Field Assessment
	Shelter	Field data collection on housing and displaced population
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Field Assessment





For more information, please contact relevant Sector Coordinators.

Response

As reported above, response actions undertaken by the Government in every district mainly focus around debris removal, restoration of road access and other vital services, registration of affected population, damage assessment and recovery planning.

In all the districts provided relief assistance is collected and distributed by local Emergency Operations Centers (Shtab).

Up to date, REACT partners have provided following relief assistance:

Sector	Agency	Relief items	Jomi	Kulob	Vaksh
	AKAH	Diesel Fuel (MT)	5	5	-
	UNICEF		1	5	-
	WFP	Wheat Flour and V.Oil	20 HHs	-	-
	RCST	Tents (pcs)		30	
		NFI (sets)	15	30	80
	UNDP	NFI (sets)	30	30	-
	UNICEF	Hygiene kits	36	150	-
		Water purification tables (pcs)	400	1000	-
		Chlorine (MT)	-	2	-
		Backpack pressure sprayers for disinfection (pcs)	-	100	-
	UNDP	Hygiene (kits)	30	30	-

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