

# RAPID EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION TEAM (REACT)

Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan: 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake (GLIDE: EQ-2015-000166-TJK)  
Situation report No. 6 (as of 21 December 2015)



This report is produced by REACT in collaboration with Government and humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 16-20 December 2015. The next report will be issued on or around 24 December 2015.

## Highlights

- According to initial results of the inter-agency needs assessment, immediate needs of many affected population have been primarily met.
- As severe weather is forecasted to continue in Gorno-Badakhshan until early April, sustained relief assistance including winterization of temporary shelters are priority.
- Government, non-governmental and international organizations, including UN have scaled up response.
- As of 15 December, local authorities of Rushon district predict Rushon-Bartang road to be cleared from rocks in the coming days as weather permits.
- Number of partially or fully damaged houses decreased significantly since first reported and as of 18 December stands at 660 according to Committee of Emergency Situations.



Displaced women with the child. 14 December 2015. Source: WFP Sub Office in Khorugh



124,500

Population living in the five affected districts



2

People died



10

People injured



4,000

People displaced

## Situation Overview

On 17 December, an assessment team composed of REACT Rapid Response Team members (UNDP and UNICEF) and UNDP Damage assessment and Early Recovery and OCHA coordination experts deployed to Gorno-Badakhshan to support local response. The team is providing support to local partners; in particular, UN's WFP, FOCUS and National Red Crescent Society branch with rapid inter-agency needs assessment and enhancing overall coordination with national and local authorities.

As of 19 December, according to initial inter-agency findings from Gorno-Badakhshan, immediate relief needs of the most vulnerable affected population have been primarily addressed through the resources of both national, international actors and some private sector. In addition, the initial needs analysis indicate that food, coal, winter clothing, hygiene items, cooking stoves and sanitation facilities are expected to be continued priority needs due to lack of livelihoods opportunities for affected population and lengthy severe weather conditions in Gorno-Badakhshan.

One of the main challenges continue to be the lack of access to the most affected villages in Bartang Valley. The authorities of Rushon district noted significant improvements in cleaning the roads in the Valley, which is expected

to complete in the coming days in case of no heavy snowfall. As of 15 December, road to the most isolated villages of Bartang Valley has been cleared up to 125 kilometers, which makes two third of the total distance.

There are reported cases of lack of mutually agreed clear standard operating procedures on modalities to store and consequently deliver international aid through the Agency for State Material Reserves. A meeting is planned in the coming days with the representatives of the State Reserve to address these challenges.

The Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) shared a damage report with REACT Secretariat and as of 18 December, total of destroyed and damaged houses stand at 660. As of 18 December, some 560 people have been evacuated (254 children – age to be identified) to Rushon district at school and pre-school facilities. On 18 December, REACT's Rapid Response team (FOCUS, OCHA, UNDP, WFP) with local authorities have visited some of the temporary shelters. Initial findings indicate that while urgent needs have been met, there is a need to winterize these temporary shelters to ensure adequate protection against winter conditions. International Organization for Migration has deployed shelter-engineering experts to assess the current conditions of the displaced in temporary shelters and provide recommendations on how to improve these conditions.

As of 18 December, CoES through its monitoring system in Usoi dam reports that the dam is stable and does not pose any immediate threat of outburst.

In addition to houses, also critical infrastructure - including roads, medical points and hydro-power station and schools - have been damaged. CoES has made available the below information on these damages at district level. It includes information on livestock that has been killed.

District	Houses		Schools		Medical points		Hydro-power station		Livestock
	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged	killed
Rushon	135	418	1	4	1	2		1	212
Shugnon	6	53	2	5		1			
Darvoz		3							
Vanj	2	28							
Khorug town	1	14		3					
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>212</b>

## Humanitarian Response

REACT's Rapid Response Team supported local authorities and partners (FOCUS, WFP, Red Crescent Society) conduct rapid initial needs assessment at several earthquake affected locations, including at temporary shelters in Rushon district. As of 18 December, below information on needs has been made available by the Government of Tajikistan and partners from the field. REACT Secretariat has made an additional analysis of potential needs, gaps and constraints.

Overall, there is a lack of strategic plans for sustained relief and recovery. At the same time, lack of agreed mechanisms for cooperation between the Agency for State Material Reserves and international partners is hampering efficient cooperation.



### Early Recovery and Livelihoods

#### Needs:

- Construction materials to restore infrastructure, including roads.
- Fuel for heavy machinery to support the ongoing debris removal process.
- Potential interventions to restore livelihoods of affected communities, including restoration of agriculture farm buildings.
- Jet fuel for evacuation of people and aid delivery to remote villages.

#### Response:

- The Government is undertaking debris removal of the main roads blocked by rock-fall.
- The Government has deployed five helicopters to support response and recovery operations.
- Government of Turkmenistan has provided 1,000 MT of diesel and 120 MT of construction reinforcement iron materials.
- International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided 1MT of diesel for road cleaning.

- US Government has allocated US\$ 100,000, part of which will support local population with construction materials.

## Education

### Needs:

- School space and education kits are expected to be a need.

### Response:

- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education and Science to provide teaching and learning materials (basic school supplies, school-in-a-box and recreation kits) to children located in the boarding school in Rushon. The supplies will be released on 24 December 2015.
- UNICEF is partnering with a local NGO Lojvar, based in Khorugh, to provide psycho-social support to the affected population, including children.

## Food Security

### Needs:

- Food support to affected families, including hot meals, has been listed as the priority need by the Government.
- As per initial analysis conducted by WFP, 5,000 people are in need of food assistance.
- Infant formulas, dried milk and cooking fuel are continue to remain a need.

### Response:

- Local authorities and neighboring communities are reportedly providing hot food to the displaced population.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) has received the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the affected population with food assistance (complementary food parcels) covering 195 families.
- Government of Turkmenistan has provided 134 MT of wheat flour, 12 tons of vegetable oil.
- Following the preliminary assessment, WFP has prepared response to assist 5000 earthquake affected people with standard emergency food basket for a period of three months.
- 36 MT of mixed food commodities (including Wheat Flour, Oil, Salt and Pulses) and 105 fuel efficient stoves were immediately pre-positioned in GBAO and procurement of additional items is in process.
- Due to lack of information about beneficiary locations and needs, WFP has so far distributed only 12 stoves and 12 MT of mixed commodities to meet immediate food needs of 440 evacuated people for a period of two months in Rushon district. WFP stands ready to scale up the operation, and in coordination with local authorities, providing immediate food assistance to the people affected by natural disaster.
- Food commodities for immediate response are taken from WFP's available stocks in-country and replenished through local, regional, and/or international procurement as soon as contributions are confirmed.

## Health

### Needs:

- It is expected that psychosocial support is required as well as medical assistance to the injured persons.

### Response:

- First aid has reportedly reached affected communities in several jamoats.
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has initiated procurement of warm blankets and gynecological kits to assist Central District Hospital in Rushon and Rural Health Clinics in Bartang valley. Ministry of Health and Social Protection is to provide details on required medical equipment for maternity rooms at the affected areas.

## Shelter and NFI

### Needs:

- Urgent need to support the Government with provision of winterized tents and/or yurts in all affected districts.
- Heating, including coal, fuel, wood and stoves, blankets, mattresses and clothes and other basic household supplies remain to be a priority need.
- Winterization of temporary shelters due to extended length of severe weather conditions.
- Construction materials to restore partially damaged and destroyed houses.
- 500,000 MT of aviation fuel raised as an urgent need by Government to support helicopter operations throughout the response.

#### Response:

- Displaced families have been moved to their relatives and neighboring communities or have been relocated to school buildings. As of 18 December, some 560 children and elderly have been evacuated to schools and pre-school facilities in Rushon district.
- The Swiss Cooperation Office in Tajikistan (SCO) released 50,000 Swiss Francs for winterization and provision of non-food items.
- UNDP, through OCHA's Emergency Cash Grant is procuring coal in the amount of 296 MT and will deliver to the most vulnerable in the coming days.
- FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance distributed its existing limited stock of non-food items to cover basic needs.
- UNICEF has released non-food items for prepositioning in FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance's warehouse in Rushon district.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) has received the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support around 195 affected families with non-food items.
- WFP is planning to distribute NFI, including fuel-efficient stoves. A total of 150 fuel-efficient stoves are available in Khorugh.
- UNDP has deployed International Recovery Consultant to conduct initial needs assessment.
- IOM has deployed two shelter experts to conduct an assessment of temporary shelters and to provide recommendations on winterization of temporary shelters.
- OXFAM is ready to release non-food items (blankets, mattresses, warm clothes) for immediate distribution.
- UN is ready to release some non-food items from UN Emergency Reserve stock (located in Dushanbe) managed by UNDP.
- US Government has provided US\$100,000 part of which provide non-food items to the most vulnerable.
- Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan has transported some non-food items to GBAO for immediate distribution.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited information on warehouse capacity in GBAO for preposition of relief items from other regions.
- Lack of market capacity for yurts in the country create additional challenges to address urgent temporary shelter as international procurement may delay assistance.
- Lack of agreed temporary shelter winterization strategy by Government.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### Needs:

- Water tanks and hygiene facilities both at temporary shelters and the affected communities.
- Personal hygiene products, female/children/ hygiene kits.
- Hygiene kits for people with disabilities.

#### Response:

- UNICEF has released basic water and sanitation supplies (water tanks, containers, hygiene kits, water purification tablets and others) for prepositioning in FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance's warehouse in Rushon district.
- Red Crescent Society has transported some hygiene kits to GBAO for immediate distribution.

**Profile of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO)**

Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast borders China in the East and Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the North and West. The province is almost entirely mountainous and virtually has no arable land. The largest mountains in the Pamir and Tien Shan ranges are located in this region, up to 7,495m – Ismoil Somoni Peak (24,590ft). Although the province makes up 45% of the land area of Tajikistan, it represents only a bit more than 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 more than 4,000 residents.

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