



Children playing in CFS in Shughnon District  
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# Tajikistan

## Humanitarian Situation Report

unicef 

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- High temperatures in August, that had triggered prediction of the risk of continued melting of glaciers by the Country Early Warning System, did not lead to any further mudslides.
- Nevertheless, as per the report received from the partner (Mercy Corps) - the heavy rains that took place at the end of August caused some flooding in Rasht and Nurobod districts that affected mainly roads, agricultural assets and drinking/irrigation water systems.
- Although the situation caused by the mudslides is going back to normal, humanitarian interventions are still required in the area of WASH, Education and Child Protection.
- Upon the declaration of a State of Emergency by the Government of Tajikistan followed by a request for support in July 2015, UNICEF has been working with the Government and partners to deliver emergency supplies to meet the needs of the affected population.
- 76 children are currently benefitting from UNICEF supported Child Friendly Spaces in two communities affected by July mudflows. It is expected that the number of children in CFSs will go up to 100 in the near future.
- Two new partnerships with INGOs, Mercy Corps and Focus, active in the affected areas, were developed to address WASH needs jointly.
- The UNICEF team, including field monitor based in GBAO, continue to monitor the situation and the effectiveness of the response through regular field visits.
- A WASH specialist, who joined the UNICEF country team for 3 months to support the response, has already conducted two field visits, one to GBAO and the other to Rasht. Based on the findings of the assessment, new supply and support needs in WASH have been identified and the progress have been reported using the HPM Analysis:

Indicator	UNICEF WASH		
	Target	Result	Coverage
# of children, women and men reached with access to safe water	1,700	1,476	87%
# of people provided with hygiene kits and/or key hygiene items	1,500	1,026	68%

\* Targets for the cluster were not set yet.

- The HPM Analysis for the other programme sectors involved in the response will be provided in the next Situation Report.

Date: 08 September 2015

**7,000** people affected, ½ of whom are children;  
more than **1,000** displaced,

**\$73,201.00**  
of emergency supplies have been released up to date by UNICEF to support the response.

**76** displaced boys and girls in Rasht and Shugnan districts are benefitting from a safe and nurturing learning environment in **Two Child-Friendly Spaces**

**2,000**  
people benefitting from dispatched UNICEF supplies, including:

- **153** infants and **148** adults with blankets;
- **1,476** people with water containers;
- **171** most vulnerable households received emergency kits;
- **111** households were given soaps;

basic medical equipments were procured for **2** Medical facilities procured to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The field assessment report received from Mercy Corps indicates that heavy rains occurred on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August caused floods in a couple of communities of Rasht and Nurobod districts, damaging mainly agricultural lands, roads and water irrigation/drinking systems. According to the reports, one house was completely destroyed and two others were badly damaged.

UNICEF Country Office is already providing response in one of the affected communities within the ongoing emergency response and will monitor situation in other locations to see if the response will be required. No reports from other sources, including from REACT, have been received as of today with regard to the damages related to the heavy rains in these two districts.

### Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Humanitarian Response is being coordinated through the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT). The structure is composed of the Government of Tajikistan (represented by the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES) and other governmental agencies where appropriate), donors, the United Nations, including UNICEF, and other international organizations, as well as local and international NGOs involved in early warning, mitigation and risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.

Since the occurrence of the mudslides, several assessment missions have been conducted, one by REACT Rapid Response Team (RRT), followed by a few assessments by UNICEF. With WASH specialist on board, since August 10, two more assessment missions, one as a joint assessment with Child Protection section and the other with the Education section were carried out in Rasht and in GBAO. Findings from these missions have informed development of SSFAs, supply planning and further action by each programme section – Education, Health, WASH and Child Protection.

As part of the Relief and Early Recovery Plan developed by REACT, UNICEF Tajikistan has mobilized \$121,470 so far, mainly geared towards response and recovery activities in WASH and Education sectors in addition to the use of regular resources to ensure availability of needed supplies and capacities in Child Protection.

### Humanitarian Strategy

International humanitarian assistance to small and medium-scale emergencies in Tajikistan is provided through the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team - REACT. REACT is co-chaired by CoES at the national level together with the UN Resident Coordinator as Co-chair, and by the CoES at sub-national level.

REACT operates through sector coordination groups and regionally based REACTs. To date, the emergency has not yet triggered the appointment of a Humanitarian Coordinator or the Cluster-approach in coordinating the emergency response.

### Summary Analysis of Programme response

#### Child Protection

UNICEF has entered into a partnership with NGO Lojvar based in Khorog (GBAO) to provide Psycho-Social Support (PSS) and recreational services to children who have been affected by the natural disaster. These include children living in the Manem camp and in the Manem school used as shelter (among them children attending the Child-Friendly Spaces and Temporary Learning Spaces set up by UNICEF in August). Lojvar will also reach out to children and families who are living in affected areas beyond the camp and school. Individuals in need of PSS will be identified among the 2,495 people (252 households) who have been affected in Khorog area. It is expected that some 650 children will benefit from Lojvar interventions, including some 50 children and their caregivers who will participate in an excursion out of the affected area. In the past couple of weeks, Lojvar made visits to all 92 families living in the Manem camp. Eleven children were provided with PSS and nine families received counselling.

UNICEF staff visited Gharm town and Bedak village in Rasht district on 18-20 August to further assess the need for PSS among the affected population and to identify implementing partners to provide such services. A formal partnership is currently being developed with Mercy Corps (MC) in Rasht district. One of the objectives of this collaboration is for MC to conduct outreach activities to identify children and caregivers in need of PSS among the 208 households (1,395 individuals) living in nearby affected areas in Rasht and Tajikabad districts. It also aims at providing PSS to children in need among 296 children, including 63 children attending the CFS in Bedak village camp in Rasht district.

The apparent lack of capacity in PSS in Rasht district has led UNICEF to include in this partnership training on PSS for the staff of MC and Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan who are based in Rasht. The training

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will be conducted by the NGO Centre for Psychological Support (created by professional psychologists). This NGO will mentor the newly trained staff as they provide PSS services to the population in need. The partnership with MC also provides for training of other Government and CSO staff (e.g. Social Assistance at Home Unit, Child Rights Unit, Social Protection Unit, and teachers). This is part of an effort to better prepare the local officials and civil society to respond to future emergencies in the district. The existence of a pool of trained professionals will make it easier to respond in a timely and effective manner when the need for PSS assistance arises.

There are no reported cases of unaccompanied or separated children as a result of the emergency.

### Education

UNICEF has been coordinating the education response and together with the Ministry of Education and Science, Local Education Authorities and FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance has established Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) and Temporary Learning Classes (TLCs) in Shugnon district of GBAO and Rasht district of Regions of Republican Subordination (RRS).

A CFS in Halqarf village near primary school no. 84 of Rasht district is now serving sixty three (63) 4-6 years old children (18 boys and 45 girls), and a CFS in Manem camp of Shugnon district is covering thirteen (13) 2-6 years old children (6 boys and 7 girls). In total, 76 displaced boys and girls in Rasht and Shugnon districts are benefitting from safe and nurturing environment that promotes learning and well-being. It is expected that the number of children in Manem camp will reach up to 30 in the coming month.

As reported earlier, about 80 school-aged children were sent to Sughd oblast for summer camp and will continue their studies in the schools of the host region until the end of the year. However, the local education authorities envisage that children will return to their families already in mid-October. The Government of Tajikistan has started the construction of a new school in a new settlement in Manem village that will be completed around December 2015. Therefore, it is expected that TLCs set up in Manem camp and near the school No. 24 in Shugnon district will become functional once displaced school-aged children will return from Sughd oblast.



CFS in Halqarf village, near school no. 84 of Rasht district  
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### Health and Nutrition

UNICEF responded in the first 72 hours to the urgent request from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection to provide emergency supplies, including WASH items (see below), blankets, household emergency assistance package, and emergency health kits. Supplies are being transported for distribution and pre-positioning in GBAO region. Furthermore, in light of the low stock level of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) in the high diarrhea season in the country, UNICEF, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, has procured 10,000 ORS sufficient to manage about 2,500 cases of diarrhea, particularly among children. Around 50,000 zinc tablets were delivered to the country and as soon as the custom clearance is obtained, the tablets will be distributed to the affected sites. More ORS are on their way to Tajikistan for pre-positioning. In addition, 8 basic emergency health kits have been ordered to meet emergency health needs of more than 8,000 population in Bartang. UNICEF-procured therapeutic food items for treatment of severe malnutrition under the routine programme have just arrived in the country and can be redirected to emergency response if child malnutrition rate increases among the affected population. UNICEF is also in close contact with its partner, Aga Khan Health Services, who has strong presence and close partnership with local health authorities in GBAO, to monitor the situation on the ground and to identify any emerging health and nutrition needs. Experts from the national, oblast and district MCH and IMCI departments are closely monitoring the situation among children and women in the affected areas. Regular visits are being conducted to the affected families.

### WASH

UNICEF interventions related to WASH: a) Response to urgent request, through supporting CoES, during the first 72h to cover needs for improving access to safe water and hygiene across the Rasht and GBAO regions; b) elaboration of a more comprehensive assessments in *situ* in order to monitor the progressive global Wash response and gaps not covered in the affected areas. These tasks have led to two new partnerships with Mercy Corps and Focus. Activities will be mainly focused on improving hygiene and sanitation in the Manem Camp in GBAO (about 500 population), and in the affected villages of Rash and Tojikobod districts (about 400 population).

In terms of preparedness actions, identification of Wash humanitarian actors' capacities for emergency response is in progress, as a first step in the design of an action plan aimed to strength the partners'

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capacities, as well as the elaboration of a Wash Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan, through the WASH sectorial group that will be re-activated.

Difficulty of access to remote isolated villages in GBAO region continues to complicate proper assessment and response.

### Communication for Development

Communication for Development (C4D), in emergency situation, materials have been developed by the Tajikistan Country Office with a C4D Specialist in 2015. This material aligns with the Core Commitments for Children (CCC) in Humanitarian Situations and has been field-tested in Tajikistan.

The office has translated the posters in several languages (including Tajik, Uzbek, Kyrgyz and Russian). The posters and materials have been distributed to the affected areas. Further briefings on C4D messaging are being prepared by a C4D Officer who is on stretch assignment with the CO since August 31st. He has also conducted a field visit to Rasht to both develop communications materials about the emergency and to inform design of the C4D strategy for this and future similar emergencies.

### Supply and Logistics

The great majority of supplies have been delivered to affected communities from UNICEF warehouses in Dushanbe and few of them, like tents for CFSs, were dispatched from the prepositioned stock in partner's warehouse in Rasht district. Altogether about 12 different items, including – water tanks, HH emergency packages, blankets and others, were dispatched to CoES and local Hukumat of Rasht district

Further, within the SSFA with FOCUS, which was signed for delivery and distribution of emergency supplies, variety of items (around 20) to address WASH, EDU and other needs were sent to GBAO on 22 August 2015. These items boosted the response in Education and WASH sectors in Manem camp and affected villages of Shugnon district.



**UNICEF emergency supply distribution in Shugnon, GBAO**  
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**Next SitRep: 01 October 2015**