



Empowered lives.
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MONITORING and EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

TAJIKISTAN

Why MEWS?

The severe cold winter of 2007-08 underlined persistent humanitarian challenges Tajikistan faces. From late 2007 into 2008, Tajikistan faced inaccessibility due to winter weather, a sharp reduction in electricity needed for winter heating, a fragile dependence on imported energy and food, a significant loss of livestock, crops and stored food due to cold weather, extremely high food, fuel and other key commodity prices, followed by a severe drought and persistent and deep food insecurity.



These conditions framed the compound nature of the humanitarian crisis facing Tajikistan, and underlined the challenges of defining humanitarian needs and the best ways in which they could be addressed by Government and the humanitarian community.

While some of these factors improved during later 2008, UNDP Tajikistan, and later the Central Asia Regional Risk Assessment, recognized a need to systematically monitor conditions which could provide warning of rapidly emerging humanitarian needs and allow for appropriate and timely response.

What is MEWS?

The Monitoring and Early Warning System (MEWS) is a multi-faceted monitoring and warning system covering natural and socioeconomic hazards affecting Tajikistan which supports the timely provision of humanitarian assistance by the Government and the humanitarian community.

How does MEWS work?

MEWS uses an integrated approach to monitoring and warning of potential emergencies caused both by natural and socio-economic factors. A MEWS Working Group under leadership of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MEDT) and with the support of UNDP's Disaster Risk Management Programme consists of experts from 17 governmental ministries and agencies. The MEWS Working Group collects data and conducts analysis presented in the monthly MEWS Reports in English and Russian.



Monthly reports are distributed to over 600 recipients in and outside Tajikistan and are posted on the MEDT and UNTJ web sites. A Monitoring and Warning Center at the MEDT

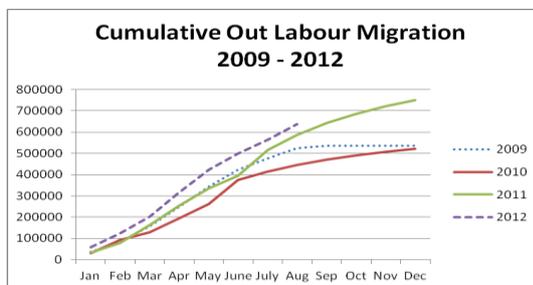


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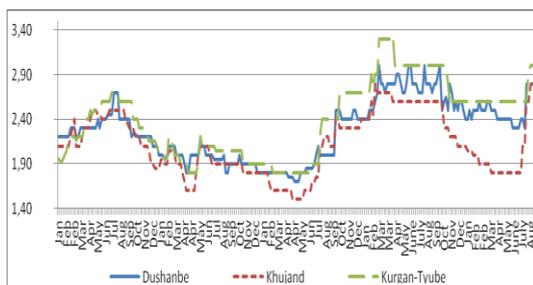
coordinates data collection, analysis and reporting.

How is analysis done?

MEWS relies on secondary data covering 17 topical areas, including natural hazards, weather, food and fuel prices, energy production and imports, health, economic conditions, migration and remittances. These data sets are updated monthly by the Working Group members. Analysis is based on whether the trend for each indicator is within or outside historical averages.



This trend analysis defines whether a warning needs to be issued, or whether the warning conditions are improving. The use of trend analysis, as compared to more sophisticated analytical tools, is dictated by a need for rapid analysis and warning, which can then be followed by more in depth analysis.



1st Grade Wheat Flour Price in Three Main Markets,
January 2008 – August 2012 (TJS/kg)

Moving Forward

MEWS Tajikistan is unique when compared to other systems given the range of sectors and indicators monitored, as well as its origins in emergency operations but eventual transformation into a formal monitoring and reporting structure supported by the Government.

The MEWS will be transferred to full management by the MEDT by the end of 2012, with limited further support expected from UNDP. MEWS reporting will shift to predominantly Russian with English summaries, but monthly report dissemination will continue to national and international recipients.

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Read the MEWS monthly online at:

www.untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management/monitoring-a-early-warning-system.

www.medt.tj/en/index/index/pageId/791/