



Impact Assessment – Miyonadu Bridge Collapse, Tavildara District
22 July 2011

Key Facts

- Steel Suspension Bridge (100 meter length) collapsed on 18 July
- Bridge connected Miyonadu (center of Sangvor Jamoat) with main road to Tavildara and Dushanbe
- Was only vehicle bridge in Sangvor Jamoat
- More than 2,500 people on the south side of the river cannot be reached by vehicle. Food, fuel and medical supplies can only be transported by foot or animal along a rough forest trail (8 km) via a footbridge over the Khingob River at Ghovd
- Approximately 2,500 people on the north side of the river cannot reach the Miyonadu Hospital or Jamoat center except by the 8 km forest trail.
- The Governor of Tavildara District and Chief of Sangvor Jamoat have requested assistance.

Bridge Collapse

On Monday, 18 July, a 50 year-old suspension bridge over the Khingob River in Tavildara District collapsed when a Kamaz truck carrying food and other supplies was crossing. The truck fell off the bridge and into the river. Fortunately the driver and three passengers were able to escape the truck with only minor injuries. The bridge was destroyed and remains in the river. The current river level is high - any removal of the destroyed bridge will probably have to wait until lower water levels return in the autumn.

This was the only vehicle access to nine villages on the south side of the river in Jamoat Sangvor. The only other river crossing in the jamoat is a footbridge 14 km upriver at the village of Ghovd.

Impact on Miyonadu and surrounding villages

The immediate economic and health impact is severe. Miyonadu, the jamoat center, and eight surrounding villages (more than 2,500 people) are now cut off from the main road of Tavildara District. Dozens of shops in and near Miyonadu have now run out of supplies according to the head of the jamoat. Food, fuel, medicine, and other supplies can only reach Miyonadu via the Ghovd footbridge and an 8 km forest footpath that may be used by donkeys and horses only with difficulty due to heavy vegetation.

Any medical situation that cannot be handled by the small hospital in Miyonadu requires evacuation by foot to Ghovd (8 km) and then a 3 hour drive to the hospital in Tavildara. Pregnant women with complications and others requiring specialized medical care face a very dangerous situation. During the assessment, an elderly woman was seen reaching the Ghovd footbridge after walking for two days to reach it.

Impact on other villages in the jamoat

The 18 villages on the north side of the Khingob River (approximately 2,500 people) are now cut off from the jamoat center which was also the center of commerce for the jamoat. With the Miyonadu hospital cut off, residents of these villages must drive between up to 5 hours to reach the district hospital in Tavildara.

Response Options – Short term and Long term

The Tavildara Governor, Jamoat Chief, and community leaders have requested immediate assistance to construct a bridge for light vehicles between the villages of Argankul and Jur, 5 km upriver from Miyonadu. This will provide access by light vehicles to the south side of the river and address the most immediate needs of the isolated communities.

Engineers from USAID and Mercy Corps' Tajikistan Stability Enhancement Program (TSEP) have assessed the site and are drawing up plans in coordination with the District Architect. The project is expected to be carried out as a Community Project under TSEP with contributions from local government and the affected communities.

Construction of a new bridge crossing to Miyonadu capable of handling trucks is essential to the long-term well-being of the entire jamoat. This will require a detailed engineering assessment to determine the most suitable location and most appropriate type of bridge.

Photos:



