

REACT Bulletin

May 2015

A monthly summary of activities by REACT members in Tajikistan.

RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF TAJIKISTAN AND GERMAN RED CROSS CONDUCT A COMMUNITY LEVEL PRACTICAL SIMULATION EXERCISE IN SUGHD PROVINCE

A practical simulation exercise, part of the German Red Cross/Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) DIPECHO VIII Project “Building sustainable community resilience through strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction systems in Central Asia”, was conducted in April 17, 2015, at school #31, in the community of Khurmi, Ozodagon Village, Panjikent District, Sughd Province.

The event was held in honor of Defense Day by representatives of the RCST and German Red Cross in cooperation with the Panjikent branch of Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES). The representatives of the Panjikent CoES and Hukumat, the German Red Cross, the Panjikent Department of Education, local emergency services such as the medical Service, Fire Protection Service, Police (Militcia) communication and electric power engineering services, RCST local disaster management committees (LDMCs), and local representatives of National Television and TVT attended the event.

Community leaders from 8 targeted communes in Panjikent experienced a practical simulation exercise, military training, evacuation and fire drills and first aid delivery through hands-on activities.

The simulation involved more than 600 participants including school children and group of Emergency Situation services.



Community level practical simulation exercise, Sughd Province, April 17, 2015

Active participants were awarded with the prizes at the end of the event.

A similar event was held in the Darg village, Ayni District on April 18, 2015 with the participation of CoES representative of Ayni District and RCST LDMCs. It is important to note that the RCST LDMCs in Darg was established under the DIPECHO - VI Project in 2011. It continues to function under the mandate of RCST as a Primary Organization.

The project “DIPECHO VIII: Building sustainable community resilience through strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction systems in Central Asia” funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and being implemented by 5 National Red Crescent Societies of the region.

For more information, please contact Mr. Umed Saiduniev, RCST DIPECHO VIII Project Coordinator: rcstjdp@mail.ru

OXFAM PRESENTS AWARDS TO WINNERS OF TV COMPETITION ON THE EVE OF VICTORY DAY

Oxfam presented awards to the winners of the TV Competition “Disaster Risk Reduction and Civil Defence” on the seventh anniversary of Victory Day at the “2,700th Anniversary of Kulob” Memorial Complex on 5 May 2015. Government and non-government organizations, civil society, schoolchildren, as well as local population and guests of Kulyab City attended the event.

“Victory Day is an international holiday and a big event in the country and presenting awards in front of large audience will promote a culture of disaster preparedness to a greater extent. Besides, changes in practices, efficient coordination and cooperation leads to substantial reduction in disaster risk” said Bojan Kolundzija, Country Director for Oxfam in Tajikistan.

The TV Competition was held on the initiative of Department of Education of Khatlon Province and endorsed at a Centre for Community Disaster Preparedness Education meeting, which took place under the authority of the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, Khatlon Province.

Schoolchildren from 10 schools of the Kulyab Zone took part at the competition held at Secondary School Number Four, from April 16 to 20, 2015. The programme for the TV competition included: introduction to teams, reading of poems on Disaster Risk Reduction, plays on promoting Safety Measures during Emergency Situations, as well as questions and answers. Winners of the competition were awarded with various valuable prizes.

“The aim of the TV Competition among schools was to prepare schoolchildren for and to cope with natural

disasters, raise risk awareness, promote risk reduction education and prevent natural disasters for becoming human tragedies”, - said Asomiddin Safarov, Senior Specialist, Department of Education, Khatlon Province.



Schoolchildren of Khovaling district are asking the questions during the competition, Khatlon Province, April 16, 2015

The Competition was organized in cooperation with Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, Education Department and Committee of TV and Radio Broadcasting Khatlon Province with support of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) funded project, DIPECHO VIII.

For more information, please contact Ms. Firuza Ghulomaseinova, Media and Communications Officer, Oxfam Tajikistan: FGulomaseinova@oxfam.org.uk

OCHA AND REACT PARTNERS DISCUSS UPCOMING REGIONAL WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT CONSULTATIONS

OCHA Regional Offices for Caucasus, Central Asia and Ukraine (ROCCA) and Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) facilitated an ad-hoc REACT meeting on April 30, 2015 to discuss the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultations for Central and South Asia to be held in Dushanbe at the end of July 2015. Convened by UN Secretary General in 2013, the Summit will take place in 2016

in Istanbul, Turkey and bring together all humanitarian stakeholders, including the affected communities, private sector, academia and governments to shape the humanitarian action and forge for better partnership to meet the increasing humanitarian needs around the Globe.

The event will be preceded by eight regional consultations with the one for Central and South Asia (CSA) to be held in Dushanbe at the end of July 2015. Covering 16 countries, the Dushanbe Consultation aims to gather voices of representatives of nine stakeholder groups that include affected populations, international and national NGOs, the Red Crescent/Red Cross movement, the UN, youth, private sector, academics and development partners.

During the meeting, REACT partners expressed a willingness to contribute to the consultations and made a number of recommendations related to issues of concern for preparedness and response and overall humanitarian action in Tajikistan.

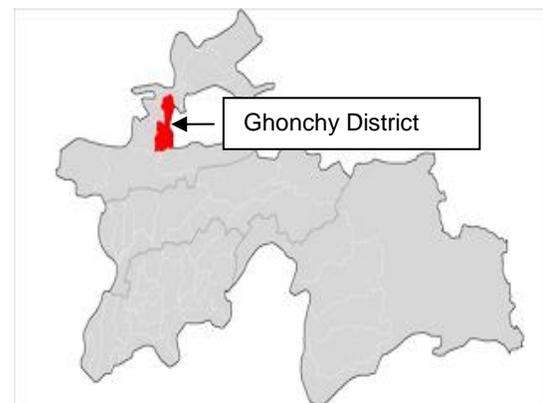
Partners also expressed an interest in involving a wider range of national and local level civil society organizations to ensure a multidimensional approach to humanitarian action in Tajikistan.

For more information on the Summit and pre-summit Consultations, please visit: <http://www.worldhumanitariansummit.org/> or contact Valijon Ranoev at: valijon.ranoev@undp.org

ACTED'S INTERVENTION UNDER THE DIPECHO PROGRAMME

During April, ACTED's work under the DIPECHO VIII programme "Strengthening Local and Institutional Capacities for Disaster Risk Management in Trans-Boundary Watersheds of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan" saw the implementation of several mitigation projects in Bobuchak village, one of 30 project target villages of the intervention.

Bobuchak, is a small mountainous village, located in Ghonchy District of Sughd Province.



As part of ACTED's intervention, a Hazard Vulnerability Assessment was conducted for each of the targeted villages. Based on this assessment, Bobuchak was identified as at high risk from disasters, and specifically mudflows which damage homes, social facilities and livestock.

To mitigate this risk, and improve the overall management of natural and water resources, the project has worked to unite community members, local CBOs, and local government in the improvement of natural resource management and engage local actors in reducing disaster risk. The local Disaster Preparedness Committee with the support of ACTED has implemented various

mitigation projects across the village using bioengineering techniques.

All manual work was done by community members using locally sourced materials (stones, seedlings, shrubs, wire).

In addition to these measures, local safe havens were identified within each village that will be stocked with equipment and supplies for use by community members. Further, as these projects were implemented using only community resources, these mitigation projects will act not only to secure Bobuchak village itself, but the projects will act as examples to be replicated by other villages at risk of similar natural hazards.



Community members of Bobuchak village establish mitigation projects within the village, Sughd Province, April, 2015

For more information, please contact Ms. Whitney MILLS, ACTED Project Development Officer:
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REACT Bulletin

Please send short reports on project activities or events, up to 200 words, with a picture, to REACT Secretariat in Dushanbe react.dushanbe@undp.org. Items should be submitted by the first working day of the month for the **Bulletin**, which is issued on the 7th working day of the month.

REACT **Bulletins** can also be found at http://untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=132&Itemid=565

The **REACT Bulletin** is supported with funding from the UNDP Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, and technical support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The REACT Secretariat, UNDP or OCHA do not take responsibility for the accuracy or details of the information reported in the **Bulletin**.

Questions and comments should be sent to react.dushanbe@undp.org.