

## News Bulletin

10 - 24 February 2010

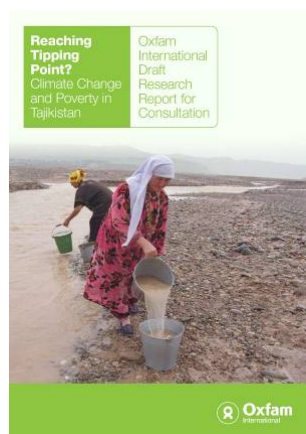
### At a glance

- Tajikistan threatened by climate change
- 120,000 children educated on disasters
- Japan rebuilds Tojiksoy school in Pyandj
- In-kind aid by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan
- Vulnerability assessment in Vanj
- Planning recovery in Vanj

### Current issues

#### Tajikistan threatened by climate change

On 17 February, Oxfam released a report entitled 'Reaching Tipping Point? Climate Change and Poverty in Tajikistan.' A round table was held in Dushanbe to discuss the report and the next steps for climate change adaptation in the country.



The report warns that the country's glaciers are retreating and this could lead to greater water shortages and to disputes in the wider region. It adds that retreating glaciers and more extreme weather could dangerously erode food security and livelihoods.

According to Oxfam, the painful blow of climate change has already been sharply felt in recent years in rural areas where 1.4 million people are left food insecure.

Oxfam formulates recommendations for action to reduce the impact of climate change and ensure livelihoods at the community, national, regional and international level. The report can be downloaded from: [www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk).

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### Response activities

#### 120,000 children educated on disasters

The *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) educated 120,000 school children and 1,020 teachers on disaster risk reduction last year. Children and teachers came from 510 schools located in 20 disaster-prone districts across Tajikistan. At least two teachers per school were trained.

At the same time, 310 community leaders and 100 representatives from local authorities in these districts were provided with basic knowledge on the Hyogo Framework for Action and disaster risk reduction in education. The trainings were dispensed by master trainers of the *Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense* (CoES), in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The project was funded by the Disaster Preparedness programme of the *European Commission Humanitarian aid Office* (ECHO) and co-funded by UNICEF.

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#### Japan rebuilds Tojiksoy school in Pyandj

The Embassy of Japan is supporting the district authorities of Pyandj, a district in the far south of the country, to rebuild the school of Tojiksoy. A flood which hit the village and school of Tojiksoy in the spring of 2009 had left the building unusable.

The *Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects* of the Embassy of Japan awarded \$95,425 for the rehabilitation of the school and the purchase of desks and chairs.



Tojiksoy school after the flood | UNDP

The Tojiksoy school, along with the reconstruction of nine other schools across the country damaged or destroyed by the 2009 spring floods and mudflows, is part of the education sector plan of the

REACT Early Recovery Appeal. Over \$2 million is still required for the rebuilding of the other schools.

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### **In-kind aid from Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan**

A cargo of humanitarian aid was handed over by the Kazakh Ambassador to the State Material Reserves Agency of Tajikistan on 12 February, according to the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The assistance from Kazakhstan includes 1,000 tons of rice and 1,500 tons vegetable oil.

On 13 February, the Turkmen President ordered the provision of aid worth \$500,000 to Tajikistan. The assistance consists of children's clothing and diesel fuel, which will be sent by the Ministry of Textile Industry of Turkmenistan and the Turkmenbashi complex of oil refineries.

According to the electronic newspaper Turkmenistan.ru, the assistance aims at strengthening good neighborly relations between the two countries.

### **Vulnerability assessment in Vanj**

REACT commissioned a rapid assessment of the socio-economic vulnerability and coping capacity of 250 households whose houses were damaged or destroyed by the 2 January earthquake in Vanj.

The assessment found that 71% of the affected households are highly vulnerable and may therefore lack the resources to rebuild their houses and communities. Over half of them have no regular source of income and 18% of the families are headed by women. In spite of the winter cold, 55% of the families are currently living in tents. The full results of the assessment can be downloaded from: [www.untj.org/?c=7&id=149](http://www.untj.org/?c=7&id=149)

The survey results enable REACT to determine the vulnerability and coping capacity of individual households and identify the priority sectors for the recovery plan. The *Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan* (RCST), CoES, FOCUS, the *Mountain Societies Development Support Programme* (MSDSP), and the Disaster Risk Management Programme of the *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) all participated in the assessment.

## **Coordination**

### **Planning recovery in Vanj**

Further to the earthquake in Vanj, REACT held a recovery planning meeting chaired by CoES on 18 February. Ten organizations which either contributed to the relief efforts or are planning to undertake recovery activities participated in the meeting.

An overview of assessments and needs in relevant sectors - agriculture, education, infrastructure, health, shelter and household vulnerability - was presented and basic principles for the recovery of the affected families were agreed upon. Local and national government, UN agencies and NGOs shared information on their plans, capacity and resources to support the recovery effort in Vanj.

At the end, the meeting participants agreed on the next steps for the drawing up of a recovery plan, led by Government, and a local and national coordination mechanism. The event was organized by CoES, with the support of the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme.

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