

Rasht Earthquake

Extended Relief and Recovery Update



Earthquake affected people, relocated to Panj District, staying in temporary shelter.

Photo: Disaster Risk Management Programme, UNDP Tajikistan

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Prepared by the REACT Secretariat
DRMP UNDP Tajikistan
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Summary

This document provides an update on relief and recovery activities following the 13 May 2012 earthquake in Rasth Valley, Tajikistan. The document is based on Government and other reports of damage and assistance provided as well as field visits to the affected areas and relocated populations.

To date, recovery assistance has totaled over 1.8 million USD, principally from the Government of Tajikistan and primarily for building or repairing housing, including moving families from the earthquake-affected area.

Total uncovered needs for construction of new houses for the resettled families are estimated at 732,000 USD¹. The costs of other extended relief and recovery requirements defined in this report have not yet been determined.

Based on guidance contained in the [Recovery Framework - Small Scale Disasters in Tajikistan](#)² and a review of documentation and field assessments, specific outstanding needs included:

- Safe and sustainable water supply,
- Safe and secure latrines,
- Winterization assistance for displaced, and for damaged schools,
- Construction materials and guidance,
- Repair of damaged school and health facilities,
- Assuring basic health care for relocated,
- Food supplies,
- Food production support,
- Access to education,
- New, sustainable livelihoods for the relocated,
- Reduction of the impact of the disaster and relocation on gender relations,
- Reduction of opportunities for conflict at relocation sites, and
- Reduction of negative environmental impacts of relocation.

Immediate action is possible to address a number of these needs without further assessments. Limited rapid (3 day) assessments are needed to complete the development of costs for the full range of outstanding needs identified, as well as address gender, conflict and environmental concerns. These assessments can be conducted by relevant Clusters, principally Shelter, Food Security, Health and Education, and UNDP under funding for recovery coordination, in collaboration with counterpart Government organizations.

¹ See details in Section II "Status of the Relief and Recovery Support" of the present report.

²http://www.untj.org/docs/Disaster_Management/Resources%20Page/Recovery%20Framework%20Ver%20%2030%20April%202011.pdf

I. Earthquake Impact

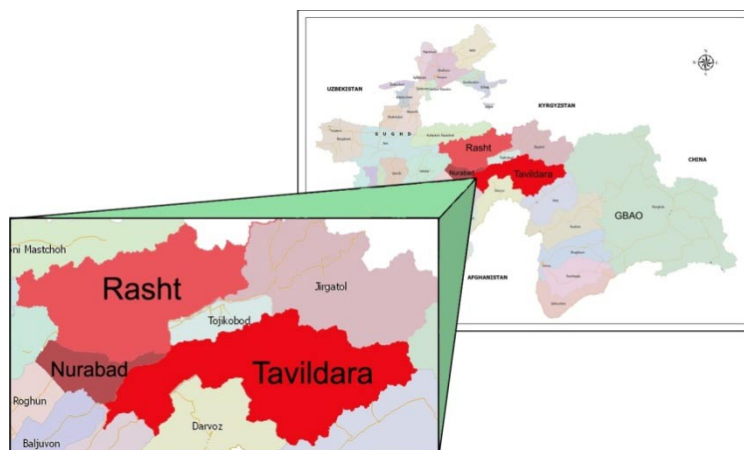
Overview

A 5.7 Richter scale earthquake in Rasht Valley on 13 May 2012 affected a total of 1,849 persons (224 households) in Tavildara, Rasht and Nurabad Districts.

The earthquake caused no fatalities and damage was made predominantly to structures (housing, schools, health facilities).

District-level Commissions on Emergency

Situations were activated in each of the affected areas, and tasked with damage and needs assessment and response coordination. The assessments conducted mostly focused on physical damage caused by the earthquake and not on other types of damage (e.g., impact on livelihoods, psychosocial conditions, access to basic services etc). Assessment results are grouped per sector below.



Housing

Summary of the damage caused to residential buildings is provided in the table to right. According to the governmental assessment criteria the houses affected are grouped into two categories – “100% Damaged” (completely destroyed/in unlivable conditions/need to be replaced) and “50% Damaged” (severely damaged house with e.g. one of the main walls or roof collapsed, but still can be rehabilitated and used for living).The Government’s immediate assistance and recovery support focused mainly on the households with houses in unlivable conditions (“100% Damaged”).

District	100% Damaged	50% Damaged	Total
Tavildara	90	76	166
Nurobod	5	38	43
Rasht	5	10	15
Total	100	124	224

The Government made a decision that 45 households affected by the earthquake were to be relocated to Kumsangir and Panj Districts of Khatlon Province due to a technical assessment by the Institute of Geology, Seismic Construction and Seismology that the location of these houses was too unsafe to rebuild. The remaining 179 affected households are rebuilding their houses in the original area of residence.

Families which have not relocated are reported to be living with relatives, in mosques, or in schools. None of the structures are considered adequate for shelter during winter.

Health Sector

The Tavildara Central District Hospital (CHD) and Childara health post were severely damaged by the earthquake. An assessment of the hospital conducted by the Tavildara District Government, Ministry of

Health (MoH) and CoES indicated damage totalled 900,000 Somoni (186,721 USD). The assessment indicated that the Tavildara CDH was unsafe for any further use.

Minor damages occurred at the following medical posts in Tavildara District: Shur, Langar, Shakob, Dashti Ork, Khamdara, Rubotnol (which was using private house as a medical post), Ezghand, and Sayod Health Centre and the Tavildara District Health Centre.

The Health Cluster, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST), UNICEF and Save the Children International (SCI) also conducted psychosocial assessments as part of their response to the disaster. These assessments are described further below.

The psychosocial assessment conducted by the RCST covered 11 villages in the three districts. The assessment revealed that children and adults are experiencing high levels of stress and psychosocial interventions should be introduced, including trainings, parental awareness sessions, group counseling sessions, etc. Further information on this assessment can be found in ["Psychosocial Assessment Report"](#).

The Health Cluster, with support of WHO, conducted a two-phased psychosocial assessment of the affected populations. Before the assessment work, the Cluster conducted an one day training for 12 education department representatives, senior health specialists staff of health centers in Tavildara and Nurabad Districts and staff of Save the Children International (SCI) and Operation Mercy.

The training was followed by field work by psychologists and trained participants to Tavildara and Nurabad. The team worked in Rubatnol, Rubatnoli Gharibon, Chashmai Kabud Jamoats of Tavildara District in locations where school buildings were destroyed. The team observed symptoms of stress and anxiety associated with the event among children. 97 children were assessed overall, with 32 diagnosed as having with various levels of mental disorder with the threat of progressing to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – PTSD (according to the assessment team).

In Nurabad District, the team worked with children in summer camps, where 17 children out of 75 were diagnosed as having with various mental disorders of which some may progress to PTSD (according to the assessment team). The team also conducted information and educational sessions with the affected populations on psychological trauma caused by disaster. Posters and instructions with basic information on provision of psychological support were distributed to the affected population. Further work and provision of rehabilitation support is required to children diagnosed with conditions which could lead to PTSD. WHO provided 5,567 USD to cover the cost of the training and assessment.

The main purpose of the assessment of psychosocial state of the children by SCI was to understand the range of possible psychosocial problems that could emerge as a result of the earthquake. Over three days of assessment, 85 children between the ages of 2 and 18 were consulted from 11 villages in the 3 districts affected by the earthquake. The assessment concludes that a small percentage of children are suffering from psychological distress and need support to deal with fear caused by the earthquake. The report also provides recommendations on overcoming the psychological stress caused by the earthquake. Further information on this assessment can be found in ["Psychosocial Assessment Report"](#).

Educational Sector

UNICEF and SCI carried out an assessment of the physical damage to schools in Rasht, Tavildara and Nurabad Districts. The structural assessments covered 12 schools. Table 2 provides the schools assessed and the degree of damage identified. Further information on this assessment can be found in **Annex C**.

Table 2. Damage Assessment Results – School Facilities				
District	School #	Number of Students	Number of Classrooms	Level of Damage
Nurobod	23	390	11	D 4
	5	435	11	D 3
	25	326	12	D 2
	65	41	2	D 2
	31	222	10	D 1
	58	22	2	D 1
Rasht	56	177	7	D 4
Tavildara	25	84	6	D 4
	12	123	10	D 4
	39	2	31	D 1
	19	71	10	D 1
	7	186	9	D 1
<p>D1 – Limited Damage: Maintenance work is needed; repair by plastering. D2 - Medium Damage: Major repair of building is needed; repair with partial disassembly and renovating of missing plaster, grouting of cracks, and reinforcement of walls. D3 - High Damage: Repair of the building is possible. Construction of additional supports /beams, reinforcement or replace of certain elements D4 - Full Damage: Rehabilitation of the building is unreasonable.</p>				

II. Status of the Relief and Recovery Support

Housing

Based on the District Commissions' assessments, the Government channeled relief and recovery assistance to 224 affected families, including 179 families who remain at their place of normal residence and another 45 relocated to Kumsangir and Panj Districts, Khatlon Province.

Table 3 summarizes assistance provided by the authorities to the affected families. Assistance was proportionally allocated to the affected families based on the extent of the damage to their houses, and also includes fuel for households' relocation. The Government also provided housing designs and bills of quantities for four types of new houses to guide reconstruction work.

Material	Unit	Tavildara District	Nurabad District	Rasht District	Total
Cement	ton	1,154.60	259.20	108.00	1,521.80
Timber	cubic meter	1,061.10	268.80	112.00	1,441.90
Galvanized roofing sheets (1x2m)	piece	11,139.00	2,520.00	1,005.00	14,664.00
Steel reinforcing bars	ton	154.00	34.80	16.00	204.80

All affected families received financial compensation of 100 Somoni (21 USD) per family (head of the household) plus additional 50 Somoni (10 USD) for each household member.

Out of 45 households relocated to Khatlon Province, 37 were relocated to Kumsangir District and 8 to Panj District. All relocated households retain ownership of the land in their location of origin.

Relocated families received the assistance package indicated below. Provision of the assistance package was based on (a) the level of damage sustained (100% damage) and (b) the presence of the original housing unit in a location designated as unsafe for further use.

- Either 0.12 Ha (Kumsangir) or 0.10 Ha (Panj) of land for building a house and installing gardens.
- 1,500 Somoni (311 USD) loan, repayable in 3 years.
- 1,500 Somoni (311 USD) grant.
- Construction materials (see Table 3 above).

The total value of the Government assistance in terms of building materials is 5.85 million Somoni (1.21 million USD³) and 50 ton of diesel fuel, roughly 400,000 Somoni⁴ (82,987 USD), excluding the value of the land provided.

Red Crescent Society Tajikistan provided assistance totaling 138,476 CHF (147,146 USD), as detailed below. Information on immediate relief assistance is available in the Rasht Valley Earthquake Situation Reports at <http://www.untj.org/country-context/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management/disaster-situation-reports/52-disaster-situation-reports/624-may-2012-disasters>

³ Calculated at 1 USD = 4.82 Somoni.

⁴ Current market price of diesel fuel is 7 Somoni per liter.

Table 4. Red Crescent Recovery Assistance				
Item	District			Total
	Tavildara	Nurabad	Rasht	
Non-Food Items (one kitchen set, two water cans, six sets of quilt, pillow, mattress and one hygiene kit)	65 sets	37 sets	8 sets	110 sets
Construction tools/1 set per two families (One set includes an axe, claw hammer, saw, claw bar, glass cutter, hand plane, spirit level, tape measure, small trowel, large trowel, sledge hammer, 5 kg. of nails (100 mm), 3 kg. of roofing nails, 1 set of screws)	60 sets	15 sets	2 sets	154 sets
Tents	-	-	2	2

Update on population relocated to Kumsangir and Panj Districts

Government developed house designs (one to four rooms) recommended for construction of new houses. REACT Secretariat estimates the costs of construction the recommended houses to be 11,000 USD (1-room house), 19,400 USD (2-room house), 23,440 USD (3-room house) and 27,800 USD (4-room house).

Considering the type and number of the houses being built and materials distributed to the affected population by the Government, the outstanding cost of constructing 45 new houses in Kumsangir and Panj District, Khatlon Province, is estimated at 732,000 USD (See Table 5).

Table 5. Cost to Construct 45 New Houses for Relocated Population ⁵							
Type of House	Full cost as per design		Cost after deduction of materials provided		Number of houses to be built	Total needed	
	TJS	USD	TJS	USD		TJS	USD
1 room	52,470	11,000	32,436	6,800	1	32,436	6,800
2 room	92,538	19,400	67,257	14,100	12	807,084	169,200
3 room	111,809	23,440	79,659	16,700	23	1,832,157	384,100
4 room	132,606	27,800	91,107	19,100	9	819,963	171,900
TOTAL						3,491,640	732,000

According to the CoES reports 27 families out of 37 have moved to the land plots allocated in Kumsangir District and are residing in temporary shelters (see sample on the photo on the front page). Three

⁵ The estimate is based on the designs recommended by the Government, and includes costs of the construction materials, labour (based on the average rates for commercial firms) and transportation costs (estimated at 10% of the materials' cost). The estimate amount is indicative and does not necessary reflect the actual costs of the construction due to difference in materials and labor (self-built vs. salaried workers).actually used

houses just have foundations laid, the walls of other 3 houses are being erected and 1 house has completed construction of walls.

In Panj District, out of 8 houses to be constructed all houses have foundations laid, walls of 4 houses are being erected, walls of 2 houses were completed, and the remaining 2 houses lack bricks for walls construction.

Update on population remaining in Rasht Valley

Based on the CoES reports, as of 8 October 2012, 35% of construction works were completed in Tavildara (121 families) and Nurobod (43 families) Districts. The construction is organized by the affected population using the basic construction materials provided.

The Government has supported the reconstruction of 5 fully destroyed houses in Langarak Village, Rasht District. Construction of 2 of the 5 houses has been completed.

Health Sector

UNDP is funding the rehabilitation and seismic retrofitting of the Tavildara District Hospital at a cost of \$100,000 USD. The sections of the hospital are covered by the project are the Maternity Ward, Infectious Diseases Clinic and X-ray Room. The work is expected to be completed in December 2012. Funding for repairs to the rest of the hospital has not been secured.

A total of 34,000 Somoni (7,054 USD) from the Tavildara District budget was used for rehabilitation work for the medical posts of Shur, Shakob, and Langar, and the Tavildara District Health Center. Currently all medical posts function at full capacity.

Psycho-social support was provided by RCST which mobilized 5 experienced National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members and 10 volunteers to Rasht Valley to provide psychosocial support to the 33 most vulnerable communities and 16 schools. In order to use resources effectively and reach target population, the team was divided to 5 groups consisting of 3 people each (2 volunteers and 1 NDRT member). More detailed information is provided in a report by RCST, attached as **Annex A**.

Educational Facilities

A new school building is being constructed to replace the damaged School #12 in Rubotnol, (Childara Jamoat, Tavildara District) with funding from the President's Office.

UNICEF is mobilizing resources to rehabilitate School # 56 in Rasht District. If funding is secured, construction work will begin next year due to winter weather and an ending of the normal construction season.

Funding for the other damaged schools has not been secured.

Summary of Recovery Funding To Date

Organization	Purpose	Funding (USD)	Description
Government of Tajikistan	Housing reconstruction and	1,296,679	Building materials: 5.85 million Somoni (1.21 million USD)

	relocation		Diesel: 50 MT (equiv. to 400,000 Somoni/82,987 USD)
	Monetary compensations– 1,500 Somoni per affected family	69,790	336,000 Somoni. Does not include loans of 1,500 Somoni or grants to families based on 100 Somoni/head of household and 50 Somoni/family member.
	School construction	155,187	School #12, Childara Jamoat, Tavildara District; President’s Office funding is provided for construction of new school.
Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan	Tools and non-food items	147,146	Includes NFI, construction materials and administrative costs totaling 138, 476 CHF
WHO	Provision of psychosocial support to children and their parents	5,567	One day training in Dushanbe and field trip and trainings in Tavildara and Nurobod
UNDP	Hospital Repair - Tavildara	100,000	Repair of part of the Tavildara District Hospital.
Tavildara District Khukumat	Partial repair of medical posts	7,054	Medical posts Shur, Shakov Langar villages and repair of District Health Centre in Tavildara city.
Total		1,781,423	

III. Outstanding Needs

The following table summarizes expected recovery and extended relief needs which are currently outstanding. The table is based on reports provided by the Government and field assessments by the REACT Secretariat and can be revised when additional information is available. The structure of this table is drawn from the **Recovery Framework - Small Scale Disasters in Tajikistan**, which should be used as a reference for addressing the outstanding needs indicated below.

Table 7. Outstanding Needs				
Action Needed	Justification	Responsible	Status	Notes
Shelter				
Winterization	Families in all Rasht and relocation sites will need appropriate shelter and heating for coming winter as construction will not be finished before the on-set of cold weather.	CoES/ Shelter Cluster	Assessment of needs, development of proposal	Stoves, fuel, bedding and additional insulation for tents are likely to be needed for the winter.
Construction materials	The Government allocation of materials is insufficient to construct the houses as designed. Additional materials such as sand and gravel, doors, windows, ect. are needed.	Gov't/ Shelter Cluster (for assessment)	Assessment of needs	The difference between the average estimate cost of a house and the average level of assistance provided by the Government (materials and funds) is 4-5 thousand USD. This includes price of gravel, transportation, water, labor and doors and windows frames. The difference is currently to be funded by the beneficiary. Note that additional assistance can be provided in the form of funds or materials.
Construction guidance	Most of the families rebuilding lack the knowledge or human resources needed for building new houses. The level of construction skills and quality observed at the relocation sites is significantly below basic standards.	Gov't	Unclear	Construction work has already started and it may be too late to improve the process. Remedial actions may be needed.
Water				
Provision of safe and sustainable water supply	Both relocation sites do not have access to safe or sufficient water for human use and construction/gardens.	Local Gov't/ WASH Cluster	Assessment of options	The conditions at the Kumsangir site are worse than the Panj site but both sites need permanent safe water supplies.
Sanitation				
Safe and secure latrines	Very basic latrines exist at the relocation sites and need to be	SES/ WASH	Assessment of options	Latrines are needed for each household.

	upgraded to permanent non-disease spreading facilities.	Cluster		
Health				
Repair damaged facilities	The Tavildata CHD and Childara health post need to be fully functional.	Min Health/ Health Cluster	Funding required.	Urgent additional funding is needed for major repairs/replacement of most severely damaged part of CHD and Childara health post which underwent some light refurbishment.
Assuring basic health care	The Kumsangir relocation site is distant from basic health care. A mechanism for providing basic health care needs to be established.	Min Health/ Health Cluster	Assessment of options	
Food Security				
Food supplies	A mechanism is needed to replace short term food aid provide on a voluntary basis following relocation	State Reserve s/ Food Security Cluster		The local government had been providing cooked meals during Ramadan but this has not stopped and relocated families have limited access to food.
Food production	Relocated households expect to use kitchen gardens to grow food for consumption and sale but lack the means to effectively start these gardens.	Min of Ag/ Food Security Cluster	Assessment of needs.	While gardens will be planted in the spring, preparations are needed this fall and winter, including the option of using greenhouses to ensure an early start to growing and harvests.
Food production	It is unlikely that animals from Rasht are adapted to climatic conditions in the relocation sites. New, location-appropriate, animals need to be acquired.	Min of Ag/ Food Security Cluster	Assessment of needs.	The provision of animals should also include land access rights, vet services and access to water.
Education				
Repair of Schools	The damage schools in Rasth need to be repaired.	Min Ed/ Education Cluster	Assessment of need.	Damage schools should not be used until repaired. Technology for repairs and seismic upgrading is well established in Tajikistan.
Access to Education	Access to education in the two relocation sites needs to be assured. Access to language-appropriate education is needed in the Panj site.	Min Ed/ Education Cluster	Situation analysis	For the Panj site, there is a link to conflict management.
Livelihoods				

New, Sustainable Livelihoods for the Relocated.	The relocated are not integrated into the local economy and may not have livelihood skills or professions which can be sustainable in the new locations. New livelihood options need to be identified and developed.	Unclear	Situation analysis	Assistance can include training, funds and technical assistance, and should reach men and women. A rapid assessment of livelihood opportunities and expectations can be done through a week of field work.
Gender				
Reduce the impact of the disaster and relocation on gender relations	The stress of the earthquake results in a normal need to resolve this stress and adjust to new realities (e.g., relocation). The relocation has split families and imposed new and unexpected burdens on men/boys and women/girls. These new demands need to be managed to avoid unnecessary further stress and negative outcomes.	Unclear	Situation analysis	A rapid survey of gender-related impacts from the earthquake and relocation can be done in 5 days of field work.
Conflict Management				
Reduce opportunities for conflict at relocation sites.	Competing demands for access to land for grazing and cropping and to water can be expected in the relocation sites, Tension over access to education can develop at the Panj site.	Unclear	Situation analysis	A rapid assessment of potential conflict should take 4 to 5 days and over the two relocation sites.
Environment				
Reduce negative environmental impacts of relocation.	The Kumsangir site is near an environmentally sensitive location and wetlands. A rapid assessment is needed to ensure that the new settlement does not lead to damage to these sites.	Unclear	Rapid environmental impact assessment	An assessment would take one day.

IV. Annexes

Annex A– Psychosocial Support of Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan to Populations Affected by Earthquake in Rasht Valley

Annex B -Psychosocial Problems of Children Affected by the Earthquake in Rasht Valley (Save the Children International)

Annex C - Assessment of Schools Affected by the Earthquake in Rasht Valley



**PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT OF RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF TAJIKISTAN
to affected by earthquake in Rasht valley**

June 2012

FINAL REPORT



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SITUATION OVERVIEW

An 5.7 Richter scale earthquake took place on 13th May in central Tajikistan. The earthquake caused damage to three districts of Rasht valley - Rasht, Nurabad and Tavildara. The final assessment made by the representatives of the Committee of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Tajikistan, indicates 103 houses and 3 schools are destroyed; 117 houses, 7 schools and 3 health facilities are damaged.

The detailed needs assessment of RCST and assessment report of Rapid Response Team of REACT group revealed psychosocial effect of occurred earthquake. According to local health officials, interviewed individuals and observed individuals the disaster has created acute stress reactions in various forms. Thus, RCST and IFRC has decided to provide psychosocial support to most vulnerable population of affected areas.

ACTIVITIES OF RED CRESCENT SOCIETY OF TAJIKISTAN

The RCST has mobilized 5 experienced NDRT members who passed through ToT in early 2010. On 28th of May 5 NDRT members and 10 volunteers were deployed to Rasht valley to provide psychosocial support to 33 most vulnerable communities and 16 schools. In order to use resources effectively and reach mentioned population team was divided to 5 groups consisting of 3 people each (2 volunteers and 1 NDRT member):

- Nurabad district team-2 NDRT members and 4 volunteers.
- Rasht district team-1 NDRT member and 2 volunteers
- Tavildara district team- 2 NDRT members and 4 volunteers.

The established team in cooperation with local authorities and local health officials has prioritized beneficiaries, according to which the team has focused on children, women and elderly groups of affected areas, which are approximately 2200 people.

An estimation of meetings results points that women are covered more by PSP than men. The main cause for it is that men are in labor migration or are busy with repair works. However, team tried to provide PSP to equal quantity (diagram #1).

Diagram #1. Percentage of Women\Men covered

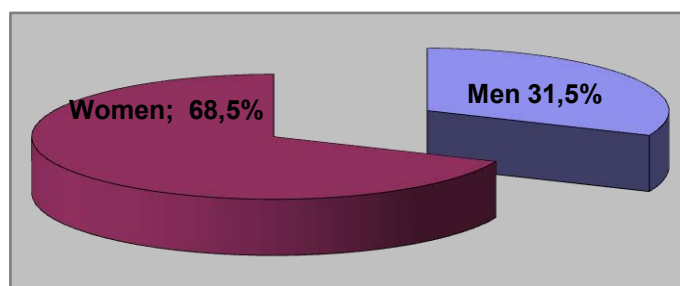
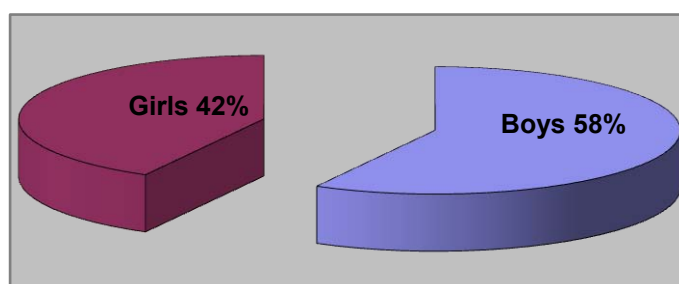


Diagram #2. Percentage of Girls\Boys covered



As a result of these activities, RCST has reached 33 villages and 16 schools by psychosocial support (table #1):

- **in Nurabad district**
 - ✓ 18 villages
 - ✓ 10 schools
- **in Tavildara district**
 - ✓ 8 villages
 - ✓ 3 schools
- **in Rasht district**
 - ✓ 7 villages
 - ✓ 3 schools

Table # 1. Reached Communities		
District	Jamoat	Villages
Tavildara	Childara;	<i>Khamdara, Rubotnol, Chashmai Kabud, Garibon, Yozgan, Girdob, Safedkhok, Dashti Hasan</i>
Nurobod	Mujikharv, Yakhak-Yust, Khumdon, Darband Samsoliq;	<i>Sariqosh, Saripul, Sebak Pustin, Dushokhazamin, Bulbuldara, Tegermi, Yakhchdara, Sarikul, Darband, Pandovchi, Obi lurd, Langar, Ghulomon, Hojai Shanbe, Khumdon, Navobod, Gardanga</i>
Rasht	Hijborak, Askalon, Qalai Surkh	<i>Hazorchashma, Gulhan, Kuloba, Langarak, Host, Askalon, Sari Shukhon,</i>

THE METHODOLOGY

RCST has used 3 methodologies to provide psychosocial support in affected areas:

Psychological defusing-

“is the process of talking it out - taking the fuse out of an emotional bomb (explosive situation). It involves allowing victims the opportunity to ventilate about their disaster related memories, stresses, losses, and methods of coping, and be able to do so in a safe and supportive atmosphere. The defusing process usually involves informal and impromptu sessions.”

Psychological debriefing –

“is a formal meeting, done individually or in small groups. It is generally held shortly after an unusually stressful incident, strictly for the purpose of dealing with the emotional residuals of the event. Any location that is large enough to accommodate the group, and which can be secured so as to assure privacy, is appropriate for use. This session may require a block of time that is several hours in length.”



Debriefing with adults

Psychological Art therapy for children-

“is the therapeutic use of art making, within a professional relationship, by people who experience illness, trauma, or challenges in living, and by people who seek personal development. Through creating art and reflecting on the art products and processes, people can increase awareness of self and others cope with symptoms, stress, and traumatic experiences; enhance cognitive abilities; and enjoy the life-affirming pleasures of making art.”



Art-therapy for schoolchildren

OBSERVATIONS/ KEY FINDINGS

Shelter

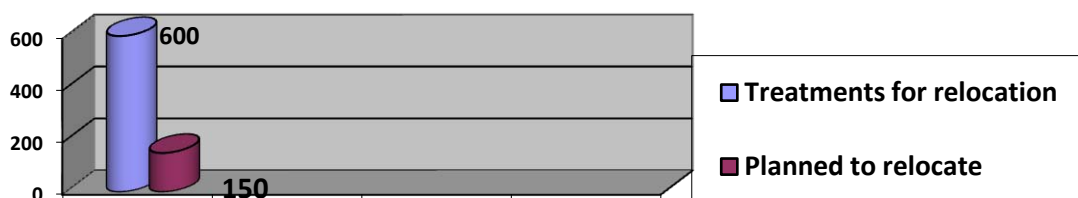
Despite provided tents to affected families (132 summer and 100 winter tents from State Reserve Agency) only about 20 % (according to teams observation) of families are living in tents due to low temperatures during nighttime and intensive precipitations in the region. Also, due to high humidity and flow of tents majority of people are hosted by relatives, neighbors or within the local mosques during the nighttime.

Affected population suspense finalized designs and estimations of State Agency for Construction and Architecture which was tasked to do it. Based on finalized results, required quantity of construction materials will be provided by the national authorities to the affected households for further (re)construction of the houses. Population noted importance of receiving of results as soon as possible, since they have limited time to (re)construct their houses before winter season or to decide about resettlement. The results of State Agency for Construction and Architecture were not received at the moment of mission.

Up to date, CoES reported that the Government has allocated 5 million Somoni (1.03 million USD) for the procurement and distribution of construction materials to the affected families and relocation of families.

According to interviews with local authorities, it was received about 600 calls for relocation, however only about 150 of them have been solved positively. Thus, this issue may cause additional tense and stress factor in affected region.

Table #2 | Responses to requests



During mission people had complains to conducted assessment by CoES, since some households were not considered as destroyed or damaged, nonetheless it is not suitable (in emergency condition) for living in it.

Health

Due to low temperatures during the nighttime, intensive precipitations and flow of tents local community representatives reported increased incidents of colds.

During the mission it was identified acute stress reactions (like nightmares, fear, insomnia, isolation, detachment, reduced attention, unrestrained, irritable, anxious, and

tense), manifestations of neurological diseases (like skin rash, high blood pressure, abortions) and depressions in 10% of participants. Thus, those people need relevant professional care and PSS. Also, participants noted limited capacities of affected families to address professional health facilities due to the high cost of transport and accommodation in Dushanbe. Participants also noted decrease of expenses for health due to upcoming (re)constructions of their houses.

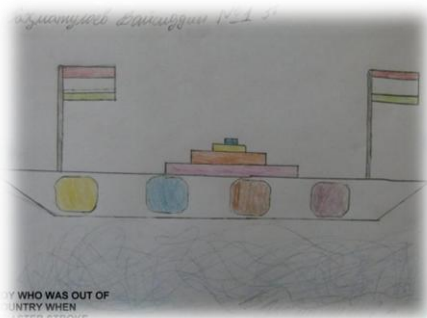
Education

Rapid Response Teams and RCSTs rapid assessments results revealed 10 schools affected, 3 were destroyed and 7 were severely damaged. School attendance was temporarily interrupted. However, annual examinations were conducted after education semester ended in 25th of May. Teachers and parents of affected schoolchildren who participated during the meetings mentioned poor performance of children even those who considered being honors. Teachers reported cases of “double writing”, “mirror writing”, “refusing to write” and others during school examinations, which were also identified by the team later.

Local authorities noted that in some areas children are temporarily attending neighboring schools, thus importance of rebuilding of schools which were affected before winter season was identified, since attendance of schools will drop due “long distance between the villages, unsafe road conditions (mountainous area) and limited capacity of the neighboring schools to accommodate additional number of students”.

During art-therapy sessions with schoolchildren some children mentioned “bad dreams”, insomnia and “fear of repentance”, about which they are not allowed to say to adults due to cultural practices.

ART-THERAPY/SAMPLES OF PICTURES OF CHILDREN



SUMMARY

Thus, summarizing above mentioned, team has identified following sources of stress of affected population until the moment of mission:

- ✓ Continuing aftershocks;
- ✓ Tension concerning adequateness of tents to season;
- ✓ Some families are not considered as destroyed or damaged; however it is not safe to live in them;
- ✓ Discomposure according upcoming (re)construction since families are forced to choose dangerous coping strategies (decrease expenses on food, health and education);
- ✓ Doubts about “designs and estimations” of State Agency for Construction and Architecture;
- ✓ Doubts if population will receive adequate construction tools and materials;
- ✓ Doubts about suitability and fitness of resettlement site for living;
- ✓ Increased incidents of colds, acute stress reactions, neurological diseases and depressions;
- ✓ Limited capacities of affected families to address professional health facilities;
- ✓ Reduced attention and poor performance of children;



RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of designs and estimations of State Agency for Construction and Architecture should be shared as soon as possible to start providing construction tools and materials to meet time limitation for (re)construction and decision taking for resettlement.

Organize visits of professional health experts to affected site to meet needs of affected population in professional health care\ consultancies. Proposed health experts should include Cardiologists, Neurologists, Internists, Pediatricians, Psychologists and Psychotherapists. According to received information from local health representatives those visits could be organized through "Health Caravan" which usually organized by Ministry of Health, but which is not organized past 2 years.

Organize summer camps for children who got acute stress to avoid deterioration of stress reactions. Since the education year is finished and summer holidays started many schoolchildren have less access to information; are not able to discuss their emotions and experience; which may cause otherworldliness and offishness.

Sessions to aware parents on stressors and psychological issues to deal better with children stresses.

Psychosocial Assessment Report

Psychosocial problems of children affected by the earthquake in Rasht Valley

June 2012



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Executive Summary

Following the earthquake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale, that occurred in the Rasht valley in Central Tajikistan on the 13th of May 2012, Save the Children International in conjunction with UNICEF carried out both a structural assessment of the physical damage caused to schools in the three districts of Rasht, Tavildara and Nurabad as well as an assessment of the psychosocial state of the children affected by the earthquake.

According to the REACT report issued on the 29th of May, it was estimated that 1,591 people had been affected and that 2 people had died as a result of the earthquake. Many homes have been partially or completely destroyed and there has also been a significant amount of damage to school buildings in the three districts.

The Psycho-social assessment was carried out over three days and covered 11 villages in 3 districts. The assessment revealed that though not all children consulted had been badly affected the events of the earthquake; it has left them quite worried and insecure as to whether another earthquake will occur.

It was evident that children needs were compromised when their parents and community are experiencing high levels of stress. It was noted that most parents were unable to deal with their children's emotions and feeling toward the events of the earthquake and as a result children have become confused as they are lacking a proper support system to process this.

Purpose of the Assessment

The main purpose of the assessment was to understand the range of possible psychosocial problems that have manifested as a result of the recent earthquake. As the relief work gets underway children can quite often be overlooked when it comes to their emotional and mental state in the aftermath of such an event. The physical consequences of the earthquake are often quite evident and can be responded to quickly whereas the psychosocial consequences are much more latent and can manifest themselves in numerous ways that can often have knock on psychological effects in the future if not recognized in the early stages. Therefore it was necessary to consult the children affected to see how they are processing the event and coping with their emotions in an effort to restore well being and return to normalcy.

Assessment Methodology

The methodology used for the assessment was designed by Save the Children International staff and conducted in conjunction with the structural assessment of affected schools that was carried out by UNICEF. Major assessment techniques used were focus group discussions among children, home and schools visits and informal interviews among children, teachers and schools principles.

Focus Group discussions

These group discussions included children from different school grades and, gender discussion focused on children from the age of 2-18 years of age. The groups were both mixed by gender and age as well as some single gender discussions took place.

Home and Schools Visits

Visiting families in the affected areas in their homes helped establish a rapport with the children in the familiar surroundings of their homes. It enabled not only interactions with just the children but with all family members in an informal way. It gave a clearer picture of the situation children are facing at home and how their family as a unit had been affected. Children seemed a lot more comfortable and at ease when interviewed in their homes.

Informal Interviews

Informal interviews were organized through school principals and carried out in family homes, and on or near the school premises or at schools. An open ended questionnaire tool was developed by SCI staff and used during these interviews with children. In the schools children were grouped with class mates or friends that they knew so it was easier for them to talk and share their views and feelings.

Sample Size

Over three days of assessment, 85 children between the ages of 2 and 18 were consulted from 11 villages in 3 districts affected by the earthquake. The two pie charts below show the breakdown by percentage of children consulted by district and gender. Most of the respondents (57%) were interviewed from Tavildara as this was the district that had the most affected schools. Figure two shows a higher number of females interviewed than males. The reason for this is that interviews were mainly carried out in homes and it was mostly girls who were present at the time and it was more likely that boys were out playing or out working in the field.

Figure 1

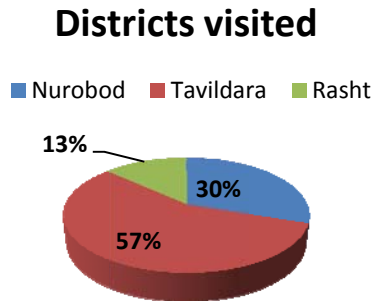
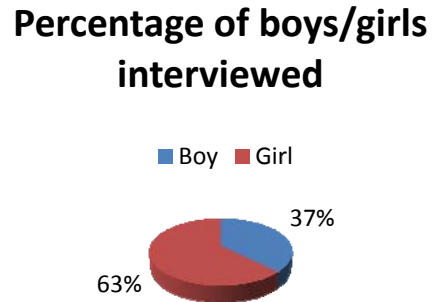


Figure 2



Limitations of the Assessment

Many of the areas visited were in remote locations and children are not used to visitors from outside their village, as informed by many of the parents and school principals. This meant that many of the children, especially girls, were very shy and sometimes unwilling to open up or reveal their experiences of the earthquake.

Most of the children had finished school due to the summer holidays and therefore unavailable at the school as they were out working in the field etc. However the principles of the schools helped organize groups of children to come to the school to be interviewed and they seemed obliging to do so. In addition some higher grade students were still in the process of state examinations and therefore could not participate in the focus group discussions.

Discussions and key findings

Children's distress after the earthquake is primarily due to the cumulative effect of multiple external factors and stimuli which cause stress, known as '*stressors*'. The subsequent secondary effect of such destruction, displacement and interruption or shift in normal community life also contributes to the increasing stress in the affected children. Through the focus group discussions, the informal interviews and the house and schools visits, the following multiple stressors were found in children:

Psycho-physiological stressors

Children did mention that when they heard loud howling of wind at night or any abrupt sound it would trigger memories of the earthquake or anxiety would ensue.

“Sometimes I cannot sleep at night, any strange noise makes me think that an earthquake will happen again and if it does the wall will fall down on me”

Nazokad, age 8, Khujai Khuloz village, Tavildara District

Information stressors

There is a general fear of the unknown that they claim to have since the events of the earthquake. The children are told not to worry about the events of the earthquake and many of their parents say that it is in the hands of God. Although 19% of respondents admitted to receiving information about earthquakes and other natural disasters prior to or after the earthquake, there was still a general lack of understanding from some children as to the reasons for it happening and how it occurs.

Emotional stressors

These included the threats of death and damage if an earthquake were to happen again. They fear of dying if it is to happen again and that they do not get much comfort from their parents but rather talk about the events with their friends and siblings.

Social Stressors

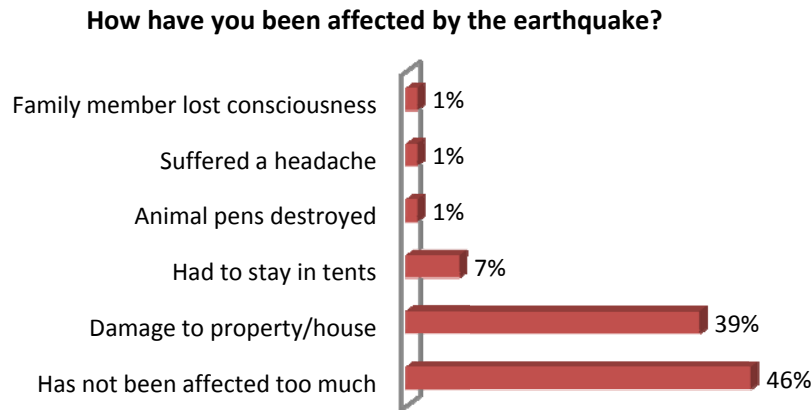
There is the realization that their houses have been destroyed or damaged and that it will take a while to get back to normality. There is a worry from a number of respondents that the schools will not be constructed by the time they will go back to school in September. As well as this, some villages have been visited by assessment teams and some people from the government have promised to build them new schools by September, they are unsure if they will follow through with their word. Some children mentioned that if the damaged schools are not repaired by September, their parents will not allow them to go to school and they do not want this to happen.

Results from Questionnaires

The open ended questionnaire was used on children on both an individual basis, during home and school visits and also used as a tool to guide the focus group discussions. The majority of children that were consulted revealed that they were only slightly affected by the happenings of the earthquake and that although there was significant damage done to either their house or that of their family or neighbors' they were glad that it was only physical damage caused and they did not get injured. Just over 45% of children said that they had not been affected too much by the events

of the earthquake but 39% revealed that damage had been caused to their property or house. See Figure 3 below depicting the other ways in which children had been affected.

Figure 3

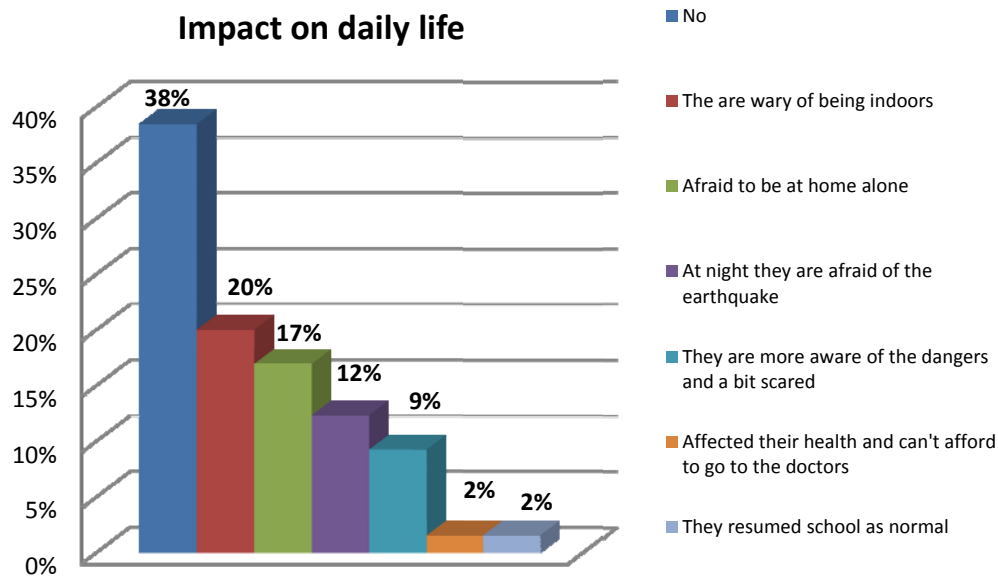


Most of the children were aware that their situation could have been much worse thus in comparison to fatal losses of family members or relatives they regarded their damage of possessions as not devastating which explains the high number of respondents that answered that they had not been affected too much. One boy who was interviewed from Dehibaland village in Nurabad district commented that:

“Household items can be replaced but if you die then that is the end”

Out of the 84 children that were interviewed, only 7% of them exclaimed that they had to stay in tents as a result of the damage the earthquake had caused to their homes. Some said that their families now slept outside as they do not trust that the house will not collapse on them during the night but they were not provided with tents. Although the earthquake did not cause many casualties, the events of it did unsettle many communities and has left children uneasy as to whether if or when another one might occur. This has had a negative impact on some of the respondents and they revealed their worries and how it impedes their daily life, figure 4 below reveals the main aspects of this.

Figure 4



Out of the 83 respondent, 38% of them said that they haven't been affected too much and are able to carry on as normal with their lives but in general they said that the earthquake has left them in



Damage to school #5, Nurabad District

fear and they worry that if another earthquake is to happen it will have much graver consequences. Just fewer than 30% of children admitted to being afraid, this fear is not only of earthquakes solely but other natural disasters such as mudslides and floods also.

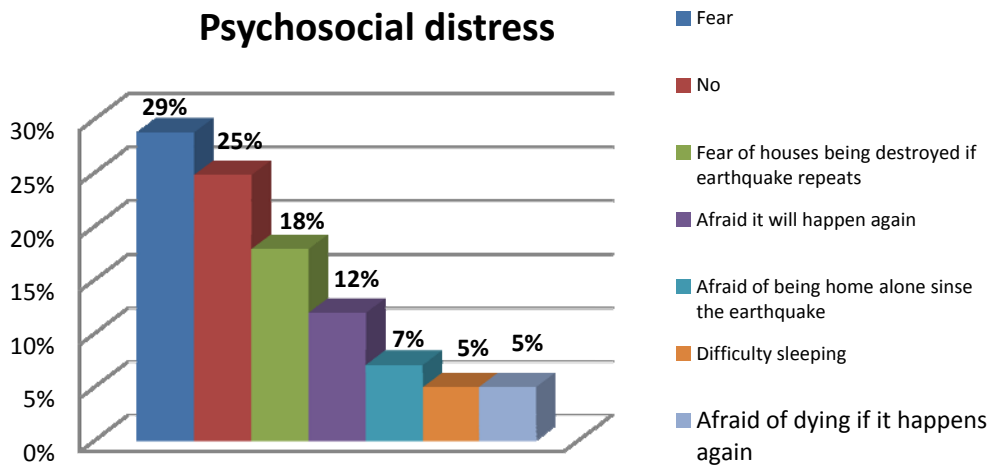
A focus group discussion with final year students from Gulkhani village in Rasht said that it has affected their preparation for the exams and are worried that they will not do well as a result.

"I fear that I will not perform well in my final exams as any time I try to concentrate I keep thinking of the earthquake"

Jamila, age 18, Gulkhani village, Rasht District

There does not appear to be many signs of psychosocial distress such as emotional or behavioral problems however a number of children (5%) did say that they had difficulties sleeping at night and that when they hear the wind blowing they become anxious and lay awake waiting for another earthquake to occur.

Figure 5



Understandings of the Earthquake

A high number of children from the three districts mentioned ‘God’ as a reason and answer to the occurrence of the earthquake. Although 19% of children from the three districts received disaster risk reduction classes or information on responding to natural disasters such as earthquakes, they still place a large amount of reasoning in their faith. This is primarily influenced from parents and neighbors and taboos are held strong in some of the communities as a way of coping or coming to terms with what has happened.

Some children were under the impression that the world was going to end and that after an earthquake a volcano will happen. So there is still a lack of information about natural disasters in the areas which is reinforcing their anxiety toward the events of the earthquake.

Coping mechanisms

When asked about support structures available to them, the children did mention that they had been visited by numerous people to see how they were coping. Such visits were paid by head of villages, Representatives from the Committee of Emergency Services (CoES), International Organizations and in one of the communities the president visited. However despite this, the

community had been the most active in responding to and aiding others who were most affected in theirs or neighboring villages. On top of that 19% of the children said that parents had been supportive in comforting them in the few days after the earthquake, however this was a relatively low percentage overall and some mentioned that no one explained or talked about the events with them and they were left quite confused.

"No one pays attention to the children; the adults only talk about the earthquake among themselves. The boys are able to come and play football but all we do is stay at home. When we see cloudy weather we get scared but our mother tells us to go asleep and not to worry about the earthquake".

Sayora age 11 Garibon Village, Tavildara district

The quote above highlights one girl's plight regarding the lack of recreational activities available to them. In coming to terms with such incidents as the earthquake, physical play and recreation can often be a means to heal and move forward from possible traumatizing experiences however it is clear that girls in general, in this area, have much lower opportunities to avail of such activities.



Teachers were seen as being crucial to disseminating information to the children. Just fewer than 20% of the children exclaimed that they received information classes regarding what to do in the event of an earthquake prior to the earthquake happening. They said that this really helped and that they would like to continue receiving these types of classes in the future.

Sayora, age 11 and Fariza, age 10 interviewed outside school # 39, Garibon village, Tavildara district

Recommendations

- Child friendly trainings should be carried out with children in Earthquake prone regions to alert them of the possible dangers so that they can be prepared if such an event occurs in the future.
- General Disaster Risk Reduction classes should be conducted in schools to alert children of other possible natural disasters in their region.
- Parental awareness sessions should be conducted regarding psychosocial issues and the stressors that are causing children to become worried during such crises in order for them to better deal with their children's fears during such emergencies and lead them to feel safer and more secure in their surroundings.
- Group counseling sessions should be available to children and adolescents according to age group and gender so that more sharing can continue after the earthquake.
- Recreational opportunities should be made available to girls in the more remote regions as currently they do not have an outlet to discuss and share experiences outside the home.

Structural Assessment Report

Assessment of schools affected by the earthquake in Rasht Valley

June 2012



Executive Summary

Following the earthquake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale, that occurred in the Rasht valley in Central Tajikistan on the 13th of May 2012, UNICEF in conjunction with Save the Children International carried out both a structural assessment of the physical damage caused to schools in the three districts of Rasht, Tavildara and Nurabad as well as an assessment of the psychosocial state of the children affected by the earthquake.

According to the REACT report issued on the 29th of May, it was estimated that 1,591 people had been affected and that 2 people had died as a result of the earthquake. Many homes have been partially or completely destroyed and there has also been a significant amount of damage to school buildings in the three districts.

The structural assessment was carried out over three days and covered 12 villages in 3 districts.

Assessment Methodology

The methodology of the assessment utilized on the regulations of engineering, design and construction. Major assessment techniques included:

- Identification of constructive schemes and materials used in load-bearing elements and enclosure;
- Identification of main load-bearing elements;
- Inspection of foundation conditions;
- Check presence and safety of connections providing stability of building;
- Identification of level of damages.

Technical details

The assessment revealed that most affected school facilities were rammed loam constructions (build out of mud and clay). According to the standards life span of such kind of constructions is limited to 25 years. Most of the affected schools were constructed more than the life span limit. Hence, more damage occurred as a result of the earthquake. The facilities under assessment can be referred to the group of constructions with no aseismic reinforcement. As a guide, damage rating and the recommended reconstructive activities can be described according to the following table:

Damage rate	Description of damage	% of damage	Reconstructive activities
D1 - Low	Low damages to materials and unconstructive elements of the building: line cracks in plaster; spalling of small plaster fragments; line cracks of connections between walls and structure, door cases etc. Cracks up to 0,5mm. Visible damages of constructive elements are absent.	5-15	Maintenance work is needed: repair by plastering and topping of spalling.
D2- Medium	Considerable damages to materials and unconstructive elements of the building; drop of plaster layers; through-thickness crack in partition walls etc.	15-40	Major repair of building is needed: repair with partial disassembly and renovating of spalling, grouting of cracks, reinforcement of construction elements
D3 – High	Destruction of unconstructive elements, collapse of a partition walls. Damages significantly reducing carrying capacity of construction: through-thickness crack in carrying walls, visible displacement of a panel.	40-80	Renewal of the building is possible. Construction of additional supports /stands, reinforcement or replace of certain elements
D4 - Complete	Partial destruction of carrying walls: break (gap) of carrying walls, breakdowns of joints and attachment points, collapse of slabs. Collapse of large building parts	Over 80	Condemned building (restoration is unreasonable)
D5 - Collapse	Full collapse of a building	100	

District	School #	Number of students	Number of classrooms	D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5
Nurobod	5	435	11					
	23	390	11					
	25	326	12					
	65	41	2					
	31	222	10					
	58	22	2					
Rasht	56	177	7					
Tavildara	25	84	6					
	39	2	31					
	12	10	123					
	19	71	10					
	7	186	9					

Schools damage rates

Nurobod district, Mujikharf jamoat

Village Sabzi qadam, School # 5

Position: Latitude: 38°54'49.09"N Longitude: 69°51'33.00"E

Elevation: 1670 m

Number of classrooms: 11

Number of Teachers: 17

Number of students: 435

Damage rate: D 3

Note:



Nurobod district, Mujikharf jamoat

Village Shodmony, School # 23

Position: Latitude: 38°55'16.69"N Longitude: 69°52'2.50"E

Elevation: 1687 m

Number of classrooms: 11

Number of Teachers: 15

Number of students: 390

Damage rate: D 4

Note: There are two buildings in the school. Indicated damage rate is for older building. Second building is rated as D1



Nurobod district, Mujikharf jamoat

Village Zoron, School # 25

Position: Latitude: 38°50'22.62"N Longitude: 69°53'1.69"E

Elevation: 1251 m

Number of classrooms: 12

Number of Teachers: 10

Number of students: 390

Damage rate: D 2

Note: Under decision of transferring school to another place. Two buildings. Rate for older building is D2. Second building rate is D1



Nurobod district, Mujikharf jamoat

Village Dehai baland, School # 65

Position: Latitude: 38°53'6.26"N Longitude: 69°52'22.90"E

Elevation: 1650 m

Number of classrooms: 2

Number of Teachers: NA

Number of students: 41

Damage rate: D 2

Note:



Nurobod district, Komsomolobod jamoat

Village Langar, School # 31

Position: Latitude: 38°52'19.70"N Longitude: 69°59'5.45"E

Elevation: 1444 m

Number of classrooms: 10

Number of Teachers: 20

Number of students: 222

Damage rate: D 1

Note:



Nurobod district, Komsomolobod jamoat

Village Sinjit, School # 58

Position: Latitude: Longitude:

Elevation:

Number of classrooms: 2

Number of Teachers: 2

Number of students: 22

Damage rate: D 2

Note:



Rasht district, Askalon jamoat

Village Gulkhana, School # 56

Position: Latitude: 39° 0'44.72"N Longitude: 70°23'57.98"E

Elevation: 1731 m

Number of classrooms: 10

Number of Teachers: 20

Number of students: 222

Damage rate: D 4

Note:



Tavildara district, Childara jamoat

Village Khujai Khuloz, School # 25

Position: Latitude: 38°46'37.10"N Longitude: 70°16'37.57"E

Elevation: 1591 m

Number of classrooms: 6

Number of Teachers: NA

Number of students: 177

Damage rate: D 4

Note:



Tavildara district, Childara jamoat

Village Gharibon, School # 39

Position: Latitude: 38°45'16.46"N Longitude: 70°20'19.46"E

Elevation: 1520 m

Number of classrooms: 2

Number of Teachers: 2

Number of students: 31

Damage rate: D 1

Note:



Tavildara district, Childara jamoat

Village Rubodnol, School # 12

Position: Latitude: 38°44'51.16"N Longitude: 70°20'42.02"E

Elevation: 1771 m

Number of classrooms: 10

Number of Teachers: 18

Number of students: 123

Damage rate: D 4



Tavildara district, Childara jamoat

Village Kosagardon, School # 19

Position: Latitude: 38°47'5.02"N Longitude: 70°13'53.43"E

Elevation: 1535 m

Number of classrooms: 6

Number of Teachers: 10

Number of students: 71

Damage rate: D 1

Note:



Tavildara district, Childara jamoat

Village Damob, School # 7

Position: Latitude: 38°47'47.90"N Longitude: 70°13'40.19"E

Elevation: 1438 m

Number of classrooms: 9

Number of Teachers: 11

Number of students: 186

Damage rate: D 1

Note: Facility for dining was affected – D 2

