

Minutes of the REACT Meeting
6th of April 2007, UNDP Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Mahmadullo Khalimov, First Deputy Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations

Participants: REACT partners ([Annex 1 - attached](#))

1. Introduction

Chair of the meeting, Mr. Mahmadullo Khalimov greeted the participants and informed them on the raised number of disasters, typical for this season (avalanches, rains, mudflows, landslides). Mr. Khalimov thanked the organizations for providing their support to the affected population. He informed about his visit to the disaster site in Rahimzoda Jamoat of Rasht district, where a landslide threatens 24 households. These households will be relocated to another place and therefore there's a need in tents as a temporary shelter. Due to the big size of families in that area, each family will require two family-type tents.

He also expressed expectation of quicker response by REACT members to the disasters.

2. Disaster information and updates:

a. Snowfalls in N.Khusrav district (Khatlon province)

On 25-26 of February heavy snowfalls with strong wind affected jamoat Komsomol, Nosiri Khusrav District, Khatlon Province.

Villages affected: Mirzoobod, Kizil Ketman, Korakamar, Voroshilov

Damage Info:

- 2 persons died
- 51 houses partially damaged (mostly roofs destroyed by strong wind and snow).
- 1 school (№ 19) partially damaged
- 72 ha of farmlands affected
- 371 (units of) cattle killed
- 2521 (units of) small cattle killed
- 54 horses killed
- 2 km of electricity lines destroyed

Needs:

- Construction materials (roofing, asbestos plates? etc.);
- Food

Response:

- UN WFP will provide 2-months food ration to (approx.) 104 families of Mirzoobod, Kizil Ketman and Voroshilov villages on 9-14 April 2007.
- ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) provided 50 bales (2.5 MT) of second-hand clothes to the affected population through CoES.

b. Landslide in Rasht district (Directly Ruled Districts)

Situation overview

Torrential rains on 26 of March 2007 caused landslide in Bini Safiyon village. Landslide in Loyoba village blocked part of the road (500 metres) between Garm and Navobod settlements.

Damage info:

- Land plots of 8 households affected;
- Village roads, canals, and 2 km of village water supply line affected;

- No houses are reported to be damaged or destroyed yet.

Needs (reported by REACT – Rasht):

- Food;
- Soap and hygiene items for affected families;
- Tents, bed sheets;
- Diesel and lubricants for road cleaning (20 MT requested by CoES).

Response

- 24 households, threatened by the landslide, were evacuated to the local Chaikhana (Tea House) and local school. Sanitary conditions of the evacuated families are bad.
- On 31st of March WFP distributed 1.440 MT of wheat flour, 0.108 MT of oil and 0.014 MT of Iodized salt to 120 beneficiaries (24 families).

c. Snowfalls on Shahrستان pass (Sughd province)

Situation overview:

Heavy snowfalls and avalanches blocked Shahrستان pass, connecting Dushanbe and Khujand, at the last streamer, before the upper point of the pass, at the distance around 180 km from Khujand during 24-30 of March.

Around 100 trucks and cars were trapped without food on the site. Local authorities were cleaning the pass with the only tractor available, lacking fuel and additional machinery. No casualties reported. The pass is open since April 2nd.

Needs (reported by REACT-Khujand):

- Food (bread, canned food) for 500 persons for 3 days
- 4 tons of diesel fuel

Response:

Bread, sausages and 1000 liters of fuel were provided by Khukumats of Shahrستان and Aini districts.

d. Floods in Khatlon province

Situation overview

Torrential rains on 28-29 of March caused rapid water level increase in Surhob, Yahsu and Kizilsu rivers in Khatlon province.

Damage info:

- 100 meters of bank reinforcement structures downstream of Construction Plant of Kulyab town were washed away.
- Yard of secondary school N 42 in Ghofilobodi Bolo of Vose district and 10 residential houses were affected.
- In Shibonai village of Temurmailk district bank reinforcement structures on Surhob river were washed away, bridge between district centre and Qushqiya Jamoat was damaged.
- Traffic road between districts of Vose and Khovaling was damaged on the 76th kilometre.
- Water level in Kiblai village (Temurmalik district) almost reached the edge of the river bank.
- 4-year old boy drowned in the river, his body was found in Degrezi village of Muminobod district.

Response:

No response was provided/information is not available.

e. Avalanches in Jirgital district

Situation overview

Heavy snowfall on 1st of April caused avalanches in Jirgital district affecting area residents.

Damage info:

Qazoktar village (Sarbolo jamoat):

- 3 houses completely destroyed, 1 house partly damaged;
- 11 persons buried under the snow, 8 of them died;
- 7 cows and 70 small cattle were killed.

Jilondi village (Surhob Jamoat):

- 1 man (17-year-old boy) killed;
- 2 bridges were destroyed,
- 140 pylons and 6.2 km of electricity lines are damaged,
- 3.5 km of roads blocked.

- Water supply lines in villages of Nushor, Shavriqiyon, Navobod and Polezak were damaged.
- One house in each of Kichikzi village (Nushor Jamoat), Qarashahri village (Shogadoev Jamoat) and Tojikobod village (Kal'a Jamoat) were partially damaged.
- Local electro-transformer, electro-poles (25 PC's) and about 15-20km electro-line damaged.

Needs (reported by REACT – Rasht):

- one month food ration for at least 20 households of Kazaktar village
- sanitary hygienic items (soap, washing powder, bed sheets)
- 4 MT of diesel and 50 kg of lubricants
- construction materials.

Response (provided by CoES):

- 1 tent,
- 1 diesel heater,
- 200kg of wheat flower, 20 kg of veg. oil,
- 4 blankets and 4 mattresses.

f. Floods in Vanj district

Situation overview:

On 1st of April torrential rains caused flooding in Vanj district, affecting the population of Panjshanbeobod, Gushkhun and Odesht villages.

Damage info:

- 1 house was completely destroyed and 5 were partially damaged in Panjshanbeobod
- 2 houses were partially damaged in Gushkhun
- 1 house was partially damaged in Odesht
- 52 persons affected in total

In upper part of Vanj district 12 households were reported to be affected. Detailed assessment is not possible to inaccessibility of the area (road was damaged by the torrential rains).

Response (by the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan):

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| - 25 mattresses | - 12 shovels |
| - 25 blankets | - 12 hoes |
| - 3 kitchen sets | - 10 buckets |
| - 4 pullovers | - 18 water cans |
| - 3 hygiene kits | - 2 set of bed-linen |
| - 1 kerosene stove | |

g. Earthquake in Afghanistan

On 3rd of April at 08.35 Dushanbe time an earthquake hit Badakhshan province of Afghanistan. Magnitude of the EQ was 6.2; depth of the hypocenter was 210 km, 138 km south-west from Khorog. Tremors were felt with the intensity of 4 in Dushanbe (MSK-64 scale) and 5 in Khorog. No damage/casualties were reported.

Mr. Farshed Karimov, TIEES, presented outcomes of the site visits on 30th of March and 4th of April by the team of specialists from Institute of Seismology to assess the earthquake in Hissar district, which occurred on 20th of March. Magnitude of the EQ was 3.9 (Richter scale), intensity of the tremors felt in Dushanbe was 2-3 (MSK-64 scale), epicenter was located 25 km to the west from Dushanbe. EQ caused small cracks in the adobe walls/fences in the area. No casualties reported.

Mr. Khalimov, CoES, and Mr. Karimov, TIEES, also informed that the EQ in Afghanistan further affected the landslide near Baipaza Hydro Power Plant with approximate volume of 3,000 m³. The landslide is moving down to the river and is being washed away by the water, but if it moves faster, the river can be blocked. In 2002 to avoid this situation, CoES had to use explosives to remove blocking mass.

Mr. Khalimov requested more tight cooperation between REACT partners and CoES, noting that number of disasters is rising.

Mr. Mathias Anderegg, SDC, informed that SDC can provide support to disaster risk mitigation, e.g. in Rasht district and Baipasa landslide, but such assistance will be a result of a serious and credible risk assessment, conducted jointly by international partners and Government. He requested the CoES to participate in such assessment, informing that such activities are part of mandate of the Centre of Competence for Disaster Reduction (CCDR).

Mr. Alisho Shomahmadov, CoES, requested REACT members to collaborate closely with state organizations in such assessments and include representatives of CoES in assessment missions.

3. Update on "Pamir-1" power station and disasters in GBAO

Mr. Malik Ajani, FOCUS, made an overview of the situation with emergency on "Pamir-1" Hydro Power station, outlining chain of events and current situation, as well as of the recent disasters in GBAO.

On Monday, February 5th "Pamir-1" Power Plant was flooded, which significantly reduced power in Khorog and neighboring districts of GBAO. FOCUS in collaboration with the GoT, CoES, AKDN, SDC and RCS assessed the situation, identified priorities and began recovery activities.

In collaboration and coordination with the Government, CoES, AKDN, SDC and RCST, FOCUS in partnership with IFC assisted with coal, stoves, blankets, candles, oil, flour and kerosene to 8 hospitals, 7 schools and 500 poor families, covering over 4000 direct beneficiaries.

Currently one of the power plant's generators have been repaired, there is no severe shortage of electricity in Khorog. Neighboring districts of GBAO continue to experience electricity shortages. Pamir Energy crews continue to work to restore the other generators

Overview of the recent disasters in GBAO

- Avalanches, rock falls and mudslides have been experienced in recent days throughout several districts in GBAO including: Darvaz, Vanj, Murgab, Rushan (Bartang), Shugnan and Ishkashim.
- Caused road closures, car accidents, damages to homes, injury and loss of life to human and livestock.
- Recent earthquake was 136 km from Khorog – no reported damages in GBAO. FOCUS continues to monitor and works with FOCUS Afghanistan and FOCUS Pakistan to assess Afghan and Northern Pakistan areas.

Response:

- Several of the roads have been reopened
- Crews are presently working to restore normal vehicle traffic in effected areas
- Affected families have been temporarily relocated
- Heating supplies have been provided
- As roads continue to reopen, further support will be provided

4. Workshop on Lessons Learnt from response to earthquake in Qumsangir

Oxfam GB and UNDRMP plan to conduct jointly with REACT partners a Workshop for REACT to define the Lessons Learnt from the response to the EQ in Qumsangir. As this is one of the emergencies received massive and joint response from REACT partners, it is very important to analyze the response followed by reconstruction and outline drawbacks and positive sides of it. Humanitarian response and reconstruction practices will be assessed and result in concrete recommendations and improvement steps for REACT and government response capacity.

Date, location and programme of the WS will be defined and communicated later.

Also, responding to the question of Mr. Mathias Anderegg, Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, UNDRMP and Peter Pichler, Oxfam, informed that one of the WS' outcomes would be to define the way the international stakeholders inside and outside of the country can assist the Government (international assistance, Search and Rescue teams to arrive etc.) in case of a major disaster. For instance, Switzerland signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with Tajikistan on support with Search and Rescue teams and primary relief in case of emergency, but most of the concerned officials are not aware of it and mechanism to receive such assistance does not exist.

5. "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan" project

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, UNDRMP, presented project, funded by ECHO, on strengthening Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan. The project has five components a below:

1. Support to the "National Disaster Risk Management Strategy 2008 -2015" development process
2. Support to the "National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan 2008-2010" development process
3. Disaster Risk Management partnership "REACT" strengthened at all levels
4. Standardization of GIS application in Disaster Risk Management
5. Assessment of seismic vulnerability and earthquake scenario development for Dushanbe through inventory of urban residential buildings (implemented jointly with "PMP Int.")

The objectives are very challenging and important and will require very tight cooperation with REACT partners and governmental organizations.

The project will be implemented from March 2007 to May 2008 by UNDRMP.

6. Sectoral Groups update;

a. *Health /WHO:*

Oxfam responded to typhoid outbreak in Kulyab by provision of 5 MT of chlorine. On the 7th of April there will be a meeting in Kulyab to assess the needs.

b. *Education and Water and Sanitation /UNICEF:*

UNICEF has requested members of WES Sectoral Groups on their possible assistance to population of Jirgital districts, affected by avalanches. UNICEF plans to provide to Jirgital 25 hygiene kits, 20 sets of bed linen for adults and 40 - for children and 20 packs of water purification tabs.

c. *Non food and Shelter /UNHCR:*

Mr. Mathias Anderegg inquired about possibility for CoES/Tajik Government to be part of the UN Trust Fund (to be established) which would increase status and trust to the established entity.

Mr. Khusrav Sharifov, UNDRMP, explained that there's still ongoing discussion between UNHCR and UNDP on the form and status of such entity, and most likely the UNHCR stocks will handed over to UNDP. He also marked difference between CoES' and UNTF's approaches to emergency response (immediate distribution vs. distribution based on needs assessment and stocks replenishment arrangements).

d. *Food /WFP*

Mr. Zlatan Milisic, WFP, informed about monthly meetings of Food Coordination Group, which extends its portfolio to cover disaster issues in case of emergency situations.

7. News from REACT partners;

News from Institute of Seismology

Mr. Farshed Karimov announced Republican Scientific Conference "100 years of Karatag Earthquake and contemporary challenges of earthquake engineering and seismology" to be conducted in Dushanbe on 20-21 September 2007 by Tajik Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology and distributed 1st Information message on the Conference.

Mr. Karimov also noted that the link with the mass media should be closer as the news coverage of disasters usually includes mistakes (e.g. mixing Richter and MSK 64 scales when noting the earthquakes magnitude and intensity).

REACT evaluation questionnaire

A questionnaire to evaluate REACT's activities, structure and efficiency will be sent by UNDRMP to all REACT partners. Based on the evaluation of the current state and feedback/recommendations from the partners changes/reforms of REACT will be initiated. All the partners are requested to actively participate in this exercise.

8. Any other business

Mr. Adam Yao introduced himself as a Head of ECHO in Tajikistan, announced startup of IVth phase of DIPECHO with a total budget of EURO 6 million and invited DIPECHO partners share info on their projects using REACT forum.

Mr. Fernando Garcia-Abril from Merlin HQ informed that after 10 years of presence in the country, Merlin will phase out and close down its operations in Tajikistan. He thanked all partners and the national staff who have assisted Merlin throughout these times.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 2nd of May, 2007, 0900 - 1030.

You may email your suggestions for the upcoming agenda and any information **(in English and Russian)** on upcoming events for the monthly bulletin to anvar.sabzaliev@undp.org