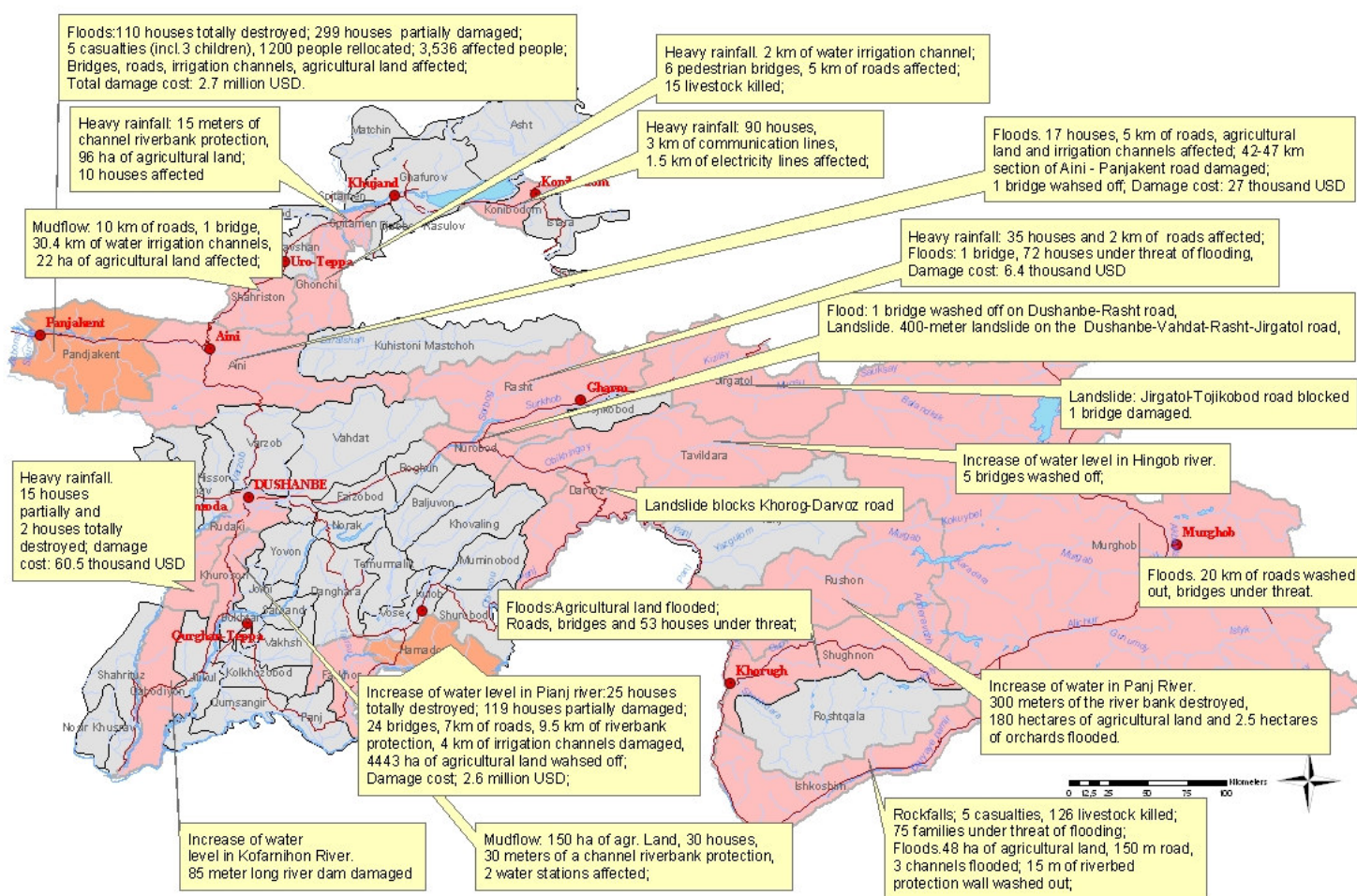




Tajikistan - United Nations Update

18 July 2005

Extraordinary snowfalls in February 2005 combined with unusually hot weather in June and July has caused rivers throughout the country to swell and damage or destroy river bank protections causing widespread flooding and mudflows. As of 15 July 2005 more than 3,500 people in Penjikent and 8,500 people in Hamadoni have been affected by flooding, and more than 10,000 of these have been evacuated to temporary camps. Damages have been calculated to exceed USD 10 million nationwide.



On 6 July the Government of Tajikistan has launched an appeal to the International community for humanitarian and financial assistance for the disaster effected areas. Following the appeal the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES), UN, INGOs, Government ministries and agencies and others have conducted assessments of the situation. Assistance has already been provided by private enterprises and REACT - Tajikistan's disaster risk management partnership lead by MoES to coordinate response and mitigation efforts. However, there are still many unmet needs, and further flooding is still threatening.

More information related to the assessment and the disaster in general can be found on www.untj.org

MoES also reports that the water level of Lake Sarez has been increasing up to 3,269 meters presently. The report indicates that the highest level of Lake Sarez reported so far was 3,270 meters in August 1994. If the water keeps rising at the current speed then in 7 days time it will reach the highest level ever recorded. A potential discharge of water from the lake caused by this might affect more than 5 million people in Tajikistan and the neighbouring countries.