

UN Country Team in Tajikistan

Rasht District Earthquake Appeal

August 2007

*Based on Tajik Government request and
Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) assessment*

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This appeal is intended to cover the urgent remaining needs and recovery activities of the population affected by the earthquake which hit Rasht district in central part of Tajikistan on the 22nd of July 2007. **Three** persons were killed, **207** houses have been completely destroyed and more than **1,216** houses have been partially damaged, affecting more than **12,000** people. The official estimation of the damage caused by the earthquake is **11.5 mln Somoni (3.3 mln USD)**.



The Government of Tajikistan, UN Country Team and the international community are still in the process of meeting urgent, sector specific needs, especially in food, non-food items and shelter, health, water and sanitation and education. The response has been well coordinated through the Disaster Management Partnership REACT (Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team). The table attached (annex 1) provides an overview of what has been distributed thus far (update of 31 July 2007) to the affected population.

The government and the international community are continuing to respond to the disasters, but due to the seasonal conditions and geographic locations affected sites will be accessible only for another 3-4 months, before the cold season sets in, which will make it almost impossible to continue the reconstruction process. As a result, there is a fear that most of the fully destroyed and severely damaged houses (approximately 300 houses) will not be rebuilt before the winter begins.

In addition to other infrastructure damaged, six schools, in which more than **1,800** children study, were also affected by the earthquakes. In order to ensure continuity in children's education (the new school year is to start on 1st of September), this appeal covers part of the needs for school rehabilitation/reconstruction. There is an urgent need for full or partial rehabilitation of the damaged schools and provision of "school-in-box" emergency kits. If reconstruction/rehabilitation is not succeeded in all villages, then mobile schools (tents) shall be set up.

This appeal calls for 300 winter tents, as well as the material support for the reconstruction of 300 houses and 6 schools in addition to food support for the vulnerable households living in temporary shelter and involved in the reconstruction activities. The appeal also aims at preventing outbreaks of infectious diseases, noting that over 2,500 people will spend several months living in tents in very poor sanitary conditions.

The total amount required is **USD 2,165,000**. The duration of implementation of these activities is planned for 12 months.

2. CONTEXT AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

2.1 Context

Tajikistan is a highly disaster prone country, and is located in one of the world's most active seismic zones (Pamir-Alai, Hindukush) and has a mountainous landscape (93 per cent of the country). The risk of earthquake disasters is very high. But apart from earthquakes, Tajikistan is also exposed to almost daily mudslides, rockslides, floods and avalanches. On average, the country suffers nearly 500 disasters per year.

The earthquake in Rasht measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit nineteen villages (Kuloba, Chugdabiyon, Langar, Chorcharogh, Kalai-Surkh, Langarak, Kadara, Shulonak, Kaznok, Varduch, Shul, Qizrok, Loyoba, Karoluk, Kochamandi, Chashmai Qizi, Airport, Mashkonak, Ghavosiyon) of two jamoats in Rasht District, Directly Ruled Districts, at 03:44 am local time on 22nd of July killing 3 boys from one family, destroying 207 and damaging more than 1,200 houses, 3 persons were hospitalized with one severe case; 6 schools, 5 teahouses, 2 libraries and 1 youth centre are damaged.

Most of the destructions were caused to the adobe houses, large fragments or whole walls collapsed, destroying inhabitants' belongings.

The majority of destroyed houses were adobe buildings built in the last 3-10 years not following the building standards and without or with just a small quantity of proper construction materials (cement, iron bars and framework, timber wood etc.) due to severe poverty of the population. On the same day, at 14:00 (local time) a mudflow ripped through a resort area killing 12 people in Asht district of northern Sughd province affecting Olma and Chimor villages of Oshoba Jamoat. As a result of this mudflow, 10 injured people were hospitalized, eight houses fully destroyed and another six were partly destroyed. On 24th of July a mudflow hit Sarichashma, Shohcha and Jairahona villages of Shaidon jamoat in the same district, completely destroying 4 houses and damaging another 30. In total, about 96 households were affected by this mudflow.

On 21 July Darwaz District of GBAO was hit by a mudflow which completely destroyed 3 houses and partly damaged another 5 houses. In addition, 1 hydroelectric power station and one car bridge were destroyed as well.

Currently, the homeless families, affected by the earthquake in Rasht district, are seeking temporary shelter with family members/relatives or are living outside in makeshift shelters and distributed summer tents in the backyard of their homes. This has increased the need for emergency relief items such as tents for good quality temporary shelter. Due to the labour migration of large parts of the male population from Tajikistan to the neighbouring countries, a substantial number of households are female-headed. Without proper support with manpower and construction materials it is almost impossible for these families to rebuild their houses within the next three months before the cold season.

The Government of Tajikistan has requested assistance from the international community to address the severity of the emergency situation in Rasht District. Based on REACT, the disaster coordination partnership previously established under the leadership of OCHA, the Committee of Emergencies is coordinating government and non-governmental organizations response on the ground.

Since 22nd of July, Government and international agencies have been undertaking various response measures, including the provision of food (37 MT of diversified food commodities), temporary shelter (144 summer tents), basic construction materials (60 MT of cement, roofing materials), medical items (basic emergency health kits etc.), non-food items (cooking sets, construction tools, beddings, clothes etc.), water and sanitation sets (hygiene kits, jerry-cans, water purification tablets etc).

UN OCHA responded to the UN Resident Coordinator's requests and allocated 23,600 USD to support coordination and logistics of the response operation. The Bureau for Crisis

Prevention and Recovery of UNDP responded to the emergency with 50,000 USD following the UNDP Resident Representative's request for assistance. The latter is directed to support the coordination capacities of the Committee of Emergency Situations and REACT.

The Government is mobilizing its resources to meet both immediate and short term needs of the population, but the capacities are overstretched. In the same time, numerous disasters to come in autumn and winter (landslides, mudflows and avalanches) would require redistribution of insufficient response resources available. This fact poses the threat that the emergency in Rasht will not be responded to in an efficient and satisfactory manner, and recovery will be halted in the middle of the process.

2.2 Humanitarian consequences

Shelter and NFI

As a result of the earthquake **207** houses were destroyed – this figure tends to increase as the detailed technical assessment is ongoing and number of partially damaged houses may be considered as unusable and subject to demolition and rebuilding – and more than **1,200** houses were damaged. Since the cold season in this mountainous part of Tajikistan is expected to start in less than three months, there is a high probability that roughly 300 houses will not be rebuilt and the affected population (**roughly 2,500 persons**) will require **300** winterized tents for the winter. Another hampering factor is the inaccessibility of the region during the rain-snow season, which makes delivery of the construction materials and other assistance very difficult.

Food

Tajikistan is a low-income food deficit country. With food imports the country achieves a food balance at the national level, however food and nutrition security at the household level is problematic, with the poor (64% of the population) spending some 80% of their income on food. Significant numbers of female-headed households are known to have less access to land, irrigation and livestock. It is estimated that only 50% of the households affected by the earthquake do not have access to land, whilst for those who have access to land, this provides for a maximum of 50% of a family's annual food needs under normal circumstances. Whilst further assessments are ongoing, it is estimated that as a result of the earthquake some 150 households living in temporary shelter will be in need of unconditional food assistance throughout the winter.

Health and WES

Even before this emergency the response capacity to disaster in the region was very poor. After the earthquake, the population is expected to face a high risk period lasting for several months. In these conditions the probability of epidemic outbreaks of water-borne diseases, viral diseases and severe respiratory distress syndromes is extremely high.

Although main health structures (medical points) were not affected by the earthquake, the general sanitation conditions of the families may still deteriorate as part of the drinking water used comes from open sources. Chlorine powder and other disinfectants are required to clean places of mass defecation and schools.

According to the assessment reports, there is no need for drugs and medication at this time as current stocks are sufficient.

Education

The earthquake seriously affected the life of children in the district. Six schools, where more than **1,800** children study, were damaged and now pose a threat to the schoolchildren.

There is an urgent need for full or partial rehabilitation of schools, provision of “schools-in-box” kits” and essential school supplies in affected schools. If not succeeded before September 2007, than an option of mobile schools (multi-person tents) combined with winterisation measures should be seriously considered.

3. RESPONSE PLAN

Coordination of the Appeal implementation will be performed by the UN Resident Coordinator’s office. Contributions for different sector-based projects can be channeled through implementing partners indicated in the respective sections and/or sub-contracted to other partners, based on their expertise and capacity.

Information exchange and coordination of the activities as a response to this Appeal and other assistance to Rasht district will be ensured by the Committee of Emergency Situations (Chair of REACT) in partnership with the UN Resident Coordinator and REACT Secretariat through regular (monthly) meetings, email and web dissemination (www.untj.org).

Additionally, all the interventions, including implementation, monitoring and reporting, will be carried out according to the respective rules and regulations of the financing organisation by the agency, through which the funds are channeled.

A. EMERGENCY RESPONSE (IMMEDIATE):

312,000 USD

I. Project: Immediate Relief for the victims of the earthquake (Shelter, NFI, Food)

Currently the response phase is in place, primary emergency needs of the population include provision of temporary shelters (tents), also considering necessity of provision of winterized tents to those who may not manage to reconstruct their houses before autumn and winter (which is very cold in this mountainous area). Immediate food assistance is required for those households whose houses have been completely destroyed and who have no access to land. The total is estimated at 150 households, 750 beneficiaries.

Objective: Provision of 300 winterized tents for highly vulnerable households who will be unable to rebuild their houses before the winter.

Activities:

- Identification of the most vulnerable beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the government’s emergency response commission and the local communities;
- Procurement of tents;
- Provision of emergency food rations to 150 vulnerable households most affected by the earthquake during the winter season (5 months);
- Provision of necessary Non-Food Items (water purification tablets, jerry cans hygiene kits, blankets etc). to the population living in tents;
- Organization of a transport and distribution system;
- Distribution of items with proper recording.

Impact: About 2,500 persons will be provided with temporary shelter to withstand the winter and have the capacity to reconstruct their permanent houses. About 750 persons will be provided immediate food assistance.

SHELTER, NFI, FOOD		US\$ 312,000
UNDP, UNICEF, WFP,	Project Title: Immediate Relief for the victims of the earthquake (Shelter, NFI, Food) Objective: Provision of 300 winterized tents.	Shelter: 250,000 US\$ NFIs: 30,000

REACT partners,	Beneficiaries: Total Number: 2,500 Women: 750 Men: 250 Children: 1,500 Partners: Government of Tajikistan, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government, local authorities of Rasht district, WFP, REACT partners.	Food: 32,000 US\$
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B. REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY (1 TO 12 MONTHS) 1,853,000 USD

I. Project: Rehabilitation and disaster reduction needs /Reconstruction/ Reinforcement of housing

In order to avoid the situation following Qumsangir earthquake of July 2006, a smooth and efficient transfer from response to sustainable recovery is crucial. Reconstruction of houses, provision of construction materials (cement, iron beams, framework, roofing, timber wood) and trainings on seismic safety construction are of primary need.

The season for reconstruction will last for another 2-3 months before the rain/cold season sets in; if the construction materials are not provided in the required quantity, the population will reconstruct their houses in the same vulnerable manner. Thus provision of trainings on seismic-resistant construction is the absolute prerequisite for the reconstruction activities.

In the conditions of limited aid, absence of efficient insurance, and overall economic hardships, inexpensive yet earthquake-resistant construction with use of local materials would save a lot of resources and would enhance the earthquake resistance of the houses. The ability of newly built houses to withstand medium-scale earthquakes is sometimes low because of improper design, quality of construction work and materials, wrong choice of materials, and deviation from norms and rules.

The required seismic strength has to be achieved with use of locally available materials; the designers should be educated and adhere to the seismic resistance norms; the construction organization and the construction supervisors should be educated and adhere to the rules and norms in drawings, quality, amount and proportion of materials, and construction technologies.

Because many local residents are unable to afford cement and other proper building materials, they usually build houses with a mud-based sealant that is unable to withstand earthquakes and floodwaters. Additionally, many poor residents, particularly the elderly and female-headed households, have difficulty to pay for laborers.

In a first phase before the winter, houses which have been affected by the earthquake but which have not been fully destroyed will be reinforced. Only after the winter, in the second phase of the recovery will the construction of new houses for those who have lost their house completely be able to start. Principal construction materials (cement, steel framework, timber wood and roofing) will be provided for each of the destroyed and demolished houses (equivalent to 3,000 USD per house) to support the governmental and beneficiaries' reconstruction efforts.

During the periods of reinforcement and construction, food assistance may be provided unconditionally to those vulnerable groups who have lost their houses, have no access to land and are unable to engage in reconstruction activities, whilst food insecure families with able bodied people engaged in the reconstruction activities at the expense of going out to the fields to plant or harvest or engaging in other income generating activities may be provided with conditional food assistance.

Objective:

Reconstruction and reinforcing of the damaged houses supported through provision of construction materials and trainings on seismic resistant construction for the affected population.

300 poor families (approx. 2,400 people) living in highly affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes through supplements to local government response.

1,100 families (approx. 9,000 people) living in damaged houses are assisted in reinforcing and rehabilitating their houses.

Activities:

- Identification of most vulnerable beneficiaries through criteria agreed upon between the national society and the local communities;
- Procurement of supplies;
- Trainings on seismic resistant construction;
- Organization of a transport and distribution system by each of the local branches concerned;
- Distribution of items with proper recording;
- Distribution of food commodities.

Impact:

2,400 of the most vulnerable beneficiaries (families without males, several children and elderly people) will have permanent shelter, reconstructed with assistance of the Government and international community. 13,000 beneficiaries will receive food commodities to support their reconstruction and reinforcement activities.

SHELTER/Reconstruction and Rehabilitation		US\$ 1,199,000
UNDP/ WFP/ UNISDR/ REACT partners	Project Title: Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of housing Objective: 300 poor families (approx. 2,400 people) living in highly affected villages are assisted in the rebuilding of their homes in a seismic – proof manner through supplements to local government response. Beneficiaries: Total Number: 2,400 Women: 720 Men: 210 Children: 1,470 13,000 beneficiaries for reconstruction and reinforcement will receive food commodities Partners: Government of Tajikistan, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government, local authorities of Rasht district, State Committee for Construction and Architecture, various INGOs, scientific organizations	Construction materials: 900,000 US\$ Food Assistance: 284,000 US\$ Trainings 15,000 US\$

II. Project: Rehabilitation of schools/Resuming classes in the damaged schools

UNICEF provided emergency health kits, water purification tablets, jerry cans, bed linen and cooking sets to families in all of the affected areas in both Rasht and Asht districts.

In Rasht, health points were established in all the affected areas where emergency health kits are used for provision of health services. Vaccination of children is being carried out

according to schedule developed by the Ministry of Health. Health workers also promote hygiene and sanitation practices among affected families.

The 6 schools which were affected by the earthquake are included in the Food For Education (FFE) programme by WFP and 1,635 school children are normally provided with hot meals or take home rations in these schools. In order to continue this activity in the food insecure area and to ensure that the children will attend school, especially girls, it is important that the school kitchens are rehabilitated before the start of the new school year. A continuation of the FFE programme from the beginning of the new school year will also mitigate the effect of children resorting to other schools in the area. The total estimated cost also includes provision of kitchen utensils and cups, plates and cutlery for the children.

Objective

- Ensure access to quality basic education in child friendly environment in 6 schools affected by the earthquake for children in Rasht district through resuming classes in the damaged schools, provision of necessary school equipment and furniture (including desks and chairs for students and teachers, blackboards and bookshelves) and winterization materials;
- Hygiene and sanitation promotion among schoolchildren and population;
- Provision of emergency health kits and dugs;
- Resumption of the Food For Education Programme.

Activities:

- Rehabilitation of 6 affected schools, including kitchens and canteens;
- Provision of “school-in-box for emergencies”, school furniture (desks and chairs for students and teachers, blackboards and bookshelves) and winterization items (stoves, tents, coal) for 6 affected schools;
- Provision of adequate number of health kits and hygiene kits, supplementary drugs, vaccines, and other humanitarian health supplies;
- Provision of chlorine, hygiene kits, IEC materials and other items as needed to prevent and respond to any diarrhoeal outbreaks;
- Support the establishment of sanitation facilities (water seal pour flush latrine) and child-friendly water supply system aimed at promoting safe hygiene and sanitation as well as to prevent water-borne diseases;
- Emergency Drugs Procurement and distribution of ORS, Emergency Health Kits;
- Provision of food commodities to vulnerable households participating in the reconstruction activities.

Impact:

1,800 schoolchildren resume their study in safe conditions, in rehabilitated and refurbished schools as well as receive essential school supplies which will make attending school more attractive. In addition, the regular FFE programme will continue increasing attendance rates and reducing the gender gap.

Provision of sanitation facilities and safe water supply will prevent the occurrence of waterborne diseases among children and their families living in disaster-affected areas.

Promotion of good hygiene practices will also contribute to prevention of outbreaks and spread of diseases. Provision of vaccine and other health care will ensure protection of children from diseases that may likely occur in an emergency situation.

Provision of oral rehydration solution, emergency health kits, drugs and other emergency supplies will ensure the survival of children, particularly those currently affected by the emergency.

EDUCATION/WATER AND SANITATION/HEALTH		US\$ 304,000
UNICEF/ WFP/ REACT partners	Project Title: Rehabilitation of schools/ Resuming classes in the damaged schools.	Reconstruction/ Rehabilitation: 120,000 US\$
	Objective: Access to education is ensured for more than 1,800 children from 6 schools affected by the earthquake in Rasht District. FFE programme can continue.	WES/Health/ Furnishing: 181,000 US\$
	Beneficiaries: Total Number: School children: - 1,800; teachers: - about 120; families – about 3,600 350 beneficiaries will receive food commodities for participating in the reconstruction activities	Food Commodities: 3,000 US\$
	Partners: Ministries of Health and Education, local authorities	

III. Project: Health Surveillance and Response to Epidemic Threats in Rasht Region affected by the Earthquake

Even before this emergency the response capacity to disaster in the region was very poor, due to many factors, including outbreaks of water-borne diseases, lack of maintenance of infrastructures and ineffective function of the surveillance system. After the earthquake, the population is expected to face a high risk period lasting for several months. In these conditions the probability of epidemic outbreaks of water-borne diseases, viral diseases and severe respiratory distress syndromes is extremely high.

In the framework of its mandate and in view of the urgent need of the region, WHO strongly recommends to strengthen the health surveillance system in order to achieve: (i) an adequate level of epidemic response to major epidemic threats; (ii) and prompt access to diagnostics and therapeutics for infectious outbreaks' control.

Objectives:

- To monitor disease incidence and provide early warning of epidemics;
- To provide diagnostics and chemical/pharmaceutical therapeutics for reduction of mortality and morbidity of vulnerable population.

Activities

- Setting up surveillance (alert) system (detection, confirmation, response and evaluation);
- Strengthening links to lab network to ensure prompt reporting of laboratory confirmed cases;
- Provision of lab equipment and reagents;
- Provision of chlorine (water sanitation);
- Provision of emergency health kits.

Impact

Mortality and morbidity of the vulnerable population is reduced through timely identification and prevention of outbreaks of infectious diseases.

HEALTH		US\$ 350,000
WHO	<p>Project Title: Health Surveillance and Response to Epidemic Threats in Rasht Region affected by the Earthquake</p> <p>Objective: To monitor disease incidence and provide early warning of epidemics; To provide diagnostics and chemical/pharmaceutical therapeutics for reduction of mortality and morbidity of vulnerable population</p> <p>Beneficiaries: 90,700 people (population of Rasht district)</p> <p>Partners: Ministry of Health, National Epidemiological Surveillance Centre, local health facilities and INGOs</p>	350,000 US\$

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

UN Disaster Risk Management Project (UNDRMP) through REACT (uniting over 70 national and international DRM stakeholders) will manage operational coordination of assistance provision.

CoES will provide assistance in coordination in the field, transportation of the relief items and manpower (CoES soldiers) for reconstruction activities.

REACT partners will assist the beneficiaries in reconstruction of their houses through provision of expertise (engineers) and construction materials with co-finance of donors.

UNICEF in partnership with the Ministry of Education and local authorities will be responsible for implementation of the educational component of the assistance provided.

UNWFP will provide food support to the affected households.

UN/ISDR in cooperation with REACT partners will provide trainings on seismic-resistant construction techniques.

Various international and local NGOs in partnership with local authorities will be performing sub-implementation of response and reconstruction activities.

Annex 1. Assistance provided by REACT partners to the disaster affected population of Rasht and Asht districts of Tajikistan for the period 22-26 July 2007.

Rasht district (DRD)

Assistance	Quantity	Unit	Responding Agency										
			GovTJ/ CoES	Hukumat of Faizabad	Health system reform centre of TJ	RCST	UNICEF	UNWFP	UNWHO	UNDRMP	SDC	GAA	"El- Shadday" Charity Org
Food													
Bread	100	loaf		100									
Macaroni	50	kg			50								
Mineral Water	216	litres		216									
Oil	3,351	Kg	3,000		23			328					
Peas	875	Kg						875					
Rice	4,200	Kg	4,000									200	
Salt	109	Kg						109					
Sugar	5,100	Kg	5,000	100									
Wheat (grains)	72	sack		72									
Wheat flour	19,400	Kg	10,000	1050	500			7,850					
NFI/Shelter													
Bedding set (adult)	232	Sets.				52	180						
Bedding set (children)	200	Sets					200						
Blankets	254	Pcs				254							
Blankets (children)	180	Pcs					180						
Carpet	10	Pcs			10								
Cotton blankets (kurpa)	36	Pcs			21							15	
Diesel	23,700	litres		20000							3200	500	
Hoes	34	Pcs				34							

Kitchen Set	184	Units				124	60							
Lamps	14	Pcs												14
Mattresses	133	Pcs				133								
Pillows	183	Pcs				183								
Plastic sheets	150	Pcs				150								
Second-hand clothes	220	Bags				220								
Shoes (children)	6	box											6	
Stabilizer	177	Pcs												177
Tents	144	Pcs	104			37				3				
Water and Sanitation														
Hygiene kits	134	Pcs				134								
Laundry soap (aynasobun)	98	Pcs		98										
Plastic buckets	354	Pcs				354								
Plastic Jerry Cans, 10L	180	Pcs					180							
Toilet soap	160	Pcs		160										
Washing powder	26	Pcs		26										
Water containers	350	Pcs				350								
Water purifications tabs (50 tabs per pac)	150	Pack					150							
Health														
New emergency health kit-basic unit/set of 2 boxes	1	Kit					1							
Basic Medical Unit of "New Emergency Health Kit" for 1,000 pers for 3 months	1	Kit							1					
Vitamins for children	35	box											35	

Medications/drugs				various										
Construction materials														
Angle blocks for doors and windows	1,272	Pcs												1272
Cable APPV 2*4	364	m												364
Cast iron pipe	1,403	ton												1,403
Cement	200	ton	200											
Chandelier	2	Pcs												2
Door 2.05 x 0.70 m	1	Pcs												1
Door 2.05 x 0.90 m	3	Pcs												3
Door hinges	760	Pcs												760
Door-handle	41	Pcs												41
Espagnolette	382	Pcs												382
Lock	14	Pcs												14
Nails	570	kg												569.5
Roofing slates	1,500	Pcs	1,500											
Shovels	64	Pcs				64								
Sockets/switchers	480	Pcs												480
Timber wood	110	m3	110											
Wall paper	2,850	m2												2850
Window-handle	95	Pcs												95
Windows, different size	45	Pcs												45