

NATURAL DISASTER

LANDSLIDE THREATENS FLOODS IN OBI GARM AREA

DUSHANBE, March 25, Asia-Plus /Roza Shaposhnik/ -- Landslide threatens flood to the Settlement of Obi Garm, some 100 kilometers to the east of Dushanbe.

A large landslide hit the area near the Tajik eastern city of Roghun yesterday, March 24, according to information from the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES). Sirojiddin Mulloyev, an official with MES, today morning told Asia-Plus that the landslide is still moving ever closer to the banks of the Kundala River threatening flood in the area.

The landslide caused by the recent heavy rainfall also threatens to submerge the Obi Garm settlement unless action is taken to prevent the slide forming a dam and blocking Kundala's flow. According to the Asia-Plus interlocutor, experts estimate that the landslide is carrying with it some 60,000 cubic meters of mud, which is enough to block the river's flow. The landslide has damaged 200 meters of the highway Dushanbe-Khorog and blocked the road leading to the city of Roghun. Fortunately, no injured was reported, according to the source. The landslide has also destroyed the main supplying drinking water to Roghun.

Mr. Mulloyev says a special commission has been set up for mitigation of effects of the disaster in this area. The commission consists of representatives of the MES and local authorities. The work on rehabilitation of the water supply system is underway. Rescue teams and machines have been sent to the site of the slide to stop the landslide moving to the Kundala river and prevent the possible floods.