

## News Bulletin

5 – 19 May 2010

### At a glance

- Polio outbreak in Tajikistan has spread
- Deadly flashfloods in East Khatlon
- Polio immunization campaign ongoing
- 5,500 camp residents in Kulyab get aid
- Tajikistan donates \$2,000 to CERF
- \$5.3 million Flood Appeal for East Khatlon

### Current issues

#### Polio outbreak in Tajikistan has spread

The *World Health Organization* (WHO) reports that the polio outbreak in Tajikistan has spread, with 127 confirmed cases as of 20 May. This number is expected to increase as more samples are being analyzed in the WHO reference laboratory in Moscow. At the same time a slight decrease in reported cases in children is observed as a result of the ongoing immunization campaign, and this is expected to grow as the vaccination rounds progress.

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#### Deadly flashfloods in East Khatlon

Torrential rains hit East Khatlon on 7 May, provoking deadly flashfloods in Kulyab town and the surrounding districts of Baljuvan, Khovaling, Kulyab, Muminabad, Shurabad, Temurmalik and Vose. Forty people were killed and 33 remain missing. Over 300 people were injured, with at least 85 sustaining grave injuries. This is the highest number of casualties caused by a single disaster in Tajikistan in over a decade.

About 5,500 children, women and men in Kulyab town are displaced as their houses were destroyed or severely damaged by torrents of water, stones and debris. Another 16,000 people in rural areas lost their livelihoods; their livestock were killed, crops were destroyed and pastures were buried under mud and rocks. Infrastructure such as schools, health centers, water supply systems, sanitation facilities, roads and river embankments in

Kulyab town and the affected rural areas were also severely damaged.

### Response activities

#### Polio immunization campaign ongoing

The second five-day polio immunization campaign to stop the outbreak of the debilitating disease started on 18 May across the country. The first round was held on 4-8 May; results indicate that more than 1.1 million children under 6 years of age were immunized. The third round will take place on 1-5 June. WHO, the *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) and other partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative support the immunization drives organized by the Ministry of Health.



Child receiving polio vaccine in first round of campaign | UNICEF

During the National Immunization Days, children can be vaccinated free of charge at immunization points located in hospitals, local health centers and other dedicated areas like schools or kindergartens. Mobile teams make serious efforts to immunize children in isolated or hard to reach communities.

Teams of the Ministry of Health, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, are travelling across the country to monitor the immunization campaign and to investigate the possible spread of the polio virus. Solid support is provided by the media, health professionals and other advocates to ensure that correct information on polio and the importance of immunization is provided to parents and caregivers.

Mission East, a non governmental organization working in Kulyab, Ayni and Penjikent districts, mobilized \$23,000 from the Danish Missionary Church Development and \$3,720 from the Swiss Partnerships in Health in support of social mobilization, monitoring, and provision of equipment for the immunization campaign in these districts.

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### 5,500 camp residents in Kulyab get aid

About 5,500 displaced people who lost their house and belongings in the deadly flashfloods in Kulyab on 7 May are currently residing in tent camps in and around the town's stadium and receiving relief aid from the communities, private sector, government and REACT partners.



Displaced girl overlooking tent camp in Kulyab town | UNDP

A total of 206 tons of food were donated, together with 624 tents, thousands of mattresses and blankets, hygiene kits, clothes and other basic survival items. Water tanks, a washing area and hygienic latrines and showers were installed. Two health posts and a kindergarten for 200 children are operating.

The Government allocated land for the resettlement of the affected families.

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### Tajikistan donates \$2,000 to CERF

On 10 May, the Permanent mission of Tajikistan to the United Nations announced that the country will make a donation of \$2,000 to the *Central Emergency Response Fund* (CERF). The CERF is a stand-by fund of up to \$500 million established by the United Nations to enable more timely and

reliable humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts.

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## Coordination

### \$5.3 million Flood Appeal for East Khatlon

On 19 May, REACT launched the Flood Appeal for East Khatlon, seeking to mobilize \$5.3 million to support the Government in providing relief and early recovery assistance to 20,500 people and their communities affected by the flashfloods in Kulyab and the surrounding districts.

The appeal includes 26 projects; 12 are proposed by United Nations agencies and 14 by non-governmental organizations. The projects aim to provide food and basic social services to Kulyab tent camp residents, restore animal stocks and crop land in the surrounding districts, and provide disaster victims with basic household items. The plan also intends to restore drinking water and safe sanitation in the town of Kulyab and in seven districts.

Table: Summary of requirements by sector

Sector	Requirements (\$)
Shelter and Non-Food Items	527,357
Food security and livelihoods	2,286,158
Health	593,309
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,522,861
Child Protection and Education	418,376
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,348,061</b>

The appeal was formally launched by Mr. Farrukh Khamraliev, Minister of Economy, representing State Commission on Kulyab Emergency Situation, together with the co-chairs of REACT: Mr. Michael Jones, United Nations Resident Coordinator, and Mr. Bakhtiyor Oripov, Deputy Chairman of CoES.

The document can be downloaded from the REACT website: [www.untj.org/?c=7&id=149](http://www.untj.org/?c=7&id=149)

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