

News Bulletin

19 May - 2 June 2010

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Current issues

Anti-Polio drive targets all children under 15

Tajikistan has reported 139 laboratory confirmed cases of the wild polio virus as of 25 May. All reported cases are located in the south-western part of the country and the vast majority of them are children below 15 years of age. The number of daily reported cases of paralysis, a primary indication of polio, has begun to decline, a result of the effective immunization campaign.

The third vaccination round is currently ongoing and targets all children under 15. The *United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) procured an additional 6.3 million doses of the oral polio vaccine for rounds 3 and 4. The 4th round, targeting the same expanded age group, will be organized from 15 to 19 June.

Teams from the *World Health Organization* (WHO) support the Ministry of Health with investigating the polio outbreak, improving the surveillance system and case management, as well as assessing the rehabilitation needs of paralyzed patients. WHO health clinicians provided two training sessions to health care workers in Dushanbe and Kurgan-Tube on the correct management of polio patients.

Teams of the Ministry of Health are travelling across the country, with the support of WHO and UNICEF, to monitor the immunization campaign.

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Response activities

Kulyab displaced people relocated

Over 500 families displaced by the deadly flash flood in Kulyab were relocated at the end of May from the temporary tent camps in and around the stadium to new settlements at the entrance of the town. Hundreds of families are now staying in tents on the five land plots on the outskirts of Kulyab.

Government pledged to provide the displaced families from Kulyab town and district with new fully built houses. The construction of tens of houses has already started. Other households whose houses are located within 30m of the bank of the Tebalay channel will be provided with land and construction materials.



Displaced men fetching drinking water from containers | UNDP

The new settlements are already connected to the road and electricity network. The authorities provided food, including rice, oil and wheat flour, to sustain the families during the construction period.

However, until now, access to the water supply network and safe sanitation are lacking. Oxfam, with funding support of the Swiss Development Cooperation and the German Embassy, started installing communal pit latrines and water reservoirs with wash basins in the new settlements.

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Emergency reproductive health in Kulyab

The *United Nations Population Fund* (UNFPA) is starting up a project aiming at providing emergency reproductive health services to displaced women in camp settings in Kulyab. The project will also support women to maintain basic personal hygiene, ensure safe deliveries for pregnant women, and help to prevent sexual violence.

UNFPA will supply reproductive health kits, medical supplies and emergency ambulances to existing health facilities. The national reproductive health team together with community workers will provide primary health care, health promotion, and maternal and child health activities; patients will be treated in temporary and outpatient clinics. A door-to-door awareness campaign on gender-based and sexual violence is planned, together with special sessions on the topic for health workers.

UNFPA Headquarters allocated \$150,000 for the procurement of emergency medical equipment and supplies, while the country office provides \$20,000 for the reproductive health activities in Kulyab.

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New items will be procured to replenish those used for the Kulyab flood response.

Considering that Tajikistan is prone to small-scale disasters at all times of the year, the upkeep of the United Nations reserve contributes to the objective of REACT partners to maintain a permanent stock of emergency relief items for 1,500 families, about 10,000 people.

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Bi-lateral in-kind aid for flood victims

Media reports state that Kyrgyzstan, South Korea and Russia plan to provide in-kind assistance to Tajikistan for the victims of the 7 May floods in East Khatlon. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kyrgyzstan was assigned to deliver five dismountable panel houses for the victims of the recent flash flood in Kulyab zone. The houses should reach Kulyab by July.

The Foreign Ministry of South Korea announced that, after consultation with the government of Tajikistan, it plans to send food and relief goods worth \$50,000 to help the victims of floods.

The Emergencies Ministry of Russia reports that it will send two planes with 80 metric tons of humanitarian aid to Tajikistan in early June. The assistance will include four mobile power supply stations, 110 tents and food supplies.

Coordination

UN Emergency Reserve used for Kulyab

The *Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs* (OCHA) supported the use of tents and basic household goods from the UN Emergency Reserves in Tajikistan by making close to \$100,000 available for the release of the needed goods.

Some 300 all-season tents and 100 household assistance packages were released from the warehouse upon receipt of the financial guarantee.