

## News Bulletin

2 - 16 June 2010

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### Current issues

#### Number of suspected polio cases dwindling

Tajikistan has reported 239 laboratory confirmed cases of the wild polio virus as of 15 June. However, the number of daily reported cases of paralysis, a primary indication of polio, is declining, a result of the effective immunization campaign. There is a more than 85% decrease in the number of suspected cases from the peak period.

The fourth vaccination round is currently ongoing. The campaign ends on 19 June and targets all children under 15.

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#### IMF lends \$38.2 million to Tajikistan

On 7 June, the Executive Board of the *International Monetary Fund* (IMF) completed the first and second reviews under a three-year Extended Credit Facility arrangement with Tajikistan. This allows for the immediate disbursement of about \$38.2 million, bringing total disbursements under the arrangement to \$76.3 million. Additionally, the Executive Board approved Tajikistan's request for the increase of access under the arrangement to \$152.6 million, up from the previous \$114.5 million. The increase is justified by Tajikistan's low level of international reserves and domestic and external vulnerabilities.

The IMF said that, in addition to a shortfall in remittances received from migrant workers mainly

based in Russia, the recent campaign to finance the Roghun project through equity sales has reduced disposable incomes and is estimated to weigh on the growth prospects for 2010; as such, the phasing out of the equity campaign is welcome.

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### Response activities

#### Fostering resilience to geological hazards

On 1-2 June, *Focus Humanitarian Assistance* (FOCUS) hosted a Regional Climate Risk Resilience Workshop to discuss issues, policies and programmes aiming at fostering communities' resilience to remote geological hazards. Tajikistan is at risk of climate-related hazards, particularly in the Pamir Mountains, home to hundreds of land-locked glaciers. These glaciers are melting at unprecedented rates and dangerous glacial lakes continue to form and expand in the mountains.



Participants discussing remote geological hazards | FOCUS

The meeting, organized in collaboration with the Government of Tajikistan, was attended by policy-makers, scientific practitioners, donors, and other stakeholders and provided key conclusions and recommendations to guide future climate-related risk reduction interventions in the country. These included the integration of disaster risk reduction measures into development strategies at national and local levels, and capacity-building efforts engaging both national government and local communities to ensure sustainability.

The workshop was part of a project aiming at reducing flood risks from glacial lake outbursts, which is funded by UKaid from the *Department for International Development* (DFID) and the *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation* (SDC).

For more information:

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### Safe water, sanitation for Kulyab flood victims

Oxfam has been supporting the victims of the spring floods in Kulyab town and the surrounding Kulyab and Vose districts to protect their health by ensuring access to drinking water and safe sanitation since early May.

The NGO started by building temporary water supply systems, washing areas and latrines for the displaced people in the tents camps at the Kulyab stadium. The project is now continuing at the site of the construction of new houses, with the provision of temporary latrines and drinking water.

More than 250 of the most vulnerable flood-affected households in Kulyab and Vose districts are assisted with the construction of new latrines, while the damaged water systems will be rebuilt in selected villages. Community learning events, particularly targeting women, are being conducted to promote good hygiene practices.

The over \$235,000 project is funded by private donations from United Kingdom citizens, UKaid from DFID, the German government, and SDC.

For more information: [abaker@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:abaker@oxfam.org.uk)

### Disaster Risk Reduction in Sughd

The *Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan* (RCST) started a project on 1 April aiming at building local capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters in 46 communities and 118 schools in Khujand and eight districts of the northern Sughd province.

Target communities and schools will benefit from first aid trainings, awareness raising and capacity building on disaster preparedness, and strengthening early warning systems. Local branches of the RCST in the region will develop contingency plans.

The project is funded by the Disaster Preparedness programme of the *European Commission Humanitarian aid Office* (ECHO) and implemented in collaboration with the Dutch, American, German and international branches of the Red Cross. It is expected to be completed by June 2011.

For more information: [rcsttm@mail.ru](mailto:rcsttm@mail.ru)

### Reducing community vulnerability in Khatlon

Save the Children is undertaking to reduce community vulnerability to disasters and strengthen risk reduction capacities in the four districts of

Jikikul, Jomi, Khuroson and Qumsangir in the southern Khatlon province.

In close collaboration with the *Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense* (CoES), the NGO will support the Youth Ecological Center, a local organization, to train children and community emergency response team members in the districts on climate change and natural disasters. Effective disaster mitigation initiatives, proposed by the communities concerned, will be implemented to help reduce the impact of future hazards.

The project, which also has a component in two districts in Kyrgyzstan, targets about 78,000 beneficiaries; it is funded by ECHO's Disaster Preparedness programme.

For more information: [fmirzoeva@savechildren.org](mailto:fmirzoeva@savechildren.org)

### In-kind aid for disaster victims from Belarus

The Ministry for Emergency Situations of Belarus reports that 32 tons of humanitarian aid, worth \$166,500, was dispatched to Tajikistan on 4 June. The assistance, mainly food, clothes and blankets, is destined for the people affected by the May floods in Kulyab and surrounding districts and the Vanj earthquake in January.

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