



Committee of Emergency Situations & Civil Defense, ECHO and UNDP Tajikistan
Project "Strengthened Disaster Risk Management in Tajikistan"

Minutes of the extraordinary REACT Meeting
5th of May 2009, CoES Conference Hall

Chair: Mr. Latipov Kh., Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense (CoES)

Participants: REACT partners ([Annex 1 - attached](#))

1. Introduction

Mr. Latipov, Chairman of Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense, had opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants.

2. Update on situation in Khuroson district

Mr. Latipov informed the participants that on April 21st as a result of continuous and heavy rains a mudflow has occurred in Khatlon province, Khuroson district, Jamoat Ainy, villages 18th Partsyezdi Bolo, 18th Partsyezdi Poyon and Halkajar. The mudflow has completely destroyed 22 houses affecting 160 people and partially destroyed another 65 houses affecting 466 people. Fortunately no human casualties have occurred.

On 30 April, a special Government meeting devoted to above mentioned disaster was held. Meeting gathered senior representatives from relevant ministries, stated agencies and institutions and was chaired by the President of Tajikistan. During the meeting specific tasks were delegated to ministries and agencies. Support of different humanitarian international and national organizations was specially noted, particularly the Red Crescent, UNDP, UNICEF etc. Mr. Latipov added that today's REACT meeting should allow presenting what was done and discuss next steps.

Immediately following the disaster Local Disaster Management Commission (LDMC) has established an operative point at the disaster site. The LDMC is chaired by deputy Khatlon province Governor, Mr. Andurasulov. The deputy head of LDMC is appointed head of regional CoES in Khatlon Province, Mr. Khushvaktov. CoES staff and soldiers up to now are involved in evacuation of the population and establishment of tent camp.

Different missions to the disaster site:

- April 22nd, 2009 - The first deputy Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Mr. Alimardonov;
- April 22nd, 2009 - REACT Rapid Response Team;
- April 24th, 2009 - Prime Minister of Tajikistan Mr. Oqil Oqilov, jointly with high-level delegation for identification of safe land spot for reconstruction of houses destroyed;
- April 28th, 2009 - REACT joint multi-sector assessment (Health, WASH and Food Security).

Assistance provided:

- Different donations to special bank account - 65 496 somoni;
- Emergency reserve of Khatlon Province Governor - 65 500 somoni;
 - 1500 somoni to families whose house was completely destroyed (22 families);
 - 500 somoni to families whose house was partly destroyed (65 families);
- State Insurance Company (Gostrrakh) - 240 000 somoni;
 - 5000 somoni to families whose house was completely destroyed;
 - 2000 somoni to families whose house was partly destroyed;
- Government of Tajikistan - 377 500 somoni;
- Sughd Province authorities - construction materials;
- IFRC/RCST - tents and non-food items packages;
- UNDP - tents, mobile water tankers, fuel for water tankering;
- UNICEF - basic WASH items and food commodities;

Currently tents are set up and tent camp is established close to Uyali settlement stadium. Electricity supply to the tent camp for general lightening (not individual tents) and drinking water supply is arranged. Few latrines have been built by CoES in the tent camp. Food products, provided by authorities of different districts and some private enterprises was distributed to affected population, which covers population's need until May 10th, 2009. Meals are provided by charities on daily basis. All 114 families left homeless, are currently in need of new houses. At his point, several districts of Khatlon province have committed to build 25 houses in total.

Mr. Latipov highlighted that currently population is need of assistance. Particular needs: food, construction materials, support in building of houses. The situation in the tent camp is under control, but there is a possibility of hygiene sanitation problems with rising temperatures.

Ms. Nicole Stolz from Caritas Switzerland informed that during a field visit to the disaster site on April 22, 2009, representatives of the Caritas Switzerland in their efforts to identify the source of the mudflow reached the irrigation canal, which is situated upper the affected villages. They had noticed two gates in the irrigation canal, which were open at that time. Though, local population, living close to the canal informed representatives of Caritas that on April 21st, 2009 during heavy rainfalls, those gates were closed and were blocking the water flow in the canal. As a result, water flow in the canal could not pass further and overflowed to a nearby wheat grain field creating a source of mudflow. Considering this circumstance, Ms. Stolz inquired, whether CoES has undertook any efforts to explore this circumstance.

M. Latipov mentioned that they were also informed about the above mentioned circumstances and CoES jointly with representatives of relevant state agencies thoroughly inspected the situation. Inspection showed that both gates were open during the rains. Water overflowed of the canal, because heavy rains increased the volume of the water and capacity of the canal was not meant for it. In addition, he highlighted that at this moment, we are gathered here to mitigate the consequences of the disasters and causes of the disaster will be discussed later.

The representative of Presidential office Mr. Kurbonbekov informed the participants that during an above mentioned Governmental meeting, it was agreed that 4-room standard houses should be built for affected families. The blueprints of the houses, were already prepared by relevant state agencies and estimation of needed construction materials have been prepared. For every 4-room house, following construction materials will be needed:

- Cement - 6,13 MT;
- Steel framework - 1,15 MT;
- Concrete - 21,2 m3;
- Wood – 9.4 m3;
- Bricks – 75, 10 m3 or 35 250 pcs.

Mr. Matthias Anderreg, from SDC highlighted that this major calamity requires clear separation of relief assistance and longer term recovery. Since, the recovery will include construction of around 100 houses, it would be feasible to develop a joint project, with CoES leadership, which would allow higher donor contribution. Important aspect for this project would be identification of strong and experienced implementing partner to mobilize funds. Nevertheless, option of consortium can be considered as well. He added that all the houses to be built, should be seismic resilient.

M. Kurbonbekov replied that proposed project t for new houses, is resilient to an earthquake up to 9 scale.

Mr. Latipov added that CoES supports the proposal and is ready to consider all the proposals from REACT partners and ready to work in partnership. He suggested providing all the recommendations and suggestions of REACT partners to REACT Secretariat.

3. Preliminary results on sectoral needs assessments

Health:

Mr. Craig Hampton from WHO, informed the participants that health sector, have conducted rapid health assessment at the disaster site. Ministry of Health currently has established a medical point at the tent

camp, which is well staffed, but badly equipped. Currently no fatalities or major change in health patterns have been noticed up to date, but this may change considering warmer weather conditions and existing chronic problems. Monitoring and surveillance for diseases must be increased and medical supplies provided. Water system was not working in local medical facilities already before the disaster. Currently it is necessary to solve the issue related to water supply in this district and to supply water for the population.

Water and Sanitation:

Mr. Mutrib Bakhriddinov, from UNICEF informed the participants that UNICEF on its turn has provided to affected population some basic WASH items, such as: purification tablets, jerry cans, soap, as well as information materials on the first days of the disaster. In addition, high-protein biscuits and plumpy nuts have been provided as well to reduce the risk of child malnutrition. In case if there will be additional needs in above mentioned items, UNICEF is ready provide additional assistance. He also mentioned that WASH sector partners have conducted an assessment of the disaster site. Currently established tent camp, with the support of WASH sector partners and Local Authorities water supply has been arranged at the tent camp. During the assessment representatives of Republican and province sanitation agency have informed the assessment team that purification of the supplied water is ensured by relevant state agencies. There is still an outstanding need in additional latrines to the residents of the tent camp and these needs are currently considered by the sector members.

Food security:

Mr. Cedric Charpentier, from WFP informed the participants that a multi-sector assessment has been conducted at the disaster site, covering WASH, Food security and Health sectors. Assessment has been conducted using the REACT Rapid Response Team damage and needs assessment tool (questionnaire). He highlighted that this tool has been developed recently and this field assessment showed that tool requires further improvement. He also pointed that there is a necessity in improvement of coordination among the parties involved. It would be more feasible to conduct one joint assessment using one tool, since the collection of different data at different time period may lead to confusions. Overall out of 106 affected families (approximately 1500 people) 25 families were interviewed. In addition, another 3 community representatives were interviewed as well.

Main findings of the multi-sector assessment:

- Most households depend on daily wage farming and remittances as main sources of income, but almost half have lost their job after disaster and only few have been able to cope;
- 50% declare that their expenditures have increased following the disaster especially food and basic commodities;
- Money for covering these expenditures mostly comes from loans and gifts from relatives and neighbors but also from savings (12%);
- The good news is that both community and households results show no sudden increase in prices;
- Although village questionnaires show no loss in productive assets, 20% households declare losses;
- 55% reported losses of food supply;
- 40% lost household items, mainly cooking and storage equipment. This is confirmed by community questionnaires;
- Main productive assets lost are livestock (sheep and cow) and seeds (for wheat and vegetables);
- Loss or damage of houses is of course also important. Walls are most affected part of houses;
- Although some households can rely on their own production, most households depend on the market for their food;
- Some 10 to 15% entirely depend on gifts;
- There is no market or shop and stores in the village and state of roads do not help reaching market and shops;
- 33% of the households have lost crops mainly their kitchen gardens as reported by community as well;
- 35% cannot prepare food and mainly rely on relatives (30%) or donations (27%) – not confirmed by communities;
- Regarding health, medicines were reported as needed;

- Water access was still not available in tents and availability of potable water was much less for 33% of households;
- The main source of water remained piped and tanker water;
- Water was not cited as a need though either by households or community;
- Only 30% of households declared having access to latrines;
- Sewage did not appear to be a main issue;
- Most of the households estimated that the situation will get worse and so did the key informants;
- The main actions taken to face the disaster by households remain relocation (in tent or relatives' house) and cleaning of damage house;
- Food commodities and reconstruction materials were the main additional assistance requested by households;
- Community requested construction materials;
- School children are also in need for shoes and transportation;
- Different amount of food was provided and additional needs include: wheat flour, vegetable Oil, milk products, vegetable, pulses.

Mr. Cedric Charpientier also added that Food security sector meeting is planned for May 8, 2009, where the next steps of the sector will be discussed.

Non-food items:

Mr. Shamsiddin Muhiddinov informed the participants that different Shelter/NFI sector members (IFRC, UNDP, CHAP etc) have provided affected population with tents and basic non food items. On May 5, 2009 Shelter/NFI sector meeting has been conducting. During the meeting the assistance provided and other outstanding needs have been discussed. During the meeting, based on different assessments of individual sector members and CoES reports from the disaster sites the following outstanding needs have been identified: hygiene facilities, lighting for tents, common kitchens, kerosene, firewood, clothes, folding beds. In addition, it was agreed to deploy a team for specific Shelter/NFI Sector assessment today, May 5, 2009.

Mr. Shamsiddin Muhiddinov, added that Tajik Red Crescent has provided packages of basic non-food items to 150 families. Assistance was provided from existing emergency stock of Tajik Red Crescent Society, though a replenishment has been requested IFRC DREF (Emergency Fund).

Mr. Adam Yao pointed that ECHO have contributed to DREF 50 000 Euro, which were further released for replenishment RCST depleted stock.

Mr. Peter Thominski, from GTZ provided clarifications on GTZ funds provided to RCST (125 000 somoni), indicating that these funds are intended to cover immediate humanitarian needs, rather than recovery needs as it was indicated in REACT Situation Report.

Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, REACT Secretariat replied that clarifications were not provided during the report drafting period and apologized for misleading information reported in the Situation Report.

4. Briefing on Influenza A(H1N1)

Mr. Craig Hampton, from WHO informed the participants that on April 18, 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) has passed to humans. Most cases are reported in America, some in Europe, few in Asia. Virus mostly affecting young adults. Currently overall mortality is 2.2 %. For more details please refer to Annex 2 (PP presentation on Influenza A(H1N1)).

WHO currently recommends the possibility of consideration screening at international airports of Tajikistan. Currently the general recommendation would be to be prepared, but no special measures encouraged up to now. So far, no suspected cases in Tajikistan. Coordination is starting with CoES, MoH, SES and in addition to following international Health Regulations.

Ongoing: communication and public information. Health cluster meeting on Thursday to plan further actions, focusing on prevention and education

Annex 1: List of participants, REACT meeting May 4, 2009

#	Name ФИО	Organization Организация	Contact details Контактная информация
1.	Ibragimova Gulnora	UNHCR	ibragimova@unhcr.org
2.	Anvar Sabzaliev	SDC	anvar.sabzaliev@sdc.net
3.	Nigina Shamsova	GTZ	nigina.shamsova@gtz.de
4.	Peter Thominski	GTZ	Peter.thominski@gtz.de
5.	Cedric Charpentier	WFP	cedric.charpentier@wfp.org
6.	Luc Patenande	German Red Cross	Drktajikistan – patenande@hotmail.de
7.	Latipov Khaibullo	CoES	
8.	Kholov Yormahmad	Caritas Int.	yormahmad@gmail.com
9.	Matthias Anderegg	SDC	matthias.adneregg@sdc.net
10.	Ben Phillips	Save the Children	bphillips@savechildren.tj
11.	Graig Hampton	UN WHO	craighampton.who@tajnet.com
12.	Mustafa Karim	FOCUS	mustafa.karim@focushumanitarian.org
13.	Umed Sayduniev	RCST	rcstjdp@mail.ru
14.	Shamsidin Muhidinov	IFRC	Shamsudin.muhammadov@ifrc.org
15.	Eric Michel-Sellier	IFRC	Eric.michelsellier@ifrc.org
16.	Christophe Belperron	Mission East	918 78 77 98
17.	Shavkat Ismoilov	IFRC	Shavkat.ismoilov@ifrc.org
18.	Mutrib Bahruddinov	UNICEF	mbakhruddinov@unicef.org
19.	Shahlo Rahimova	UNDP DRMP	shahlo.rahimova@undp.org
20.	Ekaterina Chuprinenko	UNDP DRMP	ekaterina.chuprinenko@undp.org
21.	Farogat Mirzoeva	Save the Children	farogat@savechildren.tj
22.	Otabek Sultonov	UNICEF	osultonov@unicef.org
23.	Lideurna Gonzalez	WHO CD	Gonzalez.who@tajnet.com
24.	Johanne Saari	Caritas Germany	jonanne@caritas-germany.tj
25.	Zlatan Milisic	WFP	Zlatan.milisic@wfp.org
26.	Kurbonbekov J.	Government	
27.	Nicol Stoltz	CaCH	
28.	Felix Busmann	CAMP Kuhiston	bussmennfelix@gmail.com
29.	Annemarie Schnider	SDC	annemarieshnider@sdc.net
30.	Lilia Tverdun	Caritas CH	ltverdun@caritas.ch
31.	Abdurasulov N.	CoES	
32.	Faizullaeva Dilorom	CHAP	dilorom@yahoo.com

33.	Adam Yao	ECHO	echo@tajnet.com
34.	Gerd Rothenberg	UNDP DRMP	gerd.rothenberg@undp.org

[Annex 2](#)

