

Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team

REACT – Tajikistan

REACT, the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team, is the Government-humanitarian community disaster risk management partnership for Tajikistan. REACT was established in early 2001 by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) as the coordinating structure for international disaster response to Tajikistan. When OCHA ended activities in Tajikistan, Chairmanship of REACT was transferred to the Government of Tajikistan's Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES), with the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme (UNDP DRMP) serving as the REACT Secretariat on national level. Four "Regional" REACTs were also established in the following years.

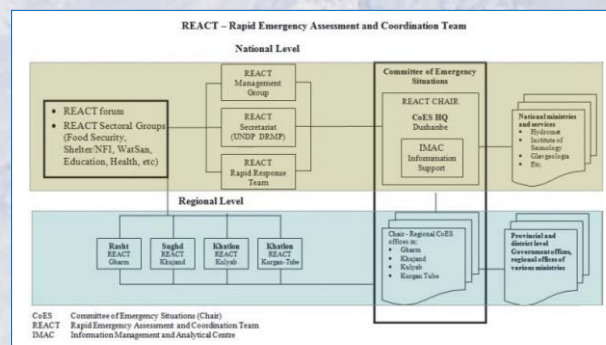
The REACT partnership has expanded from 12 organizations to 45 official member organizations and over 36 unofficial partners. REACT partners include local and international NGOs, Red Cross/Crescent Movement, UN Agencies, donors and government institutions. REACT meets monthly to share information and experiences on disaster management, including preparedness, response and mitigation. Extraordinary meetings also take place to plan for and respond to disasters affecting Tajikistan.

REACT's Objectives

REACT's mandate is to assist the Government of Tajikistan, and specifically the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, manage an effective response to all types of disasters affecting Tajikistan. REACT's specific objectives include:

- Promoting effective risk reduction, disaster preparedness, disaster response and recovery.
- Supporting the coordination and collaboration of humanitarian actors, international organizations and the Government of Tajikistan.
- Providing a platform for collaborative planning of risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery activities.
- Providing a platform for the transparent exchange of information, joint planning of operations on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Providing a forum for open discussion of policy and practical issues related to the purpose of REACT.

During an emergency, REACT, led by CoES, identifies urgent needs for disaster relief and facilitates timely and appropriate response by the international community and coordinates the provision of relief and recovery assistance.



REACT's Structure

REACT is composed of members, a Chair, a Steering Committee, National and regional groups with associated Secretariats, sectoral and technical working groups, and a rapid response team.

Membership

Any organization with an interest in disaster risk management can become a member of REACT by agreeing to the REACT Statement of Common Understanding.¹ A total of 81 NGOs, UN Agencies, donors and other parties are currently involved in REACT activities as official or unofficial members.

Chair

REACT is chaired by Chairman, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, Government of Tajikistan, at national level. The United Nations Resident Coordinator is the invited co-Chair of national REACT meetings.

Regional REACT Groups

REACT also operates through a network of Regional REACTs established in the Rasht Valley, in Khujand for Sughd Province, and in Kulyab and Kurgan-Tube for Khatlon Province. Regional REACTs are chaired the local Committee of Emergency Situations, and supported by a designated REACT member: e.g., OXFAM in Kulyab or YGPE in Sughd Province.

¹ <http://untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management>

The Regional REACTs are on the front line of responding to disasters under the leadership of the local Committee of Emergency Situations and are involved in joint needs assessments and immediate relief and recovery in support of local authorities and collaboration with the affected populations.

Secretariat

The Secretariat for REACT in Dushanbe is provided by the Disaster Risk Management Programme, United Nations Development Program (UNDP DRMP). REACT groups in the regions are administered by CoES in collaboration with locally present NGOs, UNDP DRMP and other partners.

Rapid Response Team

To ensure accurate assessments and a quick response after disaster strikes, REACT established a Rapid Response Team in 2008. The team is composed of up to 24 members with at least 8 members deployed initially for each disaster assessment. Additional team members are deployed to increase team capacities or to replace team members.

Sectoral Coordination Groups

Following the Global Cluster Approach, established by the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee, five sectoral coordinating groups ("clusters") were created within REACT, covering Non-food Items and Shelter, Food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health and Education. Additional sectoral groups can be established depending on the nature of the disaster and relief and recovery needs.

REACT's Major Achievements

- Regular and extraordinary REACT meetings, ensuring effective coordination and response activities.
- Regular and formal engagement between Government agencies and the humanitarian community on disaster risk management issues.
- Rapid assessment of disasters by all the REACT Sectoral Groups based on a standard assessment process.
- Unified needs analyses and response plans developed by REACT, including:
 - A Flood Response Appeal for US\$ 5.3 million to provide relief and recovery assistance for 20,500 people following flash floods in eastern Khatlon Province in 2010.
 - A Mud Flow Response Appeal for US\$ 7.7 million to assist people affected by the spring floods and mud flows in 2009.
 - A US\$ 25.2 million appeal for relief and recovery support following the Compound Crisis in 2008.
- Coordinated assessments and responses to earthquakes in Vanj (2010) and Rasth Valley (2012).
- Regular monitoring of disaster threats, for instance in collaboration with the Tajikistan Monitoring and Warning System.
- Development of a REACT Recovery Framework in 2011. The Framework provides conceptual background for recovery in Tajikistan, describes specific recovery actions and defines recovery plan frameworks including:
 - (a) Damage and needs assessment,
 - (b) Appeal development,
 - (c) Linking recovery to development,
 - (d) Coordination of relief and recovery assistance,
 - (e) Allocation of responsibilities during the recovery phase and
 - (f) Cross-cutting issues.



REACT meeting in Dushanbe.

Key Documents related to REACT activities include:

- **REACT Statement of Common Understanding:**
<http://untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management>
- **REACT Play Book:**
<http://untj.org/images/DOCS/DisasterManagement/index/REACT%20Play%20Book.pdf>
- **REACT Steering Committee Terms of References:**
http://untj.org/images/DOCS/DisasterManagement/index/REACT%20SC%20TOR%209Jul2010_ACCEPTED.pdf
- **REACT Scetch:**
http://untj.org/docs/Disaster_Management/REACT%20Dushanbe%20Meeting%20Minutes/REACT_structure_ENG_23-June-2008.jpg
- **REACT Meeting Minutes:**
<http://untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management/react-meeting-minutes>
- **Recovery Framework – Small Scale Disasters in Tajikistan:**
http://untj.org/docs/Disaster_Management/Resources%20Page/Recovery%20Framework%20Ver%202%2030%20April%202011.pdf
- **InterAgency Contingency and Disaster Preparedness Plans for Tajikistan:**
<http://untj.org/coordination-mechanisms/disaster-management/resource-page>