

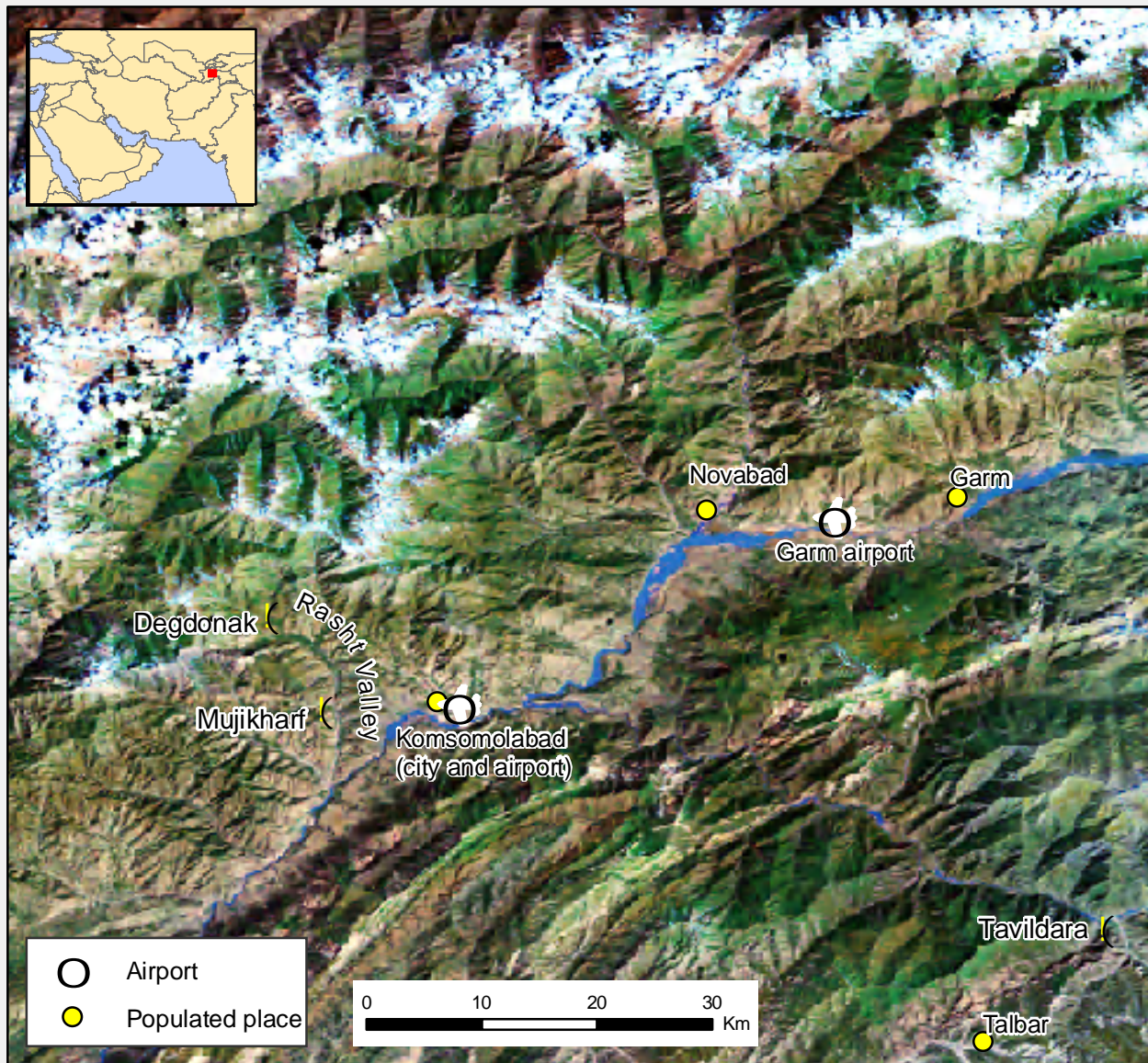
Tajikistan: Snow Avalanches

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"Tajikistan has been hit by extremely heavy snowfall. Over a hundred major avalanches have come down into populated areas."



SITUATION

Extremely heavy snowfall beginning two weeks ago and ongoing has isolated cities and towns, cut off roads, and caused more than 100 major avalanches that have impacted populated areas. Nine people were reported killed and 15 houses buried after an avalanche struck Degdonak village in the Rasht Valley region. Hundreds of vehicles are reported to be trapped under snow in the Rasht Valley alone. Heavy snow has also caused roofs of hospitals, schools, and homes to collapse. Key populated valleys are completely cut off, communications lines are down, and there is no helicopter access due to continuing snowfall.

ACTION

Eight UN staff who work in the Ministry of Emergencies were asked not to come into their offices this week due to the car bombing on 31 January that killed the Emergencies Minister. GoT has requested assistance from the UN system to respond to the disaster. A Ministry of Emergencies assessment team has left for the disaster areas in Rasht Valley, along with search and rescue teams. Efforts have been impeded by impassable roads.

The names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.