

HIGHLIGHTS

- Two crises in enclaves in Kyrgyzstan highlight long-standing problems.
- Farmers in Armenia and Tajikistan bear the brunt of natural disasters, and disaster risk reduction efforts demonstrate success in areas where they were implemented.
- Revised appeal for assistance to earthquake-affected people in Tajikistan remains only 37 per cent funded.

FUNDING

\$625,835
requested (REACT appeal)

37% funded

CAUCASUS

Total population	17 mln
Pop. below poverty line	2.6 mln
Average HDI	0.7
# of disputed territories	3
Pop. living in disputed territories	435,862
# of IDPs	> 282,396

Sources: State Statistics Agencies (all countries), CIA World Factbook

CENTRAL ASIA

Total population	65 mln
Pop. below poverty line	16 mln
HDI range	0.6 - 0.7
# of enclaves	8
Pop. living in enclaves	100,000
# of IDPs	70,400

Sources: State Statistics Agencies (all countries), CIA World Factbook



Photo credit: OCHA

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Border incidents in Central Asian enclaves

Cross-border conflicts highlight inter-state tensions, temporarily stranding over 80,000 people

To date, two serious border incidents have occurred in and around political enclaves in Central Asia in 2013. The year began with Kyrgyz and Uzbek villagers and border guards clashing over the legitimacy of construction projects in the Uzbek-governed enclave of Sokh, which is located within Kyrgyzstan. The conflict started on 4 January and quickly escalated to hostage-taking, burning of cars and the joint closure of borders around the Uzbek enclaves of Sokh and Shakhimardan. The closure also affected adjacent Kyrgyz villages outside the enclaves that are connected to the outside world by a single road passing through the enclaves.



Central Asia: Enclaves and disputed territories (June 2013) OCHA
Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the UN. Sources: www1.american.edu, www.ferghananews.com, www.kloop.kg, www.comw.org, news.tj, rus.azattyq.org, www.ng.ru Creation date: 30 June 2013, feedback: rocca@un.org

For a month over 80,000 people were stuck in the affected enclaves and adjacent villages with no access to outside markets. At least 2,000 Uzbeks could not get to their homes in the enclaves and had to be accommodated by the Uzbek Government. Needs for food, water and medical assistance were rising, and a state of emergency was declared in five Kyrgyz villages. A Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team in Kyrgyzstan supported Government efforts to help the affected people, while Uzbekistan trucked the first aid to its enclaves by 25 January. The situation was resolved by 1 February.

A second border incident erupted between Kyrgyz residents and locals from the Tajik-governed Vorukh enclave on 27 April. Vorukh is one of the most populous enclaves in Central Asia and is situated in southern Kyrgyzstan. Construction of a road bypassing Vorukh triggered a conflict that also led to hostage-taking, physical attacks on authorities and damage to cars. Kyrgyz and Tajik sides quickly resolved the issue and agreed to work together to prevent such incidents in future.

As of 30 June, the situation in the region is stable, but the events underline lingering tension among the communities.

Background: enclaves in the Ferghana Valley

Central Asia is home to eight enclaves with a total population of 100,000. Tensions and cross-border incidents are common, especially in and around the largest enclaves of Tajik-governed Sarvak and Vorukh, and Uzbek-governed Sokh and Shakhimardan.

Central Asia is home to eight enclaves with a total population 100,000. Tension and conflicts are common to this region and could affect up to 80,000 people.

Access to water and pastures and strict border-crossing regimes are the primary causes of periodic conflicts that can affect up to 80,000 people.

Enclaves in Central Asia: population¹ and ethnic composition

Enclave	Country	Location	Population	Ethnic composition
Barak	Kyrgyzstan	Uzbekistan	600	100% Kyrgyz
Chonkara	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	0	Land used for pastures
Dzhangail	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	0	Land used for pastures
Sarvak	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan	400-2,500	99% Uzbek, 1% Tajik
Shakhimardan	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	5,000	91% Uzbek, 9% Kyrgyz
Sokh	Uzbekistan	Kyrgyzstan	25,000-70,000	99% Tajik, 1% Kyrgyz
Vorukh	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan	10,000-30,000	95% Tajik, 5% Kyrgyz
Kayragach	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan	150	100% Tajik

Sources: www.enclaves.webs.com/centralasia.htm, www.geosite.jankrogh.com/uzbekistan.htm, www.eurasianet.org/departments/insight/articles/eav060603.shtml#

Few roads connect settlements in this area, exacerbating an already tense situation. For several Kyrgyz villages, the only link to outside world is a road that goes through Uzbek enclaves. When conflict triggers border closures, thousands of people are consequently cut off from medical services, food markets, work, family and relatives. In the January incident, the Government of Kyrgyzstan used helicopters to fly the sick and pregnant out of the affected villages. Meanwhile, Uzbekistan could not truck aid into the affected enclaves until both Governments agreed to let in respective convoys.

Under the Soviet Union, people could freely move across republics, and trade prospered. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, introduction of visa regimes and lack of agreements over border demarcation have caused numerous conflicts and fostered inter-ethnic animosity. Kyrgyzstan's borders with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are only 73.1 per cent and 53.4 per cent demarcated, respectively.

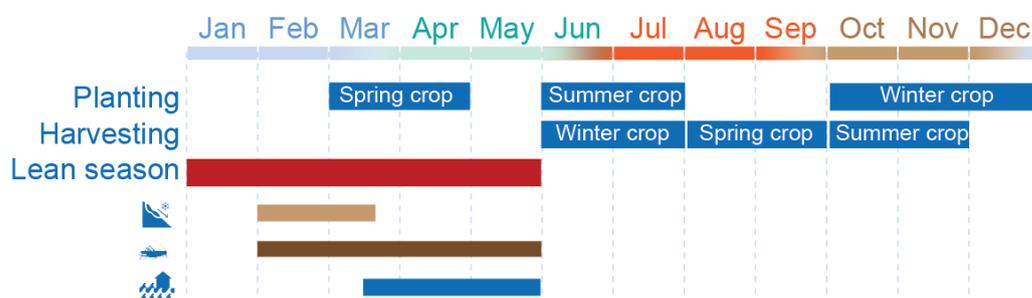
Natural disasters take toll on agriculture

Mudflows wash away crops, kill livestock in Tajikistan

Heavy rains on 29 March triggered mudflows in several villages of Hamadoni district, Khatlon province. The disaster made at least 30 houses uninhabitable and damaged another 100, flooding storage rooms, barns and stables. As in most of the country, people in the affected villages heavily rely on agriculture for income and feeding their families. The mudflows killed some 300 heads of cattle and washed away 600 ha of land.

The Government of Tajikistan with support from the international community quickly cleared the roads and helped the affected families relocate to safe areas. However, harvest yields are likely to be lower than originally expected this year due to serious damage from the mudflows.

Agricultural cycles and most common natural disasters in Tajikistan (avalanches, locusts, floods)



Farmers in Tajikistan often suffer from seasonal disasters that force them to take out debts to cope and undermine productivity. These disasters are most likely to strike during the country's lean season, placing additional stress on local people.

¹ No official information is available. Ranges are based on multiple sources for the last three years.

Commercial and subsistence farmers in Armenia and Tajikistan suffer losses from seasonal disasters. Only communities with disaster risk reduction projects implemented ahead of the disasters continue to thrive.

Heavy rains and hailstorms affect farmers in Armenia

Between 12 and 17 May, heavy rains and hailstorms pounded fertile fields in northern Armenia, devastating grape vineyards and apricot orchards. Over 12,000 households suffered losses as a result, with over half of them losing 100 per cent of their farm yield to the disaster. Overall, 5,000 ha of agricultural land have been damaged.

Agriculture accounts for one fourth of the country's GDP. The Government of Armenia undertook a thorough assessment and has taken measures to help affected farmers recover from the disaster. The farmers will receive seeds, fertilizers, and diesel fuel. They are exempted from land tax and irrigation water fees. Additional steps are being taken to address individual needs of the most affected.

Disaster risk reduction saves communities

In both Armenia and Tajikistan, the disasters spared communities where risk reduction

actions had been taken ahead of the hazardous season. In Hayoti Nav village of Hamadoni district in Tajikistan, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had helped clear and strengthen a mudflow diversion channel. As the March mudflows raced through neighbouring villages, Hayoti Nav remained intact, watching the mud flow down the channel and around their village. It was estimated that this project, which cost just over \$6,000, saved \$1.5 million in losses and response.

In Armenia, UNDP and the Ministry of Emergency Situations saved another community from the negative impact of the May hailstorm. Vineyards covered by anti-hail nets in Aygehovit community of Tavush region were the only survivors of the disaster.



Credit: Kulyab REACT
Hamadoni district, Tajikistan (30 Mar 2013) – a woman is cleaning her house affected by mudflows.

Strong winds and storm in Georgia

On 24 March, strong winds and a storm damaged at least 350 houses and 20 schools in eastern and western Georgia, breaking windows and ripping off roofs. The disaster caused some disruptions in the electricity supply. Immediate needs of the affected people included tents, bedding (blankets, mattresses), kitchen sets and hygiene kits. The Government of Georgia managed to cover the needs of the affected with support from the Georgian Red Cross and UNHCR.

Tajikistan: earthquake appeal underfunded

Over one year after disaster, many needs still unaddressed

13 May 2013 marked one year since a 5.7-magnitude earthquake (Richter scale) jolted dozens of households in Tajikistan's Rasht Valley, killing one person, destroying 85 houses and damaging over 200 more. The Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT) revised requirements for the Consolidated Winter Assistance Plan to earthquake-affected communities to \$625,835.

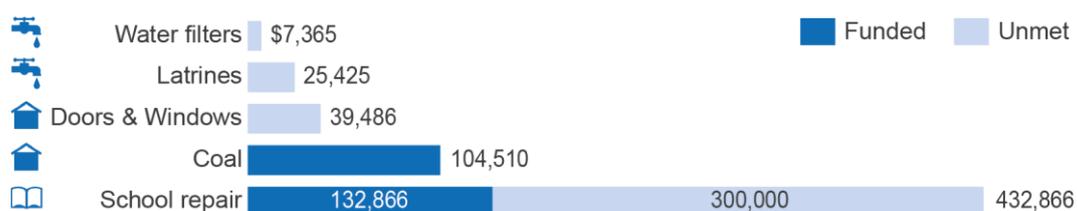
To date, only 37 per cent of the appeal has been funded. Needs of 45 families for new doors and window sets, and access to clean water and sanitation facilities remain unmet. A severely damaged school must be repaired to allow 435 students to attend classes safely.



Credit: REACT Tajikistan
Rasht, Tajikistan (14 May 2012) – a house severely damaged by the earthquake

Only 37 per cent of the Rasht Appeal has been funded to date. Needs in education, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene remain unmet.

Tajikistan Consolidated Winter Assistance Plan for earthquake-affected communities



Source: REACT Tajikistan

Brief emergency overview

Small emergencies highlight vulnerabilities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

No abnormal precipitation or temperatures were registered in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the first half of 2013. Still, both countries experienced dozens of smaller emergencies highlighting their vulnerability to forces of nature.

In Kyrgyzstan, a 6.1-magnitude earthquake on the Richter scale damaged over 400 residential homes in the north in January. Avalanches and landslides were the most common emergencies, mainly affecting traffic and temporarily cutting off small settlements from the rest of the country. No fatalities occurred during the reporting period. In Tajikistan, avalanches, floods, mudflows and rock falls affected various parts of the country. In both countries, authorities were largely able to respond to disasters with some support from local disaster response coordination mechanisms – the Disaster Response Coordination Unit in Kyrgyzstan and REACT in Tajikistan.

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