



Utilization of Non-Food Items by a displaced family in a collective centre in Rushon district, © UNICEF/Tajikistan/kkaramali/January 2016

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The 7 December 2015 earthquake affected over 5,000 persons, displaced 654 people, including 354 children, led to 2 fatalities and at least 10 injured.

The main impacted area is the upper Bartang Valley Jamoats of Basid and Savnob, which is mountainous, remote and isolated. 66% (347) of all partially damaged and 88% (147) of all destroyed homes are within these two Jamoats. UNICEF is targeting affected households (HH) in these two locations as well as those displaced to Rushon.

- ◆ UNICEF supported 667 displaced persons with immediate life-saving items, including 165 hygiene kits and 328 water storage containers, 114 household emergency assistance packages and 182 sets of bed linen and 256 blankets.
- ◆ A second phase of emergency support to affected families in Basid and Savnob is being planned, targeting 335 HH with hygiene kits, 470 HH with emergency HH NFI's, 386 HH with water storage, tarpaulin for 50 temporary latrines and 15 health points with water treatment products.
- ◆ 460 persons are currently displaced in 10 collective centres in Rushon, 9 of which are schools, which host 2,467 existing students. 59 of 158 available classrooms in Rushon are being occupied by Internally Displaced People (IDPs) who will stay in Rushon beyond spring, when reconstruction of homes can start. Of the 610 displaced persons, 114 school-aged children are residing in a boarding school.
- ◆ UNICEF's local implementing partner NGO Lojvar provided psychosocial support to 56 children in two service points – in Barushon and Savnob villages.
- ◆ Nine (9) basic health kits were distributed to 10 villages in Savnob Jamoat with a population of 2,564 persons, and 2 kits to 5 villages in Basid with a population of 1,276 persons. An additional 5 health kits have been requested to support health posts in Rushon.
- ◆ UNICEF distributed through its partners 220 sets of communication for development materials related to hygiene, health, nutrition, protection and education to collective centres and affected villages.
- ◆ UNICEF WASH consultant conducted a 10-day field visit and assessment in affected areas in January, identified further needs and revised response and recovery plan.

# Tajikistan

## Humanitarian Situation Brief No. 6

unicef 

## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

**Date: 5 February 2016**

**460 displaced persons are housed in 10 collective centres, 9 of which are schools.**

**Emergency NFI supplies to the value of approximately US\$125,000 have been released to date by UNICEF to support the response.**

**Education supplies of the value US\$2,244.36 provided to collective centre schools**

**667 people evacuated from affected areas benefitted from emergency supplies dispatched by UNICEF worth US\$25,000.**

**3,830 persons in 15 affected villages benefitting from Interagency Health Kits.**

Indicator	UNICEF		
	Target	Result	Coverage
# and % of affected HH provided with hygiene kits other essential NFIs	500	165	33%
# and % of affected population benefitting from emergency health supplies	3,830	3,830	100%
# and % of children benefitting from PSS	No predefined target	56	
# and % of displaced school-aged children in collective centres reached with emergency teaching supplies	271	271	100%

## 1. Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On 7th December, a powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 hit Tajikistan with its epicentre 357 km south-east of the capital Tajikistan (Dushanbe) and 22 km of the Sarez Lake. The earthquake caused significant damages in the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO), particularly to communities living in Bartang valley. The confirmed total number of casualties is 2 killed and 10 injured. At least 21 aftershocks have been recorded, some of which have resulted in further damage.

Assessments by UNICEF in collective centres and Savnob and Basid Jamoats indicate that 102 families consisting of 460 people are currently residing in collective centres in Rushon of which 293 are children; 230 school-aged children (107F/123M) and 63 children under 5. A further 26 families of 150 people (89F/61M) including 41 school-aged children (26F/15M) and 25 children (12F/13M) under 5 are living with host families in Rushon, Derushon, Derzud and Shujand.

### 1.1. WASH

More detailed assessments by UNICEF indicate that IDPs have sufficient personal hygiene items at present but will need support with consumable items such as soap, laundry powder, sanitary napkins, etc. IDPs have spontaneously developed schedules for cleaning communals such as kitchens and toilets, but there is a lack of materials to effectively maintain hygiene standards in communal areas, while a lack of materials for solid waste disposal is also an issue. Collective centre cleaning kits containing domestic cleaning materials are required to ensure adequate hygiene standards are maintained.

People living in school collective centres have poor access to laundry facilities, showers and sanitation. Four of collective centre school latrines are insufficient for the existing student population and when the number of IDP students and families is factored in, all but one collective centre (school for disabled) has sufficient sanitation. Existing school latrines designs have no doors and offer very little privacy or security and older aged girls may find it embarrassing to use the latrines, which might dissuade them from attending school. No latrines have handwashing facilities or soap. Few schools are equipped with piped water although public stand posts exist near the schools. Without piped water, schools have no showers or baths and IDPs use public baths at a cost of 5TJS per time. In Rushon this works well enough, but in Barushon, the public baths are already insufficient for the host community, so IDPs face problems to bathe.

In affected villages, families have received food, NFIs, coal and stoves but need support with hygiene items, as disposable income is limited. Most latrines made with dry stonewall have been destroyed but households have started to construct tarpaulin superstructures and should be able to reconstruct the dry walls with time. Only 3 out of 15 villages in Basid and Savnob have protected water supplies, but the earthquake did not damage these. The remaining villages drink river water, which is often boiled before drinking, however, many children drink directly from the river, particularly in the summer. Drinking untreated water and poor sanitation and hygiene in schools was said by medical staff to contribute to diarrhoeal disease among children during summer months.

School latrines in affected villages are in worse conditions than those of the collective centres, with the latrine in Basid being completely full, to the point of overflowing.

### 1.2. Education

In terms of education, collective centre schools are generally lacking in school materials, which is compounded by the enrolment of additional displaced children, for which they need more tables, chairs and textbooks. A total of 172 tables, 394 chairs and 230 Maths, Physics, IT, English and Tajik textbooks (for displaced students who have no books) have been requested by schools. A further 1 ECD kit for school #8 and 1 Recreation kit each in School #10 the School for Disabled were requested.

Payment for attending Early Childhood Development Centres is 35 TJS per month and this was waived initially, but schools stated that they would need to start charging IDPs who want their children to attend. Approximately 63 children under 5 may need support with payments.

In affected villages of Basid and Savnob all schools have sustained some level of damage, while schools #35 Ruhch (Diaspora in Russia) and #31 Nisur were completely destroyed (government). Ruhch school will be reconstructed by the Diaspora in Russia and Nisur school will be reconstructed by the government according to the Department of Education. The responsibility to repair the damaged school buildings has not been assigned yet. Schools are similarly lacking in infrastructure and learning materials and requested 110 tables, 220 chairs and 104 sets of 5 text books for 5 Basid schools and 436 tables, 692 chairs and 218 sets of 5 text books for 10 Savnob schools.

The ECD in Kadara of Savnob Jamoat has been completely destroyed and a new ECD kit is required.

### 1.3. Child Protection

Psychosocial support is still very much required. During UNICEF's assessments, communities reiterated that they are still fearful and anxious about what will happen next. In particular, those people living in the most affected villages such as Kadara and those living in collective centres are the most anxious and frightened. In three collective centres (schools #7, #8 and 9), IDPs must cross the road to access the school latrines. This can be a risk for young children or the elderly, particularly as roads are covered with ice.

Those parents who decided to remain in the villages but wanted their children to stay in the relative safety of collective centres have housed their children in the boarding school of Rushon. The cost of transportation to and from Bartang Valley means some children may not be able to see their parents on a regular basis, aggravating their levels of anxiety. Support with payments may be needed to maintain the health and wellbeing of these children, alongside solutions to reunite those families with their children as quickly as possible.

### 1.4. Health

In both affected villages and collective centres, health staff mentioned that there were no serious health concerns, with common ailments being seasonal colds and some cases of influenza.

The District Health Department stated that primary health care medicines were in short-supply and requested 5 basic health kits to be provided to health points near collective centres in Rushon, Barushon, Derzud, Shujand and Derushan, to ensure that adequate health care can be provided for IDPs.

In affected villages, all Medical Points have been damaged to some degree and one medical point in Nisur was completely destroyed. Some medicines such as antibiotics are in short supply as are soap and disinfectant cleaning materials to maintain hygienic conditions.

## 2. Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan issued an overview of required relief and recovery assistance, which is based on an assessment done by the State Commission.

The assessment identified a number of immediate relief needs to the end of 2015 and early 2016, and needs

which will need to be met through May 2016 (“sustained relief), as well as initial requirements for the transition to recovery.

All humanitarian efforts are being coordinated through the REACT Secretariat, which is closely working with the Government and updating information on potential needs. UNICEF, following the provision of emergency health, education, hygiene and other essential NFIs, will look to undertake activities that promote recovery by building back better and marketing of improved WASH infrastructure, while also increasing the preparedness of communities and local authorities.

### 3. Government Priorities

The Government has provided cash grants to affected families and re-construction materials for damaged and/or destroyed homes, however, reconstruction cannot start until March due to winter weather.

### 4. Summary Analysis of Programme Response

#### 4.1. WASH

Following the distribution of 165 hygiene kits, 328 water storage containers, 114 household emergency assistance packages, 182 sets of bed linen and 256 blankets to 123 displaced families (667 displaced persons). UNICEF will follow up with the second phase of distribution of US\$78,000 of WASH and other essentials to affected families in Basid and Savnob starting from 25 January. This will include the provision of 335 HH with hygiene kits, 470 HH with emergency HH NFIs, 386 HH with water storage, tarpaulin for 50 temporary latrines and water treatment products for 15 health points.

UNICEF will construct latrines and showers, provide handwashing stations, laundry areas, and provide collective centre cleaning kits. While these activities will support IDPs during displacement, it will also improve the learning environment for children during and after the emergency, providing them with better access to safe and hygiene facilities. New latrines will benefit girls, particularly with more private sanitation facilities. Constructing new WASH infrastructure is also part of the WASH sector sanitation marketing strategy that demonstrates improved sanitation options to local authorities and communities to increase awareness and uptake. In addition, these activities will also improve the emergency preparedness of Rushon district, since the schools will act as refuge centres in future emergencies.

Trainings are being prepared for UNICEF partners and local authorities to build capacity on Post Distribution Monitoring to improve the accountability of distributions and ensure distributed items are meeting the needs of the affected population and on C4D and WASH coordination – preparedness and response.

#### 4.2. Education

UNICEF has been coordinating the education response together with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES), Local Education Authorities and FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance.

The schools acting as collective centres host 2,467 existing students as well as 271 displaced students and 88 pre-school aged children. To support the increased number of enrolled IDP students in schools, UNICEF with the District Education Department on 24 December, provided 2 School-in-a-box for 80 students in school #7 and 2 Recreation kits for 100 students in school #7 and #8. On 18 January, UNICEF provided a further 4 additional School-in-a-box for 120 children in school #8, #9, #10 and the boarding school and 2 Recreation kit-in-a-carton for 100 children in school #9 and the boarding school.

UNICEF also provided on 24 December, 1 Early Child Development (ECD) kit for 50 pre-school children in Kindergarten #1 and on 18 January, 1 Early Child Development (ECD) kit for 50 pre-school children in school #9. UNICEF is planning to provide 138 tables and 276 chairs to 5 schools (schools #10, #9, boarding school, Kindergarten #1 and school #7) in Rushon for 271 IDP students and an additional 4 recreation kits, 2 school-in-a-box and 1 ECD kit.

### 4.3. Child Protection

UNICEF entered into a new partnership with the NGO Lojvar based in Khorog city to provide psychosocial support (PSS) to the children and their caregivers affected by the earthquake who are in need of counselling among the 387 households living in seven villages in Rushon district (i.e. Bardichiv, Bopasor, Pasor, Rukhchi, Kadara, Basid and Chadud villages in Bartang valley).

Lojvar set up a PSS point in Savnob Jamoat of Rushon district recently in addition to two PSS points established in Rushon district centre. They mobilised their staff to visit the families and provide counselling in the most affected villages, including Savnob, Nisur, Kadara, Bopasor and Pasor villages. Since the start of PSS intervention, 56 children (26 F / 30 B) were identified and provided with PSS and their parents were supported to care for their distressed children.

UNICEF is planning to build the capacity of local stakeholders to provide PSS through training facilitated by NGO Lojvar in the coming weeks. This will help expand the PSS services to unreached affected population, including children in collective centres.

### 4.4. Health and Nutrition

UNICEF responded to urgent needs of the affected population and through GBAO Health Department has distributed 100 blankets to support the district hospitals in Rushon and Khorog, while Rushon Health Department received 11 Interagency Health Kits. The District Health Department stated that the 11 emergency health kits were exactly what was needed for the emergency response. Nine kits were distributed to Savnob (Roshorv, Yahshorv, Savnob, Pasor, Ruhch, Bopasor, Gudara, Aktash, Nisur and Barchadif for 2,564 persons) and 2 kits to Basid (Bardara, Basid, Ajirkh and Chadud villages for 1,276 persons). Although the District Health Department stated there were no major health concerns with IDPs at present, they stated primary health care medicines were in short-supply.

UNICEF will provide 5 more basic health kits to health points near collective centres in Rushon, Barushon, Derzud, Shujand and Derushan, to ensure that IDPs have access to adequate health care.

### 4.5. Supply and Logistics

Sector	Items	Prepositioned Stock	Q-ty of Supplies Delivered
Cross-sectoral	Bedlinen set adult 1.5x2m	665	146
Cross-sectoral	Bedlinen set baby 1.3x0.9m	265	36
Cross-sectoral	Blanket,cotton,baby,90 x 130cm	1040	135
Cross-sectoral	Blanket,wool-blend,150 x 200cm	1102	221
Cross-sectoral	Household emergency assistance package	634	114
Cross-sectoral	Communication for Development materials (110 leaflets and 110 posters )	220	220
Education	Classroom tents (24m2)	4	0
Education	Classroom tents (72 m2)	1	0
Education	School-in-a-box, 40 children	6	6
Education	Carpet 24m2	4	0
Education	Carpet 72m2	1	0
Education	Recreational kits, 50 children	4	4
Education	Early Child Dvt (ECD) kit	2	2
Health	IEHK2011,kit,basic unit	11	11
Health	IEHK2006,kit,suppl.2-equipment	1	0
WASH	Hygiene Kits	500	165
WASH	Water purif.(NaDCC) 33mg tabs/PAC-50	4792	0

## TAJIKISTAN SITUATION UPDATE # 6

Sector	Items	Prepositioned Stock	Q-ty of Supplies Delivered
WASH	Water-cont,LDPE,collapsible,20l,1.3m tst	<b>727</b>	<b>114</b>
WASH	Water cont, PVC/PE,collapsible,10l,1m tst	<b>500</b>	<b>114</b>
WASH	Water tank,collapsible,1500l,w/distr.kit	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
WASH	Tarpaulin,plastic,roll,4x50m	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
WASH	Bucket, hard plastic, w/lid,100L	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>

Next SITREP: 1 March 2016

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