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Figures on Uzbekistan’s and Tajikistan’s outgoing aid released by governments

Unusually high number of disasters hit the region

The Regional Humanitarian Funding Update is an overview of funding levels and trends in the countries of the Caucasus and Central Asia, mainly based on data reported to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), collected and analyzed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia (ROCCA).

FTS is a global, real-time database that records all reported international humanitarian aid. All FTS data are provided by donors or recipient organizations. For more information, please visit http://fts.unocha.org

Figures in this report represent best available estimates at the time of publication.

HIGHLIGHTS

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FUNDING

$15 million

Received in April–June (US$)

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After a long winter, a series of disasters

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan hit by above-average number of disasters

The long-awaited end to the region’s harshest winter in recent years did not bring much relief to affected communities. Before people could recover from abundant snow, avalanches, cold temperatures, and livestock deaths, flash floods, mudflows, landslides, rockfalls and earthquakes bombarded the region. Particularly hit were Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Although figures vary, it is estimated that at least 200 small- to medium-scale disasters have struck Kyrgyzstan since April, often affecting the same families.

On April 23 – 29, flash floods swept through 43 villages in Osh, Batken and Jalabad in southern Kyrgyzstan, disrupting the lives of thousands of people. Humanitarian partners supported the Government in providing immediate relief in food and agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, health and education. As of 30 June, economic damage in 2012 stood at $14 million, which is 3.7 times higher than the same period in 2011.

In Tajikistan, around 280 disasters have taken the lives of 25 people since beginning of the year. These disasters damaged or destroyed hundreds of houses and have cost the country a total of $9 million. As the hazardous flood season was coming to an end, a powerful 5.7-magnitude earthquake shook three districts in the Rasht Valley on 13 May. As of 30 June, the number of disasters in 2012 had increased 30 per cent over the same period last year.

Earthquakes, rains and mudflows affect Azerbaijan and Georgia

Though Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan saw the worst effects, the rest of the region was not spared. On 7 May, a 5.6-magnitude earthquake left thousands of people homeless in north-west Azerbaijan. Continuing tremors and a powerful aftershock on 18 May exacerbated the situation for many people, forcing even more to be evacuated from their shattered homes. In Georgia, heavy rains in May triggered flash floods and mudflows throughout the country, killing five people in Tbilisi and affecting over 3,000 more. In both Azerbaijan and Georgia, the Governments, supported by the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, are coping well with the aftermath. For the disaster overview in the Caucasus, please see attached map.
Humanitarian funding flows into the region

Regional disaster preparedness gets a boost from donors

Between April and June 2012, the region received $15 million in humanitarian assistance from Canada, the European Commission’s Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Germany and Sweden. Most of this funding aims to improve vulnerable communities’ ability to withstand and quickly recover from emergencies.

Donors sent over $15 million in humanitarian aid to the region from April to June 2012, most of which supported disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Humanitarian funding to the Central Asia and Caucasus region, April – June 2012

The top three aid recipients – Tajikistan, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan – together received 70 per cent of all incoming aid. Although not reflected in the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), all three countries also received funding from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). During the reporting period, IFRC allocated over $758,000 to response operations in the region, including $233,000 in Tajikistan, $124,000 in Georgia, $111,000 in Kyrgyzstan, and $289,000 in Azerbaijan.

IFRC emergency response allocations to the Central Asia and Caucasus region (2nd quarter 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Disaster</th>
<th># of affected people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$94,000</td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>Feb – Apr. floods and avalanches</td>
<td>5,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$140,000</td>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>13 May earthquake in Rasht Valley</td>
<td>2,310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$124,000</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>12-13 May flash floods</td>
<td>14,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$111,000</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>23-29 April flash floods and mudflows</td>
<td>11,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$289,000</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>7 May earthquake in north-west Azerbaijan</td>
<td>45,545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECHO allocates over $10 million to the region

In this reporting period, ECHO tops the donor list, having provided over $10 million to countries in the Caucasus and Central Asia as part of the Disaster Preparedness ECHO programme (DIECHO). ECHO has also announced its Humanitarian Implementation Plan for $2.5 million to fund the provision of urgent assistance to people in Tajikistan who suffered from this year’s harsh winter. After over 280 disasters took the lives of at least 25 people in Tajikistan this year, it comes as no surprise that Tajikistan is the region’s largest recipient of humanitarian aid. During the reporting period, over $6 million was injected into humanitarian operations and disaster risk reduction initiatives in Tajikistan.

During the reporting period, every country in the region received support from ECHO. Tajikistan is the largest recipient of the total incoming humanitarian aid.
Humanitarian funding flows out of the region

Region provides no assistance in second quarter

Between April and June, countries in the region provided no significant aid, perhaps due to the exhausting winter-spring season. On various occasions this year, Tajikistan appealed to neighbouring countries for urgent assistance to help the most vulnerable survive the May-June lean season when stocks are depleted and the harvest is still three-four months away. In the absence of a formal international appeal, the response has been limited. In April, Russia sent in-kind humanitarian aid, and Kazakhstan pledged more assistance, which was approved and sent in July. These contributions will be reflected in the third-quarter funding update.

Update on aid from Uzbekistan in 2008 – 2011

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan has published data on the country’s humanitarian aid portfolio in 2008 – 2011. According to this information, Uzbekistan gave over $1 million in humanitarian assistance during this period, mostly to countries coping with sudden-onset natural disasters. Uzbekistan also supported response to man-made crises in Georgia in 2008 and Kyrgyzstan in 2010. In line with overall trends in the region, Uzbekistan provides mostly bilateral in-kind aid, such as food, clothes and construction materials.

Humanitarian assistance provided by Uzbekistan in 2008 – 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Assistance (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Georgia crisis</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan earthquake</td>
<td>$201,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Tajikistan floods</td>
<td>$156,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan unrest</td>
<td>$74,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Pakistan floods</td>
<td>$155,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Japan earthquake &amp; tsunami</td>
<td>$202,107</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UN Financial Tracking Service (fts.unocha.org)

Despite frequent disasters, Tajikistan offers some assistance

The Tajikistan Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence (CoES) has also released data on outgoing humanitarian aid over the past five years. Despite the country’s exposure to hundreds of disasters every year, Tajikistan also provides assistance to countries hit by sudden emergencies. Although Tajikistan gives preference to bilateral in-kind aid, the Government has also supported the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). As a recipient of

Since 2008, Uzbekistan has provided over $1 million in humanitarian aid worldwide, almost half of which went to support Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
CERF assistance in the past, Tajikistan knows well the importance of disbursing funds in the first hours and days of a disaster for life-saving help. So far this year, CERF has already helped save lives in 31 countries affected by sudden-onset emergencies and in 13 countries stuck in a protracted crisis.

*CoES cannot give monetary value of the support provided to Kyrgyzstan in 2008.

Central Emergency Response Fund

New CERF website launched

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has launched a newly designed website – http://www.unocha.org/cerf/ – where users can find updated information on the CERF, its 159 donors (including private sector) and the support CERF provides to dozens of countries every year. The website is updated regularly to reflect new allocations, upcoming events, product launches, and the impact of CERF funding on the people it assists (more on CERF see in Regional Humanitarian Funding Update, Issue #3).
Disasters in Azerbaijan and Georgia, May 2012

Azerbaijan and Georgia, May 2012

- Tbilisi: 5 dead, 3,200 families affected
- Balakend: 169 families affected
- Zagatala: 6,949 families affected
- Gokh: 2,160 families affected

Legend:
- National capital
- International border
- Areas affected by:
  - Floods
  - Hailstrom
  - Earthquake
  - Major roads
  - Major rivers
  - Lakes

Map showing locations affected by disasters in Azerbaijan and Georgia, May 2012.