

CONTINGENCY PLAN

TAJIKISTAN: Earthquake

[04 August 2022]



Prepared by the Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team

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STRATEGIC SUMMARY

Tajikistan's unique terrain, geological and hydrological features make it prone to many natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, droughts, and heavy snowfalls. While, earthquakes are less frequent, they represent a threat of the highest adverse impact to Tajikistan, endangering both urban and rural areas. Around 74 % of the population live in highly seismic areas.

The Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT), for planning purposes, together with the Government of Tajikistan agreed on a scenario of a mid-scale earthquake with epicenter in remote area affecting both urban and rural areas. Agreed scenario assumes a 7,2 magnitude (MMI) earthquake with epicenter near Khorog city of GBAO, affecting territories populated by 195,000 people and displacing 20,000 people.

This contingency plan focuses at providing the right and timely support to the Government of Tajikistan through supporting the relief and early recovery operations to address the most critical lifesaving needs of the people affected, through:

- *Building the basis for a joint inter-sector REACT response strategy to meet the needs of affected people in the first weeks (1-6 weeks) of response.*
- *Defining considerations for a detailed relief and recovery response interventions.*

This contingency plan has been discussed and endorsed by REACT partners on 04 August 2022, at REACT Meeting at Heads of Agencies level.

195,000

Est. number of people affected by the earthquake

58,500

Preliminary number of people targeted by the current IACP

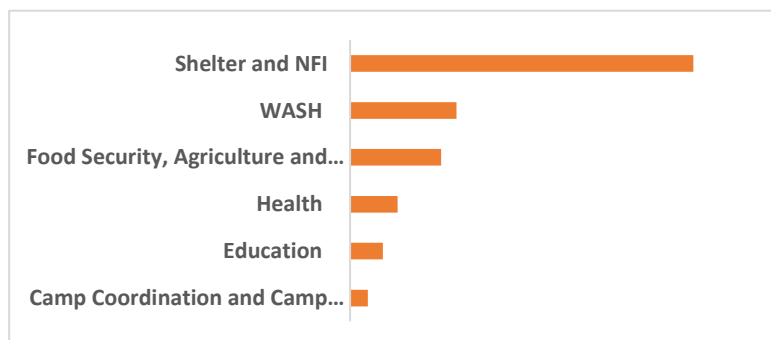
30%

of total affected population

\$ 12,646,722

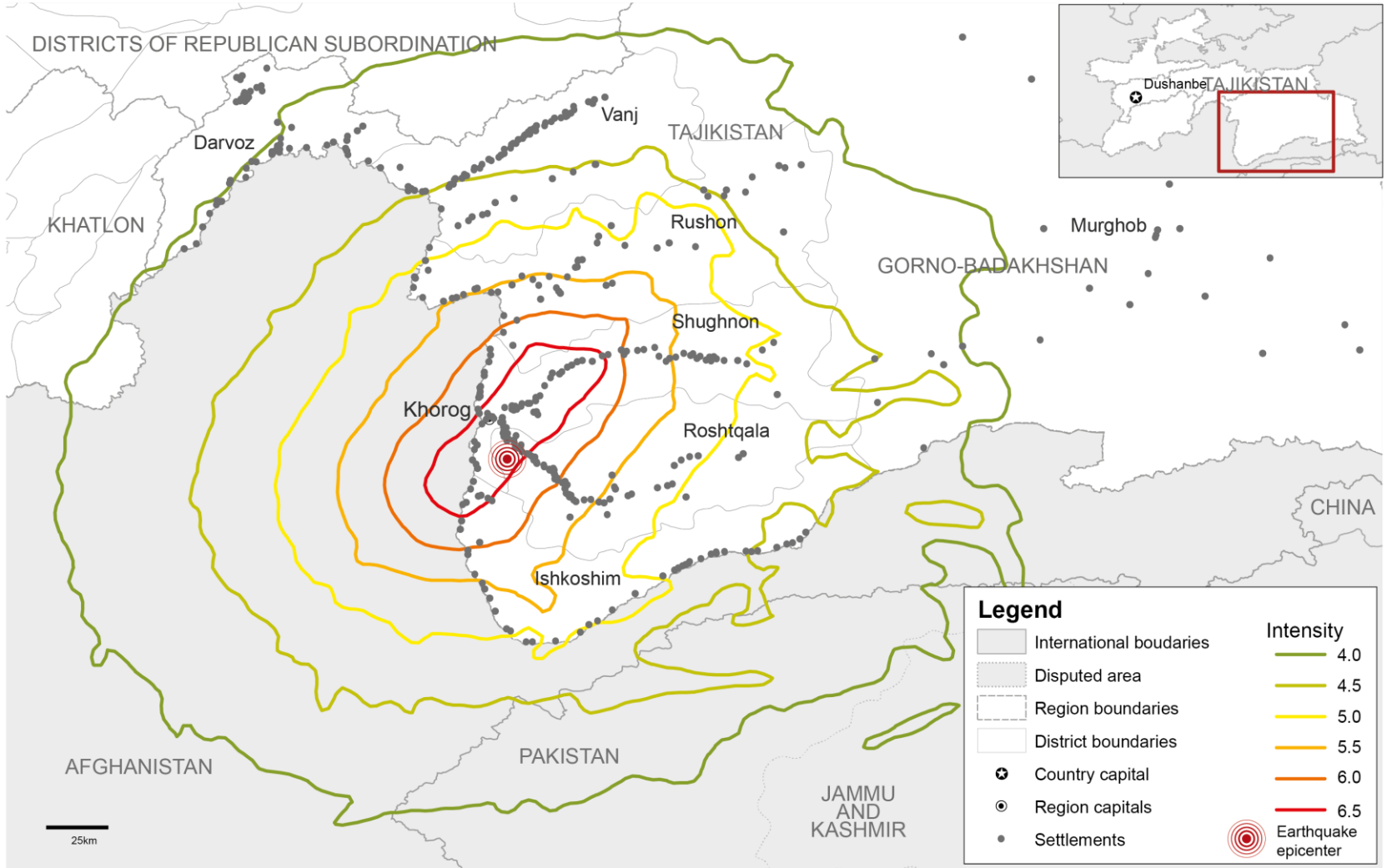
 funding estimate (US\$)

Estimated requirements by cluster



Map of affected area

Contingency planning: Earthquake in the GBAO region 



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.
 Creation date: 6 September 2019 ID: ROCCA_00093 Sources: Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, UNCS, UNOCHA, USGS. Feedback: ibragimovag@un.org www.unocha.org www.reliefweb.int

SITUATION & RISK ANALYSIS

1. Country Information and Context Analysis

Tajikistan is a landlocked, low-income country located in Central Asia. With its 9,3 million people, Tajikistan is one of the most rapidly growing countries in terms of the size of its population. The population is predominantly rural with about 73.5% of people living in rural areas and 26.5% in urban ones.

Over the past decade, Tajikistan has made steady progress reducing poverty and growing its economy. Between 2000 and 2021, the poverty rate, measured by national poverty line, fell from 83% of the population to an estimated 26.5% while the economy grew at an average rate of 7% per year.

While the economy of Tajikistan has been growing steadily over the past few years, with annual average rate of 7.6% since 2000th, it remains the poorest country in Central Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with a per capita GDP of USD 1,121. Proportion of people living under national poverty lines constituted 26%¹ in 2019. The social and economic wellbeing of the population severely deteriorated following the outbreak of COVID-19. The economy has been experiencing a fast recovery in 2021, however, the labor market remained weak and food insecurity more prevalent compared to pre-pandemic levels. In addition, in 2022, the economy faced a new set of challenges due to the war in Ukraine².

Tajikistan is a “high-risk” country in terms of hazards and exposure, according to the Index for Risk Management (INFORM) 2020³. Country is highly prone to a number of environmental hazards including floods, earthquakes, mud flows, landslides, epidemics, droughts, avalanches, insect infestations. Coupled with existing socio-economic vulnerabilities, such as a high dependency on food imports and direct remittances, and difficult neighbourhood of being located on Afghanistan’s border, inequality, and partially inadequate coping capacities, Tajikistan is categorized as above average in overall risks.

According to Tajikistan CoES, country experienced around 3460 disasters between 1997 – 2018, i.e there was a disaster every second day. These disasters resulted in significant damage (over 589 mln USD) to livelihoods and the economy, as well as acted as a break on developmental outcomes.

Whilst most natural disasters have a local, limited impact, their cumulative effect on livelihoods is considerable. A recent World Bank study on earthquakes and floods in the Europe and Central Asian Region estimates that average annual losses from floods in Tajikistan can reach 1.4 percent of GDP and from earthquakes, 5 percent of GDP. According to various scenarios tested in the same study, a major earthquake of a 50-year return period can damage around 34 percent of Tajikistan’s GDP, while floods of a 50-year return period can cause a loss of around 7.6 percent of GDP⁴.

The most frequent hazards in the country are floods and mudflows (in average 70 events annually) and pose a recurrent threat. On an annual basis, floods occur either in spring following heavy rains or during snowmelt in the summer time. Due to climate change, unseasonal floods are expected to be among the extreme weather events faced by the country.

Earthquakes are less frequent but represent a threat of the highest adverse impact to Tajikistan. From 1997 to 2018, in average 23 earthquake related disasters were registered in the country. With 74 percent of the population living in 8- to 9-magnitude earthquake zones (Richter scale), high seismicity endangers both urban and rural areas, including important facilities for the country such as hydropower plants.

2. Summary of Risk

Although almost all the territory of the country (96.8 percent) is exposed to some level of seismic threat, high seismicity characterizes the capital city Dushanbe. Less-populated areas, such as the Pamir Mountains, instead,

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.NAHC?locations=TJ>

² <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tajikistan/overview>

³ INFORM. Country Profile – Tajikistan <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Profile/moduleId/1767/id/386/controller/Admin/action/CountryProfile>

⁴ <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/871081485186894798/tajikistan-low-res.pdf>

combine the physical isolation, exposure to high-seismic risks together with extreme poverty and lack of resources for risk reduction and infrastructure maintenance, which exacerbate the impact seismic events have in these areas. In December 2015, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck GBAO, killing two people, displacing over 600 households, causing widespread damages to infrastructure, blocking transportation routes and leaving over 4,000 people in need of assistance. Due to the remote location of the affected area and lack of alternative routes, emergency response activities to this event were significantly constrained as a result.

Considering abovesaid, for the purposes of a current contingency planning, REACT partners agreed to a scenario of a mid-scale scale earthquake that could occur in remote area, affecting both urban and rural areas. According to scenario, 7,2 M earthquake would happen in midnight, in January with epicenter close (54 km) to Khorog city, capital of GBAO. It will affect Khorog city and surrounding villages in Sughnan, Roshtqala, Ishkoshim and Rushon districts of GBAO, assumingly killing around 200 people, displacing around 20,000 people and roughly affecting around 195,000 people.

Disaster	Earthquake 7,2 M
Date:	January, midnight
Area(s) Affected	Most affected: Khorog Other affected areas: Shughnan, Roshtqala, Ishkoshim and Rushon districts
Total population living in affected area:	195,000
Deaths	>200 people
Injured	> 1000 people
Displaced	20,000
Destroyed and damaged houses:	3,000
Planning Assumptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most of the population will not get assistance for 2 – 3 days, probably longer - The only help and supplies available will be <i>whatever is in GBAO</i> at the time of earthquake. - Main road from Dushanbe to Khorog (main logistics supply route) will be blocked for first 24 hours and road Khorog – Osh will remain open. - Road movement to villages surrounding Khorog will be restricted up to one week. - Air transport will be limited to helicopters with limited payload. - Where people are at the time of the earthquake is largely where they will stay for several weeks as areas are isolated. - Afghanistan's territories opposite affected area of Tajikistan also badly damaged and no assistance is expected from there. - International assistance is coordinated within REACT and starts in Dushanbe.
Seasonal factors	- Snow and low temperatures

In accordance with the Decree of Government of Republic of Tajikistan #367 of 1 August 2006 "On classification of emergency situations", the situation is categorized as "cross-border" (Consequences of emergency go beyond the border of Tajikistan). At the same time, the number of affected population with disrupted normal activities corresponds to the "republican/national" category. Under these circumstances, and according to the above Decree, Government of Tajikistan will request international humanitarian organizations for assistance to the affected population.

3. Humanitarian Consequences

The city of Khorog would be the worst affected. Khorog is urban area with dense population.

Displacement in urban and rural areas would have an immense impact on daily life. Based on the experience of 2015 earthquake, many people will be afraid of returning to their homes and would stay in makeshift tents in their gardens. Based on planning assumptions, around 1800 houses/apartments (including multistore buildings) will be badly damaged or destroyed in Khorog and another 1200 houses will be destroyed/badly damaged in surrounding

villages. 20,000 people will be displaced, including 12,000 of urban population and 8,000 of rural population. It is assumed that 1 open space and 1 public building (school) will be identified in Khorog for establishment of displacement camp (hosting around 2000 people) and the accommodation of incoming assistance, including urban search and rescue and emergency medical teams. Low temperatures and snow will exacerbate existing risks and vulnerabilities faced by affected population, in particular women, children, elderly and disabled. The situation most probably prompt outflux of people (mainly vulnerable groups: women, children, elderly and disabled) from the affected territories to other cities, particularly to the Dushanbe, should the road conditions get better. Assessments conducted following 2015 earthquake report that at least one member of every displaced family has been evacuated following the disaster.

Strong tremors would damage infrastructure, including bridges and access roads. Earthquake will trigger rockfalls and avalanches blocking main and secondary roads. Road cleaning will be required to enable access to affected areas so that search and rescue activities could continue, and relief supplies could be delivered. In the early days, airlifts would be required to access and deliver aid both in urban and rural areas. However, geography and capacity of Khorog airport will not allow use of heavy-lift cargo and airlifts will be limited to helicopter and small aircraft loads. The season and temperature would have a significant impact on how long airlifts would be required and possible for. National telecommunications systems and services would have been severely damaged throughout the affected area. Note that the banking system would also be down, so no ATMs or access to cash from banks.

The scenario suggests that over 3000 houses would be heavily damaged and/or destroyed. On the assumption that schools and medical sites are reinforced concrete-type buildings with limited to moderate earthquake resistant design. Many private homes would be damaged and destroyed across a large geographic area. Some modern structures would have withstood the severity of the quake. Search and rescue teams (Tajik and Russian/requested through INSARAG) would start assessing collapsed buildings and hopefully save people from the rubble.

Healthcare need would extremely rise. Scenario suggests that existing provincial hospital in Khorog will be damaged, but still functioning. Hospital would be overcrowded and lack medical supplies and capacity, as there would be over 1000 injured people. Assessments of 2015 earthquake indicate that there was a significant increase in reported illnesses from before to after the disaster. Stress, shock and fear were reported after the disaster but not before, while the number of cases of high blood pressure and flu also increased after the disaster. Furthermore, among 20,000 displaced people approximately 433 will be pregnant women, 102 of whom would need obstetric care within three months.

Food insecurity would rise. The most affected by Earthquake population (58,500) including the displaced people (20,000) would be in need of food assistance. 7,605 (13%) of the affected population will be the children under five while 4,000 will be estimated as the lactating and pregnant women. Due to expected disruption in service provision at the community and health facility level as well as suboptimal access to food and trauma and fear experienced by vulnerable populations including lactating mothers, breastfeeding support and complementary feeding practices will be undermined. Besides, the impact on agriculture-based livelihoods and on food security would be extremely high and significant with **widespread loss of food stocks, damage to agricultural tools and severe disruptions to market functionality and access.** In the longer-term, farmers would have to receive seeds and planting material before the next planting season to avoid further food insecurity. This would be aggravated by the large loss of livestock.

Electricity and drinking water supply would be interrupted. Electricity supply throughout affected area, as well as water supply and sewage system in Khorog (urban territories) would be interrupted, due to damages to electricity and water supply systems. Rural and urban population living in tents would require heating facilities and clean drinking water. Critical facilities will require generators and fuel to supply electricity.

Fuel would be running low in many areas. Where roads are passable, cars and trucks would line up at functioning gas stations. Fuel would be urgently needed to pump ground water and to maintain services at hospitals and other critical facilities where power outages would be frequent. Power would be limited throughout the affected area, with most houses and facilities relying on generators.

It would be of vital importance to engage with and serve the affected communities. Affected people would need to be kept informed about available services and aid, ensuring that all segments of the population are reached, taking into account differences in age, gender and diversity. Without access to reliable timely, accurate information, survivors would be unable to make the choices necessary to develop their own survival strategies.

Security measures in the affected areas will be reinforced. Population displacement, temporary weakened law enforcement and the breakdown of social safety mechanisms can heighten the risk of instability on Tajik -Afghan border and activation of drug smugglers. Therefore, security measures in the area might be increased, posing limitations to movement and requiring additional procedures and authorizations to incoming staff.

4. Planning figures for humanitarian assistance

In line with the scenario, around 195,000 people live in earthquake intensity zone and could be directly and indirectly affected by the earthquake. Therefore, the total number of affected is calculated at around 195,000 people in GBAO. It is assumed that around 1000 people will need emergency healthcare and around 20,000 people will be in urgent need of shelter.

While immediate life-saving assistance, including immediate search and rescue activities will be undertaken by the Government of Tajikistan, the international humanitarian partners will support Government in its relief efforts from the onset.

For the purpose of current planning it was agreed with the Committee of Emergency Situations to assume that the Government of Tajikistan capacities and resources are enough to cover the immediate needs of 136,500 affected out of the total 195,000 (70% of total caseload). Therefore, the current plan will support delivery of life-saving assistance to around 58,500 people in support of Government.

4. Response & Operational Capacity

In accordance with the Law of Republic of Tajikistan “On protection of population and territory in emergency situations of natural and technogenic nature”, the **Unified State System of the Republic of Tajikistan for prevention and response to emergency situations** is authorized and responsible system for management of emergency situations. The State System shall prevent emergency situations, and organize activities to respond to such situations, for eliminating the consequences, ensuring safety and security of the population, and for minimizing economic losses. The System unites management structures, resources and means of ministries and organizations, local executive authorities, local self-governed bodies, and of organizations authorized to protect population and territories under emergency situations, and acts in accordance with the Law on protection of population and territories in emergency situations of natural and technogenic nature.

The State Commission of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for emergency situations (the Commission) is a permanent body of the Government of Tajikistan and the coordinating body of the Unified State System of the Republic of Tajikistan for prevention and response to emergency situations. The Commission acts in accordance with the Law on “Protection of population and territory in emergency situations of natural and technogenic nature” and other normative acts of Republic of Tajikistan. The Commission’s objectives include: formation and implementation of common state policy in protection of population and territories in emergency situations; strengthening resilience of the national economy and the preparedness of republican administration on all levels for rapid and efficient action in emergency situations.

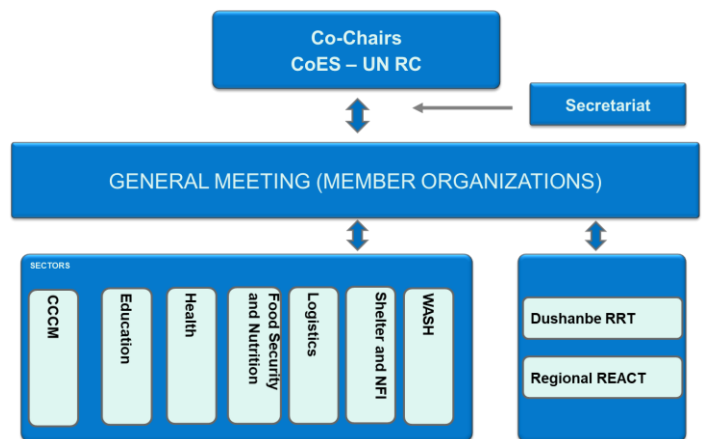
The Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Republic of Tajikistan is the central structure in executive system, authorized to implement state policy, legal regulation, provision of state service and management of state property in the area of management of emergency situations and protection of population and national economy in emergency situations of natural and technogenic character and in armed conflicts.

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) has a general mandate to intervene in emergencies in Tajikistan⁵ The activities of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and some activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are also channelled through the National Society.

The RCST has 11 Emergency Response Centres (ERCs) throughout the country, including Khorog city. Often the ERCs are the first to be informed about a natural calamity by the local community and they also act as first responders to the emergency situation.

International humanitarian community support

Commission through Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (**REACT**), which is a partnership of UN agencies, international and local organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, donor agencies and



⁵ Law of the Republic of Tajikistan, January, 2010 on The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

the Government. The goal of REACT is to reduce the impact of disasters on the population of Tajikistan, inter alia through ensuring support to the Government of Tajikistan for a prompt, effective and concerted response to disasters by the international humanitarian aid system. REACT is co-chaired by the CoES Chairman and the UN Resident Coordinator. REACT incorporates Sector Coordination Groups (Sectors) covering specific sectoral activities related to disaster management. Sectors and leadership within the Sectors are organized in alignment with the **Cluster Approach**.

5. Gaps and constraints

During the last decade Tajikistan has improved its search and rescue capacities, however available capacities are not enough to address the needs in the country. Moreover, those limited capacities (human and technical) are mainly centered and located in Dushanbe, requiring time to be transferred to remote disaster affected areas. Responsible national authorities are ready to request international search and rescue assistance, however legal problems can be faced by entering rescuers, as there are no fast-track tools and procedures established, which would regulate the entry - process.

The prepositioned supplies for the emergency are quite limited, and most of the stock is in the warehouses of the State Material Reserve in larger centers such as Dushanbe and Khorog. However, the amount, components, and volumes of the government supplies are not known by international humanitarian community, as the legislation defines the information as confidential.

In 2016, the Government of Tajikistan has signed the Agreement with the United Nations on facilitation of import, export and transit of relief consignments in the event of disasters and emergencies. However, effective implementation of the Agreement requires relevant adjustments in the existing legislation, endorsed sectoral regulations and instructions in place. Furthermore, senior and technical staff of relevant government services lack knowledge and information about signed Agreement and its proper application in case of emergency.

Given the difficult terrain in Tajikistan and particularly in GBAO, access remains a challenge. Dushanbe-Khorog highway runs around 700 km and due to the harsh mountain climate, road conditions in many places are bad. Assessment of 2015 earthquake in Bartang Valley of GBAO indicated that affected population resided in the isolated mountainous areas, where temperatures are the lowest and the snowfall is the heaviest in comparison with the rest of the country and due to severe weather conditions, many communities remain inaccessible by road almost 5 months in a year.

Information management and disaster assessment by the Government (particularly assessment of needs) is not undertaken in an agreed, unified and systematic way. Availability of credible and justified information/data for disaster response during first hours/days remains challenging.

In addition to above, below are some of the key expected challenges and gaps, that could hinder initial humanitarian response to the situation:

- Lack of predictability in Government internal coordination mechanisms and coordination between the Government and the international humanitarian partners.
- Lack of agreed and up-to-date damage and needs assessment tools will hinder identification of immediate and long-term humanitarian and recovery needs.
- Inadequate capacity to collect disaggregated data on gender, age and health status during a needs assessment in order to better coordinate and prioritise assistance while delivering appropriate targeted response to all categories of people.
- Limited staffing capacity to provide psychosocial care.
- In view of very limited safe and reliable internal flight services to GBAO, organization of humanitarian airlifting to affected areas will be highly challenging.
- Bureaucratic impediments, such as the decision-making process by all actors, including the Government for request of assistance, needs assessment and distribution of assistance.
- Urgent calls for assistance without systematic and justified needs assessment at all levels (local, national, regional, headquarters) – lack of agreed protocols for requesting assistance, coupled with lack of information on international humanitarian system.
- Lack of information on capacity and experience of government officials in the provision of protection sensitive assistance, which safeguards the rights of affected people and takes into account specific vulnerabilities of certain groups.

RESPONSE STRATEGY

1. Objectives & Response Activities

The Contingency Plan is designed to support the Government of Tajikistan's response to the immediate humanitarian needs of the people affected by an earthquake event.

O1

Save lives and alleviate suffering by providing and/or ensuring access to multisectoral assistance to those most affected.

- Support mobilization of search and rescue forces at the request of the Government of Tajikistan.
- Provide immediate life-saving food assistance and avoid deterioration of the nutritional status of the most vulnerable groups.
- Ensure timely and adequate emergency life-saving health care services, psychosocial and sexual and reproductive health support.
- Ensure access to life-saving shelter solutions for the most vulnerable.
- Reduce risks of WASH related diseases and maintain dignity of affected population through access to basic WASH services and facilities.
- Provide cash transfers or other direct payments to allow people to meet their own key immediate needs.

O2

Protect the rights of those most affected, and promote inclusive access to humanitarian assistance, with particular attention to the most disadvantaged groups.

- Ensure access of children, including adolescents to protective learning environments, psychosocial support, and child protection services.
- Ensure people in need have access to goods and services protected by human rights e.g. adequate food, water and sanitation, shelter, health services, education, etc., and that obstacles impeding or hindering access are removed.
- Ensure that people are not singled out for harm, denied access, unable to assert their rights, or otherwise disadvantaged on the basis of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, disability, birth, age or other status.
- Ensure safe, culturally appropriate, non-discriminatory access to assistance.
- Ensure decent, safe living conditions and protective environments in displacement sites paying due attention to gender related needs of the affected.

O3

Support the recovery and resilience of the most affected by protecting, restoring and promoting their livelihoods and well-being.

- Support affected populations to undertake safe demolition and debris management and access shelter solutions that progressively contribute and promote appropriate long-term self-recovery.
- Establish key road communication through debris removal processes and ensure recovery of critical social and livelihoods infrastructure.
- Restore vital social services – health, nutrition, WASH, education, psychosocial services – with a view to integrating disaster risk reduction and improving resilience.
- Support livelihoods through protection and preservation of livestock and food security.

OPERATIONAL DELIVERY

1. Sector Operational Delivery Plan Summary

At sector levels, the plan will be supported by sector objectives and activities aimed at contributing the achieving the strategic objectives of the plan. Below is the summary of key sector level activities (in-depth sector response plans are annexed to the current plan⁶ - Annex I).

Camp Coordination and Camp Management		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Plan and construct sufficient IDP sites for 20,000 displaced people and deploy site management teams, mobile support teams and establish information/registration centres at key locations	Two sites are constructed and inhabited # site teams and mobile teams deployed	20,000 displaced people 5
Establish camp committees and IDP governance structures in each displacement site and enroll appropriate complaints and feedback mechanisms and AAP structures	# of committees formed CFM operating	2 Yes
Establish IDP registration process in conjunction with relevant government agencies	Registration process operating	Yes
Deploy DTM and information management team, including regular DTM reports (based on flows).	Information Management support provided DTM reports produced (as appropriate)	Yes Yes

Education		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Ensuring equitable access to learning (continuity of quality education)	Number of children and adolescents having equitable access to inclusive and quality learning opportunities	29,250
Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial support	Number of students, teachers and other education personnel received mental health and psychosocial support	5,850
Implementation of context-relevant life skills /child-centred DRR programmes	Number of students, teachers and other education personnel covered by life skills and DRR programme	30,000

⁶ Alphabetical order

Ensuring community engagement for behaviour and social change	Number of children and caregivers having timely access to culturally appropriate, gender- and age-sensitive information on educational options and other social services, and are engaged in interventions creating a conducive learning environment	58,500
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Food Security, Agriculture and Nutrition		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Relief food assistance for affected families (especially female-headed families) through distribution of monthly food rations, and whenever possible, provision of cash or vouchers to purchase food items;	1) Metric ton of food commodities distributed Number of affected population reached	1) 807 metric tons (MT) of food commodities for 30 days 58,500 beneficiaries
Blanket supplementary food distribution for children 6-59 months and PLWs	# of PLW and children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders	1) PLW- 4,000 children aged 6 to 59 months- 7,605
Provide micronutrient supplementations for women and children	# of women and children aged 6 to 59 months receiving multiple micronutrient powders	1) Women -4000 7,605 children aged 6 to 59 months
Support facility and community-based counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency (IYCF-E).	# primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	1) 7,605 primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling

Health		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Access health and health services delivery situation		
Maintain (support) a Health Information System with an Early-Warning System component		
Filling – or ensuring that others fill – (critical) gaps in health response and health care access		
Building capacity for better health action within national authorities, civil society and population		

Logistics		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Establish a Logistics coordination cell involving the actors involved in the response including the Cim/Coord and government	Coordination meetings held regularly	Weekly meetings held during the emergency response
Conduct assessments and produce maps and sitreps for the affected areas	Logistics constraints maps produced and updated regularly	Weekly sitreps produced and Maps created and disseminated
Identify and provide the list of transport companies that can be contracted to deliver aid to the affected areas on behalf of Logistics Sector or partners directly	Produce a list of transport companies and engage in contracting them on behalf of partners if needed	List of companies produced and disseminated
Provide warehousing options to partners and establish temporary warehouses in hard to reach areas if need arises	Warehouses identified and partners familiarized with storage facilities and options	Ensure that at least two big warehouses are identified in the capital and temporary facilities provided in the field.

Shelter and NFI		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Identify collective centres for emergency shelter response (schools, institutional buildings, open spaces, stadiums)	At least 6 collective centers for emergency shelter response are identified in Khorog to accommodate 6,600 ppl	6 collective centers identified for 6,600 ppl
Assess collective centres for emergency shelter response (schools, institutional buildings, open spaces, stadiums, UCA, etc) and identify the needs for NFI, coordinate with WASH	Multisectoral assessment conducted, the identified collective centres are assessed and shelter NFI and infra needs identified	6 technical assessment conducted
The shelter sector coordination meeting conducted and outstanding needs communicated to partners. The needs are: winterized tents, NFI, stoves, coal, clothes, integrated WASH components, etc)	At least 3 coordination meetings conducted	To conduct 3 sector coordination meetings
Provision of NFI for 5,400 ppl who remain in their homes or hosted by relatives	Full set of NFI for 5,400 families provided	NFI for 5,400 provided
Provision of repair and insulation kits for 100 HH who had minor damage	100 HH provided with repair and insulation kits	Items for 100 HH
8000 ppl assisted with winterized shelter and NFI in 4 affected districts	1,212 emergency shelter prepositioned in strategic locations	Winterized shelter for 1,212 HH provided

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		
Activities	Indicator	Target
Provide safe and accessible emergency water and sanitation services and support good hygiene practices for highly vulnerable populations	Number of people have adequate access to sufficient quality of potable and non potable water	58,500
	Number of people have adequate access to safe sanitation facilities	58,500
	Number of people reached with hygiene supplies have adequate knowledge about outbreaks of water-borne diseases and other risks related to water and hygiene	58,500
	Number of people having access to a temporary accommodation fully equipped with WASH facilities as a preparedness measure	400
Local capacity building to support distribution of hygiene supplies and disseminate hygiene information, particularly hand washing and household water treatment.	Number of people trained on distribution of hygiene supplies and dissemination of key messages on Hygiene promotion	100
Encourage and facilitate local and international agencies and humanitarian partners to maintain minimum WASH supplies in the disaster prone regions and maintain interface between government coordination system and other humanitarian agencies in the WASH sector and obtain latest update of prepositioned supplies.	Number of partners maintaining minimum WASH supplies and prepositioning in the disaster prone locations	15

2. Addressing cross-cutting and context-specific issues

Cash and Voucher Assistance

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA)⁷ in humanitarian programming has become a widely used modality among international and local organisations due to its efficiency and placing at the centre beneficiary priorities in meeting

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Inclusive of any type of cash transfer; e.g., immediate cash, mobile money, bank transfers, commodity or cash-value vouchers, etc. A range of different terms have been used to refer to the use of cash and/or vouchers in humanitarian assistance. Common examples are 'Cash

their needs and supporting local markets. They are increasingly recognized as a cost-effective and efficient strategy for providing humanitarian assistance. Cash and voucher assistance can be used in a variety of settings, as long as there is a stable market and a safe way to provide vulnerable people with cash or vouchers. Across the humanitarian sector there is growing recognition that cash assistance can support people affected by emergencies (natural disasters and conflict) in ways that maintain human dignity, provide access to food and shelter, help rebuild or protect livelihoods through do no harm approaches. The question is no longer whether cash is an appropriate way to meet the needs of people engulfed in crisis, but how organisations, donors, and governments can use cash assistance to best effect.

UN agencies and development partners have been exploring opportunities for CVA during emergencies in Tajikistan. To identify a coordinated and harmonized approach among all actors to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency, the UN Country Team in Tajikistan initiated the establishment of an Interagency Cash and Voucher Assistance Working Group, henceforth called the Cash Working Group (CWG). The CWG in Tajikistan provides an interagency forum for cash coordination, for agencies to collaborate, harmonise and address key issues related to cash programming. In Tajikistan context, CWG foresees the response to different emergencies, including: COVID-19, refugee influx, cross-border conflicts, natural disasters. However, this is not a limitation to what CWG can and should respond; emergencies by nature are unexpected and any scenario outside of the listed examples may be included in a humanitarian response.

The CWG will reside under the guidance of the RC as an intersectoral working group and co-chaired by WFP and UNHCR. It is agreed that CWG will coordinate and function in frames of REACT partnership, when and where relevant. In the context provided by the scenario of the given Contingency Plan, it is expected that CWG will be involved in response operation and will coordinate the CVA interventions.

Promoting gender equality and protection in the humanitarian response

To understand the specific needs of the most vulnerable, including affected population of different age, gender, ethnic and religious minority, people living with disabilities and to ensure that response is guided by the “do-no harm” approach, the REACT will ensure that protection and gender related strategies are well mainstreamed into the response operations. To do this, REACT will call for support from respective Government agencies (Committee for Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, local authorities) and the REACT partners (UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWOMEN, UNDP and international and local NGOs) active in protection and gender related issues.

REACT will ensure that protection and gender aspects are mainstreamed at both strategic and sector-level response efforts, and advocate for protection to take an overarching approach in overall inter-agency response efforts. REACT will also establish initial discussions with the local authorities of the district and jamoats to advocate for establishment and availability of age and sex data of the local population, while it will also advocate for availability of information on the statelessness, ethnic minority, people with disabilities and other minority groups. Once available, such information will guide the REACT partners to undertake relevant response operations in a dignified manner, reaching the most vulnerable with the appropriate assistance.

Community Engagement in Humanitarian Action

Recognizing that the first responders will be affected people, civil society and local private sector organizations, it is critical that mechanisms to effectively support and coordinate with communities are put in place in the immediate aftermath. Critical areas include common services for system-wide accountability and private sector and civil society

Engagement with and accountability to affected people are critical in particularly the most vulnerable groups along lines of sex, age, ethnicity, physical ability and other diversities. Affected people need to be kept informed about available services as without access to reliable, timely, and accurate information, survivors are may be unable to

Transfer Programming’ (CTP) ‘Cash Based Assistance’ (CBA) and, ‘Cash Based Interventions’ (CBI). While those who are more familiar with the sector understand that such terms include both cash and vouchers, the language itself can be misleading. Also, having multiple terms to refer to the same thing is ultimately unhelpful and fosters confusion. The Cash Learning Partnerships recommends using ‘Cash and Voucher Assistance’ (CVA) as the collective term. It has the advantage of descriptively matching what it is in practice to reduce misinterpretation.

make the choices necessary to develop their own survival strategies to recover and rebuild from the earthquake. At the same time, a coordinated approach to two-way communication between responders and communities allows responders to react to changing needs, ensure that aid is effective and appropriate and to adjust response strategies as needed.

REACT may therefore establish Community Engagement Working Group to ensure that Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Communications with Communities (CwC) are integral part of the response, including in needs assessments, flash appeals and other outreach efforts. Also, the Working group can ensure availability of Feedback and Complaint mechanisms.

COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. Coordination with Government/REACT

The Government of Tajikistan holds the first responsibility for responding to disasters in the country, with the international community playing a supporting role. Overall coordination for the implementation of the emergency responses is delegated to the Commission of Emergency Situations (Commission). The Commission manages the emergency response through a formal Unified State System on the Prevention and Liquidation of the Emergency Situations, which incorporates all the relevant state services, means and forces. Commission is chaired by the Head of the Government who can delegate this role to the Prime Minister or his deputy. The Department of Defense and Legal Affairs, Office of the President, is the Secretariat for the Commission. The Committee of Emergency Situations (CoES) supports the Commission through provision of technical consultations. The National Commission, like CoES, is replicated at the regional, city, district, jamoat and organizational level, with the head of the Commission being replaced by the most senior official at each level. CoES is the major point-of-contact with the Government for the humanitarian community.

Day-to-day disaster management, including coordination and implementation of disaster response, is vested in CoES. The main role of CoES is to protect people, economic infrastructure and territories from disasters, organize and carry out activities to prepare the population, and to prevent and mitigate natural and technological disasters.

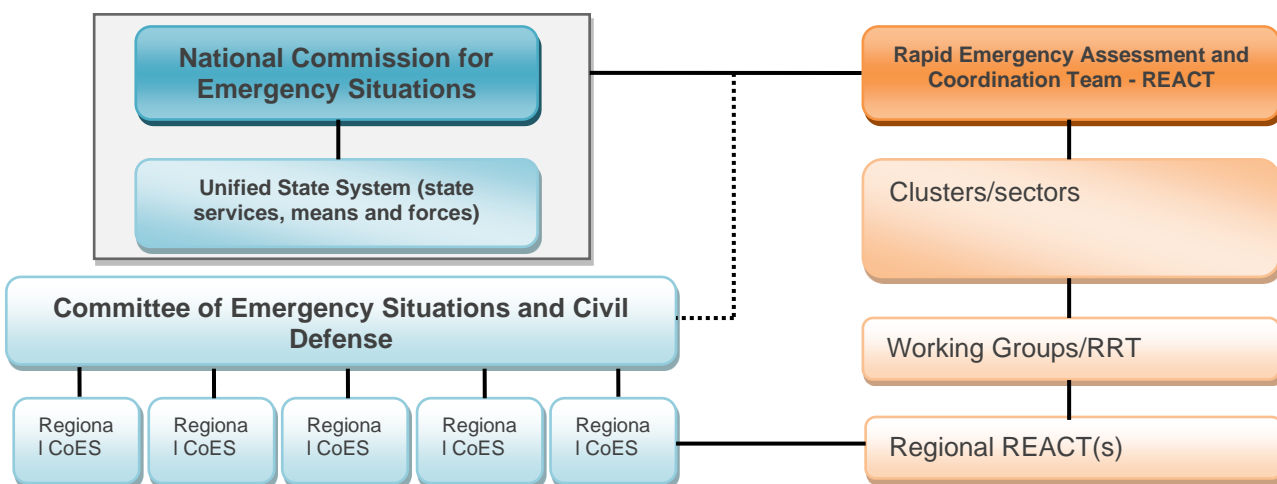
International humanitarian community support Commission through direct interaction with the national and local level representatives of CoES. Such coordination is undertaken through the REACT partnership. On a daily basis, disaster related information is shared between CoES and REACT Secretariat and with the wider REACT partners, and where relevant, decisions on deployment of REACT assessment teams, teams of distribution of assistance is made jointly with the representatives of CoES as part of the REACT.

The experience shows, that often in addition to CoES, other Governmental departments, mainly the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the State Agency for Material Reserves, directly approach the development and humanitarian partners to coordinate joint response efforts. Depending on the scale of emergency and its humanitarian impact, these additional entities are requested to support CoES in coordination. Such decisions are made on an ad-hoc manner, at central Government.

Both REACT and the wider development and donor partners under the umbrella of Development Coordination Council (DCC) are aiming to agree on systematic and predictable coordination arrangements for joint response, to avoid duplications and ensure aid-effectiveness.

Local NGOs, the civil society and the community leaders often join the response operations (based on their mandate and capacity) in affected areas, wherever these NGOs or civil society organizations are present.

Worth to mention, that for coordination of COVID-19 response, Government has established an Interagency Task Force (IATF), chaired by the Prime Minister. Although established IATF is very similar to Commission, the main operational functions were performed by Ministry of Health and Social Protection with no coordination mechanism to serve as an interface for cooperation and communication between national authorities and international partners, which created significant challenges and hampered coordinated response by international community.



2. Public Outreach and Advocacy

Both the Government and the REACT undertake relevant public outreach initiatives before, during and after emergencies. The Government often issues daily situation updates (“operational svodka”) that are published on local and national news agencies, TVs and radios. At the same time, depending on the scale of the emergency, the REACT Secretariat issues daily situation updates, situation reports, relevant snapshots and infographics. Where required, relevant press releases and media outreach (through key statements by the CoES and the UNRC (as REACT co-chairs) and media briefings) to provide as clear and relevant information as possible on the ongoing response, state of affected population and the planned relief and recovery operations.

At the scale of emergency provided by the given Plan may require activation of the Emergency Communications Group (ECG). ECG will be formed based on the existing UN Communication Group, which will be expanded to include public information and communication staff from other REACT partner organizations, together with focal points from each sector. ECG will interact with Public Relations Department of CoES and will support REACT co-chairs and partners and will, inter alia:

- Liaise with the public information stakeholders to ensure that accurate facts and relevant information are collected, properly analyzed and disseminated in a timely manner to the targeted audiences;
- Prepare key messages and draft outputs such as press releases and content for social media and the website, based on updates from sectors; organize regular media updates, briefings, interviews and field trips, as required, and support the REACT co-chairs, Sector Leads and other partners in their communications with the media, donor communities and international humanitarian communities;
- Monitor the news or any reports on the humanitarian work being carried out and be considerate of and deal with possible negative implications for the humanitarian response, as a result of controversial, inaccurate or false media reports.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

1 Needs Assessments

The assessment process following emergencies in Tajikistan are undertaken by the Commission and focuses on the valuation of physical losses in financial terms, with a primary focus on damage to physical infrastructure. Assessments are usually completed in the first weeks following a disaster (or earlier, depending on the situation), concurrent with the provision of life-saving or life-sustaining relief assistance.

The Government's efforts to immediately mobilize relief aid and the damage assessment process are well structured and include many of the elements of current global good practices. At the same time, there is a lack of criteria for defining levels of damage (particularly for housing), which could lead to inconsistent identification of damage across similar disasters. In addition, the immediate humanitarian needs of the affected population are not articulated well in the Government-led assessment process, as this heavily focuses on recovery needs. This conflicts with the needs-based approach through which the international humanitarian community operates to identify and respond to the immediate life-saving needs of the most vulnerable people.

In 2018, REACT finalized its Inter-Agency Needs Assessment Guidance (TIANA) in line with the the IASC Operational Guidance for Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises and the IASC Guidance on Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA). It is intended to address the conflicts with Government led assessments and to ensure a harmonized needs assessment approach among all humanitarian partners. TIANA establishes predictable needs assessment processes with a commonly agreed methodology, tools and protocols and outputs. It is designed according to global standards and best practices and allows to obtain a quick understanding of the emergency situation and the needs of affected population at different intervals, providing concise analysis which will enable REACT partners to plan and prioritize the humanitarian response.

TIANA includes agreed rapid needs assessment questionnaires and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures, which look at a variety of areas, such as WASH, Health, Food Security, Nutrition, Education, Protection, Agriculture, etc. Based on these agreements, inter-agency rapid needs assessments in emergencies in Tajikistan are usually conducted by the Rapid Response Team (RRT) of REACT. The initial assessment could be followed-up by in-depth sectoral assessments, conducted by relevant sectors. Depending on the context, availability of information and access to disaster-affected areas, REACT assessments are completed between several weeks (rapid assessment) and months (in-depth assessment) after a disaster.

REACT Rapid Response Team is composed of nominated staff of REACT agencies and conducts field level assessments if Regional REACT is not present. The assessment team is primarily engaged in conducting key informant interviews and observations in the disaster affected area.

2 Information Management

The Assessment and Information Management working group (AIMWG) composed of REACT assessment and information management experts and limitedly functional at national level. The main objective of the working group is preparing baseline information and facilitating information management and exchange before and during disasters as well as planning, coordination and harmonization of assessments.

AIMWG directly interacts with the Information Management and Analytical Center of CoES at national level, which is responsible for management of all the emergency related information during the response operations.

However, it should be pointed that Information Management capacity in the country in general is very limited.

At the scale of emergency provided by the given Contingency Plan, the work of the AIMWG will be led and facilitated by the OCHA IM capacities surged to the country.

3 Response Monitoring

The overall response monitoring will be under the responsibility of the REACT Secretariat supported by OCHA. Sector monitoring will be under the responsibility of the sector lead in collaboration with all partners. Sector leads will facilitate adequate reporting and information sharing to help monitor the response. Sector leads will also monitor routinely their sector needs, response and gaps and introduce any required adjustments. Monitoring findings will be reflected in reporting documents, including snapshots, situation reports.

4 Safety & Security

The UN humanitarian workers in the country will be guided by the recommendations of UNDSS. The Security Management Team (SMT) in the country level is headed by the Designated Official (UN Resident Coordinator), and comprises the Heads of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programs present in country, and the Security Adviser.

The Government, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, ensures law and order in the affected territories, provides for safety of the population and state assets, including safety of humanitarian stock and convoys. The humanitarian organizations acting in the affected territory are to coordinate their activities with the Government and maintain communication and exchange of information including on the security aspects.

PREPAREDNESS GAPS & ACTIONS

In line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) emergency response preparedness (ERP) process REACT in Tajikistan continues implementation of the prioritized Minimum Preparedness Actions to address existing gaps and establish a minimum level of emergency preparedness within the country. Below is the summarized list of the prioritized joint actions in different areas, such as risk monitoring, coordination and management arrangements, needs assessment, information management and operational delivery, which are jointly being implemented by REACT partners. A detailed multi-year Work-Plan of REACT (2022-2023) is provided in Annex II.

Pillar	Actions
Risk Monitoring Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish risk monitoring framework/system identifying the thresholds and triggers for humanitarian actions; - Ensure evolving risk discussion is a standing item on the REACT agenda.
Coordination and Management Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure organization of regular (at least twice a year) capacity building session on humanitarian principles, architecture and etc for national and international partners; - Continue regular operations of the REACT partnership, through regular meetings, joint events as trainings, simulation exercises and etc; - Ensure that clear protocols/procedures between REACT and Government are placed and followed for request/accepting international assistance. - Establish Emergency Communication Group and familiarize members with IASC guidance on Public Information. - Ensure coordination of needs assessment, response planning and monitoring following emergencies in Tajikistan.
Needs Assessment/Information Management/Response Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure operationalization of the Rapid Response Team and AIMWG, through organization of regular meetings, trainings and simulation exercises; - Regularly update of the TIANA tool and protocols; - Keep updated common data preparedness sets (CODs) and fundamental operational data (FODs), including sex and age disaggregated data and gender-responsive information (AIMWG); - Ensure timely information sharing, through situation updates, reports, snapshots, bulletins and alerts.
Operational Capacity and Arrangements to Deliver Relief and protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish Community Engagement Working Group and capacitate it on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Communications with Communities (CwC) guidances; - Keep updated mapping of the respective response capacities of sector partners, including Government; - Ensure availability of agreed basic relief assistance package might consist of, taking into account cultural practises, gender considerations and climatic conditions; - Ensure that the Cash Working Group promotes and supports collaborative emergency preparedness initiatives, works with the government and supports engagement with local partners to ensure a coherent approach to cash programming in the event of humanitarian response in the country. - Implement Global Logistics Cluster Field-Based Preparedness Project to strengthen national logistics capacity and promote a shared methodology towards logistics preparedness. - Ensure readiness and operationalization of the National Logistics Preparedness Working Group (NLPWG).

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

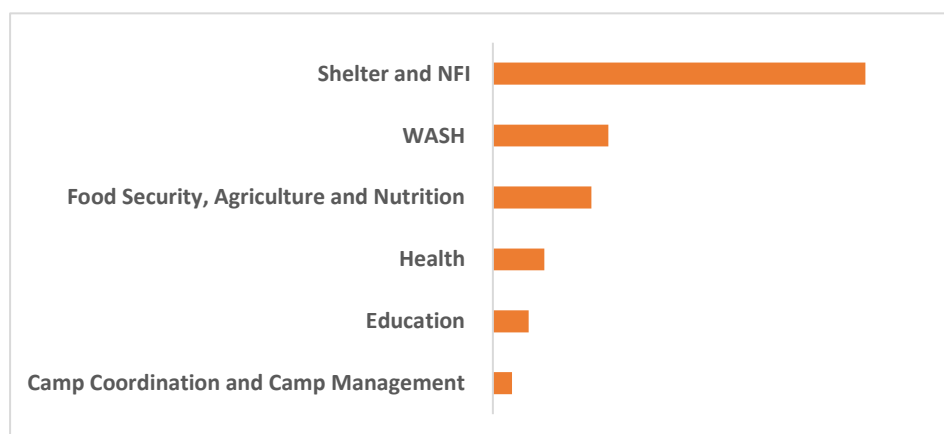
The GoT having the authority to lead the response to an emergency situation, will contribute funds and materials to emergency response. It is expected that the Government will use resources from the State Budget and relief items stockpiled by the State Agency for Material Reserve stockpiled around the country. REACT will support the Government's emergency response at the onset of the disaster by mobilizing locally available resources.

The major humanitarian partners UN WFP, UNICEF, WHO, RCST and etc also possess certain amount of food, WASH, health and shelter supplies. The list of available stocks is provided in Annex III.

The UN RC (where relevant supported by CoES Chair), with the support of OCHA/REACT Secretariat will be responsible for identifying locally available sources/donors and available up front resources (e.g. OCHA Cash Grants, CERF and etc). In consultation with the REACT partners, the UN RC will decide at the onset of the crisis, the need for launching a Flash Appeal.

Moderate estimations prepared by the Sectors totalled at **12,646,722 USD** to deliver response operation outlined in the given Contingency Plan.

Funding Requirement by the Sector (in USD)	
Camp Coordination and Camp Management	350,000
Education	650,777
Health	938,444
Food Security, Agriculture and Nutrition	1,800,000
WASH	2,107,501
Shelter and NFI	6,800,000
Total	12,646,722



KEY CONTACTS

The full list of REACT emergency contacts in Tajikistan is provided in Annex IV.

REACT KEY CONTACTS – TAJIKISTAN		
1	<p>REACT co-chairs</p> <p>Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee of Emergency of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence under the Government of Tajikistan</p> <p>Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan</p>	<p>Tel: + 992 221 91 19; +992 223 13 11 Email: info@khf.tj</p> <p>Tel: + 992 44 600 58 54 Email: sezin.sinanoglu@un.org</p>
2	<p>REACT Secretariat</p> <p>Ms. Shahlo Rahimova, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN OCHA</p> <p>Mr. Azam Rahimzoda, Head of International Cooperation Department, Committee of Emergency Situations</p>	<p>Tel: +992 93 9999 451 Email: rahimova@un.org</p> <p>Tel: + 992 888 88 70 60 Email: coes.tj.doic@gmail.com</p>

OTHER KEY CONTACTS – INTERNATIONAL		
1	<p>OCHA Emergency Relief Coordination Center (ERCC) 24/7, Geneva</p>	<p>Tel: +41 22 917 2010</p>
2	<p>Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) –New York Mr. Martin Griffiths</p>	<p>Tel: +1 212 Email: mgriffiths@un.org</p>
3	<p>OCHA Operations and Advocacy Division – New York Ghada Eltahir Mudawi, Acting Director</p>	<p>Tel. +1 212 963 1522 Fax. +1 212 963 3630 Email: ghada.eltahirmudawi@un.org</p>
4	<p>UNDAC – OCHA Geneva</p>	<p>Tel: +41 22 917 1600 Fax: +41 22 917 0023 Email: undac_alert@un.org</p>

LIST OF ANNEXES

Annex I – Sector Operational Plans

Annex II – REACT Work-Plan 2022-2024

Annex III – REACT Partners Contingency Stocks

Annex IV – Contact List