

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

TAJIKISTAN

DONOR UPDATE 12 SEPTEMBER 2005

NATURAL DISASTER HAMPERS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN TAJIKISTAN

- Only 17 % of the 4 million USD requested for 2005 in the Humanitarian Action Report have been raised. UNICEF urgently requires at least 800,000 US dollars in order to respond to the needs of children and women in disaster-affected areas.
- Cholera outbreak could exacerbate the fragile health situation of children in the affected areas. Over a million US dollars of health sector budget remain unfunded.
- Natural disasters increased the requirement for water and sanitation intervention in schools. 295,000 US dollars is needed in order to set up supply system and sanitation facilities.

1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Development efforts aimed at improving the lives of children and women in Tajikistan have suffered setbacks due to natural disasters and a cholera outbreak that hit several parts of the country in June and July.

Several districts in northern and southern Tajikistan suffered heavy floods and mudflows causing destruction of houses, school building, roads and other infrastructures. Within the flooded regions, a number of villages were isolated from each other as bridges had been washed away. The water level is not likely to decrease since the heat will continue to melt the snow that accumulated in the surrounding mountains during last year's winter.



In Penjikent district in the north, four villages have been affected, leaving about 200 families displaced from their homes. These families are now living in camps where potable water supply and sanitation facilities need to be in place.

In the same district, a bridge was destroyed causing one of the villages to be totally cut off from the district centre. One of the schools was badly damaged. With support from the Japanese Embassy, a new school has been

constructed and will benefit 530 children. UNICEF will provide financial as well as technical support in the construction of a water supply system and sanitation facilities.

In the south, two districts in Khatlon province and five in the Gorno-Badakshan Autonomous region suffered enormous devastation.

More recently, an outbreak of cholera has been reported in more than ten districts in Khatlon province and in areas surrounding the capital city of Dushanbe. A few deaths have been reported by the media. The outbreak is linked to poor access to safe drinking water as well as poor hygiene practices among the population.

These natural disasters and the outbreak of cholera could exacerbate the situation of children and women in the Tajikistan. Survey data show that under-five mortality remains high at 118 per 1000 live births. High levels of diarrhoea at 18 per cent and chronic malnutrition at 36 per cent cause deaths and illness among children and under-five years of age.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Health and Nutrition

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF provided emergency health kits, supplementary drugs, water purification tablets, chlorine, water tanks and jerry cans to families in all of the affected areas in northern and southern parts of the country.

In Penjikent, health points were established and provided with health kits and cold chain equipment. Vaccination of children is being carried out according to a schedule prepared by the Ministry of Health. Health workers also promote hygiene and sanitation practices among affected families.

More importantly, UNICEF has assumed a leading role in inter-agency coordination efforts in response to the emergency situation.

In the coming months, UNICEF will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to ensure the survival rights of children in emergency situations. An adequate number of health kits and hygiene kits, supplementary drugs, vaccines, and other humanitarian health supplies will be made available in the health points. UNICEF will also provide additional quantities of chlorine, hygiene kits, information, education and communication materials and other supplies that may be needed.

Education

UNICEF provided recreation kits, hygiene kits as well as 'school-in-a-box' to children in affected areas. UNICEF provides school furniture to the most affected and deprived schools.

During the cold winter months, children are discouraged to attend classes due to the lack of adequate heating in schools. With the provision of coal, school attendance will be ensured and children will not be deprived of learning opportunities.

Further, the UNICEF Representative joined the Minister of Education in visiting the affected areas in Penjikent. Meetings were held with local government authorities to assess the needs of schoolchildren in the affected villages. Following her field visit, the UNICEF Representative enlisted the support of the Japanese Embassy for the rehabilitation of a badly damaged school. Consequently, the school is now a beneficiary of assistance provided by the Japanese Embassy under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects. If funding becomes available, UNICEF will contribute school furniture and other materials to compliment this initiative.

Water and Environmental Sanitation

UNICEF has also committed itself to allocating funds for reconstruction of water and sanitation facilities in schools in the affected areas and to support hygiene promotion activities which will also mobilise child participation.

Future action will include the establishment of sanitation facilities and child-friendly water supply systems in affected schools in seven districts. Construction of latrines and water supply system will be supported by the provision of hygiene promotion materials as well as training, using a peer-to-peer approach among schoolchildren.

3. 2005 APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

The 2005 UNICEF Humanitarian Action Report for Tajikistan requested for 4,000,000 US \$. To date, only 17 per cent or 693,793 US\$ has been received against the overall resource needs of 4 m US\$. More than 3 million US dollars remain unfunded.

Table 1 below indicates the details of funding received so far.

Table 1: (2004) APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING AS OF AUGUST 2005				
Sector	Target (US\$)	Funded	% Funded	Unfunded
Health and Nutrition	1,600,000	337,202	21%	1,262,798
Water and Environmental Sanitation	831,122	356,592	43%	474,530
Education	368,878	0	0%	368,878
Child Protection	1,200,000	0	0%	1,200,000
HAR Total	4,000,000	693,793	17%	3,306,207

TOTAL 2005 CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONORS AS OF AUGUST 2005		
Donor	Total Amount (US\$)	Sectors
Italian Natcom	235,049	Health, Water, Sanitation
ECHO	217,128	Water, Sanitation
UK Natcom	241,877	Nutrition
Total	693,793	

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES

Funding is urgently needed to ensure that UNICEF Tajikistan is able to respond to the needs identified in the education, water and sanitation and health sectors. As figures show on Table 1, education has not yet received any funding from the 2005 HAR. Meanwhile, health received 21% of the funds requested and WES received 43% of funding required.

The table below shows the minimum required amount of funds for 2005, which is most urgently needed to ensure UNICEF's humanitarian response to the current alarming situation in Tajikistan:

Summary of UNICEF Most Urgent Financial Needs for 2005	
Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	350,000.00
Education	155,000.00
Water and Environmental Sanitation	295,000.00
Total¹	800,000.00

Details of the Tajikistan Programme can be obtained from:

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¹ The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.