



# Water/Energy/Food Insecurities in Central Asia: Assessment and Response

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# Compound Crisis Risk Assessment

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- Motivated by:
  - Winter crisis in Tajikistan 2007-08
  - Worsening drought and macroeconomic factors in 2008
- Multilateral and bilateral agencies met in Almaty July 22, 2008
- Assessment funded by USAID, DFID, UNDP – World Bank contributed studies
- Advisory Committee: ADB, Brookings, DFID, OCHA, UNECE, UNDP, UNICEF, UNRCCA, USAID, WFP, World Bank

# Key Findings

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- State of Compound Crisis Factors
- Short Term Preparedness
- Longer Term Recommendations

# Hydro power water volumes: Well below normal

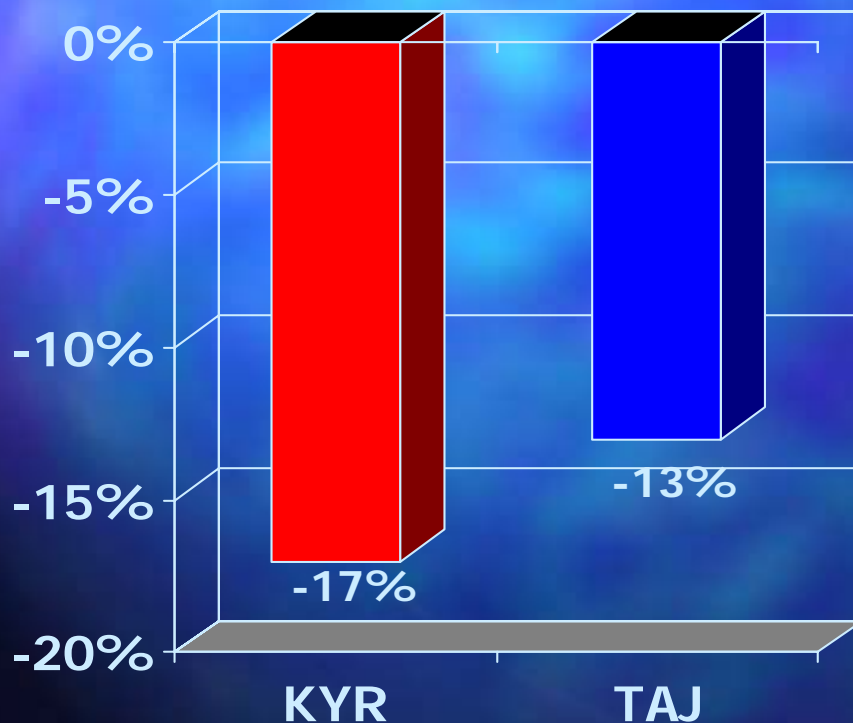


2008 data, relative to monthly averages from 1991-2007. Source: SIC-ICWC, provided by Water Agency of Japan; UNDP calculations

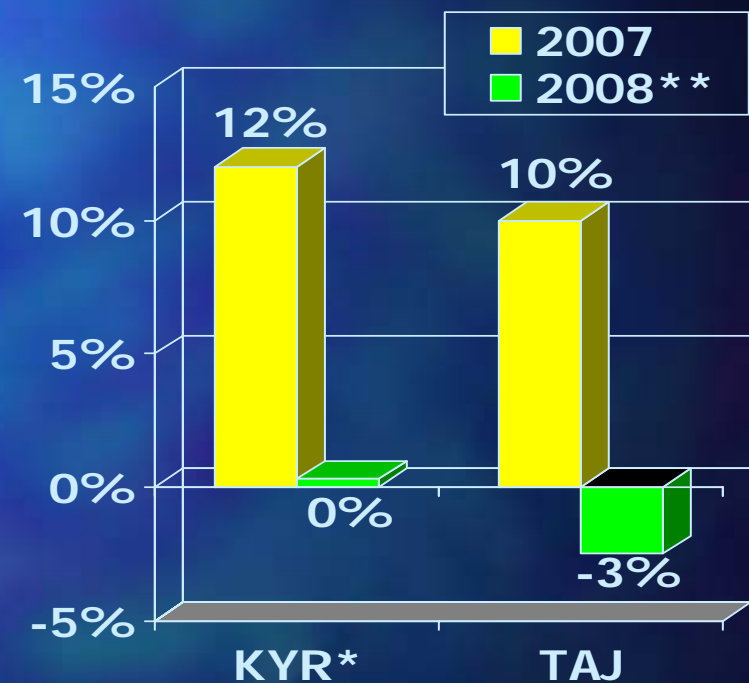


# Electricity generation falls, stopping industrial growth

*Electric power generation,  
January-September 2008*



*Volume of industrial output*



\* Kumtor production not included

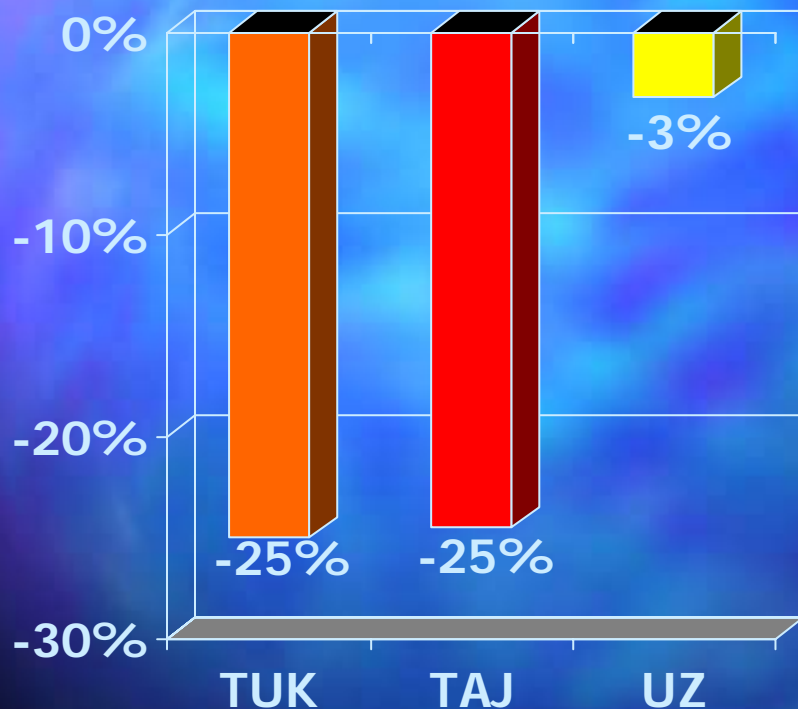
\*\* January – September 2008 data

*Source: National statistical offices*

# Food insecurity has grown . . .

- Tajikistan: 2.2 million food insecure
  - 34% of rural population
  - 37% of urban population
  - 800,000 severely food insecure, requiring immediate support
- Kyrgyzstan: 1 million vulnerable
- Sources:
  - Tajikistan: WFP, FAO, UNICEF *Joint Food Security Assessment* (May, July 2008)
  - Kyrgyzstan: UN *Winter Preparedness Response Plan* (October 2008)

# ... With declines in 2008-09 wheat crop predicted



USDA forecasts for 2008-09 wheat crops, over 2007-2008. Source: <http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov>

- Tajikistan is particularly vulnerable
- Global food prices may now be falling . . .
  - ... But they are still high in Central Asia
- What happens if the drought continues?
  - Low reservoir water levels today will affect irrigated agriculture downstream

# Macroeconomic bottom line

- GDP, agriculture growth seems to be holding, thanks to:
  - Remittances from Russia
  - Increases in acreage planted (offsetting falling yields, due to drought)
- Inflation rates are too high (above 20%)
- Possible impact of global financial crisis?
  - Remittance inflows from Russia continue, but have declined from Kazakhstan
  - Possible reductions in export demand in Russia, Kazakhstan, Europe
  - Higher unemployment, poverty could result



# Country responses: Energy sector

	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan
Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sangtuda 1 comes on line;</li><li>• Coal, mazut stockpiled;</li><li>• Electricity, gas imports increase;</li><li>• More generators, fuel in schools, hospitals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coal production, imports increase;</li><li>• Additional gas, electricity imports promised (not yet);</li><li>• Additional mazut procured</li></ul>
Demand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity deliveries reduced to rural areas;</li><li>• Tariff increases 2008-2010</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Electricity consumption to be reduced 30%;</li><li>• Load shedding;</li><li>• Winter closures of schools heating with electricity</li></ul>

# Country responses:

## Other areas

	Tajikistan	Kyrgyzstan
Food, other areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seed stocks (for spring 2009) increased</li><li>• Multi-cluster survey tracks vulnerability in schools, clinics, water providers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FAO-led assessment identifies 1 million food insecure individuals</li><li>• Universal monthly benefit increased</li></ul>
Appeals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February-August 2008 UN flash appeal brings in \$14 million</li><li>• September 2008 \$34 million food security appeal (for 800,000 most vulnerable)—\$9 million raised thus far</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Response Programme</i> launched October-November<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follows FAO-led food security assessment</li><li>• \$11 million in needs identified</li><li>• Focus on 1 million food insecure individuals</li></ul></li></ul>

# Central Asia seems ready for winter, assuming:

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- Aid appeals are met (not yet the case);
- No worsening of climatic conditions;
- The CIS presidents' Bishkek summit renewed commitment to regional cooperation holds; and
- No significant macroeconomic shocks
  - Note: Spring, summer 2009 needs are not yet being addressed



# Are we ready for surprises?

## Probably not . . .

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- Memories of last winter may promote cooperation and alertness . . .
- . . . True systems are not in place, in such areas as:
  - Early warning systems
  - Incorporating “compound crisis” risks into disaster risk management mechanisms
  - Adapting humanitarian response procedures to “compound crisis” specifics
- Better management of the humanitarian-development programme nexus would help



# Toward an early warning system that works

- Many early warning systems are used in Central Asia, but none integrate entirety of issues/institutions

*Water levels →*

*Energy production →*

*Agricultural production, prices →*

*Macroeconomic, fiscal,  
balance-of-payments →  
constraints*

*Vulnerable population conditions →*

**RESPONSE**

# Adapting disaster risk management mechanisms

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- Compound crisis disaster probabilities need to be regularly calculated, updated
- Doing so and preparing appropriate responses requires complex information outside usual DRM mechanisms' domain
- Fuel as an emergency good complicates procedural issues

# Revisiting the development-humanitarian nexus

<i>Humanitarian problem</i>	<i>Development programming response</i>	<i>Development, humanitarian outcomes</i>
<i>Drought reduces energy security</i>	Energy efficiency, renewable energy (not only distributing generators)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development: Environmental sustainability increases</li><li>• Humanitarian: Energy security improves</li></ul>
<i>Drought reduces food security</i>	Increasing rural household assets (not only emergency food relief)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development: Income generation opportunities increase</li><li>• Humanitarian: Food security improves</li></ul>



# Next steps

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- Bridging gaps, building synergies along development/humanitarian nexus (enhanced inter-agency communication)
  - Join hands in ensuring winter appeals are met
  - Toward a common early warning system?
    - Prepare for summer 2009
  - Agency expert collocation in Almaty
    - UNDP will outpost economist, disaster risk specialist in coming months
  - Revisit JCSS, UNDAF processes in terms of development/humanitarian nexus