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Information bulletin

Afghanistan: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n°1
GLIDE n° [EQ-2013-000048-AFG](#)
2 May 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



One of the many houses damaged by the 24 April earthquake in Kunar province, eastern Afghanistan. **Photo credit:** [afpak.foreignpolicy.com](#)

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

An earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter scale occurred at 13.55 hours on 24 April 2013 in the eastern region of Afghanistan causing extensive damage to property and the loss of life in Nangahar and Kunar provinces. This was the strongest earthquake recorded in 30 years.

The earthquake affected a total of 18 districts of Kameh, Dehbala, Lalpur, Surkhrud, Kheway, Shearзад, Khugiani, Chaparhar, Darenor, Goshtah, Darbaba, Momendarh, Bahsud, Jalalabad, Batikot, Hasarak, Spinghar and Achshien. In Nangahar province, a total of 581 houses were either partially or completely destroyed and 15 people were killed and another 110 injured. The most affected district was Lalpur where 215 houses were destroyed and two people died.

In Kunar province, the earthquake was felt in the four districts of Nurgul, Kunar, Tarkani and Chowki causing partial and complete destruction of 221 houses. Two people died and seven were injured.

The epicentre of the earthquake was in Langman and Nuristan provinces though no damage to property or loss of life was reported in the two provinces.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) immediately responded by providing cooked meals and relief non-food items to the affected communities using existing pre-positioned relief stocks in the region and. The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) will provide security updates and advise if ARCS can access areas with poor security.

On 25 April, an emergency response committee meeting was convened by ARCS to coordinate emergency assistance to the affected households. ARCS, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and ICRC will continue to monitor the situation and meet daily at the emergency operations centre (EOC) to review the information received from the affected areas.

ARCS will also determine if there is a need for a detailed assessment. In Kunar province, ARCS has already started conducting needs assessments and distribution of food items to the affected households.

An ARCS-led coordination team from Kabul will be dispatched to Jalalabad to conduct a rapid needs assessment and provide support to the relief efforts.

The ARCS mobile health teams (MHT) will remain on standby and will only be mobilized to the affected areas once ICRC has given the green light on the security situation. ARCS has taken this decision given the recent attack on an ARCS MHT along the main road in Khanaqa district, Jawzjan province in which two ARCS staff members were killed.

An assessment conducted in Kunar province has been completed. ARCS has provided relief assistance to the affected families. Assessment in the four districts of Achine, Sherzad, Hesarak and Spinghar of Nangarhar province is still on-going.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Afghan Red Crescent Society**
 - Mohammed Naim Dindar, Secretary General;; phone: +93 777 715 103; email: mohammed.dindar@arcs.org.af
- **In IFRC country office, Afghanistan**
 - Christopher Jackson, Country Representative; phone: +93 700 274 881; fax: +87 37 6304 3426; email: chris.jackson@ifrc.org
- **In IFRC South Asia regional office, India**
 - Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office; phone: +91 11 2615 4021; fax: +91 11 2615 4025; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org
- **In Asia Pacific Zone, Malaysia**
 - Mathew Schraeder, Operations Coordinator; phone +603 9207 5735; mobile +60 19 620 0758; email: mathew.schraeder@ifrc.org.
 - Al Panico, Head of operations; phone +603 9207 5704; email: al.panico@ifrc.org
 - Alan Bradbury, Head of resource mobilization and PMER; phone: +603 9207 5775; email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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