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Information bulletin Afghanistan: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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.

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



An Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteer helping to remove belongings from flood-affected houses in Mazar. **Photo:** Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The situation

Flash floods occurred in Balkh province in northern Afghanistan on 23 April 2013 affecting the districts of Keshendeh, Sholgar, Zarea, and Charkent, and the villages of Camp-e-Sakhi, Karta-e-Parsa, Karta-e-Habib, Camp Mohajerin Ali Chopan, Mazar International Airport, Mehrab Abad, Karta-e-Ishani, Karta-e-Amani, and Sajjadai in the eastern part of Mazar city.

An estimated 2,500 houses were partially or completely destroyed in Mazar city alone. The new airport terminal and runway has been inundated by water. Flights into and out of Mazar city have been suspended. A total of 14 people have been reported dead and 10 more have been reported missing. The casualties are mostly women and children. About 90 per cent of the people living in the eastern part of the city have been evacuated to safe sites inside Mazar city. Except for some parts of the eastern part of Mazar city which is inundated by water, the rest of the areas are accessible.

In Karta-e-Parsa, Karta-e-Mehrab Abad, Karta-e-Ishani and Karta-e-Habib a total of 92 houses were totally destroyed and 136 partially damaged. In Camp-e-Sakhi, 118 houses were totally destroyed whilst 66 were partially damaged.

A total of 412 households (2,472) people have been affected by the floods in one part of the eastern part of Mazar city alone. An estimated 270 displaced persons – comprising mostly women and children – have been

provided with temporary accommodation in schools, at the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)-run Marastoon welfare centre or have been accommodated by their relatives.

The ARCS Balkh branch has completed its survey of the flood victims in the eastern part of Sholgar district. A total of 193 families have been identified as category (A) affected and a further 203 families as category (B). The ARCS Balkh branch has deployed disaster response unit (DRU) teams comprising of 22 staff and volunteers to the affected areas of Karta-e-Parsa, Karta-e-Habib, and Karta-e-Mehrabad, Karta-e-Ishani, Amanki and Camp-e-Sakhi. A total of 500 persons have been evacuated to safer areas whilst 53 families have been accommodated at the Balkh Marastoon centre. These families have also been provided with food clothing food and 39 hygiene kits.

On 27 April, 53 displaced families were provided with cash assistance and were returned to their communities. In addition, ARCS provided each of the families with a food ration consisting of 50 kg rice, 10 kg beans, 5 litres cooking oil, 5 kg sugar, 2 kg tea and 2 kg salt. The Afghan National Army provided one tent for each the returnee families.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

ARCS has deployed two mobile health teams (MHT) to Marastoon, Camp-e-Sakhi and Karta-e-Habib to render health services to people needing health care. An ARC has also evacuated people from the disaster areas to safer places such as Marastoon, Camp-e-Sakhi and Ali Chopan schools and inside city of Mazar. The affected households have been provided with food and non-food items comprising of blankets, tarpaulins and clothes. The relief operation has been carried by a DRU team comprising of five ARCS staff, seven volunteers and two members of the MHT.

Joint meetings have been held by a coordination committee comprising of various partners and departments including ARCS, the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and government authorities. The following plan of action has been agreed upon:

- ARCS, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and international office on migration (IOM) have been assigned to carry out needs assessments in the eastern part of Mazar city.
- ANDMA has been assigned to carry out needs assessments in Sholgar district.
- The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (RRD) has been assigned to carry out needs assessments in Keshendeh district.
- The government department of agriculture has been assigned to carry out needs assessments in Charkent district.

ARCS and the Afghan National Army (ANA) facilitated the transportation of displaced persons to safer areas.

Coordination meetings amongst the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners (ARCS, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)) are on-going to ensure effective relief assistance to the flood-affected households.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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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