

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

AFGHANISTAN: SEVERE WINTER

1 July 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA003; Operations Update no. 6; Period covered: 15 May to 29 June, 2005; Appeal coverage: 90.2%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 21 February 2005 for CHF 812,000 (USD 686,330 or EUR 525,620) for three months to assist 17,542 beneficiaries.
- Plan of action and budget revised in Operations Update no.3 on 11 March. Budget increased to CHF 907,000 and the number of beneficiaries increased from 17,542 to 22,656. The operational framework was extended for two months to 31 July 2005. The final report for this operation is due 31 October 2005.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000 has been reimbursed.

Outstanding needs: CHF 88,703 (USD 69,114 or EUR57,176)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Afghanistan Annual Appeal 05AA045](#),
[Afghanistan Spring Flood Emergency Appeal 05EA005](#)

Operational Summary: This operation was initiated to assist the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in responding to the severe winter conditions in Kabul by providing basic support to more than 17,000 persons whose vulnerability has been worsened by heavy snow and rainfall and freezing temperatures. ARCS is receiving positive response from local partners and corporate and private donors.

The exceptional snowfall and continuing heavy rainfalls caused serious floods, avalanches and landslides with the onset of the spring melt. A new emergency appeal ([05EA005](#)) was launched on 31 March to assist 70,000 affected people across the country with focus also on further strengthening the coordination, disaster management and logistics capacity of the national society as a logical continuation of the present appeal.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Background

Afghanistan suffered severe winter conditions from mid-January through to spring, with heavy snowfalls, rain and bitterly cold conditions, resulting in the death of hundreds of people nationwide. ARCS has been given a major role in assisting 3,593 highly vulnerable families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in very basic conditions in Kabul. Some of them have been relocated to temporary settlements and ARCS has been able to rapidly respond to the crisis by distributing non-food items, heaters and fuel as well as by providing appropriate water and sanitation facilities, hygiene education and primary health care to the targeted beneficiaries.

The emergency relief operation is almost completed, and emphasis is being put on the national society capacity building component of this appeal. This activity is ongoing in regard to the ARCS disaster management department. Standardization of documents to be used, establishing clear lines of communication and standardized operation procedures are being reviewed with the support from a regional disaster response team (RDRT) member from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society.

Following its recent creation, the capacity building of the ARCS logistics department is also an ongoing and successful activity. A primary general logistics workshop has been held for ARCS staff and regular refreshers will be conducted. This activity will be carried over within the implementation of the spring floods emergency appeal (05EA005) since the annual appeal does not include this component.

Operational developments

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Overall objective: to improve the lives of internally displaced persons and returnees in Kabul severely affected by the adverse winter weather and meet the urgent humanitarian needs of 3,538 unassisted families and strengthen the capacity of ARCS through disaster preparedness and response.

Specific Objective 1: to distribute basic food items to 3,538 families and non-food items to 1,484 families covering a three-month period and to replenish the disaster preparedness stocks used during this response.

Progress/Achievements

ARCS has completed the relief distribution with technical assistance from the Federation delegation, providing food items to 3,593 families. This exceeds the target of 3538 families as new beneficiaries were identified (see below) The Federation has supported the national society by monitoring the winter operation and participating in the survey process and data collection. It has also participated in interviewing community groups involving social workers, elders, youth, and women to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the relief distribution.

The post-distribution monitoring and evaluation helped in assessing the overall situation of the IDP camps. It was found that many families in the IDP camps moved to other places without informing ARCS. The settlements where people moved away from were identified as Lab-e-Gar-e-Khair Khana, Amo Hotel, Khana Elm-e-Farhang, Nahr-e-Darson and Brishna Kot. In this context, the ARCS management identified two new IDP settlements.

Some 213 families were located in Jauz village, Dah Lak district, Ghazni province and 170 families were located in Chaman-e-Babrak, Kabul These newly identified beneficiaries have been provided with relief distribution. Surveys of the settlements indicated a high level of vulnerability and need for relief items. Each family was provided with 100kg of wheat flour.

A population movement meeting was organized by the ARCS disaster management department at ARCS headquarters. It was attended by representatives from ARCS, the Federation, ICRC, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the government population movement department. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the current status of the IDPs and their needs. It was identified that among the 22 IDP settlements in Kabul, three camps were facing greater problems than the rest. The families in these camps were more vulnerable and their needs were to be addressed. The

Federation responded to the ARCS proposal by assisting the Pul-e-Charkhi camp containing 127 families with a ration of 100 kg of wheat flour, 5 kg of oil, 5 kg of sugar and 1.5 kg of tea. The Lissa Ghazi camp and the Markaz-e-Talimi Afshar camp, which contain 102 and 71 families respectively, were provided with 100 kg of wheat flour (per family). See below the updated table of relief distribution.

IDP CAMPS	No. of Families	FOOD ITEMS (Kg)			
		FLOUR	OIL	SUGAR	TEA
Pul-e-Charkhi	127	38,100	1,905	1,905	5,715
Markaz Talimi Afshar	102	30,600	1,020	1,020	306
Lisa Ghazi	71	21,300	710	710	213
Ittefaq Mosque	49	9,800	490	490	147
Reyasat 5 Dalaman	180	36,000	1,800	1,800	540
Reyasat Barq	60	12,000	600	600	180
Maktab Hesab Dary	112	22,400	1,120	1,120	336
Lab Gar-e-Khair Khana	60	12,500	625	625	1,875
Near Police Station	61	12,200	610	610	183
Amo Hotel	95	19,800	990	990	297
Agashireen Salangi	49	9,800	490	490	147
Kodakistani Bagrami	56	11,200	560	560	168
Tamir-e-Milli Bus	58	11,600	580	580	174
Khana Elm-e-Farhang	156	32,800	1,640	1,640	492
Nahr-e-Darson	65	13,500	675	675	2,025
Koparatif Dehqani	29	5,800	290	290	87
Near Sarandowi Blocks	45	9,000	450	450	135
Clinic Kasab Khana Sazi	58	11,600	580	580	174
Wapika Blocks	116	23,200	1,160	1,160	348
Brishna Kot	670	143,600	7,180	7,180	2,154
Takhtikum-e-Changalak	287	57,400	2,870	2,870	861
Tapa Mullah Buzurg	704	140,800	7,040	7,040	2,112
Chaman-e-Babrak	170	17,000			
Dah Lak, Ghazni Province	213	21,300			
TOTAL	3,593	723,300	33,385	33,385	18,669

As outlined in Operations Update 5, the distribution of non-food items (coal and stoves) was completed earlier.

Impact

The post distribution monitoring and interviews indicate that the most needy and vulnerable people were targeted for food distribution, and the relief assistance was appropriate and adequate.

Constraints

The movement of families from IDP settlements without informing ARCS caused confusion and led to delays in identification of beneficiaries.

Specific Objective 2: to construct community latrines, rehabilitate existing toilets facilities for women and children, provide hygiene and preventive health education to the selected communities.

Progress/Achievements

All planned activities in the 13 targeted settlements have been completed. During the reporting period a total of 57 baths and latrines have been constructed. This brings the number of constructed or rehabilitated baths facilities and latrines to 272, which is three more than what was originally planned. The extra facilities were constructed using materials left over from the planned activities.

As outlined in Operations Update 5, two tube wells were drilled and hand pumps installed. A water bladder for 11,000 litres of water, as well as a pipe system for extension of water has also been installed. In addition, as of 10 June, a total of two million litres of safe drinking water had been provided to people using ARCS water tankers.

Two hygiene promotion training courses have been conducted for 20 new volunteers during the reporting period, bringing the total of trained volunteers to 164. Since the beginning of the operation, 6,500 hygiene kits and 2,000 hygiene posters have been distributed to 3,500 targeted families in the settlements in all of the 22 IDP camps in support of the hygiene promotion programme.

During the reporting period, a cleaning campaign was undertaken by ARCS, mainly to remove garbage from the settlements. A total of five cleaning campaigns have been conducted over the course of the operation. The clean-ups focused on removing rubbish and training the communities on how to conduct future operations. As outlined in Operations Update 5, 75 rubbish bins have been distributed to the communities in order to keep the camps clean and tidy and to contribute to better sanitation.

Impact

There is no quantitative method used to indicate the health impact of this programme. However, the emergency mobile teams have noticed a marked decrease in the number of patients being sent over the last six weeks compared to the initial stage of the operation. The hygiene situation in the settlements has been improved with the provision of bathing and latrines facilities as well as regular garbage collections. Fresh clean water has been delivered every day to all of the camps.

Constraints

A constraint has been the lack of sanitation expertise within ARCS. However, this situation has been improved by on-the-job training to ARCS staff.

Specific Objective 3: to improve ARCS's capacity in disaster preparedness, response and strengthen its logistics capacity.

Progress/Achievements

The Federation delegation is providing continued technical support to ARCS at all levels. The RDRT member who arrived on 14 April is assisting the disaster management department with streamlining and developing information gathering and reporting systems, and introducing standardized relief distribution formats at national level for data development and sharing. Monitoring and evaluation techniques in post-relief distribution have been introduced and are being used to identify weaknesses and to strengthen the related procedures.

Eight requisitions for supplying food and non-food items have been processed / procured and delivered to the distribution points for the beneficiaries.

In June, the Federation logistics team held a two-day basic logistics training course for the newly established logistics and transport department. The course consisted of seven topics reinforced by practical exercises. Fifteen people from ARCS and the Federation logistic team attended. This workshop will be followed by regular and more specific refresher courses.

Impact

The on-the-job training of the ARCS staff in standardized procedures of surveying, planning and reporting is proving to be highly effective. From a very low capacity base the national society has rapidly gained new expertise and skills in the area of logistics. The ongoing support from the RDRT member is assisting ARCS to improve its capacity in planning for implementation of disaster response activities.

It is difficult to provide measurable impact at this stage since it is a long process to improve the ARCS logistical structure. The Federation logistics department has produced a plan of action for up until the end of the year, highlighting all activities to be carried out.

Constraints

ARCS is still in the process of restructuring the disaster management department. The induction of new staff takes time, especially to adjust to and follow the procedures of the new environment of the disaster preparedness and response activities.

It is a long and complicated task for the Federation logistics team to assist the national society in increasing its capacity. However, the commitment from ARCS at all levels is very promising and should bring positive results. The new ARCS logistics and transport departments have a limited knowledge of basic logistics. Among the challenges faced is that ARCS has a different system of monitoring to the Federation standard.

Federation coordination

The coordination has been maintained between ARCS and the Federation delegation. In addition, ARCS has continued its coordination with the ministries of refugees and returnees as well as with the ministry of rural rehabilitation. The government has been informed that this operation is about to end and a handover back to the authorities will be arranged.

National society capacity building

During the implementation of this operation, emphasis is being put on developing ARCS's capacity in term of logistics, communication as well as planning, budgeting and reporting. Most of the delegation resources have been mobilized to assist the national society in organizing the response. The main success has been the initiation of the development of the ARCS logistics department at headquarters level. More details on this activity can be found above within the specific objective number three.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

This operation has assisted in raising ARCS's profile with the Afghan public (certainly in Kabul). The operation has received solid local media coverage, helping promote and highlight the nature of the national society's work with vulnerable populations. A seminar was organized by ARCS and the Federation to advocate for the national society on 8 June. Government ministers and representatives of the international community attended. The seminar is already producing positive results with some donor commitments for further support.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

Dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles, humanitarian values and information relating to the national society is ongoing through all activities carried out towards the beneficiaries as well as towards the other stakeholders involved in the operation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

Afghanistan - Severe Winter

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

28/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				907,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 90.2%	
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC BRANCH		6,100	HKD	902	24.02.05	
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC BRANCH		46,840	HKD	6,928	21.03.05	
ECHO/GERMAN - RC		155,166	EUR	238,567	14.04.05	
ICELAND - RC		7,000,000	ISK	126,700	24.02.05	
JAPAN - RC		34,300	USD	38,828	08.03.05	
MONACO - RC		10,000	EUR	15,490	21.04.05	
NETHERLANDS - GOVT		32,086	EUR	49,396	07.03.05	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	171,000	22.02.05	
UNITED STATES - GOVT		50,000	USD	56,600	03.03.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				704,411	CHF	77.7%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT				113,886	16.06.05	BLANKETS, KITCHEN SETS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				113,886	CHF	12.6%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	