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Emergency appeal Afghanistan: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRAF001
GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000087-AFG](#)
6 June 2012

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,186,873 in cash, kind, or services to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society to assist 14,000 beneficiaries (2,000 households) for six months, and will be completed by 30 November 2012. A Final Report will be made available by 28 February 2013 (three months after the end of the operation).

CHF 213,000 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Based on the situation, this Preliminary Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the Afghan Red Crescent Society, and focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief through provision of non food items, preventative and curative health services, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.



The devastating effects of the floods in Sar-e-Pol City on 20 May 2012. **Photo:** Afghan Red Crescent Society.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal Budget; here to link to a map of the affected area; or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Afghanistan continues to experience higher frequency and greater severity of natural disasters which often have a significant toll on human lives, livelihoods, properties and infrastructure. In mid-2011, a widespread drought struck affecting nearly half of the country, devastating the northern and western regions. Such disasters are exacerbated by the prevailing armed conflict that does not appear to be abating, and in fact is becoming more complex with humanitarian access and response efforts reduced. The affected areas have suffered multiple emergencies within a short period which have increased the vulnerability of these communities.

Continuous precipitation and melting of the huge accumulation of snow across numerous mountains in the country has triggered mass movement of water from steep mountains to valleys where large populations are settled. On 18 May 2012, the three districts of Saywad, Suzma Qala and Kohistanat in Sar-e-Pol province were inundated, and the impact was worsened by the geographical nature and location of these settlements. The water flows affected other districts along flood plains in Khwaja Du Koh district in Jawzjan province resulting in mass destruction of settlements and population displacement in the Dasht-i-Leili desert.

Some schools in Sar-e-Pol have been inundated with flood waters and have been temporarily closed. The main government hospital in Sar-e-Pol was also inundated, necessitating premature patient discharge and relocation of other patients to makeshift hospital tents in a safer area. The university of Sar-e-Pol which is situated on higher ground is being used as a temporary evacuation centre, and families living in similarly elevated areas are hosting affected relatives. There remains however, families who are unable to secure alternative shelter solutions and are forced to live in the open.

Essential water supply systems in Sar-e-Pol City are inundated. The local Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) Sar-e-Pol city branch office has had their water supply system affect by the flooding. Local shops and bakeries are closed and access to markets is limited.

The ARCS emergency operation centre reports are updated daily and extent of the impact to date is as follows:

Affected location	Sar-e-Pol province
Key districts currently affected	Saywad, Sozma Qala, Kohistanat, Sar-e-Pol City
Number of villages affected	47
Number of affected population	27,469 people (from 80 villages)
Number of affected households	5,150
Number of deaths	44
Number of missing	30
Number of people injured	300
Number of houses completely destroyed	2,600
Number of houses partially damaged	2,550
Number of displaced households	750
Farmland destroyed	3,000 hectares

According to the ARCS rapid assessment, the impact resulting from the flooding to date includes:

- Destruction of houses and infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, and roads.
- Damage to sources of livelihoods, livestock, markets, shops, agricultural lands and crops.
- Pollution of water and increased risk of water-borne diseases (i.e. cholera) and vector-borne diseases (i.e. malaria).
- Mass displacement and overcrowding.
- Most of the affected areas are muddy and packed with debris, resulting in difficult access.

The ARCS assessment teams are further reporting that the real number of beneficiaries – just in the 18 villages that ARCS has agreed to support – will likely exceed 2,000 households. There is also growing concern that additional flooding will be seen in other locations as the rapid melting of accumulated snow continues, and as summer rains commence. This could give rise to additional affected households in the current flood areas, and affected populations in new flood locations and is the reason for the launch of a preliminary emergency appeal.

The ARCS disaster response unit (DRU) is continuing to perform more detailed assessments in the affected areas and ARCS has been carrying out response activities in support of the affected communities since the floods first started; the above impact indicators will be updated as new information becomes available and the appeal revised as necessary to reflect the developing situation.

Coordination and partnerships

Daily meetings of ARCS's recently established emergency response committee are conducted. The meeting is chaired by the ARCS vice president with the involvement of ARCS heads of departments and IFRC officers. The emergency operations centre continues to play a proactive role in the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of flood disaster information to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement,

government ministries and United Nations agencies. A 24-hour duty roster system is in action to support the services of the emergency operations centre.

The table below identifies and indicates the government's current floods response coordination body which is chaired by the First Vice President of the Republic of Afghanistan with technical support of the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), UN agencies and the National Society. This body meets regularly to discuss operational strategies, levels of implementation, and the roles of the different humanitarian actors. ARCS is working closely with IFRC and ANDMA at both central and regional levels. A summary of the interventions undertaken to date are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Intervention by organisations

Organisation	Responsibility/Response
ARCS	Food, non-food items, health care and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion
IFRC	Technical support to ARCS in relief, health, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and resource mobilisation
ICRC	Security coordination
Afghan National Police	Food distributions
International Security Armed Forces (ISAF)	Medicine and clothes
Afghan Ministry of Defence	Non-food items
Action Aid	Bread and water
Child protection	Non-food items
World Food Programme (WFI)	Biscuits and bread

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

ARCS deployed its mobile health teams (MHT) to provide basic health care to the affected population. The ARCS's basic health centre in Sar-e-Pol City is also providing health care. Two medical kits have been provided to the ARCS MHT to support the services in the areas of operation.

Soon after the floods occurred, the ARCS northern region branch mobilised its pre-positioned disaster response water and Sanitation (WatSan) Kit 2 to Sar-e-Pol. The WatSan Kit 2 contains water treatment chlorine sachets, hygiene promotion materials, and household water storage containers designed for 2,000 people. Two further WatSan Kit 2 were sent to the northern region in late May and have been deployed to the affected location. There are two kits on reserve that are currently in the IFRC warehouse in Kabul and can be mobilised immediately as and when required. The regional ARCS health officer and community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) supervisor are providing training to 20 CBHFA volunteers in Sar-e-Pol on household water treatment and safe storage (HHWTSS) in the affected areas. These staff members were trained during the ARCS water and sanitation (WatSan) emergency response training in December 2011. ARCS plans to train volunteers in Sar-e-Pol on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV). ARCS mobile health team staff participated in the ARCS flood assessment teams.

ARCS DRUs were immediately deployed to conduct rapid assessments and conduct search and rescue operations. To date, 10,000 loaves of bread and 10,000 bottles of safe drinking water have been distributed to around 1,000 affected households (7,000 people), ARCS has moved non-food items (NFIs) for 400 families to the Sar-e Pol area, pending assessments and beneficiary selection. An early action was the distribution of 225 tarpaulins for families evacuated to schools, the university and those living in open spaces. The NFIs already distributed included tents, tarpaulins and kitchen sets. ARCS has made an allocation of AFN 200,000 (approximately CHF 4,009 or USD 4,145) for initial relief assistance for affected families and for operation running costs. A disaster management reporting officer and one IT specialist will be deployed to the affected areas to assist in accurate reporting.

The overall security situation in Afghanistan is difficult and unpredictable. While Sar-e-Pol City is relatively secure at the moment, there are security challenges in the agreed villages of the ARCS response due to the presence of armed opposition groups in and around the area. ARCS is currently accorded access to the locations where their relief operations will be focused.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: The most vulnerable groups are temporarily sheltered in schools, universities and host communities. Their immediate needs are access to safe water, food, health, shelter and non-food items. In the first instance it is intended that beneficiary selection for non-food item distributions will target those households that have suffered total destruction of their homes. Non-food item sets will be tailored to meet the most pressing needs of the beneficiary households. For example, where a family has no alternative housing solution, i.e. host family, and is living in the open, a tent and two tarpaulins will be provided along with the additional non-food items.

With the high level of inundation in villages and key infrastructure facilities, management of water supply is a clear need and ARCS is supporting with positioning of three WatSan Kit 2 to maintain access to drinkable water in Sar-e-Pol. However, the risk of water-borne disease outbreaks is significant and affected populations need access to safe hygiene practices and disease prevention information.

Immediate needs: Immediate needs include access to non-food items, safe water, preventative and curative health and shelter assistance.

Dissemination of health and hygiene information as well as access to curative health services are also pressing needs in the affected areas.

Longer-term needs: Potential longer-term needs will be defined through the ongoing assessments being undertaken.

The proposed operation

A total of 2,000 households, classified under the most vulnerable group, shall be the target beneficiary in the emergency phase. ARCS will conduct a detailed assessment, select and register the vulnerable households, distribute NFIs to the registered beneficiaries. Some 200 volunteers shall be trained in all sectors (relief, health, logistics, communication and reporting) and shall work in the 18 allocated villages.

ARCS aims to focus on the following activities:

- Relief: distribution of non-food items.
- Shelter: provision of emergency safe shelter
- Health: curative and preventive health services.
- WatSan and hygiene promotion: household water treatment, provision of safe drinking water, hygiene promotion, focusing on locations where affected populations are gathering, such as schools and the university which are being used as evacuation centres. Host families will also be targeted for WatSan support.
- Coordination: with government and other humanitarian actors.

ARCS operational plan covers activities during the emergency phase only (i.e relief, health, WatSan), and does not provide for further activities (i.e. recovery) beyond the emergency phase.

Table 2: Non-food relief good and medical materials urgently required for this operation

No.	Relief Goods (NFIs)	Quantity
1	Tents	700
2	Tarpaulins	1,400
3	Kitchen sets	2,000
4	Jerry cans/buckets	4,000
5	Blankets	12,000
6	Household hygiene kits	6,000
7	Water purification sachets	25,000
8	Mosquito nets	4,000
9	WatSan Disaster Response Kit 2	3
10	Interagency emergency health kit (IEHK)	1
11	Cholera kit	1
12	Chlorine tablets	5,000

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 2,000 households whose houses have been completely destroyed are supported with a non-food item (NFI) kit¹ to relieve their immediate household needs.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
2,000 households will be assessed and registered for provision of a non-food item kit.	<p>Working with logistics colleagues and ERU's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing needs and capacity assessments. • Mobilisation and training of staff and volunteers at national headquarters, and province and district levels. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. • Procurement using IFRC procedures and standards • Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. • Replenishment of stocks already distributed, according to IFRC standards. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. • Develop an exit strategy.

Emergency shelter

Outcome: 700 affected households in targeted villages in have safe and adequate shelter solutions through the provision of tents and tarpaulins.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
700 households will receive a tent and two tarpaulins to meet their immediate shelter needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing needs and capacity assessments. • Mobilisation and training of staff and volunteers at national headquarters, and province and district levels. • Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance • Distribute tents and tarpaulins according to detailed needs assessment. • Monitor and evaluate the shelter activities and provide reporting on distributions.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: The immediate health risks on the affected population is reduced through the provision of community-level preventive and curative services to at least 2,000 families (14,000 beneficiaries) in 18 villages in Sar-e-Pul for six months.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Target households have access to curative and referral health services through the ARCS's mobile health teams. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess flood-related health risks and needs of the affected population. • Mobilise mobile health teams to the affected communities. • Procure one cholera kit as a contingency measure, and one interagency emergency health kit (IEHK) to replace the IEHK already in use by the ARCS mobile health teams in Sar-e-Pol.
Target 2,000 households have improved health awareness, knowledge and behaviour for the prevention of flood-related diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 100 community volunteers in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and epidemic control for volunteers (ECV). • Print and distribute existing ARCS information, education and communication (IEC) materials to reinforce disease prevention and health promotion activities in target villages and alongside NFI

¹ Non food item kits will include 2 collapsible jerry cans, one kitchen set, six blankets, two mosquito nets and one hygiene kit. Where beneficiary households are without adequate shelter, one tent and two tarpaulins will also be provided.

	<p>distributions and in hospitals and clinics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilise volunteers to each conduct visits for disease prevention and health promotion activities to ten targeted households four times each over a three month period, as well as conducting health awareness campaigns at the community level.
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Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Outcome: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and hygiene promotion to 2,000 households.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
2000 households have improved access to safe drinking water through correct household water treatment and safe storage for three months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete detailed assessment of drinking water needs in affected area. • Procure three WatSan Disaster Response Kit 2s, as replenishment for those dispatched. • Procurement and distribution of 10,000 water purification sachets for household water treatment. • Procurement of and distribution of 2,0001,400 long lasting insecticides treated nets (LLIN) to be distributed as part of NFI kit. • Monitor the correct use of household water treatment and mosquito nets.
Hygiene behaviour is improved and emergency household water treatment products are used correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of 100 community volunteers in household water treatment and safe storage (HHWTSS) to assist households to accurately use water purification sachets and store drinking water. • Conduct four hygiene promotion campaigns and explanation of use of household water treatment products.
Displaced people have access to appropriate emergency sanitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete detailed assessment of sanitation needs. • Use WatSan Disaster response kit 2 and 5 to construct emergency sanitation facilities for the displaced families • Monitor use of latrines

Logistics

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure relief items needed, and to ensure the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation.

ARCS and IFRC in-country logistics teams, supported by the zone logistics unit (ZLU) based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will carry out the following activities:

- Coordinate for timely and cost-efficient sourcing options for the items required for the operation – many items are already readily available in the country (i.e. ARCS/IFRC stock).
- Coordinate mobilization of goods, receipt of incoming shipments and replenishment of stock despatched locally.
- Utilize existing, and where needed, source additional, warehousing capacity, facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient dispatch of goods to distribution points.
- Mobilize pre-positioned stocks (of items such as jerry cans, mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits) in the ZLU warehouse (either Dubai or Kuala Lumpur) on a needs basis.
- Ensure that local procurement of goods and transport follows IFRC standards.
- Liaise and coordinate actions with other key actors to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
- If required, a mobilization table will be set up in the coming few days and available on IFRC's disaster management information system (DMIS).

IFRC will work on mobilizing specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. As such, donors should coordinate with the ZLU regarding outstanding needs. The ZLU will provide shipping instructions and issue a consignment tracking number before any goods are shipped to the operation. Procurement of goods and transport can also be arranged through ZLU.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders is vital for fundraising, advocacy and maintaining the profile of emergency operations. During an operation, communications between affected populations and the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as with the media and donors, is essential to support effective disaster response. Effective communications also serves as a cornerstone to promote greater quality, accountability, and transparency. Communications activities related to this appeal are aimed at highlighting the humanitarian needs on the ground and building visibility around the emergency response activities carried out by ARCS/IFRC. These activities are closely coordinated between the IFRC's communications units in Kabul, New Delhi, Kuala Lumpur and Geneva. A detailed communications plan of action is forthcoming.

Capacity of the National Society

The ARCS was recognized in 1934 and is the only indigenous, nationwide humanitarian organization that works with all ethnic groups and is able to reach women, children and vulnerable people. ARCS operations in 33 of the 34 provinces and has an extensive network throughout the country.

ARCS has trained and equipped four disaster response units (DRU)s and one national disaster response team (NDRT). It has established and equipped an Emergency Operation Centre at national headquarter level. An has established has ten mobile health teams. ARCS currently employs 1632 staff and has 40,000 CBFA and youth volunteers including around 2,700 CDBP trained volunteers. All regions and 33 branches has equipped with 47 HF (codan) and 63 VHF radios. ARCS owns 90 vehicles, 230 computers and 49 contingency storage places in its strategic areas.

Capacity of the IFRC

IFRC maintains a country office in Afghanistan. Aside from the main country office in Kabul, the office consists of three sub-delegations located in Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar. The office is headed by a country representative and 15 staff, of which six are international staff. IFRC has been present in Afghanistan since 1997. The delegation will be further strengthen with the recruitment of a disaster relief delegate for six months.

The IFRC South Asia regional office in New Delhi and the IFRC Asia-Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur are also available to provide technical and operational assistance in the following areas: communications; finance; health, water and sanitation; logistics; operation coordination; resource mobilization; and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

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Click here

1. Emergency Appeal budget and map [below](#)
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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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EMERGENCY APPEAL

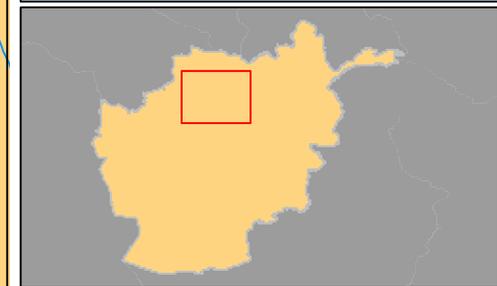
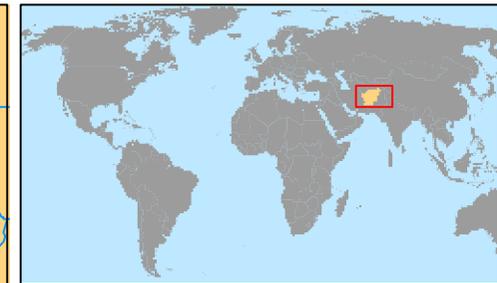
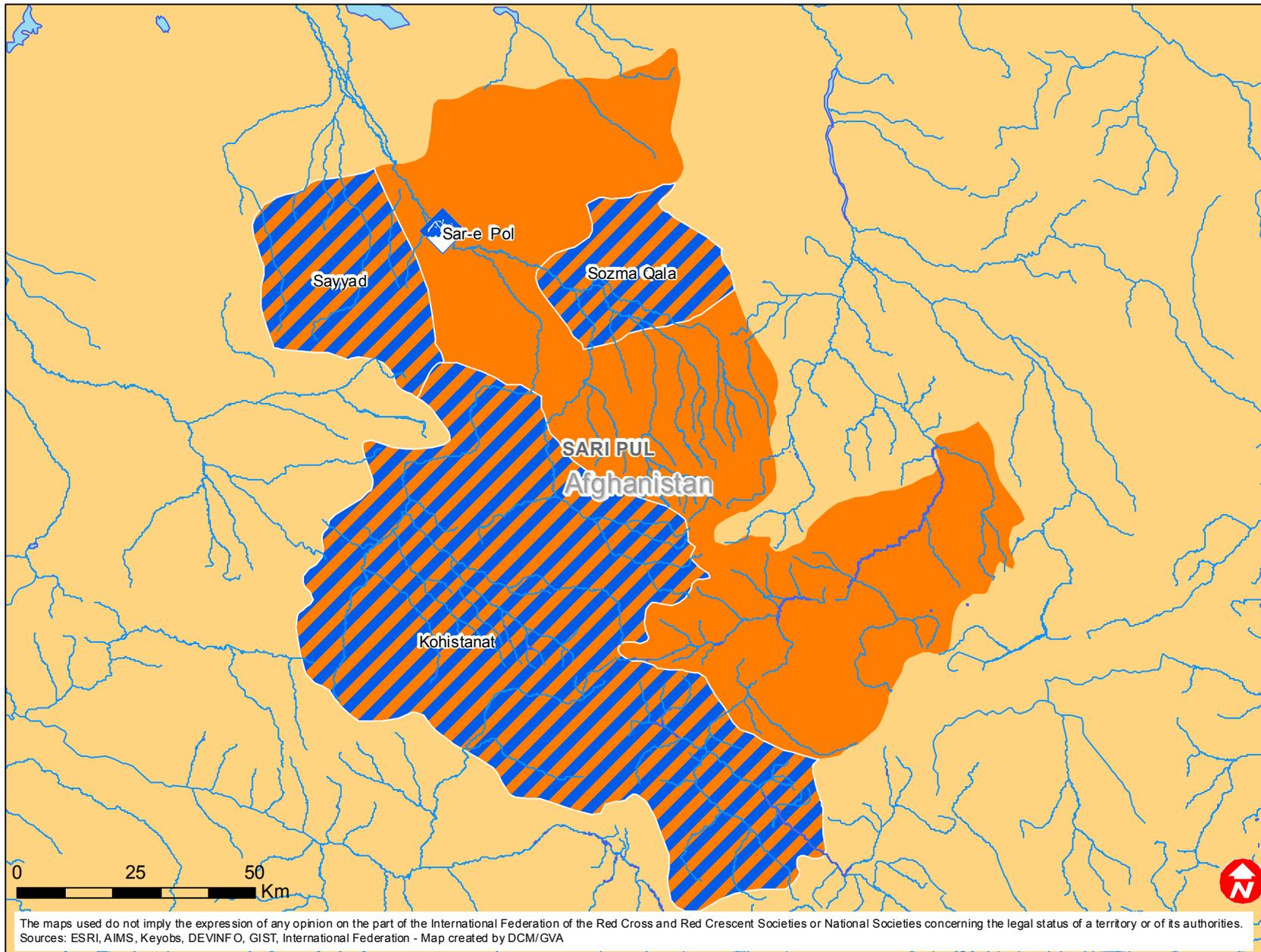
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MDRAF001 AFGHANISTAN : FLOODS

Budget Group	Appeal Budget CHF Multilateral Response
Shelter - Relief	283,500
Clothing & Textiles	72,800
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	259,440
Ustensils & Tools	44,000
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	659,740
Computer & Telecom Equipment	6,000
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	6,000
Storage, Warehousing	6,000
Distribution & Monitoring	90,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	144,000
Logistics Services	5,000
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	245,000
International Staff	72,000
National Society Staff	24,000
Volunteers	30,000
Total PERSONNEL	126,000
Workshops & Training	54,000
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	54,000
Travel	12,000
Information & Public Relations	3,000
Office Costs	1,800
Communications	3,000
Financial Charges	3,000
Other General Expenses	1,200
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	24,000
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	72,133
Total INDIRECT COSTS	72,133
TOTAL BUDGET	1,186,873
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	1,186,873



Afghanistan: Floods



-  Floods in Sar-e-pol
-  Most affected districts
-  Sar-e-Pol province