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Information bulletin

Afghanistan: Severe winter

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Glide n° CW-2020-00008-AFG	Date of issue: 20 January 2020
Date of disaster: 12 January 2019	Point of contact: Abdulrahman Kalantary Disaster Management Director (ARCS)
Operation start date: 13 January 2020	Expected timeframe: N/A
Category of disaster: Yellow	
Host National Society(ies): Afghan Red Crescent Society	
Number of people affected: Approx. 7,441 people (977 families)	Number of people to be assisted: N/A
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: N/A	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and provincial government through Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMC)	

This bulletin is being issued to reflect the current situation and details available at this time. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has analyzed that DREF activation will be requested to support the affected people.

[click here](#) to view the map of the affected area, or [here](#) for detailed contact information

The situation

Heavy snowfalls broken the record of last many years in Afghanistan and caused widespread damages across the country in second week of January 2020.

Heavy snowfall, flooding and a large number of avalanches were reported in different parts of Afghanistan between 12 -15 January 2020. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been affected badly. Provinces with casualties and significant damage to homes and livelihoods included Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Laghman, Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Daykundi, Bamyan and Baghlan provinces, resulting in main roads connecting Kandahar to Kabul and Kandahar to Uruzgan being temporarily closed to public movement. Roads connecting districts in Ghor province were blocked due to heavy snowfall. Also, the road connectivity of Herat to Badghis province was closed and interrupted the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Badghis province during last two weeks due to heavy snowfall. Click [here](#) to see the map of affected provinces.



The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) deployed assessment teams immediately after the heavy snow and avalanches. **(Photo: ARCS)**

Many areas of the country are still inaccessible, due to heavy snowfall, avalanches and landslides in the hilly part of the country, making it difficult to obtain a complete picture of the impact of the disaster and total number of affected families. However as per initial report of Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) around 655 houses are partially damaged, 30 houses are completely destroyed, 13 people dead, 40 people injured, and 322 families are displaced to the safe places.

ARCS assessment in heavy snowfall provinces

Province	Districts/Villages	People dead	People injured	Houses fully damaged	Houses partially damaged	Families displaced	Others Public building/ mosques
Kandahar	Kandahar center, Daman district and Speen boldak district	6	3	-	142	92	-
Uruzgan	Urozgan center and Gizab district	3	8	30	127	230	3
Zabul	Qallat – center of province	-	-	-	1	-	-
Helmand	Helmand center, Nad Ali and Kajaki districts	4	29	-	345	-	-
Laghman	Badpakh, Ali shang, Alingar, Dawlat sha districts and Mehtarlam center of province	-	-	-	40	-	-
Total		13	40	30	655	322	3

It is estimated that up to two meters of snow have fallen in different parts of Afghanistan and many avalanches are reported within a span of four nights. Initial assessments indicate that limited food supplies in local markets have caused an inflation in the prices. Worse yet, the frozen ground has made it a challenge for affected communities.

Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA) and Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs) are active and are coordinating the overall response with in-country humanitarian partners in delivering assistance. Government authorities have begun distributions of tents and blankets to affected families that has lost their house either partially and completely in some part of the country. It is important to note that those provinces are also heavily affected by last year floods and protracted drought which the vulnerability remains high.

ARCS and other humanitarian agencies are conducting assessments in affected areas. The Government of Afghanistan through its emergency operation centre coordinating with the provincial authorities to assist the affected people. Heavy snow and flood affected people are in need of emergency shelter, warm clothing, food and non-food items and hygiene kits.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

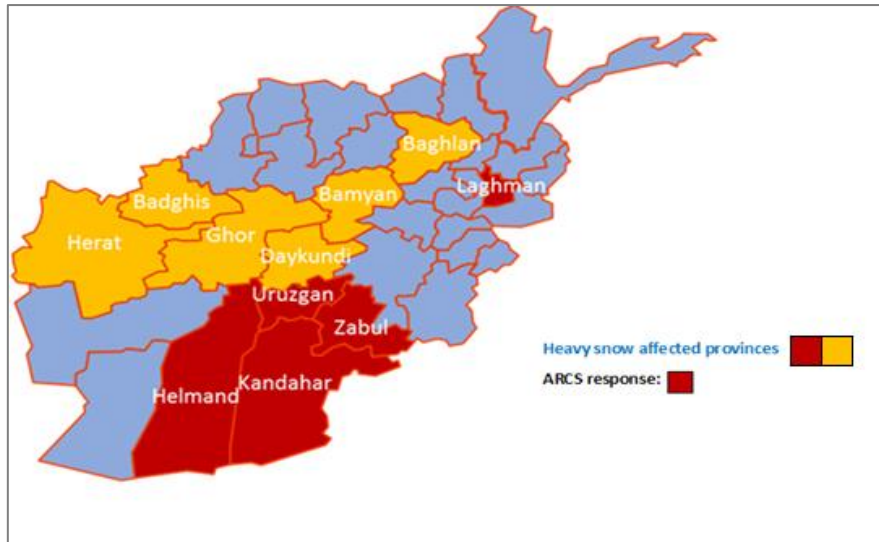
ARCS has mobilized their staff and volunteers in the affected areas from 13th of January to conduct assessments and to distribute relief items like blankets, tents, kitchen set, tarpaulin sheets and jerry canes. Yet many districts and villages remain inaccessible and have been completely blocked by the snow. IFRC Country Office is already providing regular technical and management support to ARCS for the ongoing emergency response operation for thirteen floods and drought affected provinces. The map and summary of ARCS' response to snowfall and avalanche affected families from 13 to 15 January 2020 is provided below:

ARCS distribution for affected people

Provinces	Tents	Jerry canes	Kitchen set	Blankets	Tarpaulin sheets	Others
Kandahar	90	10	2	450	6	2 spades, 2 picks
Uruzgan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zabul	-	-	-	510	5	-
Helmand	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	90	10	2	960	11	4

ARCS and other humanitarian agencies are conducting assessments in affected areas. The Government of Afghanistan has activated its emergency operation centre for affected provinces and coordinating the response activities to affected people. Heavy snow and flood affected people are in need of emergency shelter, warm clothing, food and non-food items and hygiene kits.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) country office is having regular coordination and communication with the ARCS. The ARCS disaster management teams are in the field conducting rapid need assessment and based on the completion of assessment, ARCS will organise the meeting with IFRC and in-country movement partners regarding the heavy snowfall and flood situation and ARCS response planning.



ARCS' responses in heavy snow- affected provinces. (Photo: ARCS)



ARCS team's assessment in heavy snow affected areas. (Photo: ARCS)



ARCS distribution in affected families. (Photo: ARCS)



ARCS distribution in affected families. (Photo: ARCS)

[Click here](#)

1. Click [here](#) to return see the map (if available)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

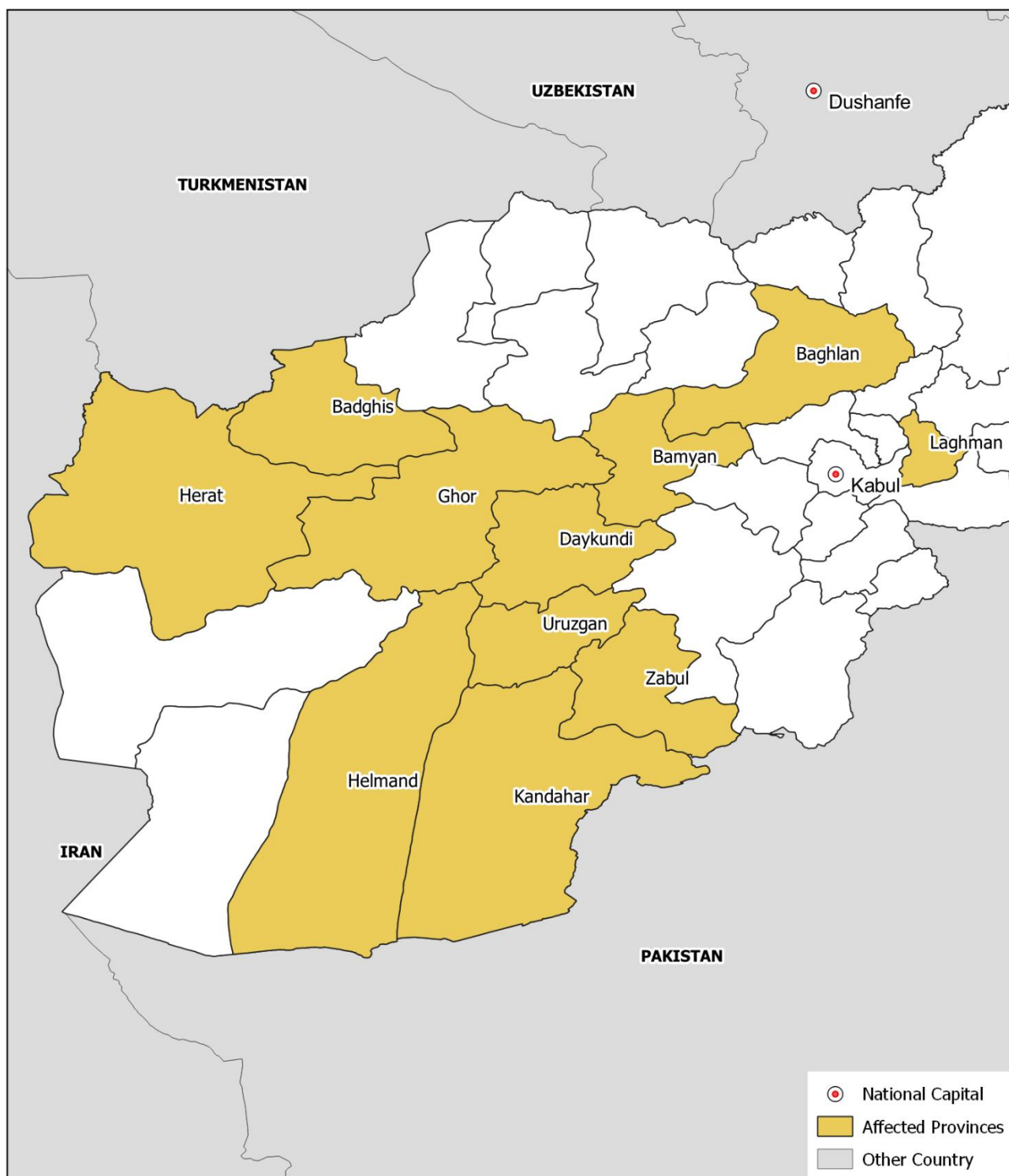
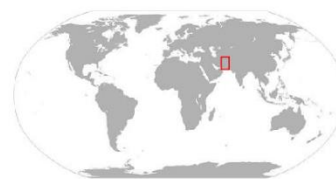


Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



Afghanistan: Severe winter Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

17 January 2020



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