

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

30 May 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. 5; Period covered: 1 April to 15 May, Year 2005; Appeal coverage: 77.7 %; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 21 February 2005 seeking CHF 812,000 (USD 686,330 or EUR 525,620) to assist 17,542 beneficiaries over three months .
- Budget increased to CHF 907,000 and plan of action revised as per operations update 3 (11 March) and number of beneficiaries increased from 17,542 to 22,656 as per operations update 4 (5 April).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocation of CHF 100,000 has been reimbursed.
- **The appeal timeframe is extended for two months, until 31 July 2005.**

Outstanding needs: CHF 441,156 (USD 357,516 or EUR 285,551)

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

Operational Summary: This operation was initiated to assist the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in response to the severe winter conditions in Kabul by providing basic support to more than 17,000 internally displaced persons whose vulnerability has been worsened by heavy snow and rainfall and freezing temperatures. Food distribution is underway, helping the beneficiaries cope better with their difficult living conditions. The implementation of the sanitation and hygiene component of the operation is also progressing, with more than 200 latrines and bathing facilities constructed or rehabilitated and awareness-raising campaigns carried out by trained volunteers.

In view of the national society's limited capacity in logistics and disaster management, efforts are being made to improve those deficiencies, particularly in the area of internal communications, reporting, technical skills and tools, as well as all aspects of logistics.

The security situation has deteriorated recently since the abduction of an international humanitarian aid worker in May in Kabul. This will affect the implementation of the operation since all the settlements are located in areas considered as insecure by the United Nations security advisory.

This emergency appeal is hereby extended for two months, up until 31 July 2005, in order to complete the second round of food distributions and the remaining hygiene and sanitation activities.

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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 was hit by extreme winter conditions from mid-January with heavy snowfalls, rain and freezing temperatures. Hundreds of people have died nationwide as a result. ARCS has been given a major role in assisting 3,538¹ highly vulnerable and internally displaced families currently living in very basic conditions in Kabul. Some of them have been relocated to temporary settlements in the city. ARCS has been able to rapidly respond to the crisis by distributing non-food items such as heaters and coal, constructing water and sanitation facilities, conducting hygiene education and providing primary health care to the targeted beneficiaries. In April, distribution of much needed food items commenced, and most targeted families have received their first rations of wheat flour, oil, sugar and tea.

Operational developments

By mid-May, more than 60 per cent of the appeal objectives had been achieved. An operational timeframe extension for a further two months is necessary to complete the food distributions, which were delayed because of late delivery of consignments, as well as difficult weather conditions slowing down the start-up of the distribution and the deteriorating security situation. The remaining commitments, namely the finalization of the procurement of the remaining supplies and material, as well as completion of the second round of food distribution, will be fulfilled in June.

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 the Afghan Red Crescent 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

Relief distributions are carried out by ARCS with technical support from the Federation, mainly through planning and monitoring. Most of the delegation resources have been mobilized to assist ARCS in organizing the response.

During the reporting period, all targeted beneficiaries have been registered and provided with distribution cards. The beneficiary selection process has been done in close collaboration with the local government units (Department for Disaster Preparedness and Ministry of Refugees and Returnees). The beneficiaries are due to receive food rations consisting of 216 kg of wheat flour, 10.8 kg of oil, 8.1 kg of sugar and 2.7 kg of tea for three months. The first round of distribution has almost been completed: 3,053 families have received their first food rations consisting of 100 kg of wheat flour, 5 kg of oil and sugar each, and 1.5 kg of tea per family. See table below for detailed information on the distributions.

The remaining amount of 116 kg of wheat flour, 3.1 kg of sugar, 5.8 kg of oil and 1.2 kg of tea (per family) will be distributed in the second distribution round, which has just started and will be completed in June.

All distributions have been monitored by ARCS headquarters staff and the Federation's delegation. Post-distribution monitoring has been given particular attention, as part of the training of staff and volunteers in data

¹ Figure amended from 3,435 families. Subsequent to the launch of the appeal, beneficiary identification, along with savings on locally procured items, has led to a revision of the numbers of people/families being assisted.

collection and analysis. The monitoring is carried out through group interviews with selected beneficiaries, such as local leaders, family heads and individuals who may not be well represented in public groups, like women. Its purpose was to assess the appropriateness of assistance provided, and the general feedback received from beneficiaries was entirely satisfactory.

The targeted distribution of non-food items has been finalized. A further 30 families received a stove and coal, thus bringing the total number of families supplied with those items to 1,310. The remaining 174 originally targeted families have been assisted by ARCS through local contributions.

Detail of distributions to date:

Date of distribution	Location	Number of families	Food items (kg)			
			Flour	Oil	Sugar	Tea
05-Apr-05	Lisa Ghazi	71	7,100	355	355	106
05-Apr-05	Ittefaq Mosque	49	4,900	245	245	73
06-Apr-05	Markaz Talimi Afshar	102	10,200	510	510	153
06-Apr-05	Reyasat 5 Dalamani	180	18,000	900	900	270
06-Apr-05	Reyasat Barq	60	600	300	300	90
06-Apr-05	Maktab Hesab Dary	112	11,200	560	560	168
09-Apr-05	Lab Gar-e-Khair Khana	65	6,500	325	325	97
09-Apr-05	Pul-e-Charkhi	127	12,700	635	635	190
09-Apr-05	Near Police Station	61	6,100	305	305	91
10-Apr-05	Amo Hotel	103	10,300	515	515	154
10-Apr-05	Agashireen Salangi	49	4,900	245	245	73
10-Apr-05	Kodakistani Bagrami	56	5,600	280	280	84
10-Apr-05	Tamir-e-Milli Bus	58	5,800	290	290	87
11-Apr-05	Khana Elm-e-Farhang	172	17,200	860	860	258
11-Apr-05	Nahr-e-Darson	70	7,000	350	350	105
11-Apr-05	Koparatif Dehqani	29	2,900	145	145	43
12-Apr-05	Neat Sarandowi Blocks	45	4,500	225	225	67
13-Apr-05	Clinic Kasab Khana Sazi	58	5,800	290	290	87
14-Apr-05	Wapika Blocks	116	11,600	580	580	174
18-Apr-05	Brishna Kot	766	76,600	3,830	3,830	1,149
24-Apr-05	Tapa Mullah Buzurg	704	70,400	3,520	3,520	1,056
TOTAL		3,053	299,900	15,265	15,265	4,575

Impact

Post-distribution monitoring indicates that distributions of much needed food items have adequately addressed the food needs and significantly improved the coping capacities of the beneficiaries.

The distribution of shelter materials, heaters and fuel provided much needed protection from the harsh winter conditions and has helped reduce the incidence of respiratory infections among children and elderly people.

Specific objective 2: To construct community latrines, rehabilitate existing toilet facilities for women and children and provide hygiene and preventive health education to selected communities. *(This objective has been reviewed to include distribution of hygiene kits and promotional material as additional activities.)*

Progress/Achievements

Following the launch of the emergency appeal, ARCS and the Federation's disaster management teams carried out technical assessments in the affected areas. A total of 22 camps for internally displaced persons were identified as needing sanitary facilities, with 13 being given higher priority. A decision was made to construct one bath and one latrine per six families, totalling 269 baths and latrines in 13 camps. Some latrines were already in place but needed rehabilitation, which reduced the total number of latrines to be constructed. During the period under review, a total of 86 baths and latrines were constructed or rehabilitated, bringing the total figure up to 215 constructed or rehabilitated baths and latrines. The table below provides a breakdown of facilities and work carried out so far:

Activity	Latrines	Baths	Total
Rehabilitated	98	0	98
Constructed	31	86	117
Total	129	86	215

In addition to the above, two tube wells were drilled and hand pumps installed. They provide safe drinking water for 100 families.

In the beginning of the operation, 500 family hygiene kits were distributed to beneficiaries in three internally displaced person camps. Each kit consisted of five toothbrushes, two tubes of toothpaste, one nail cutter, two bars of soap and a leaflet containing a hygiene education message. Since then, 19 new internally displaced person camps were placed under ARCS' care, thus expanding this project activity. In the current reporting period, 6,000 additional hygiene kits were distributed, containing the same items, as well as three towels per family. Also, 2,000 posters were prepared and distributed in support of the hygiene promotion programme.

Within the beneficiary community, 98 new hygiene volunteers (men and women) were trained in hygiene promotion sessions to peers, bringing the total to 144 trained volunteers. A total of four hygiene cleaning campaigns have been conducted since the beginning of the operation. Their main aim was to remove disposal from the area and train the community how to burn or bury disposals. Some 75 rubbish bins have already been distributed to the community in order to collect the disposal.

Impact

Although no quantitative method has been used to monitor the impact of this operational component, the reports of ARCS emergency mobile health team indicate an overall decrease of the number of patients after the construction of sanitation facilities and the conducting of hygiene promotion sessions in the settlements.

Constraints

The major constraint in the implementation of the hygiene and sanitation project component has been the lack of water and sanitation expertise within ARCS. However, efforts have been made to strengthen the limited capacity of the ARCS water and sanitation programme through on-the-job training.

Specific Objective 3 To improve ARCS' capacity in disaster preparedness and response. *(This objective has been reviewed; a logistics development component has been added)*

Progress/Achievements

The Federation's delegation is providing continued technical support to its ARCS counterparts at all levels. A regional disaster response team member from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has been deployed since 14 April to support the national society in gathering and managing the information on the two ongoing emergency operations (the other being the [Spring Floods Emergency Appeal 05EA005](#)). The PRCS team member has been involved in data collection, monitoring and reporting on distribution of the relief items. To date, standard data collection forms, as well as damage and assessment forms, have been prepared for use at national level. Training for relevant staff has commenced at national level on how to use these forms.

Development of the ARCS logistic al capacity is in progress. The Federation has recruited a logistics development delegate for a period of six months, in order to support and strengthen the capacity of the national society's newly established logistics unit, which plays a vital role in the implementation of all relief programmes.

The Federation and ARCS signed a memorandum of understanding for the upgrade of the ARCS vehicle fleet and the mechanic workshop.

Impact

Through joint implementation of the operation and on-the-job training, ARCS' capacity in assessments, planning, logistics and reporting has noticeably increased. It is expected that the presence and support of the regional disaster response team member from PRCS will also increase the ability of the ARCS to provide effective response to the vulnerable groups affected by disasters.

Federation coordination

Regular coordination meetings are held between all parties involved – ARCS, the Federation, the Ministry of Refugees and Returnees, and the international humanitarian forum in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

There has been close cooperation between the Movement partners, which has led to the launch of the spring floods emergency appeal on 31 March 2005. For more details, refer to the operations updates on the appeal number 05EA005.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement - Principles and initiatives

Awareness raising and dissemination of the Red Cross principles is conducted within targeted affected populations/government/military forces, emphasizing neutrality and independence as a driving force in the relief work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

National society capacity building

During the implementation of this operation, emphasis is being put on developing ARCS' capacity in terms of logistics and 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 future the ARCS logistics department at headquarters level.

Communications – Advocacy and public information

The ARCS disaster management and the Federation participate in inter-agency coordination meetings where relevant humanitarian issues in Kabul are discussed with other non-governmental organizations and governmental bodies. Good contact is also maintained with the local media. Being the lead agency in this operation, the national society enjoys enormous community and government support.

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

Afghanistan - Severe Winter

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				907,000	TOTAL COVERAGE 77.7%	
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Afghanistan - Severe Winter

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA003

PLEDGES RECEIVED

01/06/2005

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