

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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: SPRING FLOODS

Appeal no. 05EA005
31 March 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

THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 2,235,000 (USD 1,925,894 OR EUR 1,451,770) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 70,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR SIX MONTHS

(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget)

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>

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Afghanistan: Afghanistan Red Crescent Society: Fatima Gailani (Secretary General), phone: +93 79 38 55 33 (mobile).
- In Afghanistan: Afghanistan Federation Delegation contact (Jamila Ibrohim, Head of Delegation, email: hod.kabuldel@wireless.ifrc.org, phone: +882 168 980 2643 (Sat phone) or +93 70 278 372 and +92 300 850 6861 (mobile)
- In Geneva: Asia and Pacific Department, Jagan Chapagain, email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org, phone: +41 22 7304316, fax +41 22 733 0395

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

Afghanistan is among the most disaster-prone countries within the South Asia sub-region. It is repeatedly hit by natural disasters causing loss of life, livelihood and property. In recent years, this has led to food insecurity and massive population movements from the most affected areas. From 1994 to 2003 disasters have reportedly killed 10,115 people while 7,095,043 have been affected.¹

Since mid-January 2005, Afghanistan has been hit by one of its most severe winters in decades, leaving thousands of homeless and destitute people in great need of humanitarian assistance and killing hundreds throughout the

¹ World Disasters Report 2004

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country. The Afghanistan Severe Winter appeal (05EA003) was launched on 21 February 2005 as the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with support provided by the Federation and its partner national societies responded to the crisis. The appeal was originally launched for CHF 812,000 for three months to assist 17,542 beneficiaries and this was revised on 11 March to CHF 908,000 with a revised plan of action but time-frame and beneficiary numbers remaining the same. This has received a positive response with 50 percent coverage to date. The main activities being carried out are the provision of food and non-food items, basic health services, hygiene promotion, construction of emergency latrines and improvement of garbage collection for more than 17,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees living in Kabul city. The opportunity has been taken to strengthen the National Society's capacity in disaster management as well as in logistics by providing technical support and guidance to its personnel.

The severe winter has affected most of Afghanistan and areas which had been experiencing severe drought for the past seven years are now subject to heavy flooding. The government has sought international assistance and divided responsibilities of the crisis management among various organisations. The emergency situation has been exacerbated by more than a week of heavy rainfall in March, resulting in flash-flooding across Afghanistan. This has caused widespread damage to infrastructure and livelihoods in the central highlands, the southern and north eastern parts of the country. The heavy rain and an overflowing reservoir during the same period have flooded 10 villages in the Darawad district of Uruzgan, resulting in 100 people missing and more than 800 families affected. A recent primary report states that 1400 families have been affected in Helmand provinces and the ARCS is presently carrying out an assessment.

In the northern regions of Baghlan, Balkh and Jawzjan, initial reports indicate that in the worst-affected districts, more than 370 houses have been completely destroyed and over 300 severely damaged. Large areas of agricultural land have been inundated and almost 200 livestock lost. Coordinated assessments and response efforts are in progress at the national and provincial level with the Afghanistan Red Crescent taking an active role.

A dam burst on Tuesday 29 March in Ghazni province, south west of Kabul, has flooded substantial areas of the provincial capital Ghazni town. According to the first assessment carried out by the ARCS local branch, 200 houses and 2,130 shops have been destroyed and 55,000 acres of agricultural land has been inundated, devastating crops. The ARCS has immediately responded by sending 200 tents, 1000 blankets, 400 jerry cans and 200 kitchen sets. A more detailed report is expected but travel in the area is severely affected by the flooding.

The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society, through its network of branches and volunteers, has been at the forefront of the disaster response activities, and continues assessments and relief efforts to immediately assist the most affected areas in the central highlands and north eastern part of the country. To date, the National Society with the support of the Federation has dispatched 200 tents, 200 kitchen sets, 400 jerry-cans, 600 blankets and 67 plastic rolls to the most affected families in Darawad district of Uruzgan province. In addition, food and non-food items have also been distributed to 100 most affected families in Khwaja Doko of Jawzjan province.

Due to a lack of access to some affected areas, ongoing assessment and response will be slow and the overall extent of the affected population will take some time to ascertain. Whilst Afghanistan suffers regularly from floods, this year the severity and risk of further flooding are greater due to particularly heavy snowfalls during the winter. There is a real potential for serious further flooding due to the exceptional spring melt.

The needs

Immediate needs:

A major need is provision of food and non-food items to homeless and displaced populations. Most of these basic non-food needs should be able to be covered using existing ARCS/Federation/ICRC disaster preparedness stocks. However these will need to be replenished in order to maintain the disaster response capacity of the National Society. Ten thousand families (approximately 70,000 people) will be assisted with distribution of the items listed below. These will be pre-positioned and distributions will be done on a case-by-case basis following needs assessments carried out by ARCS local teams.

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Non-food items package for a family of seven people:

Non-Food Item	Unit	Quantity
Blankets	piece	7
Kitchen sets	set	1
Jerry-cans	piece	2
Tents	piece	1
Tarpaulins	piece	1
Plastic sheets	piece	8 metres
Kerosene Stove*	piece	1
Pressure Cooker	piece	1

* *Kerosene stoves will be provided to ARCS by ICRC on a bilateral basis*

In addition to the provision of basic relief goods, the ARCS will deliver basic health services through the Emergency Mobile Units and the Community Based First Aid volunteers. Hygiene promotion sessions will be conducted, and sanitation facilities such as improved garbage collection and emergency latrines will be provided to beneficiaries. As the other organisations in Kabul are better placed to look after the food and water needs, they are not included in ARCS program for this emergency. In order to enhance the National Society capacity, the Federation will put emphasis on providing support in disaster management, coordination and in strengthening its logistics structure at headquarters level.

Coordination

The overall responsibility of the floods response operation falls under the government's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The ARCS, as an auxiliary to the government, is a permanent member of the national Emergency Operation Centre. The National Society has been given responsibility for coordination of the distribution of non-food items.

Joint assessments as well as regular coordination meetings are ongoing with the ICRC, UN agencies including UNAMA, WFP, UNICEF and national and local government representatives.

The proposed operation

The Federation, the ARCS and the ICRC, in a Movement approach, have decided to organise a common response to the flooding situation which has occurred following high levels of snow melt and heavy rains. A joint Movement Taskforce has been created, meeting on a regular basis in order to ensure close and efficient coordination and to provide strong support to the National Society. A mapping of the most affected areas as well as the available resources within each organisation has been completed, highlighting the areas where the floods are mostly expected to occur.

Objectives and activities planned

Overall objective: To alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by the floods, provide immediate assistance to 10,000 targeted families and to improve the capacity of the ARCS in disaster management and logistics.

Emergency relief

Objective: To pre-position non-food items for 10,000 families at the five regional ARCS branches (Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar and Herat), organise continuous assessments of the situation, carry out distributions accordingly and procure goods for replenishment

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Tendering and local procurement of emergency relief items;
- Transport of goods to the regional branches;
- Organisation of storage facilities at regional level and securing of the goods;

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- Relocation of the relief items from one region to another as required;
- Transport and erection of rubbhalls in regions where no warehousing facilities are available;
- Needs assessments conducted in the field on an on-going basis;
- Beneficiaries identification and registration;
- Distributions conducted based on assessments reports.

Indicators

- The available relief items have been relocated to the regions and a balance has been reached between all warehouses;
- ARCS Disaster Preparedness stocks have been procured to replace those distributed;
- The warehousing facilities are in place and secured;
- Assessments reports;
- Beneficiaries registration lists;
- Distribution reports.

Health

Objective: To carry out first aid activities and provide primary health care as an immediate response to the crisis

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Coordinate with local authorities and other stakeholders present in areas of intervention;
- Deploy CBFA teams in affected areas;
- Deploy Emergency Mobile Units (EMU) wherever possible in the most affected areas ensuring basic treatment of most common diseases (less than 5 diseases)
- Initiate first aid activities in affected areas;
- Provide first aid awareness to the beneficiaries;
- Monitor health situation in the affected areas and report to MoH;
- Refer most serious cases to appropriate and reachable health facilities, where possible.

Indicators

- CBFA teams are deployed in the field in a coordinated manner;
- EMU are deployed as required;
- Number of reported beneficiaries assisted;
- Activities reports from CBFA teams and EMU;
- Number of referred patients to clinics or hospitals.

Sanitation and hygiene

Objective: To provide basic sanitation facilities when appropriate and carry out hygiene promotion sessions to the beneficiaries at community levels

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Coordinate with local authorities and other stakeholders present in areas of intervention;
- Identify and monitor hygiene related risks;
- Implement hygiene promotion sessions;
- Provide temporary toilet and bathing facilities where most needed.

Indicators

- Number and use of toilet and bathing facilities constructed;
- Amount of potable water provided;
- Hygiene related risks are identified and reduced;
- Hygiene promotion and preventive health activities are implemented in targeted areas.

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National Society capacity building

Objective: To improve the capacity of the ARCS in coordination, disaster preparedness and response and strengthen its logistics capacity

Activities planned to reach this objective:

- Provide support to the ARCS in its new coordination role with government (distribution of non-food items);
- Provide guidance and technical support to the ARCS DM staff at headquarters and branch levels;
- Continue to provide support to the National Society in strengthening its logistics capacity;
- Increase the ARCS transport capacity by upgrading its vehicle fleet.

Indicators

- The joint Taskforce meets regularly and is operational;
- The ARCS Disaster Management department has a leading role in the operation;
- The coordination is improved between the headquarters and the branches;
- The ARCS fleet is operational, its transport capacity enhanced;
- ARCS logistics staff are trained and operational.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities

Priority will be given to providing strong support and guidance to the Afghanistan Red Crescent to assist in coping with the heavy workload and large responsibilities as a result of the various emergency situations.

For this operation, the Movement has adopted a joint approach in order to centralize all available resources and competencies at national and local levels. In addition to the emergency response activities, emphasis will be put on the dissemination of humanitarian values such as non-discrimination and gender issues. The ARCS will conduct mine awareness dissemination in cooperation with the ICRC, with the mine risk having been considerably increased by flooding unearthing and displacing explosives devices.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The national society is liaising with national/international media providing regular information updates. The national society has received good coverage of its activities in response to the flooding and severe winter conditions.

Capacity of the National Society

The ARCS has been involved in the implementation of emergency response operations since mid February and has been given responsibility by the government for the overall coordination of distribution of non-food items. The national society's limited material, financial and human resources are extremely stretched.

The Federation will provide appropriate support to the national society, with an emphasis on carrying on the capacity building activities. This will build on similar efforts conducted under the Severe Winter emergency appeal (05EA003) launched in February (which runs through until the third week of May). The activities related to this consist of strengthening the ARCS capacity in disaster management as well as in logistics and in providing guidance and support in the implementation of the operation at all levels.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation delegation's human resources are currently stretched. A logistics delegate is still being sought whose main function will be to concentrate on development of the logistics department of the ARCS. A head of sub-delegation is sought to line manage the five sub-delegations around the country.

All available resources are being mobilized in providing assistance, guidance and support to the national society in this crucial period. The Federation Programme Coordinator, Disaster Management delegate, the health coordinator, locally recruited water sanitation staff and several other local personnel are now involved in this operation in order to ensure success in the implementation of the programmes. In addition, the Federation Organizational

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Development department is continuing to provide support in the readjustment of the headquarters and branch structure. Specific support is also being provided on an ongoing basis to the new leadership of the National Society. Additional reporting, information and disaster management support is being sought for the short term.

Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring will be achieved through activities and situation reports. A joint evaluation will be organized by the ARCS and the Federation and an evaluation workshop will be held at the end of the operation.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
Director
National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

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Afghanistan - floods

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions	1,061,000
Clothing & textiles	60,000
Water & sanitation	30,000
Medical & first aid	66,000
Utensils & tools	491,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	1,708,000
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<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Computers & telecom. equipment	9,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	145,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Transport & vehicle costs	177,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
Expatriate staff	79,000
National staff	14,000
Workshops & training	6,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	6,000
Information expenses	6,000
Administrative & general expenses	85,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	527,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,235,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	2,235,000
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