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# Emergency Appeal operation update

## Afghanistan: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Emergency appeal n° MDRAF001**  
**Operation update n°1**  
**GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000087-AFG](#)**  
**9 July 2012**

**Period covered by this  
Ops Update:** 6 to 22  
June.

**Appeal target (current):**  
CHF 1,186,873

**Appeal coverage:** To date, the appeal is 38 per cent covered in cash and kind; and 58.6 per cent covered including contributions currently in the pipeline. Funds are needed to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in this operation to assist those affected by the floods. [<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details >](#)

**Appeal history:**

- This Preliminary Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 6 June 2012 for CHF 1,186,873 for six months to assist 14,000 beneficiaries (2,000 households).
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF): 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.



An International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) personnel visiting a house in Sar-e-Pol province that was destroyed by the flood.

**Photo:** Ali Hakimi/IFRC.

**Summary:**

Some 18,000 people were affected by flash flooding in the northern Afghan province of Sar-e-Pol. The flood affected families are living in three districts of the province, which were the worst hit. Media reports stated that 22 people died from the floods. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), responded to the needs of the people by distributing non-food items. Further distributions of non-food items as well as provision of emergency health care will be provided in the coming months as the operation moves ahead.

**The situation**

Afghanistan continues to experience both natural and man-made disasters which often have a significant toll on human lives, livelihoods, properties and infrastructure. Weeks after Sar-e-Pol province was hit by floods, Baghlan province, north of the capital Kabul, was struck by two earthquakes on 11 June. The earthquake caused a landslide which buried over 100 people.

With the warmer summer temperatures settling in, most of the snow across numerous mountains in the country is starting to melt. This poses the danger of further flooding from the mass movement of water from the mountains to valleys where large populations are settled.

Though the flood situation in Sar-e-Pol has abated, the after-effects still linger. Schools in the province continue to remain closed because of structural damages and the displacement of many villagers. The Sar-e-Pol Provincial Hospital in Sar-e-Pol City is also badly damaged by the flood water, and needs urgent assistance to maintain capacity and continue the delivery of health services to those in need.



A family in Emam Sahebekalan village of Sar-e-Pul province talking to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) personnel in front of their house which was destroyed by the floods. **Photo:** Ali Hakimi/IFRC.

During the reporting period, the ARCS rapid assessment team noted that the impact of the flood resulted in the destruction of houses and infrastructures; damage to sources of livelihoods, livestock, markets, shops, agriculture lands and crops; pollution of water; and mass displacement and overcrowding.

Despite the lack of accessibility of some districts in Sar-e-Pol province, the ARCS disaster response unit (DRU) has been able to continue operating and performing more detailed assessments in the affected areas. The impact

indicators will be updated as new information becomes available and the appeal revised as necessary to reflect the developing situation.

With the temperatures starting to soar, northern Afghanistan, which still have snow on the mountains, remains at risk of further flooding throughout the summer.

## Coordination and partnerships

ARCS is the lead Movement partner in flood response, with support from the IFRC country office. ARCS is still working to identify other flood affected areas and populations. The National Society has been providing some of the immediate needs to the affected people.

A meeting with the Sar-e-Pol provincial governor and members from the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), ARCS and IFRC took place on 20 June. The governor confirmed that ARCS and ANDMA agreed to work in 18 villages. The governor also stated that there were still significant needs in these villages, citing tents, tarps, and kitchen sets as priority. ARCS stated that the combined Movement effort is answering to these needs.

On 21 June, ARCS and IFRC attended an inter-agency standing committee (IASC) cluster coordination meeting in Mazar-i-Sharif to discuss the flood situation. The cluster identified shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as the priority. The cluster also indicated that Sar-e-Pol Provincial Hospital in Sar-e-Pol City requires significant support due to flood damage.

While coordination has improved, the limited sharing of information in the early stages of the response as well as unclear requests from ANDMA have resulted in some overlap in the operational areas and especially between the UN – UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, etc – who are currently working in 10 out the 18 villages, which have been identified by ARCS through agreement with ANDMA. To ensure ARCS and UNICEF, UNDP and WFP avoid duplication, renewed coordination and shared information practices regarding each others' interventions has been agreed to more effectively ensure an appropriate level of support to the current and future needs.

In terms of resource mobilisation, the IFRC country office in Kabul has during the reporting period entered into discussions with the Japanese government, ECHO, and Canadian CIDA to present and explain the flooding situation with the goal of securing funding for the operation. Responses are pending with the upcoming revised appeal.

### National Society Capacity Building:

ARCS and IFRC are working in concert to ensure that all of requirements of international Movement support are understood, met and actioned.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Overview

ARCS, with the support of IFRC, have mobilised in-country stocks to affected families in Sar-e-Pol. The stocks that were distributed are tabled below.

No.	Stocks	Tents	Blankets	Tarpaulins	Kitchen sets	Jerry cans	Mosquito nets	Hygiene kits
1	IFRC stock in Mazar	287	7,377	1,252	1,181	998	0	0
2	ARCS stock in Sar-e-Pol	140	492	100	107	900	0	0
3	ARCS stock in Mazar region	106	1,789	2,320	233	140	0	0

<b>Total</b>	533	9,658	3,672	1,521	2,038	0	0
EA relief quantities	700	12,000	1,400	2,000	4,000	4,000	6,000
Quantities released from Kabul to Sar-e-Pol on 8 June 2012 (distribution not started during reporting period)	167	2,342	0	479	1,962	0	0

Through coordination with UN OCHA, it was found that 10 of the 18 villages that ARCS was to support, through its agreement with ANDMA/the Government of Afghanistan, were already reached by other organisations active in the area. Thus ARCS is now concentrating its distribution planning in the remaining eight villages, and will coordinate closely with OCHA to avoid overlapping relief services.

It is considered that the recovery needs of this operation significantly exceeds ARCS's capacity to assist, and therefore this operation will be focussed on emergency health and relief activities. The ARCS has expressed interest in recovery activities, and IFRC has and will continue to facilitate opportunities for increasing ARCS recovery capacity to that this becomes a feature in future operations.

ARCS has finalised its beneficiary distribution list and is currently developing its distribution strategy and mobilising volunteers at the branch level to verify beneficiary registration. ARCS, with support from IFRC, is currently reviewing its capacity to respond to other currently and future flood-affected areas country-wide.

## Progress towards outcomes

### 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) kit<sup>1</sup> 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.	Working with logistics colleagues and ERU's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Mobilisation and training of staff and volunteers at national headquarters, and province and district levels.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Procurement using IFRC procedures and standards</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Replenishment of stocks already distributed, according to IFRC standards.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Develop an exit strategy.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> 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. The hygiene kits and mosquito nets will be distributed after the other NFIs due to length of time in the international pipeline.

**Progress:**

During the reporting period, 292 families were provided with assistance in Sar-e-Pol. The National Society distributed, blankets, tents, jerry cans and kitchen sets as tabled below. The remaining items will be coming through the IFRC pipeline.

Prov.	Org	No of families assisted	Non-food items							
			Tent	blanket	Tarp	Jerry can	Kitchen sets	Bucket	Hygiene kits	Gas bottles
Sar-e-Pol	ARCS	292	227	1,523	292	292	292	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>		<b>292</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Challenges:**

The security environment in Afghanistan is fluid and as such community access is never guaranteed. Three districts of Sar-e-Pol were significantly affected by the floods, but due to security concerns, only two of the districts have been accessed by ARCS – noting that ARCS has perhaps the most extensive community access of any humanitarian actor in the country.

While ARCS has very good first-response procedures, and distributed emergency relief items in the first days of the response, the longer term planning required for this operation has challenged internal systems. Consequently, and in support of operational planning and implementation, the IFRC's operations coordinator for South Asia, based in the Asia/Pacific zone in Kuala Lumpur is incountry and working closely with ARCS's disaster management unit.

**Emergency shelter**

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

**Progress:**

In the immediate aftermath of the floods ARCS provided families in dire need with emergency shelter solutions, including tents and tarpaulins. Further assessments are underway to assist the emergency shelter needs of additional families, and IFRC has mobilised stocks from its Kabul to Mazar-i-Sharif to assist ARCS to meet needs as they arise.

**Challenges:**

The current emergency shelter solution capacity of Movement partners in Afghanistan is limited, and procurement processes are underway to replenish emergency shelter stocks to ensure these items are available for this and any future flooding events.

**Emergency health and care**

<b>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-Pol for six months.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Target households have access to curative and referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess flood-related health risks and needs of the affected population.</li> </ul>

health services through the ARCS's mobile health teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilise mobile health teams to the affected communities.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Target 2,000 households have improved health awareness, knowledge and behaviour for the prevention of flood-related diseases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train 100 community volunteers in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and epidemic control for volunteers (ECV).</li> <li>• 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 distributions and in hospitals and clinics.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

### Progress:

The ARCS has deployed one mobile health team (MHT), consisting of four members, have completed assessments of the affected population on immediate health risks (water-borne diseases, general health status). The MHTs also responded to immediate health needs and injuries (first aid), and provided vaccinations for measles and Vitamin A for polio when and where needed. The main health issues seen by the MHT are diarrhoea and dysentery.

A total of 3,276 people were reached and attended to by the MHT since the start of the operation. The breakdown of health activities is as follows:

Activities	Total
Consult < 5 male	104
Consult < 5 female	93
Consult 5> male	214
Consult 5> female	615
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>1,026</b>
Re attendance	8
Dressing	72
Health education group	1,740
Health education individual	430
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>2,250</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,276</b>

The training of 20 volunteers in epidemic control was conducted with the aim to pass this knowledge onto the local population. A total of 2,170 people received education in health promotion and prevention as well as community-based disease prevention was also delivered to many of the flood affected communities as part of the annual planning and programming. This training is intended to continue for the rest of the year.

### Challenges:

Access is the main challenge in delivering these services. Specifically, the remoteness and physical access of certain villages and the fluidity of the security environment in certain regions has been an issue.

### 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
2,000 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"> <li>• Complete detailed assessment of drinking water needs in affected area.</li> <li>• Procure three WatSan Disaster Response Kit 2s, as replenishment for those dispatched.</li> <li>• Procurement and distribution of 10,000 water purification sachets for</li> </ul>

	<p>household water treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement of and distribution of 4,000 long lasting insecticides treated nets (LLIN) to be distributed as part of NFI kit.</li> <li>• Monitor the correct use of household water treatment and mosquito nets.</li> </ul>
Hygiene behaviour is improved and emergency household water treatment products are used correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Conduct four hygiene promotion campaigns and explanation of use of household water treatment products.</li> </ul>
Displaced people have access to appropriate emergency sanitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete detailed assessment of sanitation needs.</li> <li>• Use WatSan Disaster response kit 2 and 5 to construct emergency sanitation facilities for the displaced families</li> <li>• Monitor use of latrines</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

One WatSan kit has been deployed during the reporting period. Focus on providing access to safe drinking water is on-going.

**Challenges:**

Access is the main challenge in delivering these services. Specifically, the remoteness and physical access of certain villages and the fluidity of the security environment in certain regions have and is expected to hinder the pace of the operation.

Response coordination has been generally difficult, including with other actors in the field, and is also hindering the pace of the operation.

**Logistics**

IFRC will work on mobilising specific relief items to respond to needs in the field. The zone logistics unit (ZLU) in Kuala Lumpur has set-up a mobilisation table to track all in-kind donations and international procurements (available on DMIS). As such, donors should coordinate with ZLU regarding outstanding needs. 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.

Mosquito nets and PUR sachets are currently being mobilised ex the ZLU in Dubai and hygiene kits are to be mobilised ex IFRC / Pakistan RC stock in Pakistan.

**Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The IFRC communication officer made a field visit to Sar-e-Pol and collected photos of the situation on the ground. The visual aspect of the field visit was uploaded onto Flickr ([www.flickr.com/ifrc](http://www.flickr.com/ifrc)). A web story highlighting the situation, the current distribution conducted and the accessibility challenges the operation is facing can be found at <http://www.ifrcmedia.org/blog/the-challenges-of-bringing-relief-to-some-of-the-most-remote-areas-of-the-world/>. A blog detailing the personal perspective of the zone disaster management coordinator for South Asia can be found at <http://www.ifrcmedia.org/blog/from-kuala-lumpur-to-kabul-responding-to-the-sar-e-pol-floods/>.

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## Contact information

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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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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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