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Information bulletin

Afghanistan: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

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

The situation

The heavy rainfall since 24 April has caused flooding and flash floods in nine provinces in northern Afghanistan. According to UN figures, the flooding has claimed 132 lives with many more still missing. More than 16,000 people have been displaced when their homes were destroyed and an additional 38,955 people have been heavily affected by the flood waters and are in need of assistance. The affected areas stretch from Herat in the west to Badakhshan in the east, with the heaviest impact in the Central Northern provinces.

The province of Jawzjan is the most severely impacted with 27,000 people affected and the provinces of Faryab and Sari Pul have also seen heavy damage to homes, public infrastructure and thousands of hectares of agricultural lands. Initial joint assessments indicated that the district of Khoja Doko in Jawzjan province has been most severely affected by the disaster. In that district alone, some 16,000 people have been affected across 21 villages. Limited access to some of the worst affected areas still remains a key challenge for humanitarian actors. The Afghan National Army (ANA) is conducting search and rescue operations in the affected areas and around 14,000 people have been evacuated from the flooded areas.

The Government's Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMC) is leading the coordination of the response in the affected provinces, with support from humanitarian agencies including Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS). The UN has established an operational coordination hub in Shibirghan of Jawzjan province to coordinate efforts by the UN agencies. The Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) is indicating that the government and the in-country humanitarian system have sufficient stocks to respond to the disaster. The Afghan government has committed resources from the National Emergency Budget.

Joint assessments are still ongoing, but the key priorities are emergency shelter, food and non-food items, safe drinking water, and medical supplies. The immediate focus is on the relief phase, but planning has already started for recovery and rehabilitation, particularly for the provinces of Jawzjan and Sari Pul. With thousand hectares of agricultural lands destroyed, there will be many longer term challenges. The two

provinces have seen both extremes in recent years, with flash floods in 2012 and severe drought in 2011 and 2012.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

ARCS staff and volunteers have been responding to the situation across the affected areas, including community based health and first aid (CBHFA) trainers and volunteers. Distributions from preparedness stocks started immediately in different areas as soon as accessibility to the affected areas is secured. ASRC has distributed tents, tarpaulins, blankets, jerry cans as well as bottled water and bread to several hundred families in some of the worst affected districts.

Three mobile health teams (MHTs) have been deployed to Jawzjan, Sari Pul and Faryab provinces. In Khoja Doko district of Jawzjan province, the District Hospital and Basic Health Centre has been flooded. The health team in Khoja Doko district (the worst affected district) have not report any sign of watery diarrhoea or water-borne diseases, however the number of patients attended since the onset of the disaster is high. There is an immediate need to replace the depleting drugs supply in Khoja Doko district.

ARCS is now preparing to distribute 700 tents, initially sourced from preparedness stocks across the Northern region. These in turn will be replenished by the preparedness stocks in the Central and Eastern regions. A five-person assessment team is being deployed to the affected areas to support the branches in more detailed assessments. ARCS has also been asked by the PDMC to conduct assessments in two key districts in Jawzjan province together with the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

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 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.



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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