

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

11 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

Appeal No. 05EA003; Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: 4 March to 10 March, 2005; Appeal coverage: 29.5% ([click here to go directly to the attached budget revision and the Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 21 February, 2005 for CHF 812,000 (USD 686,330 or EUR 525,620) for three months to assist 17,542 beneficiaries.
- Plan of action and budget revised and increased to CHF 908,000, the number of beneficiaries and the operational framework remaining unchanged.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000.

Outstanding needs: CHF 639,670 approx (USD 551,202 or EUR 415,505)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Afghanistan Annual Appeal 05AA045

Operational Summary: This operation was quickly initiated to assist the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) respond to the severe winter conditions in Kabul by providing a basic support to more than 17,000 persons whose vulnerability has been worsened by heavy snow and rainfall and freezing temperatures. There has been a positive response from donors/partners at the local level. The ARCS is receiving support from Afghanistan traders and other private donors.

The appeal budget has been increased by CHF 96,000 to accommodate the scaling up of some existing activities and the addition of new ones. The original appeal objectives remain unaltered. Under the specific objective 2, the provision of basic hygiene kits for all 3435 families has been added. This will complement hygiene promotion activities for which additional funding is also sought.

Additional funding is sought under specific objective 3 for the provision of appropriate training and technical skills to the ARCS logistics focal point; improving the existing transport facilities of the National Society; and assisting the ARCS in establishing a logistics department at NHQ. The delegation logistics delegate has completed his mission and additional support is requested to provide two months support for a new logistics delegate. This position is crucial to the development of the National Society's logistics capacity which is very low. The heavy snowfall has created a high probability of floods, avalanches and landslides as a result of the spring melt. It is anticipated that a future emergency appeal may have to be launched to respond to this situation and building the logistics capacity of the National Society now is a prudent and essential exercise. Similarly, three months funding support is requested for the existing delegation disaster manager delegate who is committing all his resources to the current emergency operation. The resources of the entire delegation are being mobilised with regards to the current operation.

To date 85 percent of targeted beneficiary families have received coal for heating. However supply delays have meant that just 31 percent of targeted beneficiary families have received cooking/heating stoves. Most targeted beneficiaries have now been registered. The procurement process of food items has nearly been finalised and distribution is planned to occur in the third week of March.

Good progress has been made in the construction community latrines, the rehabilitation of existing toilet and the provision of hygiene and preventive health education to the selected communities. Among the achievements has been the upgrading of 57 existing latrines and construction of 30 new ones.

The focus to date has been on the first two specific objectives related to relief which has meant the National Society capacity building objective has yet to progress significantly. However this objective will be pursued as planned.

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Background

Afghanistan has been suffering from extremely severe winter conditions since mid-January with heavy snowfalls, rain and bitterly cold conditions. Hundreds of people have died nationwide as a result. The Afghanistan Red Crescent has been given a major role in assisting 3,435 highly vulnerable families of internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in very basic conditions in Kabul. Some of them have been relocated to temporary settlements and the ARCS has been able to rapidly respond to the crisis by distributing non food items, heaters and fuel and providing appropriate water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene education and primary health care to the targeted beneficiaries.

Operational developments

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

Overall Objective: to improve the lives of IDPs and returnees in Kabul severely affected by the adverse winter weather and meet the urgent humanitarian needs of 3,435 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 3,435 families and non-food items to 1,484 families covering a three month period and to replenish the DP stocks used during this response.

Progress/Achievements

During the reported period, 6,537 beneficiaries have been registered and provided with an ARCS distribution card.



Beneficiaries collect coal directly from ARCS trucks

A total of 76,259 kilograms of coal has been distributed to 1,257 families (out of a targeted 1484 families). Just 467 stoves (out of a targeted 1484) have been distributed to date due to supply delays. Both distributions are still ongoing and are conducted quickly and efficiently as supplies become available.

The procurement process for the food items has been nearly finalised and the distribution is planned to take place in the third week of March.

The National Society is utilising its disaster management department for the distribution of food and non-food items. The Federation is providing technical support.

Impact:

The main impact is the alleviation of the suffering of the affected population by providing an appropriate and quick response and organising immediate relief items distributions.

Constraints:

The main constraint still remains the lack of logistics and the lack of communication material, as well as poor reporting resources within the ARCS.

Specific Objective 2: to construct community latrines, rehabilitate existing toilets facilities for women and children and provide hygiene and preventive health education to the selected communities. (This objective has been reviewed, with procurement of hygiene promotion material and hygiene kits added to planned activities.)

Progress/Achievements

The following activities have been conducted during the reporting period in the three sectors of Kabul city where the internally displaced persons are being relocated;

- In Markazi Talami 27 existing latrines have been upgraded and the construction of 12 bathing facilities has been completed. Community Based First Aid (CBFA) trainers have provided training sessions to 10 men and women in hygiene promotion.
- In Risat-e-panj, 30 existing latrines have been upgraded. A total of 19 volunteers have been provided with CBFA training.
- In Takhnikam, the construction of 30 latrines and 30 baths has been completed. Seventeen volunteers have received training. The water distribution facility has been extended to 12 taps.

It has been decided, in addition to the hygiene promotion sessions, to provide beneficiaries with locally purchased hygiene kits to all families. These kits comprise of five toothbrushes, two tubes of toothpaste and two bars of soap. Sensitisation leaflets and visibility bags for volunteer trainers will also be procured.

Impact:

The main impact is the prevention of waterborne diseases and the improvement of the hygiene situation among the beneficiaries. Unsanitary habits the targeted population are being addressed and changed through hygiene education and preventive health awareness. During the operation, the Federation water and sanitation officer is training a newly recruited counterpart of the ARCS.

Constraints:

The main constraint remains the lack of water and sanitation structure and expertise within the National Society.

Specific Objective 3: to improve the capacity of the ARCS in disaster preparedness and response. (This objective has been reviewed; a logistics development component has been added.)

Additional activities to achieve this objective

- Provide appropriate training and technical skills to the ARCS logistics focal point;
- Improve the existing transport facilities of the National Society;
- Assist the ARCS in establishing a logistics department at NHQ.

Indicators

- The ARCS logistics focal point benefits from a logistics workshop;
- The ARCS fleet is improved and fleet management systems are appropriate within the headquarters;
- The overall logistics department of the National Society is further developed and adapted to the needs.

Progress/Achievements

To date resources have been focused on the preceding two objectives with the Federation providing support and guidance. The person identified by the National Society to be trained on the Federation logistics systems and procedures is now permanently based within the delegation office. He has been involved in the procurement, dispatch and distribution of the food and non-food items. During the operation, the utilisation of the ARCS fleet of vehicles has been maximised, reducing significantly the transportation costs. Additional funding will be utilised to upgrade the existing vehicles of the National Society in order to enhance its transport capacity.

Impact:

The ARCS through the implementation of the programme is gaining confidence and expertise in the fields of disaster management and logistics.

Constraints:

The main constraint is the actual need of an immediate response to the emergency situation leaving little time to concentrate on the capacity building at this stage of the operation. More efforts will be put in this activity at a later stage.

Federation Coordination

The Federation is continuing to maintain a close liaison with the UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations together with the ARCS. Institutional donors have been locally approached and positive responses have been received.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Awareness and dissemination activities related to the Red Cross/Red Crescent principles is ongoing among the affected populations and government and military forces, highlighting neutrality and independence.

As outlined in Operations Update 2, the heavy snowfalls have increased the likelihood of floods, landslides and avalanches as summer approaches. Progress has been made in creating a Movement contingency plan (incorporating the National Society, the Federation and the ICRC) to prepare for any necessary emergency response. The mapping of most disaster-prone areas and resources is nearly finalised. There is the possibility that a separate emergency appeal will be launched, depending on the severity of the effects of the spring melt in the coming weeks. As outlined in the operational summary, funding is sought for support for a logistics delegate for two months and for three months for the existing disaster management delegate.

National Society Capacity Building

During the implementation of this operation, emphasis is being put on developing the capacity of the ARCS in term of logistics, communication as well as planning, budgeting and reporting. Most of the delegation resources have been mobilised to assist the National Society in organising the response. The main success has been the initiation of the development of the future logistics department of the ARCS at headquarters level.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

As mentioned above, the response to this crisis by the ARCS supported by the Federation has benefited from positive and wide media coverage resulting in a good positioning of the National Society among all humanitarian actors. This has generated solidarity and the recognition of the major role played by the ARCS among Afghans, and ad hoc private donations have occurred since the launch of this operation.

[Revised budget and contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 05EA003

Afghanistan - Severe Winter

TYPE	ORIGINAL	REVISED	VARIANCE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF		
Shelter & constructions	9,000	9,000	
Clothing & textiles	85,000	85,000	
Food & seeds	414,000	414,000	
Water & sanitation	18,000	18,000	
Medical & first aid		22,000	22,000
Teaching materials	2,000	2,000	
Utensils & tools	137,000	137,000	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	665,000	687,000	22,000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>			
Computers & telecom. equipment	10,000	10,000	
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>			
Programme support (6.5% of total)	53,000	59,000	6,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>			
Transport & vehicle costs	37,000	56,000	19,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>			
Expatriate staff	10,000	50,000	40,000
National staff	12,000	19,000	7,000
Workshops & training	14,000	14,000	
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>			
Travel & related expenses	4,000	4,000	
Information expenses	1,000	2,000	1,000
Administrative & general expenses	6,000	6,000	
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	147,000	220,000	73,000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	812,000	907,000	95,000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		267,330	
NET REQUEST		639,670	

