

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: EARTHQUAKE

8 April, 2004

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 Information Bulletin (no. 02/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- Alhaj Qrabis Izidiyar, President and Secretary General, Afghan Red Crescent Society, phone +93.702.58.222
- Ali Hassan Qoureshi, Head of Delegation, Afghanistan, email : hod.kabuldel@wireless.ifrc.org, phone: +873.382.280.530/mobile +93.70.27.83.72 fax
- Jagan Chap again,, Regional Officer, email. jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org phone+41.22.730.4316, fax +41.22.733.0395

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>

The Situation

A powerful earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale jolted the remote Hindu Kush Mountains along Afghanistan's north-east border with Pakistan on 6 April at 1.55 am Afghan time. Preliminary assessment reports indicate that 5 houses were destroyed, 3 in Jurm District (Nawa village) and 2 in Yangaan (Hazrat village). No casualties have been reported apart from one unconfirmed death reported by Associated Press. The joint UNAMA and Afghan Red Crescent assessment in the affected area which began the morning of 6 April is ongoing.

The epicentre was located in Jurm district of Badakhshan province south of the provincial capital Faizabad, about 275 km north of Kabul. The quake also shook the city of Kabul and was felt in others centres in Afghanistan and Pakistan. According to the available information, Jurm district is comprised of approximately 175 villages with a cumulative population of around 76,000.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Afghan Red Crescent staff and volunteers joined by UNAMA rushed to the affected districts and started the initial assessments. Within the first day the Afghan Red Crescent team had covered the two districts of Jurm and Yangaan and five villages (Nawa, Hazrat, Argo, Deshan and Teshqan). Meanwhile, the Federation Sub Delegation is coordinating with UNAMA regional offices and ICRC in Mazar for necessary response action. The Faizabad ARCS branch has been authorised to use Disaster Preparedness non-food stocks stored in the branch as necessary. The stocks can cover the needs of up to 50 families. Similar stocks are also available in Kunduz and Baghlan

Afghan Red Crescent branches, which are the closest branches to Faizabad and could be sent to the area if necessary. Substantial stocks are also in position in Mazar.

Health Emergency Mobile Units (EMU) remain on standby in Mazar and Baghlan, ready to be deployed if required. The EMUs have the capacity to treat up to 1000 families within a period of 48 hours.

At the national level, the Federation is playing the lead role and coordinating with ICRC and working with the Afghan Red Crescent, closely monitoring developments and providing information to the media and Embassies.

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