

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: FLOODS IN THE EAST

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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The Situation

Flash floods caused by torrential rains struck Behsoud district of Nangarhar, in eastern Afghanistan, on 10 November. According to early reports, the 4:00am local time flooding had killed approximately nine people and partially or totally destroyed 400 to 800 houses. An estimated 95 people were injured and about 1,000 individuals are affected.

In an IRIN report¹, the head of the health department of Nangarhar province called for urgent assistance, claiming the floods have seriously affected hundreds of families, who are in need of basic relief supplies such as tents, blankets and food, and that there were women and children among the dead.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

So far, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) Nangarhar branch is in the process of distributing non-food items, such as blankets, jerry cans and tents, to 400 families. The ARCS Nangarhar branch and the department of disaster preparedness (DDP) spent the day conducting field assessments to determine the exact nature of the damages. As accurate results of the assessment becomes available, the Federation delegation, which is on stand-by

¹ Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), a UN humanitarian news and information service; www.IRINnews.org

to provide the necessary support to the ARCS, will act immediately and provide non-food items for the ARCS to distribute to flood-affected beneficiaries.

This is not the first time that floods struck Nangahar province this year – the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society had already battled with the impact of floods in the province's Shirzad district on 30 July, caused by melting snow and continuous rain. In the series of floods and earthquakes that hit eastern, central and northern Afghanistan between July and August, the ARCS and its branches had responded quickly, mobilizing volunteers and staff to provide survivors with immediate food and non-food relief in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Federation secretariat.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- *Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.*
- *Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.*
- *Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.*
- *Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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