

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

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AFGHANISTAN: FLOODS

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 185 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin (no. 01/2007) 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please see [contact details](#) on the last page.

The Situation

With spring approaching, the weather in Afghanistan has gradually become warmer, causing the winter snow to melt. In addition to the melting snow, the country has also been beset by heavy snowfall and torrential rain since 10 March 2006. This has caused floods in some parts of the country – Heart, Badghis and Ghor provinces in the west, Helmand and Uruzgan in the south and Ghazni and Daikundi in the central region.

Initial field surveys estimated that 10,423 families (72,961 individuals) were affected by the floods. So far, 29 people have been reported dead, 13 injured and three missing in these areas. Houses have been damaged and these have been categorized into two types: category A for houses that are 70% damaged (almost fully destroyed) and category B for those that are 50% damaged (partially destroyed).

The table below gives a summary of the affected districts in the western and southern provinces, as well as the severity of the damage caused by the floods and snowfall in these areas. However, this is based on reports received so far (on 19th March) and some of the reports of damages are not confirmed as yet. Information has been gathered from various sources, such as the local and international media, including the BBC.

Regions	Provinces/ districts	No. of affected families	Casualties			Type of disaster	Remarks
			Dead	Injured	Missing		
West	Heart city	200	6	0	0	Flood/rainfall	
	Gulran district	918	0	0	0	Snow/rainfall	409 families affected by houses damaged more than 70% (category A) and 509 families affected by houses damaged less than 50% (category B)
	Cheshte Sharif district	35	0	0	0	Flood	Damaged 75%
	Shindand district	150	0	0	0	Flood	Partially damaged

	Farsi district	0	0	0	0	Flood	Assessment team deployed
	Badghis/ Jawand and Murghab districts	6,500	5	0	3	Flood	Unconfirmed reports
	Ghour district	20	12	13	0	Snow slide	
South-West	Helmand/ Sangeen, Grishk, Musa Qala, Nowzad districts	2,200	6	0	0	River water overflow	Families located on both sides of the Helmand river, in 6 districts
	Uruzgan/ Dehraud district	400	0	0	0	Flood	International Security Assistance Force evacuating people by helicopters
Total		10,423	29	13	3		

As field assessments are still ongoing, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) branches in Heart, Badghis, Ghor, Ghazni, Daikundi, Helmand and Uruzgan will provide more accurate information in the coming days. Further, some of the flood-affected areas are still inaccessible for the government authorities, ARCS and other organizations to conduct assessments and distribution of relief material.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The ARCS, along with the Federation and the United Nations agencies – World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) – have been dispatching food and non-food items to Gulran district of Heart province. Early field assessments, conducted by ARCS volunteers and staff members, indicated that 918 families (6,426 individuals) have been affected by the floods in this district. These assessments also identified 409 families (2,863 individuals) as belonging to category A (with houses almost fully destroyed). These families were assisted with food and non-food items. In addition, emergency mobile units from the ARCS provincial branch in Heart were deployed to the affected areas, to meet the medical needs of the affected people.

The table below indicates the relief items distributed to the affected people in Gulran district, by various organizations.

Organizations	Types of non-food items								
	Tents	Blankets	Tarpaulin (plastic)	Kitchen sets	Jerry cans	Food rations	Winter jackets	Winter clothes	Shoes (pairs)
ARCS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
UNHCR	0	300	150		150	0	0	0	0
WFP	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0
UNICEF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	0
UNAMA	161	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IFRC proposal	0	518	259	200	0	0	0	0	0
Total	161	818	409	200	150	500	1,000	500	1,000

Coordination

Since 11th March, the ARCS provincial branches in Heart and Uruzgan have been having emergency coordination meetings with essential key partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations agencies, governmental authorities (department of disaster preparedness and ministry of rural rehabilitation and development) and the Federation field officers from the sub-offices. As both Helmand and Uruzgan are situated in the volatile, conflict-hit southern region of the country, ICRC has taken the lead in distributing the food and non-food items to the affected people in these areas.

A coordination meeting took place on 19th March between the ARCS, Federation and ICRC at the ARCS national headquarters. The ARCS and Federation disaster management departments are drafting a flood contingency plan to deal with the current situation as well as to prepare themselves for possible floods during the coming months. The contingency plan is scheduled to be finalized by the end of the month.

To monitor the flood situation, the ARCS and Federation have informed all respective field and branch officers to be on stand-by and maintain daily contact with the ARCS national headquarters.

How we work

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.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet 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.

Contact information

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