


# Information bulletin

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Afghanistan: Severe winter

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This bulletin is being issued for information only. Based on initial assessment of the situation and needs, approximately 13,500 people have been affected, but the Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the Federation, has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

### The Situation

Afghanistan faced one of the worst winters in recent decades, during December 2007-February 2008. According to media reports, approximately 750 people were killed and about 60 people lost their limbs as a result of gangrene. Thousands more were affected.

The assessments and response operation by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) continued in affected areas of the country during this reporting period. Updated information was regularly provided by the ARCS branches in the affected areas, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) sub-delegations and the Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA). Updated information from the field will be posted on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), as and when received.



Relief items donated by ECHO, through the Federation, being distributed by ARCS volunteers to affected people in Balkh province, northern Afghanistan

Since most parts of the country do not have much snow, according to meteorological and hydrological figures, experts anticipate that flooding (from melting snow) will only happen in areas that have received more snowfall this year than in earlier years and are also known to be prone to floods.

### Casualties and damages in five regions of Afghanistan due to rain and snowfall during the period January-February 2008 (source: ARCS reports)

Region	Disaster	Date	Families affected	Individuals affected	Casualties				Livestock
					Dead			injured	
					Male	female	children		
Eastern	rain	10/01/08	1	7					
	rain	12/01/08	3	21	3	3	0	0	
	snow	8,12/01/08	21	0	0	0	0	0	
Central	snow	12/01/08	7	49	1	0	0	15	
	snow	12/01/08	90	630	0	0	0	0	
Western	snow	09/01/08	272	1904	7	0	0	15	1600
	snow	01/02/08	450	3150	0	0	0	0	300

	snow	13/01/08	106	742	7	0	1	0	520 sheep lost
	snow	14/01/08	0	0	16	0	0	25	94 sheep, 10 cows lost
	snow	14/01/08	500	280	44	3	62	0	2834 livestock lost
<b>Northern</b>	snow	08/12/07	112	784	1	0	0	2	
	snow	17/01/08	12	84	0	0	0	0	4000 animals killed
	snow	04/02/08	31	217	0	0	0	0	
	snow	13/01/08	415	2907	0	0	0	0	
	Water rise	13/01/08	13	91	0	0	0	0	
	snow	11/01/08	28	196	4	0	0	0	32 killed unconfirmed
	snow	-	136	952	13	0	0	0	
	snow	21/01/08	100	700	0	0	0	0	260 animals killed
	snow	-	10	70	0	0	0	0	
	<b>Southwest</b>	rain	08/01/08	110	770	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>2417</b>	<b>13554</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>	

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Movement partners, humanitarian organizations, the ANDMA and United Nations agencies have been providing food and non-food relief items for targeted people in the affected areas. A total of 450 ARCS volunteers, along with staff from the national society, actively took part in the assessment and contribution process. The ARCS' emergency mobile unit (EMU) teams provided basic treatment to affected people, which has been appreciated by the country's Ministry of Public Health and other organizations involved in the operation.

The below consolidated table indicates the most recent information regarding the distribution of food and non-food relief items, by the Movement components, to the affected people in targeted areas

Region	Assisting organization	Assisted families	Food and non-food relief items																
			blanket	tent	Tarpaulin/plastic	Jerry can	Stove pc	Kitchen sets	Clothing/shoes	Plastic Rolls	Carpet pc	Date/kg	Rice/flour kg	Oil kg	Tea kg	Beans/peas	Salt kg	Sugar kg	Coal kg
Central	ARCS	50	200	0	50	100	50	0	150	0	50	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	ARCS	70	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ICRC		420	0	60	60	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ARCS	112	224	112	0	0	0	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ICRC		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8400	1600	0	2800	112	560		
	ARCS	31	161	16	31	62	0	31	0	0	0	11603	140	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ARCS	105	315	4	5	0	100	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ARCS	159	96	2	0	25	23	23	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ICRC		952	136	0	136	0	136	0	0	0	10200	2040	136	3400	136	680	0	0
	ARCS	45	123	0	0	123	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western	ICRC	106	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	0	0	7950	1590	106	7050	106	225	0	
	ARCS		0	0	0	0	0	668	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	IFRC		212	0	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ARCS	272	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2375	960	0	0	0	0	1500	
	IFRC		544	0	272	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	IFRC	450	600	0	100	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	community	230	110	0	0	0	0	0	440	0	0	0	6600	550	0	0	0	0	
	Community ARCS	1100	0	0	0	0	0	0	2200	0	0	0	27500	3300	0	0	0	0	
	IFRC	500	1500	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Eastern	ARCS	21	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	IFRC		84	0	21	42	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	ICRC		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1575	315	21	525	0	105	0	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3251</b>	<b>5621</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>1145</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>3958</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>76203</b>	<b>10495</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>13775</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>1850</b>

The UAE Red Crescent Society allocated USD 100,000 (approximately CHF 109,000) to their embassy in Kabul, which was used to provide food and non-food items for the ARCS to distribute to affected families in Herat and other provinces. Other Gulf Red Crescent Societies are also in the process of beginning the provision of assistance to the ARCS for this operation. The relief material (5,000 blankets, 500 tents and 10 rub halls) donated by the Iranian Red Crescent Society arrived on the Iran-Afghan border on the date of reporting.

Along with contributions from Movement partners, food and non-food items were also contributed by the Afghan government, United Nations agencies, national organizations and local community members in the affected areas. Heaters were the item provided in the largest quantity.

### Coordination

The contribution process has been carried out through close cooperation between the government and aid agencies. Several internal coordination meetings between Movement partners were held to improve the ARCS' capacity to respond to the disaster. The ARCS and the Federation also took part in external meetings with other humanitarian organizations, to coordinate assistance to the affected population.

## 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 International Federation's activities 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

**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- Afghanistan Red Crescent Society: Fatima Gailani (president); email: [fatigli@yahoo.com](mailto:fatigli@yahoo.com); mobile: +93.79.385.533
- Federation country delegation in Afghanistan: Pepe Salmela (Head of delegation); email: [pepe.salmela@ifrc.org](mailto:pepe.salmela@ifrc.org); mobile: +93.700.274.881; fax: +87.37.6304.3426
- Federation South Asia regional delegation in India: Al Panico (Head of regional delegation); email: [al.panico@ifrc.org](mailto:al.panico@ifrc.org); phone: +91.11. 2411.1125; fax: +91.11. 2411.1128
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva: Christine South (Operations Coordinator), email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org), phone: +41.22.730.4529, fax: +41.22.733.0395

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