

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. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), 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 contact information.

The Situation

Afghanistan has been in the grip of the severe winter since 1st January experiencing heavy snow, rainfall cold waves and flooding which affected many parts of the country.

Approximately 1,300 of people have died and 182 were injured due to damaged or collapsed houses and to gangrene (see table below from ARCS). Many people have been displaced from their homes, and are waiting for basic humanitarian assistance. The majority of the casualties are the young and the elderly. Hundreds thousands of livestock have also reportedly died.



The ARCS trained staff/volunteers are carrying out registration of affected beneficiaries in most affected district of Enjel district in Heart province

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In the early response to the affected population, the ARCS, IFRC and ICRC used their existing relief items from earlier operation and disaster preparedness stocks to meet the immediate needs of 170,502 beneficiaries (28,417 affected families) in the central, western, northern and eastern provinces of the country by using the existing nationwide trained staff and volunteers network. All distribution activities were coordinated with ANDMA and key partners at head quarter and provincial levels. The estimated figures are as follows (including families assisted by ARCS, and people treated by the ARCS' Emergency Medical Units (EMUs) affected by snowfall-affected particularly to the west of the country.

Affected families	Death	Injury	Livestock waste	Families assisted	People treated by EMU
146,526	1,317	182	194,452	28,417	6,281

The following quantities of food and non-food items were released from IFRC, ARCS and ICRC respective DP stocks and distributed through ARCS staff members and active volunteers:

Non-food items

Blankets	Tents	Tarpaulins	Jerry cans	Stoves	Kitchen sets	Plastic sheeting rolls	Clothing /shoes
45,188	2,269	2,186	25,618	720	3,307	50	8,079

Food items:

Rice	Flour	Oils	Tea	Beans/peas	Salt	Sugar	Bags of coal
406 tons	151 tons	100 tons	114 tons	91 tons	12 tons	122 tons	60kg x 30

Contribution from Iran, Kuwait and Qatar RCS:

ARCS received assistance from Iran, Kuwait and Qatar RCS, demonstrating the good relationship with these societies. The assistance also demonstrated ARCS's proper and effective involvement and response to the needs of affected population which attracted the attention of these donors and encouraged them to send their assistance to the affected population by ARCS. Below quantities of items were donated by mentioned donors to the ARCS to be distributed to 6000 affected families particularly in western region of Afghanistan:

Kuwait RCS: 18,000 blankets, 150 metric tonnes of rice, 30 metric tonnes of oil, 15 metric tonnes of sugar and 9 metric tonnes of tea for 3,000 families.

Qatar RCS: 1,000 blankets and 2,000 stoves for 2,000 families.

Iran RCS: 5,000 blankets and 500 tarpaulin sheets for 1,000 families.

Local Coordination

As the result of the joint efforts and active coordination of the Afghan Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the latest report indicates the government, United Nations agencies, local community people and national organizations all contributed food and non-food items to the affected population in various ways

The major contribution from the community itself was heaters (stoves), carried out in close cooperation between the government and a wide range of UN and NGO aid agencies.

Government contributions:

The details of the combined contribution from different government organizations (ministry of defence, ministry of rural rehabilitation and development, ministry of education, ministry of public health and ministry of borders) and Turkmenistan to assist the affected families was as follows

Non-food items:

Tents	Blankets	Tarpaulins	Family kits	Health kits	Gabions	Plastic sheets	Shoes	Stoves	Tons of coal	Clothes
11,837	14,262	4,647	2,541	1,683	13,200	34,819	7,399	574	76.5	104,652

Food items:

wheat flour	wheat	rice	oil	tea	sugar	biscuit	medicine	beans	peas	salt	dates
1,566 tons	1,516 tons	880,475 tons	98 tons	2261 kg	9562 kg	20.6 tons	94.2 tons	49,5 tons	8400 tons	3,924 kg	1,000 kg

Contributions from other International organizations and local NGOs:

The following items were distributed:

Food items:

flour	wheat	rice	oil	tea	sugar	biscuits	medicine	beans	peas	salt
622.234 tons	74.4 tons	17.466 tons	121.516 tons	8.787 tons	36.367 tons	11 tons	2 tons	6.803 tons	30.74 tons	5.001 tons

Non food items:

Tents	Blankets	Tarpaulins	Kitchen sets	Family kits	Health kits	Jerry cans	Gabions	Plastic sheets	Fuel	Stoves	Coal	Clothes
3,567	22,525	9,332	6,936	1,496	1,002	1,062	5,550	5,234	8.7 tons	1,120	155 tones	14,612

Risk assessment

More flash floods, landslides, and avalanches are expected as the temperature goes up. At the same time, the climate change and lack enough raining, particularly in this season, could be another sign the drought. Combination flash floods, drought with conflict can create a large internally displaced population who are living in extremely poor condition, ten with very limited opportunities for livelihood and nearly absent infrastructure. Many communities still depend on meagre incomes derived by migrating outside their farmlands. Furthermore, there has been a hazard mapping at the national scale, which ranked all provinces qualitatively in term hazards. The information collected was from local authorities based on historic events and through qualitative, empirical methods.

Table 1: Natural Hazards by Provinces (estimated) & Programme location and Beneficiaries

No	Province	Population	Earthquake	Drought	Flood	Landslide	Avalanche
1	Badakhshan	725,700	H	M	H	H	H
2	Baghlan	745,000	H	M	M	H	H
3	Kunduz	820,000	M	M	H	M	M
4	Takhar	697,601	H	M	H	H	M
5	Balkh	869,000	M	H	H	M	M
6	Faryab	782,000	M	H	H	M	M
7	Badghis	310,000	L	H	H	M	M
8	Samangan	378,000	H	M	H	H	M
9	Oruzgan	400,000	L	H	H	L	H
10	Farah	338,000	M	H	M	L	M
11	Nimruz	149,000	L	H	M	L	L
12	Bamian	356,000	M	H	M	L	L
13	Ghazni	931,000	L	M	H	L	H
14	Ghor	485,000	L	H	H	L	L
15	Heart	1,182,000	L	H	H	L	L
16	Pakta	415,000	L	M	H	L	L
17	Paktika	325,000	L	M	H	L	L
18	Kunar	321,000	L	M	H	M	M
19	Nangarhar	1,089,000	L	M	H	L	M

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code 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 vulnerable people by mobilizing the power humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number 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 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:

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[click here for information bulletin 1 with map](#)