

Information bulletin



Afghanistan: Severe winter

Information bulletin n° 2
GLIDE no. **AV-2008-000003-AFG**
28 January 2008

This bulletin is being issued for information only. Based on initial assessment of the situation and needs, approximately 7,000 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

Heavy snowfall during the month of January, coupled with cold and unbearable weather has caused severe challenges and difficulties for the people in most parts of Afghanistan.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is involved in assessments and contributions in various parts of the country through its volunteers and emergency mobile unit (EMU) teams since the disaster began.

The president of the country issued authorization to the ARCS leadership to allocate USD 1 million (approximately CHF 1.09 million) from the national society's budget to assist the affected and the most vulnerable people all over the country.

Updated information received in regions across the country from Afghan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA), United Nations agencies and the ARCS are as follows:

Western region

According to the report from the ARCS branch office in Herat, two EMU teams, with the close cooperation of the ministry of public health (MoPH), were deployed to the affected areas (Ghorian and Zendajan districts of Herat province) and have done a wonderful job there. Based on this report, 217 patients were treated, 15 patients received dressing and 455 people received health education.

Northern region

Similar to the western region, the northern part of the country is affected by the severe weather, Heavy snowfall on 11 January resulted in the closure of roads to a few villages. In addition, 28 houses were damaged and four people were killed in Jawzjan province. On 13 January, five houses in Kunduz province were damaged (four totally and one partially) due to snowfall.

The ARCS-Sari Pul branch reported that 12 houses were destroyed and 4,000 livestock were killed due to heavy snow on 17 January, and heavy snowfall in Takhar province on 21 January affected 100 families and killed approximately 260 livestock.

Southern region

According to a report by a volunteer, a total of 110 families were affected because of floods in Helmand province. The exact facts and figures are available in the table below.



Food and non-food items being distributed to the affected people in Herat province, western Afghanistan.

**Casualties and damages in four regions of the country due to rain and snow fall from
8 December 2007 to 23 January 2008.**

Region	Province	Disaster	Date	Families affected	Individuals affected	Casualties					
						Dead			Injured	Missing	Livestock
						Men	Women	Children			
Eastern	Nangarhar	Rain	10/01/08	1	7						
	Laghman	Rain	12/01/08	3	21	3	3	0	0	0	
Central	Paktika	Snow	12/01/08	7	49	0	0	0	15	0	
	Paktya	Snow	12/01/08	90	630	0	0	0	0	0	
Western	Ghor	Snow	14/01/08	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	94 sheep, 10 cows lost
	Ghorian	Snow	13/01/08	106	742	4	0	1	0	3	520 sheep lost
	Badghis	Snow	14/01/08	40	280	48	5	62	0	0	2834 livestock lost
	Herat	Snow	09/01/08	374	2618	7	0	0	15	0	
Northern	Sure Pul	Snow	08/12/07	112	784	1	0	0	2	0	
		Snow	17/01/08	12	84	0	0	0	0	0	4000 animals killed
	Kunduz	Snow	13/01/08	5	35	0	0	0	0	0	
	Balkh	Rising waters	13/01/08	13	91	0	0	0	0	0	
	Jawzjan	Snow	11/01/08	28	196	4	0	0	0	0	32 killed (unconfirmed)
	Takhar	Snow	21/01/08	100	700	0	0	0	0	0	260 animals killed
Southwest	Helmand	Rain	08/01/08	110	770	0	0	0	0	0	
Total:				1001	7007	73	8	63	33	3	

Red Cross Red Crescent action

The ARCS, with the support of the Federation and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), humanitarian organizations, the Afghan national disaster management authorities (ANDMA) and United Nations agencies, provided contributions for the targeted people in the affected areas. The table below is based on reports that were received from the field.

This table indicates the distribution of food and non-food relief items from 1 to 23 January 2008 by the Movement components to the communities affected by snowfall, rain and cold weather.

Region	Province	Assisting organization	Assisted families	Food and non-food relief items																		
				blanket	tent	Tarpaulin/plastic	Jerry can	stove	Clothing/shoes	jumpers	bucket	Sleeping bag	lantern	carpet	Date/kg	rice	oil	tea	beans	salt	sugar	coal
Central	paktya	ARCS	50	200	0	50	100	50	150	100	50	50	50	50	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	Baghlan	ARCS	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Suripul	ARCS	112	448	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western	Ghorian	ICRC	106	0	0	106	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,950	1,590	106	7,050	106	225	0
		ARCS		0	0	0	0	668	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0
	Hrt, zinda jan	ARCS	272	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,375	960	0	0	0	0	1,500
IFRC		0	544	0	272	272	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hrt, Gozarah	comunity	230	110	0	0	0	0	440	0	0	0	0	0	6,600	550	0	0	0	0	0	350
Total:			770	1,594	0	428	478	50	1,378	180	90	50	50	50	550	16,925	3,100	106	7,050	106	225	1,850

Coordination

Internal coordination meetings between Movement partners (ARCS, ICRC and the Federation) and external meetings between the Movement and other humanitarian organizations were held to coordinate assistance to the people affected.

Besides Movement components, other national and international organizations including United Nations agencies such as the World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ANDMA, Khoshe Construction Company, CRS, Shelter Now, CAP Anamur, Help, CARE international, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) and USA 207 army corps have provided assistance the affected people in western Afghanistan. Their contributions in the western region are as follows:

Food:	855.2 tonnes
Blankets:	8,250
Winter clothes:	20,000 pieces
Tarpaulins/ plastic:	4,500
Shoes:	1,250 pairs
Socks:	1,000 pairs
Tea flask:	100
Fuel (Diesel):	8,600 litres
Cash:	USD 22,000 (CHF 23,976)

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; mobile: +93.79.385.533
- Federation country delegation in Afghanistan: Pepe Salmela (Head of delegation); email: 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; phone: +91.11. 2411.1125; fax: +91.11. 2411.1128
- Federation Secretariat in Geneva (Asia Pacific department): Hiroto Oyama (regional officer); email: secretariat.zonesupport@ifrc.org; phone: +41.22.730.4273; fax: +41.22.733.0395

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)