

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Afghanistan: Floods

Information bulletin n° 1
29 April 2009

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The Afghan Red Crescent Society will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

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



The Afghan Red Crescent Society assessment team members in the affected Kohsan district of Herat province. The team is visiting the affected houses. Photo: International Federation.

The Situation

Most parts of Afghanistan experienced very heavy rainfalls since late March. Continual rains, particularly in the western and northern regions of the country, have caused numerous casualties and damages. Approximately seven people were killed and 17,142 were affected. Tens of thousands of hectares of farmland was affected and a large number of livestock were killed. The below table categorized the affected people in different provinces.

Number of affected people:

| Region | | Partially affected | Totally affected | Date of disaster |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Western | Herat | 33 | 1,100 | Early April |
| | Badghis | 0 | 1,000 | 19.04.09 |
| Northern | Badakhshan | 362 | 211 | 12.04.09 |
| | Samangan | 96 | 55 | 22.04.09 |
| | Takhar | 54 | 4 | 22.04.09 |
| | Balkh | 588 | 0 | 21.04.09 |
| | Faryab | 91 | 23 | 20.04.09 |
| Total | | 1,224 | 2,393 | |

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Based on a joint assessment carried out by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), the International Federation, Afghan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA) and United Nations agencies at both headquarter and provincial levels, the emergency humanitarian assistance consisting of food and non-food items were provided for the affected people.



The Afghan Red Crescent Society contributing relief items to the affected people in northern Afghanistan. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The ARCS, with the support of the International Federation, have played an active role in responding to the situation. The ARCS assessment teams, as well as the emergency mobile unit teams, were deployed to the affected areas. The role of 83 trained ARCS volunteers was noteworthy in terms of assessment, operation and supporting the affected people physically and psychologically.

Additionally, in Sar-e-Pul province, due to heavy rains which lasted for several days, floods occurred in Aahoo village of Sayyad district. Ten houses have been totally destroyed; roads to the disaster area were damaged; four people, including three children, have been killed, and ten more have been hospitalized.

The table below shows the distribution of non-food items taken place so far in the northern region. The items were contributed by the ARCS and International Federation.

Northern region:

| | | Tent | Blanket | Kitchen sets | Jerry cans | Plastic sheets | Gas balloon | Bucket | Tarpaulin | Jacket | Stove |
|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| IFRC | Badakhshan | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ARCS | | 42 | 700 | 200 | 300 | 210 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Samangan | 25 | 151 | 55 | 151 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| | Faryab | 23 | 342 | 114 | 456 | 228 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 228 | 0 |
| | Balkh | 0 | 376 | 94 | 188 | 94 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Takhar | 4 | 59 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 194 | 1,628 | 465 | 1095 | 532 | 100 | 100 | 25 | 228 | 55 |

The ARCS also contributed following food items to the affected people in Samangan province of the northern region.

| ITEMS | QUANTITY |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| Rice | 78 bags (each bag 25 kg) |
| Cooking oil | 78 cans (each can 5 kg), |
| Tea | 78 kg |

The following food items were contributed by the ARCS to 58 affected families in Takhar province:

| ITEMS | QUANTITY |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Flour | 2 bags (50 kg per bag) |
| Cooking oil | 10 kg |

Western region:

Based on recent reports from the western region, Herat and Badghis provinces were the most affected. As an emergency response, the ARCS has taken tents, blankets, jackets and stoves for 100 families. To date, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Development (RRD) has donated 200 cans of ghee and wheat for the affected people in Badghis province.

The ARCS assisted up to 600 affected families in Kohsan and 413 families in Ghorian districts of Herat province with non-food items. The ARCS also contributed 120 rations of food in Gozara district of Herat province as well as in Samangan.

The following items were contributed by the ARCS to the affected people in Gozara district of Herat province:

| ITEMS | QUANTITY |
|--------------|----------|
| Blanket | 261 |
| Kitchen sets | 87 |
| Jerry cans | 87 |
| Tarpaulin | 87 |

Relief actors' coordination assistance

A number of relief actors have assisted with cash donations as well as food and non-food items, as stated below.

- The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation Development assisted with 50 tents and 100 blankets.
- ANDMA has donated AFA 2,110,000 (CHF 48,798 or USD 42,200) in cash to the families under category A (house partially damaged).
- ANDMA has donated AFA 1,810,000 (CHF 41,861 or USD 36,200) in cash to 362 families under category B (house totally damaged).
- ANDMA has donated AFA 120,000 (CHF 2,775 or USD 2,400) in cash to four families who have lost family members.
- World Food Programme has donated 49 MT of food items, including cooking oil, wheat, split peas and salt.
- Other relief organizations and individuals have also distributed food and non-food items, e.g. Bayat Foundation, local traders and individuals.

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:

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