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Information bulletin

Afghanistan: Floods and landslide

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is currently considering Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) request for this response.

<click [here](#) to view the map of the affected area, or [here](#) for detailed contact information>

The situation

This information bulletin builds on two earlier Information Bulletins for Afghanistan:

- [Information Bulletin](#) for flash floods that was published on 30 April.
- [Information Bulletin](#) for landslide that was published on 3 May.

Flooding, flash floods and landslides continue to affect tens of thousands of people in many parts of northern Afghanistan. Weather forecasts indicate that more rain can be expected. Some of the already affected areas are likely to experience more floods and flash floods in the coming days.

The current situation started after heavy rain fell across the northern region on 24 and 25 April as part of the seasonal rains. A massive landslide occurred on 2 May in Argo district, Badakhshan province. As of 5 May, a total of 419 lives have been lost. This number includes 163 dead as a result of floods and flash floods across ten provinces in the north and 256 confirmed dead as a result of the landslide in Argo district. The number killed in the landslide is likely to increase, but the authorities are now expecting that the final number will not surpass 500. Although the landslide destroyed 300 houses, many of the inhabitants, initially reported as missing and feared dead, were working on their farmlands when the disaster struck and thus survived.

As of 6 May, three additional provinces, Ghor, Logar and Kabul, have also now been affected by floods: About 300 families are affected and one person has died as a result of floods in Ghor province, specifically in Chaghcharan, Dawlat Yar, Taywara, Charsada, Shahrak, and Tulak districts. In Logar province, 116 families were affected by heavy rains and flooding on 4 May. At least three people were killed, a total of 76 houses destroyed and 40 houses damaged. In Kabul city, on 3 May, 237 families were affected by floods. Damage included the destruction of 112 houses and partial damage to 125 houses. Additionally, flooding occurred in Shorlgara district of Balkh province where 72 houses were partially or totally damaged. At least two people were killed and 37 acres of agricultural lands destroyed. Based on the joint assessment findings, it is planned to distribute food and non-food items (NFIs) to 72 flood affected families.

On 4 May in Argo, three inter-agency assessment teams were put together to assess the needs of the estimated 700 displaced families, many of whom have been proactively displaced as a result of fear of further landslide. Access challenges at the site are now impeding the assessment of needs and the delivery of assistance. Increasing numbers of people from outside the immediate community are congregating at the disaster site. Aid agencies are increasingly challenged to distinguish between those directly affected by the disaster and those who have come from outside the village, attracted by the quantity of relief items arriving.

The number of those affected across 14 provinces (62 districts) of northern Afghanistan has now reached 90,000. Out of this number, around 20,000 are displaced, including 700 families from the villages affected by the landslide.

[Forecasts](#) indicate more rain and possible flooding in many parts of northern Afghanistan in the coming days. Among the areas that are at risk for more flooding are the provinces of Faryab and Sari Pul that were impacted when the flooding started after heavy rains on 24 and 25 April. However, in the province of Jawzjan that has so far seen the biggest displacement of people, further flooding is not currently expected. The area in Badakhshan province, where the landslide took place, is forecasted to receive scattered rain and is at risk of minor flooding. Satellite images show that the [snow cover](#) is still between 20 and 100 centimetres (cm) in many parts of east Afghanistan, including large parts of Badakhshan province, and also west of Kabul, in the province of Bamyan. The combination of seasonal rains and snow melt has resulted in the flooding situation.

In Badakhshan, the rapid mobilisation of coordinated response and assistance has created both push and pull factors as non-coordinated entities respond to populations not directly affected by the landslide. The government has reinforced its coordination capacity with the appointment of a high-level disaster relief coordinator who arrived in Badakhshan on 6 May.

Primary focus areas remain the on-going response in Jawzjan, Faryab and Sari Pul, in addition to, managing requirements and capacity to facilitate new and ongoing assessments in the new areas affected by floods.

There are sufficient relief stocks in the country. The focus of efforts going forward will be on rehabilitation and reconstruction of the damaged houses and infrastructure, as well as securing livelihoods for those who have lost their farmland.

As Afghanistan is a heavily disaster-prone country, strengthening the disaster management capacity of the government and building stronger, more effective community disaster preparedness are clear priorities. These are areas where good results can be achieved with relatively small investments.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has been the first responders on the ground in many of the affected areas. Mobilisation is on-going. In summary, ARCS has so far:

- Mobilised 150 staff and volunteers, many from community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) projects, as first responders in the affected areas.
- Deployed two teams from its national headquarters in Kabul to reinforce branches in their response and assessment.
- Deployed five Mobile Health Teams (MHTs); three to the flooded northern provinces of Jawzjan, Faryab and Sari Pul and two to Badakhshan province where the landslide occurred on 2 May. Each MHT has four members - a doctor, pharmacist, nurse/vaccinator and driver.
- Distributed food and NFIs (e.g., tents, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, tarpaulins, jerry cans and mattresses) to more than 500 families.
- Committed an initial 700 tents to the operation that will be dispatched from regional and national stocks.

Current IFRC preparedness stocks available in Kabul were indicated in the previous [Information Bulletin](#) (landslide) published on 3 May. The table below indicates NFI stocks available at the ARCS regional and provincial branches.

Regions	Branches	Non-food items					
		Tents	Blankets	Tarpaulins	Kitchen sets	Jerry cans	First aid kits
North	Samangan	298	1,276	726	248	428	132
	Balkh	57	1,256	450	250	227	0
	Jawzjan	26	1,052	388	102	290	0
	Suri Pul	177	1,625	538	273	3,049	0
	Faryab	20	772	0	429	165	0
	Regional Office	395	4,907	2,956	250	490	0
Total:		973	10,888	5,058	1,552	4,649	132
North-East	Kunduz	40	816	30	273	183	0
	Badakhshan	410	441	866	735	0	81
	Takhar	14	1,059	922	190	15	0
	Baghlan	67	1,210	700	200	16	0
	Regional Office	153	1,484	1,708	0	0	877
Total:		684	5,010	4,226	1,398	214	958

Currently ARCS is consolidating the number of relief items that have been distributed so far. Based on initial assessments and analysis of the weather forecasts, estimates of the needs for the coming weeks are also being done. This will determine the level of replenishments needed, including for contingency that will be done through a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) appeal and complemented through offers of support from partners in and outside the country. Iranian Red Crescent Society has confirmed a relief consignment with tents, blankets, kitchen sets and food. The Red Cross Society of China has donated funds to ARCS for the recovery part of the operation.

Three MHTs, deployed in flood affected areas of the worst affected provinces of Jawzjan, Faryad and Sari Pul, have provided basic health care for 8,455 people from 24 April to 1 May 2014. A breakdown of services provided by the MHTs is detailed in the table below. Around 60 CBHFA volunteers were involved in the initial assessment and relief distribution. The regional health officer and two MHTs in the north-east region were deployed immediately to Badakhshan on 3 May to respond to the landslide disaster. The northern region has indicated a need for hygiene kits, mosquito nets and purification tablets to assist 2,000 flood affected families in the provinces of Samangan, Faryad, Jawzjan and Sari Pul.

MHT	Province	Districts/- Villages	Patients				Total patients	Dressing & First Aid	Health Education	Total Services
			Male (Over 5 Yrs.)	Female (Over 5 Yrs.)	Children (Under 5 Yrs.)					
					Male	Female				
1	Sari Pul	Nawabad and Imam Kalan villages	87	293	63	50	493	27	1,568	2,088
2	Jawzjan	Khoja Doko District	242	314	89	103	748	84	2,865	3,697
3	Faryab	Astana village, Sherin Tagab District	237	370	161	135	903	17	1,750	2,670
Total			566	977	313	288	2,144	128	6,183	8,455

ARCS/IFRC Health and Care Unit in coordination with Logistics will dispatch the following items from Kabul.

Region	Items	Target Provinces
North Region	2,000 hygiene kits 1,500 mosquito nets 2 WatSan Kit 2	Jawzjan Sari Pul Faryad Samangan
North-east Region	1,000 hygiene kits 500 mosquito nets 1 WatSan Kit 2	Badakhshan

Contact information

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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