

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

5 November 2002

Appeal No. 10/02

Appeal launched on 12 April 2002 for CHF 2,921,000 for nine months.

Operations Update No. 2; Period covered: 1 June - 31 October 2002.

Last operations update issued on 1 June 2002.

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 77.9%

Related Appeals: Appeal 32/01 Afghan crisis

Outstanding needs: CHF 644,688

In summary: The Afghan Red Crescent was among the first on the scene to assist locals when a devastating earthquake hit Nahrin. The National Society, with Federation support, has maintained this engagement with vulnerable people and is now working with them in key rehabilitation projects, particularly in health and education.

Operational Developments

Following the earthquake, which devastated the city of Nahrin in Baghlan Province on 25 March killing some 800 and leaving 10,000 homeless, The Federation launched the Afghanistan Earthquake Appeal (no.10/02) on 12 April 2002.

Nahrin District, is 74 km (2.5 hours) from Puli-Khumri, which is the main city of the Province, and 264 km (5.5 hours) from Mazar-i-Sharif. The district consists of approximately 90 villages. The largest, and most affected by the earthquake, are Nahrin New and Old City, 5km apart, and the village of Jilga. Nahrin District has a population of approximately 10,000 families.

Virtually all needs were covered by the emergency relief operation within ten days after the disaster. The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) health emergency mobile unit (EMU) was on the scene within 24 hours of the earthquake providing emergency health care to people. ARCS, with support of the Federation, also sent food and non-food items, which were distributed to affected families within the first few days after the earthquake. They also provided support with burial costs for about 80 families, in the first days after the earthquake.

The needs are now shifting towards establishing a recovery and rehabilitation plan for the area. WFP continues their general food distribution in the area, as before the disaster. Earthquake related food distribution by the

ARCS has concluded. Several humanitarian actors are involved in the rehabilitation of destroyed houses in the disaster affected villages. The Ministry of Public Health is rebuilding its clinic in Nahrin.

The ARCS, supported by the Federation, continues to contribute to the lengthy recovery of basic living standards for the affected population of Nahrin by providing much-needed health services to the vulnerable through the temporary health clinic and ARCS mobile unit, as well as the overall capacity building of the National Society, especially in the areas of disaster preparedness and response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Health

A temporary emergency health clinic in Nahrin has continued providing services to the people of earthquake-devastated Nahrin. Between 30 April and 20 June 2002, the facility was supported by a team of three delegates - surgeon, midwife and administrator - from Japanese Red Cross. They offered primary health care to the population devastated by the earthquake and worked in a capacity building role with the newly appointed ARCS



clinic staff. The ARCS local staff was trained in the use of the equipment and treatment procedures and protocols. After completion of the training phase, the facility was handed over to ARCS. The hand-over went smoothly and the ARCS clinic staff now continue with consultation, treatment and health education from the temporary site. The ARCS presently has one male doctor, one male nurse, one male health educator and a pharmacist working in the temporary clinic. The National Society is also looking for female staff, particularly a female doctor and/or midwife.

From June to the end of September the **ARCS temporary clinic** saw a total of 6,234 patients for consultation and treatment (until 20 June the ARCS team was working with the team from Japanese Red Cross). Health education, on a variety of topics, was given to 3,186 people in group sessions and to 1,328 people individually. As the nights are beginning to turn colder the seasonal rise in respiratory tract infections has been noted. Cases of diarrhoeal diseases and malaria have diminished considerably.

The temporary clinic will continue to provide much needed health services to the people of Nahrin until a new premises is constructed.

Plans are afoot to integrate the temporary facility in the newly built ARCS clinic. After extensive consultations with the government authorities, a site for the new clinic has now been identified in Lakankheil, Aab Khana section of Nahrin District, about 13km west of Nahrin New City and will serve some 3,500 families. The road from Nahrin New City to Lakan Khail is very poor and during the worst weather in winter months is only passable by horse or donkey. Lakan Kheil is one of the largest villages in Aab Khana section. The community has donated 1,200 sq metre of land to ARCS for the building of this clinic.

Meanwhile, the ARCS mobile health team, working out of Pul-i-Khumri, has been visiting villages in Nahrin district since the earthquake. While most of the medical teams and field hospitals came and went, to date one ARCS mobile team remains working in the area addressing the most pressing needs. The activities of the medical team centred on the treatment of disaster related illnesses, preventive health and education through outreach workers. From June until the end of September the **mobile clinic** saw 2,985 patients for consultation and treatment and offered health education to 2,781 people in group sessions and 520 individuals. The main



focus for the health messages was on hygiene and sanitation issues. Major health problems seen were diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory tract infections.

The team members were accompanied by a Federation (Japanese) midwife on many occasions between 5 May and 16 June. This was a great asset to the mobile team, as it has not been possible to find an Afghan midwife or female doctor to become a member of the mobile team.

Mobile unit will continue to play a vital part in reaching those Afghans living in the most remote areas of Afghanistan without access to regular basic health care. Until the country has a far-reaching national health system the mobile unit is making an enormous impact in terms of covering those who are too far from the mainstream care structure. Health services were scarce in the Nahrin district even before the emergency.

Rehabilitation

A local civil engineer was hired in Mazar to carry out more in-depth assessment of 15 school building structures in the disaster-affected area. Following three weeks of extensive field work, a report was produced detailing the condition of the schools - degree of damage and the stability. The available data was then carefully analysed and further discussions were held with the government authorities and other humanitarian actors in the area.

A Federation construction delegate arrived in Afghanistan end of July 2002 to assist the National Society with the project implementation. Consultations with government authorities and other organisations operating in Nahrin district continued to ensure proper co-ordination of efforts. Based on the recent analysis of the situation, it was agreed to reconstruct five new earthquake resistant schools in the district.

Sites for the five new schools were identified in co-ordination with the ministry of education.

School location	Distance from district centre (km)	Number of school children	
		Boys	Girls
Almatuo	20	570	130
Gawi	25	350	30
Joi Kalan	42	230	80
Tolihaa	15	450	150
Abserni Baraqi	9	300	90

Preparations then started for tender - professional drawings, volume of works and bill of quantity were developed. According to the designs developed, two of the target schools will have eight classrooms, while the other three will have six. As a result of the Federation/ARCS intervention 2,380 children in the target areas will be able to continue their education in the new schools.

As soon as all required documentation was prepared, tender was launched and two construction companies were selected through comparative bids analysis. Contracts were then signed with the companies outlining their duties and responsibilities, work timetable and payment procedures.

At the time of reporting, the actual works on the three of the five target schools had started. The construction works will be ongoing for four months and are expected to be finalised before the end of January 2003. Additionally, all rehabilitated schools will be provided with furniture, well and latrines. Procurement will be arranged for by the Federation Delegation’s logistics department.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

To improve the capacity of the ARCS to reduce the vulnerability of communities in disasters, it is important to establish a functional ARCS disaster management network linked with emergency mobile units facilitating disaster co-ordination. The Afghan Red Crescent Society and Federation began major discussions on improving the effectiveness of DP so that potential needs in earthquake-prone areas would be better met. Some relief items have already been reallocated as DP stocks to Mazar and a rubbhall was placed in Mazar which will replace warehousing capacity of ARCS. During October and November the repositioning of DP stocks according to regional needs will be finalised.

Planning and implementation of disaster preparedness training including teaching on newly acquired emergency equipment was partly done by the Japanese Red Cross team during their mission in Nahrin. The specialised training will take place at later stage.

Telecommunications

A pactor modem was installed in the Federation’s vehicle assigned to the operation to have constant communication with the sub-delegation and the head office in Mazar. Additionally, a specific telecom network based on HF and VHF systems will be installed and staff trained in its utilisation and maintenance as currently there is no working telecommunications systems, except a basic telephone system linking official building. The international procurement of the equipment is ongoing and expected to be finalised soon.

National Society Capacity Building

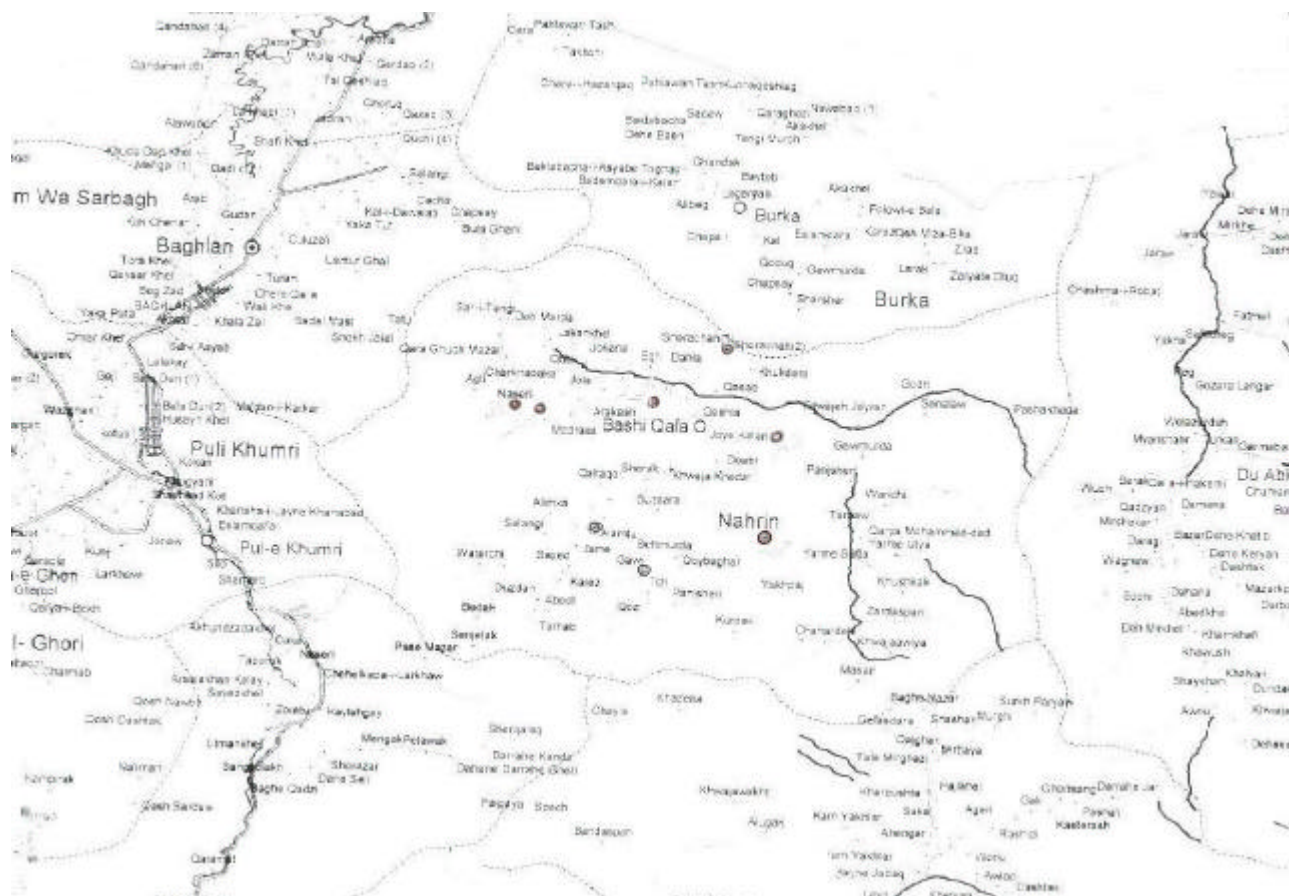
The process of establishing a proper volunteering base in the earthquake affected area continued. In June 2002, the training of volunteers on community based first aid in Nahrin and Takhar commenced with a training of trainers (ToT) course for two trainers from Nahrin and two from Takhar. Following this course 20 newly recruited volunteers, covering 45 of the most vulnerable villages, were trained. The trainers have continued their efforts at a steady pace. In the month of July they recruited a further 20 volunteers from 20 villages, and in August 18 volunteers covering 43 villages. All have now been trained and equipped with First Aid kits. The trainers have also made follow up visits to ensure that the volunteers can pass clear health education messages to the affected villagers, to encourage them to take action against preventable diseases, exacerbated by the results of the earthquake. The training programme will continue until the whole district is covered.

ARCS, supported by Federation, has over 11,000 volunteers trained in community based first aid (CBFA) across the country, of which 4,548 are presently working in northern provinces. These volunteers have been chosen by their communities, and offer first aid and health advice in their own villages.

Table below shows the number of ARCS volunteers in the northern provinces to date.

District	Number of Volunteers
Balkh (including youth volunteers)	3'629
Samangan (including youth volunteers)	530
Nahrin	76
Maimana	20
Badakhshan	126
Takhar	167
Total	4'548

Innovative approaches to volunteerism are securing the long term future of the Afghan Red Crescent by creating a better sense of belonging and ‘ownership’ within the National Society’s membership. As the organisation’s pool of committed and multi-skilled volunteers grows, the Red Crescent’s ability to support its vulnerable communities increases.



Outside of the current emergency appeal, a volunteers centre was constructed in Mazar. Youth volunteers contributed minor maintenance and repairs. The Federation covered the majority of expenses and will also provide equipment, such as tables and shelves. The new centre in Mazar will also consolidate the above progress, particularly among the youth volunteers, as it will accommodate the ongoing English classes as well as be used for meetings, social events, games and training.

Constraints encountered during the operation

- **ARCS new clinic in Nahrin:** original location of ARCS new clinic (in Nahrin New City) that should replace the temporary one was taken back by the Nahrin Authorities and granted for the construction of a hospital. Identification of the new location has proved to be a time consuming exercise that involved extensive consultations with government authorities. Finally it was agreed to build the new ARCS clinic in Lakan Khail village in Aab Kana section of Nahrin district. 1,200 sq m of land has been officially donated by the governor of Baghlan to ARCS for construction of the clinic. Plan for the clinic was prepared and accepted by the ARCS and government. ARCS is currently working on drawings for basic accommodation before tenders are put out, expected to be ready by early November. Without accommodation it will be very difficult to find any staff to work in this rural area clinic. Offering accommodation to the ARCS clinics staff is a new creative attempt to overcome the most frequently encountered constraint to provide primary health care to population living in rural remote areas. This pilot attempts to determine whether or not providing accommodation is an appropriate way to overcome this constraint.
- **School construction:** The initial plan foresaw repair, rehabilitation or reconstruction of eight schools in and around Nahrin. The more in-depth assessment, as well as consultations with the government authorities and other humanitarian actors in the area prompted the Federation/ARCS to go for the construction of five new schools that would have higher resistance against future tremors. The start of works was, however, delayed mainly due to the late arrival of Federation construction delegate in Afghanistan. Immense efforts were since made to put the programme on track and ensure the operation's objectives are met. Considerable progress has been made - the assessment, the design of the new school structures and tendering process has now been all completed. The construction works are progressing well in Gawi, Joi Kalan and Abserni Baraqi.

However, there is a growing concern that the start of the construction work in Tolihaa and Almatuo might be further delayed due to approaching harsh Afghan winter season as the expected snowfalls might block the roads to the target areas and make them inaccessible. The sites are located in the remote and isolated mountainous area and roads are in very poor condition. The company contracted to carry out reconstruction of the schools in these areas fears the transportation of the construction materials to the sites will be impossible. The company suggests to construct mud structures instead of originally planned brick buildings with reinforced concrete roofs. Furthermore, disputes have arisen with the landowners of the school site at Tolihaa. Consultations are now ongoing to find a solution. The Federation/ARCS are exploring the possibility of finding alternative sites with the help of the local community.

Co-ordination

The Federation in Afghanistan maintains good relationships with ARCS and ICRC. Delegates regularly attend coordination meetings in Kabul and sub-delegations with ministry of public health and other government bodies, WHO, UNICEF, UNAMA and other UN agencies as well as NGOs involved in health and relief activities. On construction, the Federation/ARCS hold regular consultations with government authorities and other humanitarian actors in the disaster-affected area, particularly Swedish Committee, which is also involved in construction of schools in Nahrin.

Remaining challenges:

- Construct a new ARCS clinic in Lakankheil.
- Finalise the construction of five target schools in the earthquake affected areas.
- Continue offering much-needed health services to the vulnerable through the ARCS health clinic and mobile unit.
- Continue ARCS capacity building initiatives, strengthening its disaster preparedness and response capabilities in disaster prone areas.
- Replenish the distributed relief materials to the ARCS warehouse.

For further details please contact: Andrée Houle, Phone : 41 22 41 22 730 4316; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: houle@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at **<http://www.ifrc.org>**.*

John Horekens
Director External Relations

Simon Missiri
Head Asia Pacific Department

Afghanistan - Nahrin earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 10/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			02.11.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				2'921'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 77.9%
AMERICAN - RC		224	USD	361	14.05.2002	
CANADIAN - GOVT/RC CIDA/IHA		99'000	CAD	102'326	22.05.2002	
CYPRUS - RC				5'057	08.04.2002	
CHINA/HONG KONG - RC		150'000	HKD	32'001	10.04.2002	
DANISH - RC		1'715	USD	2'764	10.06.2002	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
JAPANESE - RC				1'170'865	04.06.2002	
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC		10'145'130	WON	12'773	11.04.2002	
KOREA REPUBLIC - RC				24'800	30.04.2002	
PRIVATE DONOR - KOREA REP.				2'257	23.07.2002	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	21'990	26.03.2002	
POLAND - RC		1'000	USD	1'656	04.04.2002	
PRIVATE DONORS				2'579	06.08.2002	
SLOVAK - RC		70'000	SKK	2'436	08.04.2002	
SWEDISH - GOVT		350'000	SEK	56'350	20.06.2002	RELIEF ITEMS REPLENISHMENT
SWISS - RC				80'000	06.08.2002	
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR		25'000	EUR	36'563	05.04.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'554'778	CHF	53.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		7'794	USD	12'562	14.05.2002	NEW EMERGENCY HEALTH KIT
DANISH - RC		46'300	USD	74'622	10.06.2002	10'020 BLANKETS, 1 RUBBHALL, TRANS . & INSUR.
JAPANESE - RC				558'785	04.06.2002	BASIC HEALTH CARE UNIT
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			28'912		
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			46'653		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				721'534	CHF	24.7%