

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

1 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 10/02; Operations Update no. 5; Period covered: July 2003 to December 2003; Appeal coverage: 100.4%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 12 April 2002 for CHF 2,921,000 for nine months to assist 80,000 beneficiaries.
- The appeal was revised in Operations Update no. 3 issued on 30 January 2003, with a reduced budget of CHF 2,235,984 and an extension of the operation to July 2003. A second revision was made in Operations Update no. 3 issued on 9 July 2003. The budget was changed to CHF 2,454,839, prolonging the operation to 31 December 2003. Operations Update no. 5 details a third revision with an extension of the operation of five months to 31 May 2004. The Final Report is therefore due on 31 August 2004.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Outstanding needs: None.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: 01.52/2003 Afghanistan

Operational Summary: Twenty-one months after an earthquake struck the market town of Nahrin and its surrounding areas, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) with support of the Federation is continuing its reconstruction efforts. Good progress has been made with the completion of three of five primary schools (with the remaining two virtually finished). The clinic construction is 68 percent complete. Unfortunately, work on both the school and clinic projects was halted in December 2003 due to harsh winter conditions. It is now estimated that the schools can be completed by the end of March and the clinic by the end of May 2004.

The ARCS temporary clinic, established during the first hours after the disaster struck, continues to offer valuable health services to the vulnerable population.

The operation carries over CHF 288,235 (contributed by the Japanese Red Cross Society) into 2004, to be used as follows: schools and clinic construction commitments, water wells, storage and transport, additional non-food items for disaster preparedness stocks and furniture/equipment for clinics.

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Background

Following the earthquake, which devastated the city of Nahrin in Baghlan province on 25 March 2002 killing 800 people 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 were Nahrin New and Old City, and the village of Jilga. Nahrin district has a population of approximately 10,000 families.

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

The emergency appeal has focused on recovery and rehabilitation for 80,000 beneficiaries affected by the earthquake.

Operational developments

The Afghan Red Crescent supported by the Federation, continues to contribute to the lengthy recovery of basic living standards for the people of Nahrin. It is continuing to provide much-needed health services through a field health clinic and a mobile health team. In addition, the overall capacity building of the national society is being enhanced, especially in the areas of disaster preparedness and response.

Due to operational constraints (see Operations Update nos. 3 and 4), the long cold winter and flooding in the area, delayed planned construction activities, resulting in the project having to be extended until the end of May 2004.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Health

The temporary emergency health clinic set up shortly after the earthquake in 2002 has continued to operate in Nahrin, staffed by a head doctor, male nurse, health educator and pharmacist.



New health clinic under construction

From July to the end of October 2003 the temporary clinic saw a total of 6,569 patients for consultation and treatment (average 13 per cent were children under the age of five years and 41 per cent women). The main health problems were related to respiratory tract infections and skin infections, caused as a result of poor living conditions. Since the beginning of the relief operation in 2002, the clinic has conducted a total of 24,192 consultations. Health education was offered to all on various topics including nutrition, diarrhoea prevention and mine awareness (see www.ifrc.org

Afghanistan 2003, web story "Tent clinic dispenses care to quake-hit Afghans"). The clinic will continue to provide the much needed health services and will relocate once the new permanent clinic construction is completed.

The new clinic under construction in Lakan Kheil, Aab Khana section of Nahrin district, 13 km west of Nahrin New City will serve 3,500 families. Lakan Kheil is one of the largest villages in Aab Khana section. Construction is in progress and 68 per cent of works were completed by early December 2003, when heavy snowfalls and freezing temperatures made it difficult to continue. The low temperatures and absence of facilities to continue construction in sub-zero temperatures meant work had to be halted. There was also an unavailability of an additive required to be added to cement in cold conditions to allow it to set properly and construction is expected to be completed by the end of May 2004.

From July until the end of October 2003, the mobile clinic operating out of Pul-i-Khumri in the Nahrin area saw 6,242 patients for consultation and treatment and offered health education. The main focus for the health messages was on hygiene and sanitation issues as well as respiratory tract infection, diarrhoea, birth spacing, worm infections, mine awareness and history of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Major health problems seen were diarrhoea diseases and respiratory tract infections. The mobile unit did not operate in Nahrin in November and December as it was engaged in other operations in the northern region of Afghanistan. To October 2003, the mobile clinic had conducted over 19,000 consultations.

Rehabilitation

The construction of three of the five schools has been completed with the remaining two very close to completion. The construction project has experienced a number of delays, including difficulties imposed by harsh weather conditions, as outlined in Operations Update no. 4.

In September 2003 a further issue arose with the construction company, which claimed an additional cost of USD 74,039 because of an under-estimation of the original bill for the quantities of materials. Construction halted while this matter was examined. The company offered to continue construction for the original amount but this would have meant the buildings would not have been completed. This happened despite the fact that all companies were advised, at the initial tendering stage and through the written tender advertisement document, to modify accordingly the bill of quantity if and when under/over estimation occurred. Upon examination of the claim, the ARCS/Federation confirmed the authenticity of the observations. It was also ascertained that the quoted prices were indeed the same as at the time of tendering and that the overall costs of the schools were still within the Afghanistan average construction prices of around USD140 per square metre. To avoid further delays of the project, a compromise was therefore agreed upon and the construction contract was extended to 31 December 2003.



Construction of new school buildings is almost complete

The quality of construction is among the highest of schools in the area. By December 2003, two six-classroom and one eight-classroom schools had been completed. Of the remaining two, construction work stopped due to winter conditions. However only painting work remains and this is expected to be completed by the end of March 2004 without any additional charges by the contractor.

Furniture for the schools has been procured through the Federation delegation's logistics department and locally through the ARCS planning department. Furniture has been delivered to the schools, currently conducting classes in temporary accommodation and tents.

Drilling of wells in Gawi and Joy Kalan is in progress and is being followed up by the Nahrin field officer and the Mazar sub-delegation.

Disaster Preparedness (DP)

Relief materials distributed by ARCS during the emergency phase have largely been replenished and some 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting and 10,000 blankets are stored at the national society warehouse in the northern region. This will significantly strengthen the Afghan Red Crescent disaster preparedness capacity and ensure rapid and effective response to similar disasters in the future.

Branch capacity in the disaster-prone areas has been strengthened with by technical assistance. This has included the provision of computers which will improve the branches' ability in reporting, stock recording, data collection and analysis. The delivery and handing over of the equipment to the branches was facilitated by the Federation Mazar office.

Telecommunications

The Federation delegation arranged a telecommunications network for the ARCS branch in Pul-i-Khumri. High frequency radio equipment has been already installed and the relevant staff trained in its use and maintenance. The network will enable the national society to receive timely information about disasters and better coordinate response activities. The branch in Pul-i-Khumri is a part of wider communication network supported by the Federation which will have strong impact on the ARCS disaster management capacity building. The telecommunication network will be linked to an emergency operational centre, which is being established at central level in Kabul.

National Society Capacity Building

The process of establishing a proper volunteering base in the earthquake affected area has continued.



Members of the Afghan Red Crescent's growing volunteer base

Approximately 100 volunteers trained in community based first aid in Nahrin cover 148 villages, all equipped with first aid kits. The volunteers pass health education and basic disaster preparedness messages to their communities and conduct disease prevention activities. The Afghan Red Crescent, supported by Federation, now has more than 15,000 volunteers trained in community based first aid and basic disaster preparedness across the country. An established volunteer base in the earthquake affected areas will form the basis for successful implementation of community based disaster preparedness activities which ARCS will expand in 2004.

The first group of trainers, including Afghan Red Crescent staff and volunteers from the northern region, were trained in community based disaster preparedness in Kabul Training was conducted by a staff-on-loan from the Nepal Red Cross Society.

Federation Coordination

The Federation/ARCS are among several humanitarian organisations conducting recovery and rehabilitation efforts in the quake-affected area. On construction issues, the Federation/national society holds regular consultations with government authorities and other agencies, in particular the Swedish Committee which is involved in construction of schools in Nahrin. The Federation/Afghan Red Crescent regularly attend coordination meetings in Kabul and sub-delegations with Ministries of Public Health, Education and other government bodies, as well as WHO, UNICEF, UNAMA and other UN agencies and non-governmental organisations involved in health and relief activities.

Remaining challenges:

- Completion a new ARCS clinic in Lakan Kheil and provision of furniture.
- Finalise the construction of two target schools in the earthquake affected area and supply the schools with basic furniture, water and sanitary facilities.
- Continue Afghan Red Crescent capacity building initiatives, strengthening its volunteer network in disaster-prone areas.

[*Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.*](#)

Afghanistan - Nahrin earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 10/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/02/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	2,235,984	TOTAL COVERAGE 100.4%
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
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
MALTESE - RC		723 02/12/2002
MONACO - RC	15,000 EUR	21,990 26/03/2002
POLAND - RC	1,000 USD	1,656 04/04/2002
PRIVATE DONORS		389 06/08/2002
SLOVAK - RC	70,000 SKK	2,436 08/04/2002
SWEDISH - GOVT	350,000 SEK	56,350 20/06/2002
SWISS - RC		80,000 06/08/2002
SWISS - PRIVATE DONOR	25,000 EUR	36,563 05/04/2002
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		1,553,311 CHF 69.5%

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, TRANSP. & INSUR.
JAPANESE - RC				558,785	04/06/2002	BASIC HEALTH CARE UNIT
JAPAN	DELEGATE(S)			46,653		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				692,622	CHF	31.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	

Project Summary Financial Statement by Appeal

All Donors.

Period: January of 2002 through December of 2003

Appeal: 10/02 - AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE (12/04/2002 - 31/12/2003)

Project	Opening	INCOME					EXPENDITURE								Closing	
		Voluntary Contributions.		Transfers	Other Income	Total Income	Supplies	Capital	Transport	PS Personnel	General Expenditure	Transfers	Provisions	Total Expenditure		
		Selected Donors	Others													
PAF507 - Afghanistan - Nahrin Earthquake	0	1,548,900	0	0	0	1,548,900	550,961	240,152	83,306	127,234	192,107	66,813	0	0	1,260,573	288,327
10/02	0	1,548,900	0	0	0	1,548,900	550,961	240,152	83,306	127,234	192,107	66,813	0	0	1,260,573	288,327
Grand Totals	0	1,548,900	0	0	0	1,548,900	550,961	240,152	83,306	127,234	192,107	66,813	0	0	1,260,573	288,327

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