

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: SPRING FLOODS

2 June 2005

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. 05EA005; Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 11 April to 22 May, 2005; Appeal coverage: 55.4%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 31 March 2005 for CHF 2,235,000 (USD 1,925,894 or EUR 1,451,770) for six months to assist 70,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000 has been reimbursed.
- **The appeal budget is hereby revised from CHF 2,235,000 down to CHF 1,648,032.**

Outstanding needs: CHF 734,814 (USD 915,358 or EUR 1,134,553)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Afghanistan annual appeal 05AA045](#);
[Severe winter appeal 05EA003](#)

Operational summary:

The spring floods emergency appeal was launched as part of the coordinated Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's contingency planning for floods in Afghanistan. The main focus of the appeal is the pre-positioning of non-food stocks in the five regions and mobilization of community-based first aid volunteers in communities threatened by flooding, as well as health and hygiene education.

Distribution of non-food items is carried out on the basis of needs assessments made by the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) staff in the regions, in view of the ongoing threat of flooding in various locations. So far, over one thousand flood-affected families have been assisted. Community-based first aid volunteers have been mobilized for deployment as needed, and the implementation of the hygiene component of the appeal is under preparation. This operation contains a strong national society capacity building component, specifically in the area of disaster management and logistics.

The threat of floods will remain high throughout the summer and more local flood interventions are expected to take place in the coming period.

The operational budget has been reduced from CHF 2,223,000 to CHF 1,600,000. Reductions have been made in the procurement of non-food items and construction of latrines, in view of the existing operational needs on the ground, as well as the funding outlook for the coming period.

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Standards in Disaster Response in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Background

Since the beginning of the year, an extraordinary winter has hit Afghanistan, resulting in heavy snowfall, avalanches and landslides throughout the country. On 21 February, the Federation launched the 'severe winter emergency appeal' (05EA003) to support ARCS in assisting the internally displaced population in Kabul, which was particularly affected by the cold weather conditions.

Harsh winter was followed by spring rains, which, together with melting snow, caused concerns over potential flooding throughout the country. ARCS, the Federation and ICRC have elaborated a floods contingency plan in order to mobilize all available resources and prepare for response as floods occur. Subsequently, this emergency appeal was launched on 31 March focusing on the pre-positioning of non-food items for 2,000 families in each of the five regions – Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar – bringing the total number of potential beneficiaries to 70,000 individuals.

As part of response preparedness efforts, ARCS volunteers and staff are conducting ongoing field monitoring and assessments to determine specific needs in the regions. While pre-positioning is ongoing, some relief items have already been distributed to the affected population, as elaborated below. In a follow-up to the severe winter emergency appeal, the Federation is continuing to provide technical support to the national society in disaster management issues and in the establishment of its logistics department.

One of the main constraints in the implementation of the operation remains the lack of efficient communication means, resulting in difficulties to gather accurate information through activity reports. Another great concern is the deterioration of the security situation throughout the whole country, which might hamper ARCS access to affected locations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action – operational developments

Overall objective: To alleviate the suffering of the population affected by floods, to provide immediate assistance to 10,000 families and to improve ARCS' capacity in disaster management and logistics.

Specific objective 1: To pre-position non-food items for 10,000 families at the five regional ARCS branches (Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar and Herat), organize continuous assessments of the situation, carry out distributions accordingly and procure goods for replenishment.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, most of ARCS, the Federation and ICRC's efforts have been focused on preparatory activities, including procurement and positioning of relief items in the regions, identifying beneficiaries, mobilizing staff and volunteers, and securing storage and transport facilities for the delivery of relief supplies. At the same time, the national society, in close consultation with the Federation delegation, is reviewing its current logistics and communication facilities to complement the Movement in addressing longer-term needs of the population in disaster-prone and most at risk areas. This includes initiatives to upgrade the ARCS vehicle fleet and mechanic workshop.

Potential suppliers have been identified for possible purchase of relief goods within the country. To hasten and facilitate the pre-positioning process, the Federation and ICRC have started strengthening ARCS storage capacities in the region. Three Rubb Halls (storage facilities) have been dispatched and installed in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif. Other warehousing facilities in all regions are still under assessment and best options are being looked at.

Whereas the procurement and pre-positioning of relief items are underway, the affected population has so far been assisted from the existing regional stocks. To date, seven ARCS branches responded to emergency situations

caused by floods and landslides. A total of 7,346 persons (1,049 families) received assistance, as per the table below .

Affected provinces	Number of beneficiaries		Type of assistance					
	Families	Individuals	Tents	Blankets	Plastic sheets	Kitchen Sets	Jerry cans	Pressure cookers
Farah	220	1,547	220	0	220	0	220	0
Ghor	255	1,785	0	2,500	500	0	0	500
Balkh	14	105	5	63	14	0	0	0
Badakhshan	50	350	30	350	0	0	0	0
Laghman	10	70	10	40	0	10	10	10
Urozgan	200	1,389	200	600	200	200	400	0
Jawzjan	300	2,100	105	0	0	300	300	0
Total	1,049	7,346	570	3,553	934	510	930	510

More than 70 volunteers – community-based disaster preparedness and community based first aid teams at district and branch levels – took part in these operations by providing first aid, conducting rapid assessments and relief distributions.

The original plan envisaged the procurement of 5,000 family tents, among other non-food and shelter items. This number has been revised to 2,000, taking into account a donation of 2,000 tents from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan to the national society, as part of the spring floods operation.

The beneficiary selection process is being undertaken in close collaboration with local government units (Department for Disaster Preparedness and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development). Families whose houses are completely destroyed are given first priority for non-food and shelter assistance. The number of affected people is expected to increase as the flooding season progresses. All provincial branches have been requested to use standardized reporting formats of the ARCS operation centre for the beneficiary registration process.

At national and regional levels, several coordination meetings were held between the Federation and ICRC managers to work on the mapping of resources, identification of beneficiaries, warehousing capacity and distribution arrangements.

The number of people affected by floods is likely to increase as the flooding season progresses. ARCS branches are on high alert and are closely monitoring the situation in their respective areas.

Specific objective 2: To carry out first aid activities and provide primary health care as an immediate response to the crisis.

Progress/Achievements

Since the launch of the emergency appeal, community-based first aid volunteers have been mobilized and sensitized to the eventuality of their deployment in the affected areas in case of flooding. To this date, community-based first aid volunteers participated in a survey coordinated by the local government's flood response unit in Ghazni and Logar provinces. In Ghazni, ARCS community-based first aid volunteers rescued 30 families by transferring them to safe areas. The emergency mobile units were put on alert but were not needed.

Specific objective 3: To provide basic sanitation facilities when appropriate and carry out hygiene promotion sessions to the beneficiaries at community level.

Progress/Achievements

Specific assessments of water and sanitation needs are currently underway in the regions. As part of preparatory activities, the procurement process for 7,500 family hygiene kits has been initiated. Each kit is composed of five toothbrushes, two tubes of toothpaste, one nail cutter, two towels, two hair combs and a bar of soap. The kits will be distributed in support of hygiene promotion sessions. Some 1,000 hygiene posters have been sent to regions also in support of the promotional activities.

The original plan to construct community latrines in the affected locations has been cancelled, mainly in view of the unstable security situation preventing access to more remote areas.

Specific objective 4: To improve ARCS' capacity in coordination, disaster preparedness and response and strengthen its logistics capacity.

Progress/Achievements

The Federation's disaster management department is providing continued technical support to its counterparts from ARCS at both headquarters and regional levels. The process of strengthening the national society's logistical capacity, initiated in the severe winter emergency appeal, is continuing through this operation.

In April, a regional disaster response team member from the Pakistan Red Crescent Society joined ARCS to provide assistance in the information management efforts of the operation. A standard data collection form and damage assessment form have been prepared for use at national level. Training on the use of these forms has begun for the headquarters staff. These efforts aim to address one of the main constraints in the implementation of the operation, i.e. poor and inadequate communication and activity reporting from the branches to the ARCS headquarters.

With regards to the upgrade of the ARCS' vehicle fleet and mechanic workshop, the national society and the Federation have signed a memorandum of understanding defining the roles, responsibilities and duties of both parties. In total, 17 trucks, six land cruisers and the workshop facilities will be repaired during the appeal period. Efforts have been taken to hasten the repair of the grounded trucks as soon as possible, in view of the need to use them for transport of stocks to the regions.

Federation coordination

The Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement flood task force meets regularly. The task force is responsible for drawing up plans of action and allocation of logistical resources as part of floods response preparedness.

The Federation and ARCS maintain close and regular cooperation with national and local government agencies and other humanitarian organizations. The national society is part of the national flood operation centre, together with the department for disaster preparedness and United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

ARCS has been assigned by the Afghan government to be the lead agency in the coordination of the distribution of non-food items as part of the floods operation. So far, this role involved the establishment of provincial floods response committees, together with local authorities, as well as mapping of available resources for relief distribution in the regions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and initiatives

Dissemination of Red Cross principles and humanitarian values is conducted by ARCS volunteers during the response phase. Volunteers are also raising the population's mine awareness, as the rising waters move mines from their original locations and thus increase the risks for local communities.

National society capacity building

As elaborated under the specific objective 4, the ARCS capacity building is an important component of the present appeal, focusing on disaster management and logistics. Further support is needed, mainly through the training of staff and volunteers at national and branch levels.

Communications – advocacy and public information

The severe winter emergency appeal has had a positive impact among the beneficiaries and has thus helped raise the ARCS image with the government, different stakeholders and the general public. The new national society leadership is committed to continuing this legacy, and rehabilitating the ARCS profile for the long term. Close contacts are being maintained with most national media.

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

REVISED BUDGET SUMMARY
AFGHANISTAN : Spring Floods - PAF554

Appeal No. 05EA005

	REVISED
TYPE	VALUE IN CHF
RELIEF NEEDS	
Shelter & constructions	611,205
Clothing & textiles	59,900
Food & seeds	
Water & sanitation	
Medical & first aid	65,911
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & tools	347,500
Other Relief Supplies	
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	1,084,516
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT	
Computers & telecom equipments	8,749
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	107,122
TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS	
Distribution & Storage	89,880
Transport & vehicle costs	87,527
PERSONNEL	
Expatriate staff	185,884
National staff	54,381
WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS	
External Workshops & Seminars	5,992
ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES	
Travel & related expenses	5,992
Information Expenses	5,992
Administrative & general expenses	11,997
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	563,516
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	1,648,032
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NETT REQUEST	1,648,032

Afghanistan - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA005

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/06/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

					TOTAL COVERAGE	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,648,032		55.4%
BRITISH - RC		50,000	GBP	109,050	31.03.05	RELIEF NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS
FINNISH - RC		40,000	EUR	61,500	13.05.05	
JAPANESE - RC		96,300	USD	109,012	14.04.05	
MONACO - RC		30,000	EUR	46,470	21.04.05	
NETHERLANDS - RC		128,342	EUR	198,802	07.04.05	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		878,749	NOK	166,084	24.05.05	
SWEDISH - RC		1,300,000	SEK	222,300	12.04.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				913,218	CHF	55.4%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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