

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

24 January 2006

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 183 countries.

In Brief

Appeal No. 05EA005; Operations Update no. 5; Period covered: 23 August 2005 to 15 January 2006; Appeal coverage: 111.5%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List](#))([click here for live update 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 an initial period of 6 months to assist 70,000 beneficiaries.
- Due to delays in procurement, the operation is extended through this operations update to 28 February 2006,
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 200,000 has been reimbursed.

Outstanding needs: Nil

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: [Afghanistan Severe Winter Appeal 05EA003](#), [Afghanistan Annual Appeal 2005 \(05AA045\)](#), [Afghanistan 2006-2007 appeal \(MAAAF001\)](#), [South Asia 2006-2007 appeal \(MAA52001\)](#)

Operational Summary:

This appeal was launched at the end of March 2005 to provide assistance to flood-affected people after heavy winter snow and rain. Non-food relief items were provided as planned, but the procurement process for the replenishment of utilized stocks has taken longer than expected and was also negatively affected by the reduced availability of some items after the Pakistan earthquake.

The highlights of the reporting period are:

- the replenishment of stocks
- ongoing support for the development of the Afghan Red Crescent's logistics department and fleet
- the provision of further community-based first aid and disaster preparedness training in the disaster-prone provinces of Badakhshan, Kunduz and Balkh
- a linked national disaster response team (NDRT) training, supported through the annual appeal, for headquarters and branch personnel
- some new relief activities in response to fresh floods in the north in December 2005.

The operation, originally targeted to end on 15 January, has to be extended to 28 February due to delays in procurement and some outstanding balance. The extended timeframe will be used for the receipt and distribution of the outstanding relief items, the procurement of some more tents, further refurbishment of the national society's fleet and national emergency operations centre, and the local purchase of some basic office equipment, all within the existing budget.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum 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

In early 2005, Afghanistan experienced severe winter conditions, which was followed by heavy rainfalls in mid-March resulting in flash-flooding across Afghanistan, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and livelihoods in the central highlands, the southern and north-eastern parts of the country. The spring floods emergency appeal (05EA005) was launched on 31 March, focusing on the pre-positioning of non-food items for 2,000 families in each of the five regional centres – Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif – targeting a total number of 70,000 potential beneficiaries.

During the reporting period, fresh floods occurred in the provinces of Balkh and Sur-i-Pul. On 27 December 2005, melting snow caused a flood that swept through the villages of Imam Saheb Khord and Nawabad Imam Saheb Khord and affected 22 families. Two days later, on 29 December, floods occurred in the village of Lal Maidan, in Sar-i-Pul province, damaging 30 houses, while in Dehdadi and Kart-i-Sujadia districts of Balkh province 28 and 100 families respectively were affected. Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), the World Food Programme (WFP) and local governmental disaster offices supported the affected families with food and non-food items. Then just a few days ago, ARCS provided assistance to 30 families affected by a mountain-slide in Gholdori village in a remote part of Sar-i-Pul, when 13 people were killed, 11 injured and 10 houses were either fully or partially destroyed. This assistance comprised 30 tents, tarpaulins and pressures cookers, plus some food items from ARCS's own stocks.



ARCS national disaster response team (NDRT) exercising in the field.

To ensure that the ARCS, at both national headquarters and branch levels, would be able to respond to emergency situations independently, the Federation conducted a successful national disaster response team (NDRT) training, funded through the annual appeal (05AA045), for 30 national society staff members and volunteers in December.

Operational developments

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

Emergency relief

Overall objective: To alleviate the suffering of the populations affected by the floods, provide immediate assistance to 10,000 targeted families and to improve the capacity of the ARCS 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, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif), organize continuous assessments of the situation, carry out distributions accordingly and procure goods for replenishment.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, the procurement of 10,000 blankets, 10,000 plastic tarpaulins, 10,000 jerry cans, 10,000 kitchen sets, and 10,000 coal stoves was in process. Blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans were obtained through the Federation secretariat's logistics department in Geneva, while the kitchen sets and coal stoves were procured locally, in order to boost the local economy. However, as the procurement of blankets, tarpaulins and jerry cans are still underway to Afghanistan, an extension is needed. It is estimated that all items will be obtained by the end of the appeal period.

Impact

To date, 10,151 affected families benefited from the distribution of non-food items from the spring floods and the recent flash floods.

This distribution has allowed the rebuilding of the ARCS capacity in terms of non-food item stocks which were exhausted by the severe winter operation and followed by the floods. Additionally, it provided the Red Cross Movement the opportunity to enhance its storage capacity throughout the country and to position the most needed relief items in all regions.

Constraints

The slow and limited communication between the branches and the national headquarters remains a major constraint in meeting the objectives.

The Pakistan earthquake in October also hampered the arrival of the 10,000 jerry cans, which were commandeered by the Pakistani government in Karachi and diverted to the Pakistan earthquake relief operation. This diversion has had a negative impact on the delivery of the items, causing unwarranted delays but efforts are underway to rectify the situation.

Specific Objective 2: To carry out first aid activities and provide primary health care as an immediate response to the crisis.**Progress/Achievements**

During the reporting period, three new community-based first aid (CBFA) and community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) volunteer workshops were conducted in the most disaster-prone areas of Badakhshan, Kunduz and Mazar provinces. These regions previously had no CBFA volunteers. In the future, these new volunteers will have disaster management (DM) and disaster preparedness (DP) training to extend their value to the communities during disasters.

Impact

The people of Afghanistan, as well as the authorities, have acknowledged the important work of the ARCS CBFA staff members and volunteers. Their routine work consists of saving lives every day, especially through first aid activities on site. It is also important to mention that the emergency mobile unit (EMU) activities during the disaster have proven to be very efficient.

A newly developed reporting, assessment and distribution formats have helped with improved communications between the headquarters and branches.

Constraints

The lack of efficient communication has been improved with the use of mobile phones and the emergency centre. However, continued work needs to be done in this area.

Specific Objective 3: To provide basic sanitation facilities when appropriate and carry out hygiene promotion sessions to the beneficiaries at community levels**Progress/Achievements**

The ARCS DM department, together with the CBFA volunteers, have managed to complete the distribution of 10,000 hygiene kits to the most affected beneficiaries in all five regions. Each kit consisted of five toothbrushes,

two tubes of toothpaste, a nail cutter, two towels, two hair combs and a bar of soap. This activity was successfully completed in full by the end of December.

Impact

The distribution of hygiene kits has improved the overall health situation of the affected people, helping reduce incidences of infections and disease, as well as teaching them about ailment prevention.

Constraints

The main constraint remains the security instability throughout the country. Federation delegation staff members have been very restricted in travelling to the communities to supervise and monitor the distributions.

Specific Objective 4: To improve the capacity of the ARCS in coordination, disaster preparedness and response and strengthen its logistics capacity.**Progress/Achievements**

According to the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ARCS and the Federation, the logistics capacity has been strengthened and the ARCS fleet capacity has been upgraded. Support was provided to repair six Land Cruisers, while ten different vehicles were partially repaired and completed and a small part of remaining spare parts will be used for the future small repairs. The ARCS logistics workshops have been equipped with the machinery for the fleet workshop and with tools for engine repair, a drilling cylinder machine, a rasping machine, cranes and with workshop tool complex.

The Federation delegation's logistics department worked daily with the ARCS logistics and transport departments, and has conducted several trainings in managing and erecting Rubb halls (temporary warehouse tents) as well as in warehousing management during the reporting period.

Impact

The Federation delegation's logistics department has continued to support, develop and improve the ARCS logistics capacity, which has allowed daily trainings and mentoring process to be monitored during the reporting period. Usage of ARCS fleet is cheaper when compared with the local market.

Constraints

Despite the upgrading of the ARCS fleet management, the lack of trucks caused setbacks during the operation and further support is needed.

Federation coordination

The Federation delegation, through Afghan Red Crescent, maintains close and regular consultation with the national and local government agencies and other humanitarian organizations on various sectors of relief activities.

The Movement flood response task group, both at national and regional levels, played a key role in coordinating emergencies throughout the country. In Kabul, the Movement task force met regularly and drew up plans of actions and allocated the necessary logistical needs in response to the spring floods disaster. The national society coordinated with other organizations, United Nations agencies, government disaster management unit and many other actors.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – principles and initiatives

As mentioned above, the response to this emergency crisis was being organized from a Movement perspective where the Afghan Red Crescent, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Federation closely cooperated and shared the available material, human and financial resources.

Dissemination of Red Cross Principles and humanitarian values were provided during the response phase through ARCS volunteers as well as of mine awareness as the flood waters considerably augmented the risks of mines.

National Society capacity building

Despite good donor response to the appeal, more work still needs to be done in the assessment capacity of the ARCS as well as to initiate disaster response training at national and branch levels.

The capacity building of the national society remains an important component of the present appeal, concentrating in strengthening its capacity in DM and logistics.

Communications – advocacy and public information

Through this operation and other disaster activities, the ARCS has benefited from a positive image among governmental authorities, different stakeholders and the public. Close contacts are being maintained with the major Afghan media agencies. A wide and positive coverage is being ensured.

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

Afghanistan - floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05EA005

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1,648,032		TOTAL COVERAGE 111.5%
BRITISH - RC		50,000	GBP	109,050	31.03.05	RELIEF NEEDS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS
ECHO		570,000	EUR	889,485	30.08.05	
FINNISH - RC		40,000	EUR	61,500	13.05.05	
ICELANDIC - RC		250,000	ISK	4,900	26.08.05	
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	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		154,201	NOK	30,455	31.10.05	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - RC		1,300,000	SEK	222,300	12.04.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,838,058	CHF	111.5%

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	