

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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

AFGANISTAN: FLOODS

21 January 2004

Information Bulletin N° 01/04

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

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 180 countries.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

This document is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The Situation

On 17 January, heavy rainfall in the Heart region of western Afghanistan resulted in floods that damaged some five hundred houses and affected thousands of families. The rains, which started on 16 January, persisted for three days and triggered water levels to rise in the River Koul, which in turn affected three villages in Ghazara and En gil districts.

A joint assessments conducted by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), various UN agencies (including the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and the World Health Organisation), as well as the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Rehabilitation and Rural Development (MRRD) estimated that the disaster had affected five hundred families and damaged two hundred houses. No human casualties were reported, though some livestock has been lost.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Shortly after the floods the ARCS deployed volunteers, emergency mobile (health) teams, and also opened relief goods collection centres for those affected by the disaster.

Flood damage to about forty thousand hectares of agricultural land has identified the need for long-term rehabilitation activities in the province. A plan of action to support affected areas was developed by a disaster management team and tasks assigned to agencies as follows:

- ARCS/Federation - rice, cooking oil, tents, blankets and kitchen sets
- WFP - food items for two months
- MSF - jerry cans and water supply rehabilitation
- UNHCR - plastic sheeting

The ARCS has been recognised by UN agencies and international non-government organisations as the focal point for disaster response activities in the country's western region, and relief operations for the floods commenced on 20 January.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

Afghanistan; Floods, Information Bulletin no. 01

For further details please contact:

- *The Afghan Red Crescent Society in Kabul; Alhaj Qrabi Izidyar, President/Secretary General; phone: +93 70 258 222*
- *Ali Hassan Quoreshi, Head of Delegation, Afghanistan, email: hod.kabuldel@wireless.ifrc.org, phone: +873 382 280 530/mobile: +93 70 278 372*
- *Jagan Chapagain, Regional Officer, Geneva, Phone +41 22 730 4316; Fax 41 22 733 0395; email: jagan.chapagain@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.

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

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.