

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

AFGHANISTAN: EARTHQUAKE

13 December
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

This Bulletin (no. 1/2005) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time. [click here to view a map of the affected area](#)

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

An earthquake of magnitude 6.7 on the Richter scale struck in the north-eastern Afghanistan province of Badakhshan at 0217 local time on 13 December, 2005 (21:47 12 December GMT). The epicentre was located in the mountainous Hindu Kush region, 95 kilometres south east of Faizabad, in an area which is sparsely populated and to date there have been no confirmed deaths.

The Afghanistan Federation delegation has received reports of 80 houses being damaged in Badakhshan province but there are no casualty figures available. There are reports of three injuries in Jalalabad city, approximately 230 kilometres to the south.

The quake was felt across Pakistan and as far away as New Delhi, India. In neighbouring North West Frontier Province in Pakistan, which is recovering from the devastating 8 October earthquake, Pakistan Red Crescent/Federation relief teams operating in the border areas of Besham, Kohistan and the Allai Valley, have no reports of casualties or damage, as yet.

The United States Geological Survey recorded the quake at a depth of 228 kilometres. The great depth and the fact the epicentre was not in a densely populated area indicate the effects of the quake are not likely to be significant. This is in stark contrast to the twin quakes of 1999 in Badakhshan province which were 6.1 and 6.9 respectively on the Richter scale. Their depths were only 33 kilometres and claimed 7,200 lives and affected 192,000 people. An earthquake in Baghlan province immediately to the west of Badakhshan province killed 800 people in 2002.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

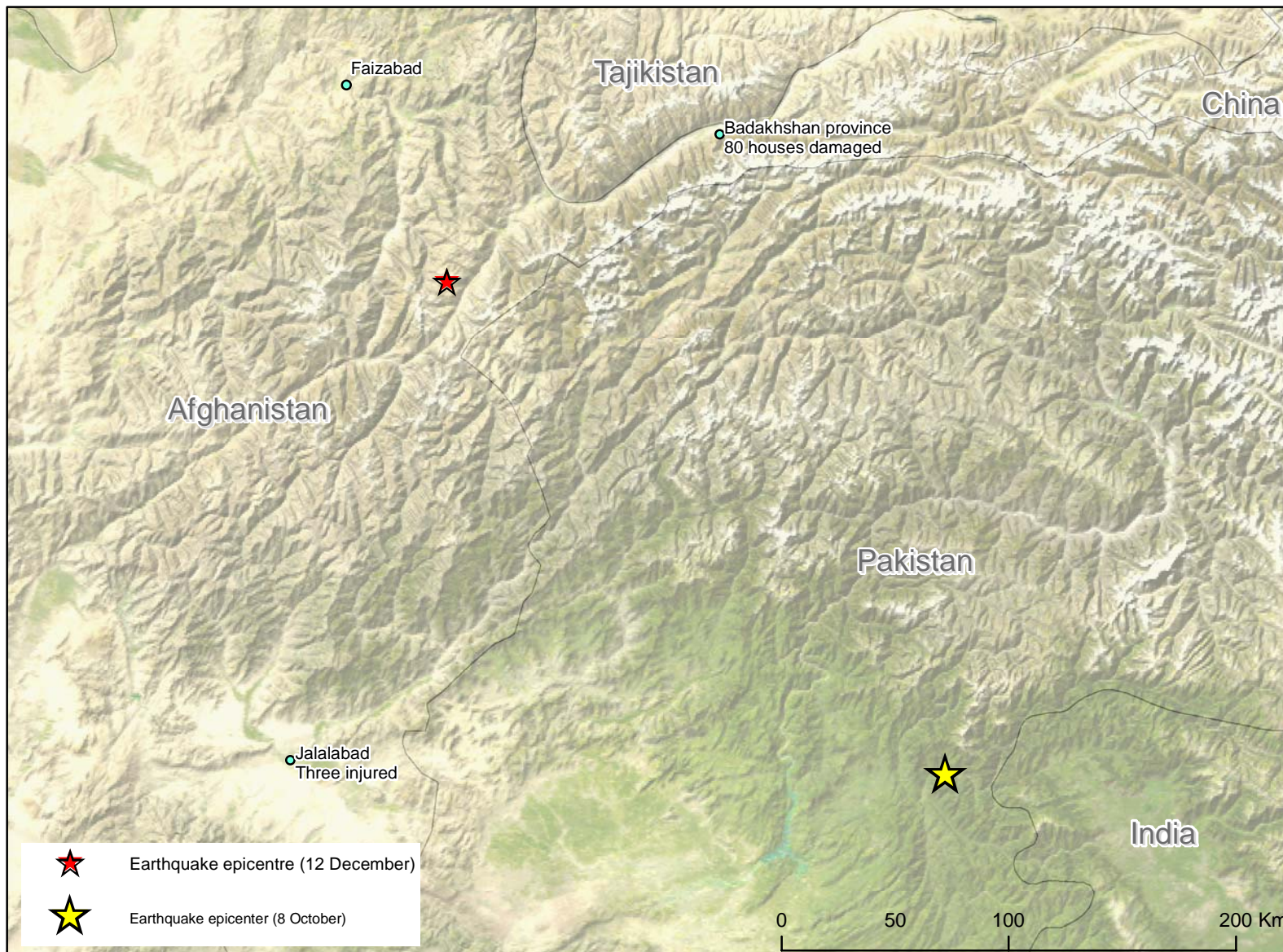
The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society and Afghanistan country delegation are monitoring the situation and liaising with various government and UN agencies and the ICRC which is operational in Badakhshan province. Due to the remote nature of the affected area, detailed assessments of the damage have yet to be received.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society and Pakistan country delegation likewise are gathering information from a variety of sources, including relief teams in the field.

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Afghanistan: Earthquake



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