

AFGHANISTAN FLOOD RESPONSE 2014
FARYAB, SAR-I-PUL, JAWZJAN, BALKH PROVINCES
SITUATION REPORT #1 29TH APRIL 2014



Children of Chobash Turkmania in northern Afghanistan use blankets provided by Save the Children on 25th April 2014. Save the Children estimate that at least 25,000 children are affected in the flash floods, that struck on the evening of 24th and 25th April 2014. (Credit: Save the Children)

OVERVIEW

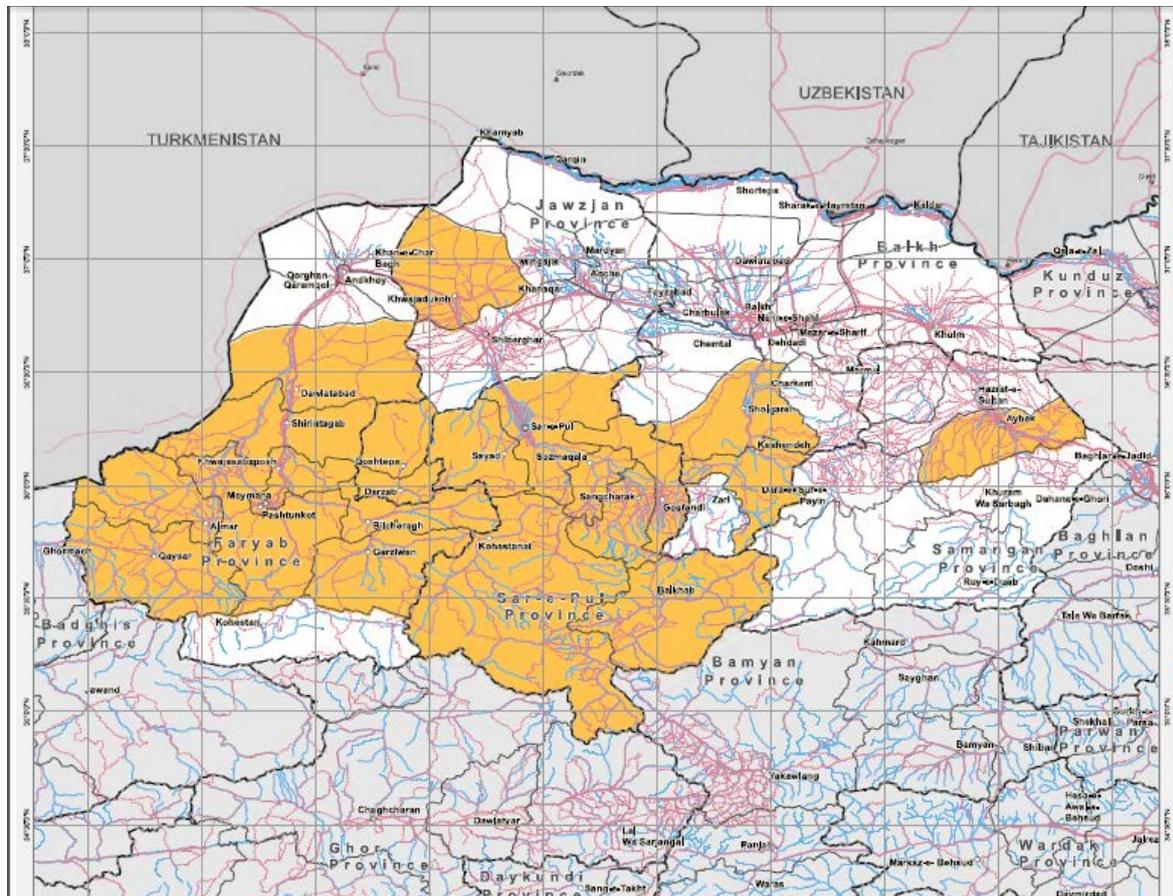
On the evening of 24th and 25th April 2014, flash floods triggered by heavy rains and melting ice in northern Afghanistan killed at least 123 people [Faryab province: 33 persons; Jawzjan province: 80 persons Sari Pul province: 10 persons], many of them children. The provincial disaster management agencies and government provincial offices report that 23 districts have been affected, in provinces of Faryab, Sar I Pul, Jawzjan, Balkh, Samangan and Badghis (9 in Faryab, 7 in Sar I Pul, 3 in Jouzjan, 1 in Balkh, 1 in Samangan and 2 in Badghis).

Initial information (not yet confirmed) shows over 7000 or 49,000 individuals have been affected by flood, 1000 houses are completely destroyed and at least 200 people still missing. Additionally, 1,000 animals were reported killed, and around 20,000 hectares of agriculture/horticulture, 22 mills, 25 water storage, 34 shops, 130 wells, 194 canals and 3 bridges were destroyed as a result of the floods.

Reports indicate that the flood will have significant impact on access to basic services, such as clinics, schools and markets. Many children in these areas are already live in poverty and are vulnerable. The impact of this flood could significantly worsen their situation. With losses in food stores, crops and livestock, it could lead to a spike in malnutrition in an area with already

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high malnutrition rates. This could have a permanent impact on a child's mental and physical development, further decreasing their chances of breaking the poverty cycle.



The provincial disaster management agencies have been regularly conducting coordination meetings in all provinces and a joint assessment team has been established. Save the Children teams are members of response and coordination in 4 provinces of Faryab, Sar I Pul, Jouzjan and Balkh, where we are currently running programs.

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S INITIAL FINDINGS AND RESPONSE

Save the Children is currently working on a multi-agency rapid assessment that will identify the major needs of families that have been affected or displaced by the disaster. Through an initial rapid needs assessment, the children's aid agency reports that families need food, water, shelter, search for dead bodies, rescue for families that have been cut off, health services and latrines.

Due to the close proximity of warehouses from the affected areas, Save the Children were one of the first aid agencies on the ground, delivering bread, drinking water and blankets within the first 24 hours of the disaster. Following that, other life-saving essential items were also provided to families in the provinces of Faryab, Sar-I-Pul, Jawzjan and Balkh; these include tarpaulin, household items, hygiene kits and Patoos (light blankets). Overall, at least 7,000 people have been reached since 25th April 2014.

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In the coming weeks, Save the Children plans to deliver the following to affected children and families:

- Non-Food Items: Distribution of blankets, tarps, shelter tools, household kits, clothes (shoes and socks) using our existing warehouse material funded by OFDA
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Hygiene education and distribution of hygiene kits
- Livelihoods: Cash-for-work programs for most vulnerable to clean the affected houses, clear agricultural lands and roads, which are crucial for families to regain access to basic services such as school and health clinics, and local markets.
- Education: Distribution of school kits and where possible set up temporary learning spaces (TLS).
- Child Protection in Emergencies: Reunification of separated children and referral to services such as health, education, legal and psychosocial support.

Within a four-month period, Save the Children aims to reach over 14,000 people, including 8,400 children.

KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES

- About 25,000 children have been affected in the flash floods that hit northern Afghanistan, destroying homes, agricultural land, markets, schools and other infrastructure.
- Children and families living in these areas are already poor and extremely vulnerable. The level of damage and destruction means children could be without a roof over their heads, hot food from their homes and a blanket at night to make them feel warm and safe.
- Affected children families need urgent support. Without functioning homes, latrines and clean drinking water, the level of hygiene in these areas can deteriorate causing the spread of diseases. Without sufficient nutritious food, it could result in a spike in the number of malnourished children in an area where malnutrition rates are already higher than the national average.

SAVE THE CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN

Save the Children has been working in Afghanistan since 1976. The children's aid agency responds to all major humanitarian crises in the country, natural or man-made. In 2013 alone, Save the Children responded to 36 small-scale disasters that affected Afghanistan, reaching over 1.13 million beneficiaries within that time. We currently implement programs in 15 of 34 provinces, either directly or through partners, reaching more than five million children in 2013.