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# DREF Operation Final Report

## Afghanistan: Drought

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation final report</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRAF004</b>
<b>Date of Issue: 27 June 2019</b>	<b>Glide number: <a href="#">DR-2018-000052-AFG</a></b>
<b>Date of disaster: April 2018</b>	
<b>Operation start date: 1 November 2018</b>	<b>Operation end date: 1 April 2019</b>
<b>Host National Society(ies): Afghan Red Crescent Society</b>	<b>Operation budget: CHF 265,185</b>
<b>Number of people affected: 2.2 million</b>	<b>Number of people assisted: 14,000 (2,000 families)</b>
<b>N° of National Societies involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) actively supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in carrying out the operation. ARCS is also working with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies (PNS) with presence in Afghanistan (Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent Society).	
<b>N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation:</b> <b>(i) Government ministries and agencies:</b> Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs), Department for Rural Rehabilitation and Development <b>(ii) UN agencies:</b> OCHA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, UN Children's Fund   UNMAS, UN <b>(iii) International NGOs:</b> Action Against Hunger, Afghan Aid, Community World Service Asia, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees, Dutch Relief Alliance, Danish Refugee Council - Danish Demining Group, Handicap International, Human Resource Development Agency, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Organization for Humanitarian and Development, Organization of Human Welfare, Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale, Relief International, Save the Children International, Solidarités International, Shanti Volunteer Association, Welthungerhilfe.	

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

Afghanistan's climate can be characterized by hot and dry summers and cold winters. Most of the annual precipitation takes place in the northern region in the form of snow. Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, snow avalanches, landslides and droughts due to its geographical location and years of environmental degradation. Climate change is also posing a threat to the country's people and ecosystems. Climate change predictions such as changing temperature and precipitation pattern might lead to extreme weather event such as drought and flash floods. Changing weather is also affecting the productivity of agriculture, of which most Afghans depend on for their livelihoods, causing food security problem. Most areas in Afghanistan have experienced between four to six consecutive seasons of far below average rainfall over the last three years. This has resulted in significant reductions in snow depths, river flows, water level in dams, water tables, and soil moistures. In July 2018, the Famine Early Warning System (FEWS) reported that 22 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan, its cumulative rain and snowfall during October 2017 to May 2018 was 30 to 60 per cent below average. These conditions have already negatively and irreversibly impacted the agricultural season in Afghanistan. In addition, due to four decades of war and lack of planned development and adequate management of natural resources, deforestation enhances the impact of dry spells and drought. Repeated cycles of drought and verging on pre-famine conditions in many areas have increased vulnerabilities, resulted in the loss of crops, livelihoods and livestock, and weakened purchasing power.

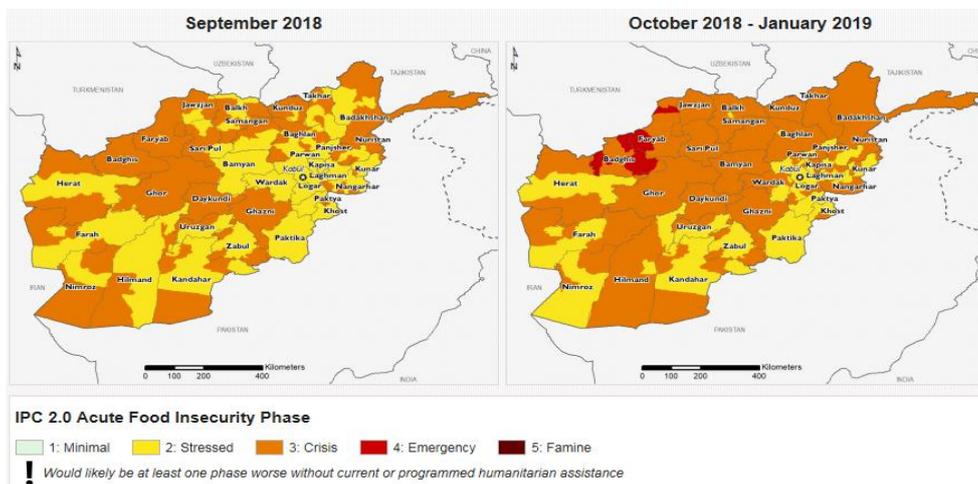
According to the data presented by OCHA on 13 September 2018, the drought affected IDPs were estimated at 266,000. 84,000 of them are settled in Herat, and 182,000 within Badghis, their province of origin. In October 2018, more than 84,000 people have been displaced to Herat city and 18,579 families (94,945 people) have been displaced to Qala-e-Naw City (capital of Badghis province). IDPs are residing in dozens of sites on the outskirts of the cities, or in makeshift shelters within the main cities. This makes it more difficult to reach them in a smaller number of catchment areas.

Four years of failed rains have led to massive loss of livelihoods for millions of Afghans in the northwestern provinces. Ninety-five per cent of the population there rely on agriculture, livestock and crops to survive. People have been left without enough food to feed their families. The upcoming severe winter months will likely deteriorate their situation. Temperature in these areas has already dropped close to zero degrees at night, the coming weeks will really be testing for the drought affected families with freezing conditions, potentially resulting into winter related sickness and potential deaths. On 16 October 2018 the United Nations' Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) have released funds to support people affected by a severe drought.

The overall response in drought-affected communities has been hampered by the access restrictions caused by security concerns. Humanitarian actors, including the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement, have had very limited access in the past three months. For instance, Ghazni City was attacked by an armed opposition group (AOG) which took control of the locality straddling the highways. An ensuing fight resulted in displacement and deaths, including of civilians. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has reported that there were 210 civilian casualties during the month of August 2018. In addition, the RCRC Movement encountered access limitations following a declaration by an AOG in mid-August that security guarantees given to RCRC operation in Afghanistan would be withdrawn. This resulted in restricted personnel movement and reduced operational capacity pending dialogue to address concerns of the AOG. After weeks of dialogue, security guaranties to the RCRC Movement were restored on 14 October 2018. These developments have now set the pace for RCRC Movement partners to gradually resume activities, including to roll out interventions in support of communities affected by food insecurity. In this context, DREF was requested by the NS to support drought affected population in Herat and Badghis and IFRC country office launched a DREF.. Beyond that DREF support, a scaled-up response, utilizing other established resource mobilization channels, were envisioned.

Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET) reports in October 2018, alarmed that in the absence of adequate humanitarian assistance for drought affected communities the severity of drought is likely to be one step worst in most part of the country in coming months. Resulting in the further expansion of crises situation in north, northwest, central and south-central provinces and that started the emergency phase in northwestern provinces of the country. People in these areas were expected to face more challenges to meet their consumption requirements until the next year spring harvest. The onset of severe winter also created a large food deficit for the worst affected households, and the drought affected population is critical need of food and livelihood assistance during this lean season. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes present throughout Afghanistan due to declining purchasing power, disruption of normal livelihoods due to conflict, and poor rainfed staple performance and contributed to the increased food assistance needs as compared to recent years. Poor household dependent on rainfed wheat production, particularly in northern, northeastern, and northwestern areas, expected to experience difficulty meeting consumption requirements until next year's spring harvest. The worst-affected households were likely experience Emergency (IPC Phase 4) as large food deficits emerge with the onset of winter.<sup>1</sup>

Households started preparing for the winter wheat planting season in October 2018. The area planted for winter wheat was anticipated to be higher than last year due to the increased likelihood of El Niño. Due to the forecasted El Niño, there was an increased likelihood of average to above-average precipitation during the 2018/19 wet season however, there remains a large spread of possible precipitation outcomes for the season.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://fewsn.net/central-asia/afghanistan/key-message-update/september-2018>

<sup>2</sup> ibid

FEWSNET projected food assistance outlook for the lean season Dec 2018 - April 2019 (issued on 30 Sep) says “Below-average precipitation in most areas and drought in northern parts of the country has negatively impacted wheat production, livestock body conditions, and labor opportunities. Large areas of the country are anticipated to experience Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in February at the peak of the lean season. In the worst-off drought-affected areas, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are anticipated”.

## Summary of response

### Overview of Host National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) remain vigilant and have been monitoring the situation since the start of dry spell. ARCS is in close coordination with Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). Observing the gravity of the situation in September and October 2018, ARCS headquarter requested all 34 provincial branches to submit primary information reports regarding drought situation in their respective provinces. ARCS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated to coordinate with relevant stakeholders and update on the situation on regular basis. ARCS started coordination meetings with in country movement partners, since May 2018.

Based on the primary information reports from the branches ARCS developed its draft response plan and conducted an access mapping in the affected provinces. The access mapping was shared with movement partners as well for their comments and input. ARCS is also coordinating with clusters and national disaster management authorities. ARCS has developed a very initial response plan for drought 2018 and is committed to provide humanitarian assistance in the areas where unmet emergency needs have been identified by the Inter Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and ARCS provincial branches. ARCS drought response plan is to meet the immediate needs of 105,000 drought affected people (15,000 families) in the areas of food, nutrition, livelihood, health, WASH and emergency shelter. Tentative timeline for ARCS drought response is one year starting from August 2018 to July 2019.

ARCS drought response plan is flexible to adapt the changing needs and access situation, two major contributors to update ARCS response plans are; continuous need assessment: needs and unmet needs are changing on ground due to evolving nature of drought and changes in available resources with humanitarian actors. Continuous Access monitoring: On ground access is frequently changing due to unpredictable security situation in the country and ongoing fight between Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF).

An update of ARCS drought response as of 02 October 2018 is given below:

Sector	Intervention	People reached
Emergency shelter	Provided family tents to drought affected IDPs in Herat and Badghis Provinces. (366 in Herat and 656 in Badhis).	7,168 people (1,024 families)
Emergency Health Services	ARCS has deployed one Mobile Health Team (MHT) providing medical treatment to IDPs in an IDP settlement in east of Herat since Aug 2018.	2,863 people (866 male and 1,997 female)
WASH	Provided dignity kits to drought affected IDPs in Herat and Badghis Provinces. (527 in Herat and 1,000 in Badghis) <i>ARCS dignity kit content includes: 1 blanket, 1 tooth brush, 1 tooth paste, 2 pieces of soap, 1 scarf for women, 3 pieces ladies underwear, sanitary pad 3 packs of 10 pieces each</i>	1,527 people (females)
<b>Total people reached by ARCS</b>		<b>11,558 people</b>

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In addition to IFRC and ICRC, other Movement partners with presence in Afghanistan are the Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent Society. The IFRC maintains a country office that is located at the ARCS headquarters. The office has international and national staff specializing in various programming sectors and support services who have been supporting ARCS in its drought response starting from monitoring the situation to response intervention up till now. The head of country office is liaising with the leadership of ARCS in providing overall direction to the possible response. The delegation’s technical staff are supporting their respective ARCS counterparts in line with the role of the secretariat to the IFRC membership. Support provided by the IFRC country office to ARCS extends to information management, coordination with Movement and external partners, including attending coordination meetings with government agencies and UN Clusters.

A regular movement coordination mechanism already exists in Afghanistan and it will continue to function. ARCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the drought response operation. Supporting movement partners will continue augmenting ARCS efforts, taking into account agreed engagement processes. The security management framework applies in its present form for all partners. In line with its mandate and complementary to the above-mentioned agreement, the IFRC will undertake its roles in a manner coherent with the principles and rules for the Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian assistance.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A drought emergency task force has been set up by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to coordinate and align the response across all sectors, including education, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security and agriculture. As per a press release by UN OCHA on 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2018, the United Nations' Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) and Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) have allocated \$34.6 million in emergency aid to support 2.2 million people affected by a severe drought. Earlier this year on 31 May, Afghanistan Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) revised the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2018-2021) due to the drought situation in the country. The revised Afghanistan humanitarian response plan has a 27 percent increase in financial requirements on the original appeal and is directly attributed to the incorporation of drought-related requirements comprising the food security and agriculture, WASH and nutrition sectors. Altogether, funding requirements were increased by \$117 million. UN Clusters are already active in the country the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), WASH, Nutrition, Health, Protection, and Emergency Shelter Non-Food Items (ES-NFI) clusters under ICCT are actively engage in current drought response in the county.

More than 690,000 people have been reached under the prioritized, integrated response plan that targets 1.4 million people by the end of February 2019.

Region	Targeted	Reached*	FSAC	WASH	ES-NFI	Nutrition	Health	Protection
Northern Region	490,968	219,857	94,087	175,500	-	681	39,500	-
Southern Region	256,039	91,991	28,000	40,900	-	462	33,000	-
Western Region	649,462	379,116	172,291	220,400	51,493	14,478	204,500	9,391
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,396,469</b>	<b>690,964</b>	<b>294,378</b>	<b>436,800</b>	<b>51,493</b>	<b>15,621</b>	<b>277,000</b>	<b>9,391</b>

ARCS participate in all coordination meetings in clusters, technical working groups Health, WASH, Shelter & NFIs and Cash Working Group etc. including in government led or other humanitarian organisations meetings. Other agencies implementing humanitarian activities related to the drought response includes UN Agencies: WFP, UNDP, UNOCHA, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, IOM and other INGOs implementing water and sanitation activities while Save the Children, OXFAM, ACF, ACTED, Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils are implementing nutritional support projects through health centres and food assistance through Cash-based interventions.

## Needs analysis and scenario planning

Afghanistan is in the midst of a drought, the scale of which has not been seen since 2011. It has already resulted in some 266,000 people being displaced in western Afghanistan. These displaced families are from Badghis, Daykundi, Herat and Ghor provinces and most of them currently live in displacement sites in Herat city and in displacement sites scattered in and around the provincial capital of Badghis, Qala-e-Naw.

In 2017, wheat production was at an all-time low (57 per cent under the five-year average) and the expected shortfall in production in 2018 is decreasing further - from 4.2 million metric tonnes to 3.5 million metric tonnes. This decrease is impacting some two million already food insecure people across two thirds of Afghanistan. Their biggest concern is availability of food: both the families who received cash for food or in-kind food rations since they arrived in Herat city, report that they have ran out of food. The majority of them has not been able to find livelihood opportunities, other than sending children to work, beg or collect trash and women to clean or wash clothes for households in the city. With the little money they make, they maintain a diet of bread and tea as they are unable to buy fruit, vegetables or meat. Many of the families who received cash to buy food, paid debts or for health services, or bought material for their makeshift shelters, leaving them unable to buy sufficient food. While some displaced families are expected to return voluntarily to areas of origin ahead of the planting season in October-December, those that remain at the displacement sites will require integrated assistance, including support to survive the harsh winter conditions. Efforts are ongoing to scale up assistance in areas of origin, particularly food assistance. Timely pre-positioning and distribution is critical, as physical access will become difficult with the onset of rain and snow.

Most of the provinces are already affected by the protracted conflict and recently drought, people are living in poor shelter without enough basic service. Based on the initial assessment carried out by ARCS teams concluded that the drought jeopardize household food, nutrition and economic security, calling into question their ability to meet their basic needs in the coming months and invest in their livelihoods to recover from the last failed agricultural season. Thus, the priority needs of affected households lie in the coverage of immediate food needs, and livelihood restoration intervention.

In most of the area agriculture land affected by protracted drought and left people with more vulnerability. Households delayed planting in many areas, and in some areas, rain-fed winter wheat was not planted due to soil moisture deficits carried over from the 2018 drought, according to FEWS. The sharp reduction in agricultural production and the depletion of food reserves are increasing the dependence of families on the purchase of food in the market, in a context of the

rising prices of local products. Normally most people's food sources come from their own agricultural or livestock production and purchase. The assessment teams already noted the adoption by households of coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals and quantities prepared, leading to an early deterioration of the food situation. During interviews, the affected population highlighted the early deterioration of the nutritional status of children as well as the increase during 2018 of malnutrition related diseases with children, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), such as anaemia, measles and fever, due to lack of adequate food and access to other basic needs.

According to the Emergency Food Security Assessment conducted in October 2018 reveals that an estimated 92 per cent of farmers have reported no seed availability for the next planting season. Further, 48 per cent of pastoralists reported reduced livestock productive. Referring to the FEWS outlook, many drought-affected households were selling their livestock in unusual high quantities due to the need for cash and due to inability to properly care for the animals such as fodder availability. The prioritization of needs by households (food purchase on the market) has increased the debt and early sale of productive assets, also reducing the possibility of investing in agricultural inputs and livestock for the 2018 crop year.

### Targeting

The ARCS broader drought response plan was to meet the immediate needs of 105,000 drought affected people (15,000 families) in the areas of food, nutrition, livelihood, health, WASH and emergency shelter. Tentatively in following 24 Districts in nine provinces commonly prioritized by ICCT, ARCS branches and available assessment reports.

Region	Province	Districts
Northern	Balkh	Chemtal
	Faryab	Almar, Bilcheragh, Dawlat Abad
	Jawzjan	Khanaqa, Khwaja Dukoh, Qush Tapa, Shiberghan
	Samangan	Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrat-e-Sultan
	Sar-e-Pul	Gosfandi, Sancharak, Sar-e-Pul, Sozmaqala
Southern	Kandhar	Shah Wali Kot, Zheray
	Nimroz	Chakhansur, Kang
Western	Badghis	Ab Kamari, Bala Murghab, Jawand, Qala-e-Naw
	Herat	Hirat, Kushk-e-Kuhna

However, the DREF operation complemented to ARCS broader response plan and supported the drought emergency need assessment in north and west regions and food assistance for 2,000 families (14,000 people) in Herat and Badghis provinces.

### Risk Analysis

A risk assessment done by the country office in January 2018 noted that security issues restrict field access by international staff at one time or the other, but it is not anticipated that these will hamper the smooth implementation of the operation. Because it is recognized for its neutrality, impartiality and independence, ARCS – as a local agency – with acceptance across Afghanistan has staff and volunteers present in every province across the country, with direct access to communities. The National Society is able to operate and has on-going operations in Afghanistan where they are running the integrated health care programme, WASH, disaster risk reduction; volunteer management and current response and relief activities of drought affected population in different regions that cater for the settled, remote and nomadic communities and people provided with food and non-foods relief items with their available resources. Therefore, the National Society has utilised its capacity and extensive experience in implementing projects in complex emergency and drought affected areas.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Proposed strategy

#### Overall Operational Objective

The objective of the drought response DREF operation was to meet the immediate needs of 14,000 affected people (2,000 families) in Herat and Badghis provinces through provision of food assistance and emergency need assessment in drought affected regions. This DREF in a first stage contributed to ARCS broader drought 2018 response operation to support 15,000 families (tentatively) and IFRC country office under its operational plan and ARCS through national resource mobilising for drought response. At broader level, the operation contributed to ongoing humanitarian efforts for drought affected people. That include encourage them to stay or return to their places of origin and actively engaged in this cultivation season through provision of food assistance at their places of origin. These efforts need for repeated distribution of food assistance for coming five to six months by the time new crops are harvested.

ARCS with the support of IFRC country office has already submitted a proposal to Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (IADC). Key areas of intervention under this proposal include repeated food assistance to 3,500 families,

restoration of water bodies and hygiene promotion. At the same time working on another proposal for Swedish Red Cross to provide unconditional cash grant under livelihood assistance to 500 families. There are high possibilities that the DREF operation will scale up into an emergency appeal based on the revised EPOA guided by emergency need assessment carried out by the ARCS.

Based on the overall response strategy, this DREF has provided funding to the procurement of food parcels<sup>3</sup>, and conducted emergency need assessment in drought affected regions, and overall operational support to ARCS for an effective and efficient drought response.

Priority has been given to the most vulnerable people affected by the drought including female-headed households, people with disabilities and the elderly. ARCS utilised Community Engagement and Accountability minimum standards in this operation to ensure that affected populations participated in, has influenced and monitored the type and quality of services provided by ARCS. The field teams implementing the response operation will conduct in-person meetings to mobilize the communities as well as share information about the ARCS response modalities. Importantly, beneficiary selection criteria, feedback mechanisms, process of distribution, size of the relief packages and other key information will be shared with community members and leaders at regular intervals.

ARCS Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) managed the information on disaster response in line with recently developed ARCS Disaster Response Management toolkit including the monitoring (both process and result) data of the assistance provided. Since, the country has experienced between four to six consecutive seasons of far below average rainfall over the last three years. ARCS conducted an emergency needs assessment in nine<sup>4</sup> drought affected provinces in December 2018 and January 2019 within DREF for drought operation.

As ARCS was taking part of a cash preparedness program with support from IFRC and funded by the British Red Cross, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) was initially considered as an option to support affected people under the operation. During the operation period ARCS cash preparedness plan of action was developed and some of its elements commenced implementation. The regional cash preparedness coordinator visited to Afghanistan in December, and organised CBI awareness sessions for ARCS leadership and middle managers, facilitated CBI training for staff and volunteers, and completed a mapping of financial service providers (FSP) that could potentially support Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in drought affected areas. The National society was trained on cash transfer programming last year, which was aimed at supporting pilot cash based activities in the event that DREF operations scaled up or an Emergency Appeal was launched to support drought affected population in Afghanistan. However, given the urgency of the response efforts and the timing of the training a decision was taken not to use CVA for the operation.

### **Operational support services**

ARCS has branches in the provinces which are mainly covered by this operation. The provincial branches are supported by regional branches and the national headquarters, in accordance with their varying capacities. The volunteers costs have been covered through DREF operational budget, covering travel, accommodation and per-diem. The cost of one Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) member is also charged in the budget to support ARCS operations team in management of this response operation. However, in country movement partners' international and national staff specializing in various sectors including health and care, disaster management, programme coordination and organizational development as well as support services such as logistics, information technology, finance and administration, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), and security will continue supporting ARCS for effective implementation of this movement response plan.

### **Communication strategy**

The ARCS, in collaboration with the RCRC partners aimed to coordinate various awareness and publicity activities, to sensitize the public, media and donors on the humanitarian response situation on the ground. ARCS communication unit jointly followed a communication strategy to disseminate activities related to the drought response operation at the national and international level. Key components of communication strategy covered under this operation are:

- ARCS supported to take high-resolution photographs, video and interview people in order to produce reports, social media posts and other material about the humanitarian situation, the implemented activities and remaining needs in the targeted localities; these results will be shared with the press, donors and partners, and uploaded to the National Society's website.
- ARC supported to identify spokespeople and provide them with talking points and key messages.
- The ARCS has distributed bulletins to national authorities, strategic partners and communities to show the progress and results achieved during the response.
- All communications products preserved the dignity of the people and promoted diversity, gender inclusion and respect for people.
- The ARCS established the necessary mechanisms for communities to have a direct communication channel with it to create spaces in which they can freely discuss their appreciation, satisfaction, complaints, suggestions and concerns about the activities being implemented.

<sup>3</sup> ARCS food Parcel content: Rice 25 kg, Beans 7 kg, Cooking oil 10 liter, sugar 5 kg, Tea 1 kg, and Salt 2 kg.

<sup>4</sup> Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Nimroz, Badghis and Herat provinces.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 14,000

Male: 7,098

Female: 6,902

**Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods**

**Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of drought affected people with livelihood and basic needs assistance	14,000	14,000
# of targeted households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold	2,000	2,000
# of post distribution monitoring conducted	2	2
# of CBI awareness session conducted with ARCS leadership/management	1	1
# of FSPs mapping conducted	3	3

#### Narrative description of achievements

ARCS volunteers played a very important role at all stages of ARCS's operation activities. This includes assessment, identification and registration of vulnerable families affected by the drought. Utilizing funds advanced from the Disaster Response Relief Fund (DREF), ARCS has provided food assistance to 2,000 families (approximately 14,000 drought affected people) 500 families in Herat and 1,500 families in Badghis provinces. However, the support was only able to cater an immediate need of a small portion of the affected population.



Distribution of food parcels to drought affected community. (Photo by: ARCS)

Volunteers and staff trained on data collection, including registration of people to be assisted, post-distribution monitoring (PDM). The emergency response units (ERU) and branch disaster response teams (BDRT) were mobilised to support DREF operation activities. The ARCS response teams and volunteers were oriented on distribution and monitoring process how to select and verify target families by involving the community and monitoring of the relief activities and provide reports on distributions.

The procurement process was done through and by the IFRC Afghanistan country office for 2,000 food parcels for drought affected families following the standard procurement process of IFRC. Lab test was conducted to ensure the quality of food according to the minimum nutrition standards. AP regional OLPSCM office was involved and provided technical support for procurement of food ration for 2,000 affected families for Badghis and Herat provinces and food was procured locally.

ARCS is a member of the country Cash Voucher Working Group (CVWG) for coordination of cash interventions with other humanitarian actors. At the end of last year ARCS staff were trained on CTP and conducted a self-assessment regarding its preparedness for CVA and developed an action plan for future cash initiatives. In addition ARCS conducted meetings with different potential financial service providers (FSPs) in the country. However, given the urgency of the required assistance a decision was taken to move forward without using CVA with a view to using these capacities in future response efforts.

### Challenges

The ongoing conflict and complex emergency scenario in Afghanistan continues to displace populations, making the context in disaster affected areas dynamic and creating challenges for conducting needs assessments. Due to the evolving context the process of targeting and registering beneficiaries and subsequent delivery of assistance to communities affected by drought have been delayed.

### Lessons Learned

Despite the deteriorating security environment within Afghanistan, the situation of IDPs demonstrated mixed challenges and opportunities over time. In country partnerships and collaboration with other humanitarian agencies results in sharing of response areas, which results in increased reach.

Good cross institutional coordination is essential for timely implementation of interventions, overcoming procurement and logistical challenges which producing a positive impact in a response operation.

## Strengthen National Society

### Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and ARCS engage in inter agency coordination at country level	Yes	Yes
<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained</b>		
# of ENA refresher training conducted for ARCS staff and volunteers	5	5
# of ARCS staff and volunteer oriented and engaged in ENA process	25	25
<b>Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced</b>		
# of cluster coordination meetings ARCS and IFRC participated	5	5
<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>		
revised EPOA guided by assessment findings	Yes	Yes

### Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC country office ultimately accountable for timely implementation, compliance, financial management and reporting of the operation. The ARCS was supported with one RDRT surge to provide technical support for implementation of the DREF operation with a profile of disaster management and emergency response, and reporting background for three months.

ARCS disaster management teams were mobilised to participate in coordination and clusters meetings at all level, technical working groups Health, WASH, Shelter & NFIs and Cash Working Group etc. including in government led or other humanitarian organisations meetings and to share the progress of ongoing operation of national society in the country.

Two days refresher trainings in Emergency Needs Assessments was conducted in Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Smangan and Sar-e-Pole, where as from nine provinces, ARCS branch staff, volunteers, disaster response unit (DRU) and branch disaster response team (BDRT) were participated from northern, western and south western regions of the country.

A total of 200 participants (male: 187, female: 13) participated in the ENA refresher trainings to introduce basic concepts and approaches related to disaster situation and emergency need assessment and presents post-disaster

assistance needs typically associated with various types of natural hazards. In addition, the training presents a emergency assessment reporting format that ARCS staff and volunteers can use for reporting purposes.

The training objective was to build the capacity of ARCS branch staff in the following areas:

- DREF operation orientation
- Understanding the purpose of emergency needs assessment
- Introduction to detailed assessment tools/form, assessment reporting template and checklist
- Types of damage and needs assessment and the identification of priorities in emergency response
- Understanding the typical adverse effects and post-disaster needs commonly arising from specific hazard types
- Identification of the link between disaster needs assessments and emergency response decision making
- Briefing on relief distribution processes including beneficiary registration, selection and reporting
- Briefing on distribution point visual monitoring checklist, distribution point and the beneficiaries exit survey template
- Orientation on distribution beneficiary satisfaction survey template
- Overview of stakeholder analysis
- Assessment sources and methods

### Challenges

In spite of training ARCS field teams knowledge and experience on standard emergency need assessments and disaster management tool kit were relatively weak affecting their ability to oversee a quality assessment and data collection process. ARCS teams in the field also faced challenges at the early stages of response in complex scenario without collaboration with the humanitarian actors and local level authorities.

### Lessons Learned

ARCS branch level teams were trained on assessment tools, how to conduct quality assessment and data collection. After the capacity building of branch staff and volunteers they were engaged to carry out the assessments. IFRC country office deployed the RDRT surge to support national society for effective and timely implementation of DREF operation activities.

The provincial branches need to be better and more strongly supported by ARCS HQ in the field, through better coordination structure, with clear and defined role and functions to implement the operations in complex emergency environment. Collaboration with other stakeholders support to operation activities and for effective planning.

## Influence others as leading strategic partner

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of emergency needs assessment conducted in identified districts	5	5
# of field monitoring visits conducted	5	5
# of lessons learnt workshop conducted	1	1

### Narrative description of achievements

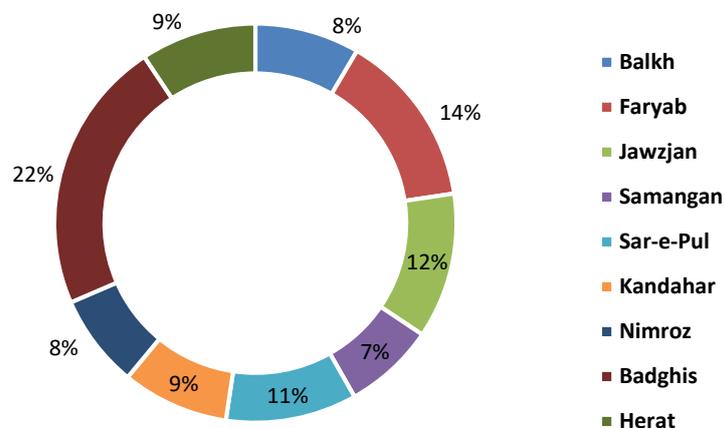
The emergency need assessment was designed to answer a number of questions and to support decision making on the emergency response and recovery stages of the drought affected areas in Afghanistan through Emergency Appeal. To assess the impact of the recurrent drought ARCS has used both quantitative and qualitative methodologies of research. Quantitative data was collected through structured questionnaire and qualitative data was generated through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key informant Interviews. ARCS teams drew 5,635 respondents, representing respective households, as random samples from nine provinces for the assessment, out of which 13 per cent was female and 87 per cent male. Sample captures the age diversity – 31 per cent of them were of 15-35 years, 60 per cent between 35-65 years, and nine per cent were above 65. A majority of 82 per cent belongs to male-headed households, 16 per cent female-headed households and 2 per cent children-headed household.

To develop understanding of overall context and impacts of the affected communities, secondary information is collected and analysed based on various reports, bulletins prepared by various Government and non-government organisations. The data and information collected are triangulated and analysed to generate a critical analysis of the situation and assess immediate and long term needs of the affected communities. ARCS has also captured the risks in the most vulnerable sections communities - women, children, elderly and their specific needs. The emergency need assessment involves field data collection through trained staff and volunteers in nine drought affected provinces.

Region	Province	Population affected	Districts
Northern	Balkh	47,749	Chemtal and villages
	Faryab	89,727	Almar, Bilcheragh, Dawlat Abad
	Jawzjan	69,123	Khanaqa, Khwaja Dukoh, Qush Tapa, Shiberghan
	Samangan	54,781	Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrat-e-Sultan
	Sar-e-Pul	49,789	Gosfandi, Sancharak, Sar-e-Pul, Sozmaqala
Southern	Kandahar	51,385	Shah Wali Kot, Zheray
	Nimroz	63,078	Chakhansur, Kang
Western	Badghis	94,781	Ab Kamari, Bala Murghab, Jawand, Qala-e-Naw
	Herat	97,893	Herat, Kushk-e-Kuhna
<b>Total</b>		<b>618,306</b>	

The collected data by the provincial branches and analysed by PMER team in ARCS national headquarter. The needs analysis for this response is prepared based on interviews, surveys, focus groups discussion and market updates in the areas affected by the drought.

**Percentage of households surveyed by province**



Continuous monitoring was carried out through the ARCS staff members in the areas of implementation to support the drought operation and ensured that there is compliance with the minimum international humanitarian standards and fundamental principles etc., as well as beneficiaries satisfaction, and the management of the available resources. The provincial branch staff and volunteers submitted reports to respective branch focal person on monthly basis. The branch monthly reports were then submitted to national headquarter PMER unit for consolidation and further sharing with IFRC and other movement partners to update on operation activities.

At the end of operation, two days lesson learnt workshop was conducted in Herat on 20 March 2019, in which all the concerned staff and volunteers (male: 19 and female: 6) from Herat nad Badghis provinces were participated. During the workshop, all the participants shared their perspectives in terms of things that worked well and things that could have been done better. The whole process of the operation from the start to the end and at all levels was overviewed in order to identify the gaps in preparedness, coordination, planning and implementation were discussed in order to highlight the areas which needed improvement. The findings are useful as a guide that may inform ARCS in further strengthening coordination by establishing better guidelines, priorities and plans, in implementation of ongoing or future operations. This would also further strengthen ARCS emergency response capacity in future operations.

### Challenges

To gather more detailed information on the overall drought context and situation of affected communities and on the extent and type of the most critical humanitarian needs, both in the immediate and longer term was challenge without detailed need assessment.

Implementation in the field hampered the activities sometime due to volatile and complex situation. Field monitoring visit for IFRC staff was restricted due to security situation.

### Lessons Learned

Emergency need assessments carried out through trained staff and volunteers supported to assess the impact and effectiveness of the emergency response efforts to date through consultations with stakeholders. ARCS national headquarter and local branch staff were involved to ensure effective and timely implementation of operation.

## C. BUDGET

The total DREF allocation for this operation was CHF 265,185 of which CHF 188,929 (71 per cent) was utilized. The balance of CHF 76,256 will be returned to the DREF pot. The variance in the budget reflects the actual response needs on the ground after the initial rapid assessment and the continued assessment and response review throughout the operation where there was a reduction of expenditure on livelihood and basic needs of the targeted population. The financial report is attached at the [end of this report](#).

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

## Contact information

Reference documents



Click for:

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace.**

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2018/11-2019/05	Operation	MDRAF004
Budget Timeframe	2018-2019	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 09/Jul/2019

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRAF004 - Afghanistan - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 01 Nov 2018 to 01 Apr 2019

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>265,185</b>
DREF Allocations	265,185
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-188,929</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>76,256</b>

### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	228,975	181,862	47,113
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
<b>Area of focus Total</b>	<b>228,975</b>	<b>181,862</b>	<b>47,113</b>
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies		7,068	-7,068
SF12 - Effective international disaster management	14,910		14,910
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	21,300		21,300
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
<b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>	<b>36,210</b>	<b>7,068</b>	<b>29,142</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>265,185</b>	<b>188,929</b>	<b>76,256</b>

# DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2018/11-2019/05	Operation	MDRAF004
Budget Timeframe	2018-2019	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 09/Jul/2019

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## MDRAF004 - Afghanistan - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 01 Nov 2018 to 01 Apr 2019

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>186,000</b>	<b>117,001</b>	<b>68,999</b>
Construction Materials		4	-4
Food	176,000	116,997	59,003
Teaching Materials	2,000		2,000
ERU	8,000		8,000
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>15,374</b>	<b>32,626</b>
Storage		5,127	-5,127
Distribution & Monitoring	48,000	7,747	40,253
Logistics Services		2,500	-2,500
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>8,163</b>	<b>837</b>
International Staff	9,000	4,606	4,395
National Society Staff		3,557	-3,557
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>27,014</b>	<b>-21,014</b>
Workshops & Training	6,000	27,014	-21,014
<b>General Expenditure</b>		<b>9,847</b>	<b>-9,847</b>
Travel		4,934	-4,934
Communications		459	-459
Financial Charges		463	-463
Shared Office and Services Costs		3,991	-3,991
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>16,185</b>	<b>11,531</b>	<b>4,654</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	16,185	11,531	4,654
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>265,185</b>	<b>188,929</b>	<b>76,256</b>