

Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Afghanistan: Flash Floods

DREF Operation n°	MDRAF006	Glide n°:	FF-2020-000191-AFG
For DREF; Date of issue:	08/09/2020	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31/01/2021
Category allocated to the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
EPoA Appeal / One International Appeal Funding Requirements: -			
DREF allocated: CHF 427,225			
Total number of people affected:	56,000 (8,000 households) ¹	Number of people to be assisted:	35,000 (5,000 households)
Provinces affected:	14 provinces ²	Provinces targeted:	5 provinces (Parwan, Panjshir, Kapisa, Maidan Wardak and Paktika)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has around 2,027 staff and 30,000 volunteers, 34 provincial branches and 7 regional offices all over the country. 1 regional Office and 4 provincial branches will be involved in this operation.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: ARCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies with presence in Afghanistan i.e. Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent Society.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:			
(i) Government ministries and agencies, Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs), Department of Refugees and Repatriation, and Department for Rural Rehabilitation and Development.			
(ii) UN agencies; OCHA, UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Food Programme (WFP).			
(iii) International NGOs; some of the international NGOs, which have been active in the affected areas are including, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee, and Care International.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Disasters brought on by natural hazards affecting around 250,000 people a year, causing many to flee their homes, including some already displaced by conflict and violence in Afghanistan. Seasonal rains, floods and landslides regularly affect the northern and north-eastern regions, destroying homes and infrastructure. The country is also exposed to drought, extreme temperatures, avalanches, and storms. Afghanistan experienced its worst drought in decades in 2018, which triggered more than 371,000 displacements. Its impacts continued in 2019 as poor harvests increased food insecurity across the country, leaving many IDPs in dire conditions of poverty and malnutrition. A lack of services, markets and social protection has forced many people to move from rural to urban areas, fuelling the rapid expansion of informal settlements in the country's main cities. Around 1.2 million people were thought to be living in displacement at the end of the year 2019 as a result of disasters³.

¹ Based on the latest data collected in 86 villages in 14 affected provinces as of now, the joint assessment is underway, more accurate data will be made available.

² Parwan, Maidan Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Khost, Paktiya, Paktika, and Ghazni.

³ [Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre – Afghanistan](#).

Continuous heavy rains from 25 August 2020 that led to flash floods has affected 14 provinces (Parwan, Maidan Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Khost, Paktiya, Paktika, and Ghazni) in Afghanistan. ARCS, under this DREF, will provide immediate relief assistance to affected population in five provinces: Parwan, Paktika, Maidan Wardak, Kapisa and Panjshir Provinces. Click [here](#) to see map of affected areas.

As of 27 August 2020, the reported damages and casualties in 14 provinces are listed below:

Province	Situation
Parwan	Based on initial report obtained from ANDMA; over 400 families were affected by flash flood in Charikar (P11, P12 and P9) District of Parwan Province. Devastating flash flood had severe impact that resulted in heavy casualties (per government sources as of 27 August 2020; 106 deaths and 106 injured including women and children, 26 reportedly still missing), agriculture land and public infrastructure is also impacted. The similar source reported that 27 August 2020 873 families are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance with 390 houses destroyed and 483 houses severely damaged.
Maidan Wardak	As reported by ANDMA, over 700 families were affected, agriculture land and crops damaged and infrastructure were impacted by flash flood on 26 August in Chalk, Jarliz and Sayed Abad Districts. Joint teams consisting of IOM, WFP, DRC, DACAAR and ANDMA continued assessment on 29 August 2020 that identified 394 families eligible for humanitarian assistance, four persons killed and eight injured.
Nangarhar	The flood occurred in Hesarak Village, Rodad district caused two deaths, three people injured and damage to one house.
Nooristan	The flood has caused damage to 15 houses, seven power base and three mills and as well as destroyed 60-acre agricultural land and killed 147 livestock.
Laghman	It was reported that floods caused damage to 21 houses as of date and no action is carried out by the ARCS until coordination meeting with PDMC is taken place.
Panjshir	According to EOC ARCS primary report on 27 August 2020, the flash floods in Panjshir Province affected 28 families in Anaba and Dara Districts and caused three deaths and a person missing. The damage is also extended to some parts of the main road, agricultural land canals, with trees knocked down and washed away.
Kapisa	500 families affected, 19 persons killed and another 20 sustained injuries by flash flood in Hasa-e-Awal, Hasa-e-Dowom, Kohistan, Tagab and Nijrab district on 26 August 2020. The joint assessment team consisting of IOM, DRC, ANDMA, ARCS, WFP, Department of Refugees and Repatriation (DoRR), UNICEF, Agriculture Department and Economic Department continued assessment on 29 August 2020 that verified 71 families (52 completely destroyed, 19 severely damage) while the assessment is on-going.
Kabul	Heavy rain caused 19 deaths, 8 people injured, two missing children and as well as damage to 24 houses and three vehicles at Sorubi district.
Paktia	Heavy rain caused damage to one vehicle, 11 houses, main road, 300 meters of citation wall, 130 meters of water canal and destroyed 50 acres of agricultural land.
Logar	The impact takes place in different districts of Logar province where 80 houses and more than 100-acre agricultural land are reported damaged.
Khost	A total of 14 houses damaged in Ali Shir, Domanda and Mandozai districts in Khost province.
Ghazni	Floods affecting the livelihoods of around 700 families where inundation caused damage to their agricultural lands and harvests.
Paktika	As of 27 August 2020, it was reported that 11 houses were partially damaged, two persons killed and another two sustained injuries, several shops and about 300 jirabs of agricultural land is impacted by flood in Sharana center and Yousaf Khail Districts. ANDMA in coordination with other stakeholder will conduct assessment to verify the needs.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

As auxiliary to the government, ARCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country and facilitate disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS have a long history of providing life-saving assistance to people in need in Afghanistan. ARCS presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well established, which enables ARCS to reach vulnerable populations who are not served by other humanitarian actors, for instance in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas. ARCS have vast expertise with different types of programming through multilateral projects supported by IFRC, as well as through bilateral programs with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and with ICRC. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid, restoring family links, community resilience (including WASH and Livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of IHL, humanitarian values and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people for IDPs.

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS's programmes. This includes assessment, identification and registration of target communities and internally displaced populations. In addition, volunteers carry out hygiene promotion and community mobilization. Through a nation-wide coverage through 34 provincial branches and a network of 30,000 volunteers, ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes in

coordination with public authorities and across lines of conflict. Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys a high level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. The branches in targeted areas have teams of trained volunteers in disaster preparedness and response through established National and Branch Disaster Response Teams, Mobile Health Teams and community mobilisers as part of the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme.

In support from IFRC and other available RCRC partners (i.e. Turkish Red Crescent Society - TRCS), ARCS has been on the ground since the onset of disaster delivering humanitarian assistance to affected families. Summary of ARCS's interventions to date, not limited to the support provided through this DREF, is outlined in the table below:

Sector	Intervention in Parwan province	People reached
Emergency food	Distribution of emergency food packages. Each food package included 2 liters of cooking oil, 0.5 kilogram of dates, 0.5 kilogram of dry tea, 5 kilograms of rice, 2 kilograms of sugar, 2 kilograms of beans, and biscuits BP-5.	4,200 people (600 households) in Parwan Province
Emergency Health Services	Deployment of a Mobile Health Team (MHT) providing medical treatment, and delivery of treatment services through a BHC.	80 injured people have received surgical treatment in Parwan Province
WASH	Distribution of 500 sets of hygiene kits.	3,500 people (500 households) in Parwan Province
Total people reached by ARCS		7,780 people

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC Afghanistan country office has setup a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-terms programmes while support ARCS organization development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC has supported ARCS disaster management teams and volunteers for needs assessment, resource mobilization and for the design and implementation of the emergency operation, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and IFRC Headquarters in Geneva. With regards to longer terms programmes, IFRC is supporting immunization initiatives for children and implementation of community-health services through the support to Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and the CBHFA in North, Northeast, Central North, Central South and West of Afghanistan.

The ICRC, in its role of lead agency, is present in Afghanistan since 1986 and engages in dialogue with all parties to the conflict having a direct or indirect influence on the humanitarian situation in the country. The key operating areas in responding to the Afghanistan protracted conflict include the promotion and respect of IHL, health services, in particular for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitoring the treatment of detainees across the country and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions. They provide support to the civilian population in improving livelihood and water and sanitation, health, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and tracing activities. The ICRC supports ARCS, as its primary partner in its development and operations with focus on the "Safer Access" approach that promotes safer access to persons affected by conflict and other situations of violence, whilst minimizing risks for staff and volunteers.

Other partner National Societies

- The Norwegian Red Cross has in-country presence and strongly support ARCS network of 45 clinics with health interventions, WASH and CBHFA activities across the country.
- The Canadian Red Cross has played a critical role over the past year to develop ARCS disaster management capabilities, including through Branch Disaster Management Teams.
- The Danish Red Cross extends their support to the ARCS in psychosocial support (PSS) together with ICRC, volunteers management and youth mobilization activities in Afghanistan.
- Qatar Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent Societies (TRCS) have been working in Afghanistan on health and livelihoods programming and supported ARCS in the immediate response to drought and floods. ARCS through the support of TRCS has provided one-off food assistance to 1,000 households in the immediate aftermath of the flash floods.
- Red Cross Red Crescent partners have established coordination and cooperation mechanisms via the Tripartite meetings where ARCS, ICRC and IFRC leads address strategic issues, the Movement Operational Coordination meetings which look into operational issues and various technical coordination groups.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from UNOCHA and through the Command and Control Centre under the supervision of the Minister of State for Disaster Management. From the onset of the emergency, the government has mobilized civil and military departments in order to respond to the immediate needs of the affected people particularly on WASH, shelter, protection, and livelihoods restoration support.

The United Nations Clusters are established as sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including non-governmental organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, public authorities and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings occur monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies coordinated through UNOCHA and covering shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition. Meetings are attended by cluster partners, members and observers to share information, coordinate humanitarian interventions at cluster or multi-cluster levels, address operational challenges and feed into funding instruments such as the Afghan Humanitarian Fund. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum that guides principled humanitarian action in Afghanistan. The Afghan Humanitarian Forum (AHF) is composed of all heads of International and National humanitarian NGOs and feeds into the HCT.

A number of government departments (department of rural rehabilitation and development, department of public health, department of disaster management, department of refugee and repatriations) and international organizations (UNWFP, UNICEF, IOM, DRC, DACAAR, Care International, etc.) are responding mainly in non-food sectors. Several international organizations, including ECHO's funded ERM (Emergency Response Mechanism) programme, are going to provide multipurpose cash grants to the affected provinces other than the ones targeted by this DREF. IFRC, together with ARCS, participate in coordination meetings through the clusters as well as technical working groups such as the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG). Other implementing agencies include WFP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, IOM as well as INGOs including Save the Children, OXFAM, ACF, ACTED, Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils. According to the coordination with these stakeholders, ARCS was requested to provide food assistance to the affected households in the five provinces.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The security situation in Afghanistan continues to deteriorate as the ongoing conflict between NSAG and ANSF, exposing civilians, particularly women and children, to daily deadly risks, prompting mass displacement and choking the country's unstable economy. Years of shocks have left an acutely vulnerable population with few economic resources, an eroded capacity to cope with the unfolding crisis and little hope of recovery if the current conditions persist. The humanitarian consequences of the crisis now affect every aspect of life in all corners of the country. People's survival and well-being is threatened by ongoing conflict, inflicting high levels of civilian casualties and life-altering traumatic injuries.

Afghanistan is also the country heavily affected by the negative impacts of climate change that have already been felt by millions of farmers and pastoralists across the country. The chronic drought and flood risks have changed over the past decades and have been impacting the livelihoods and food security in rural Afghanistan where the majority of population are relying on agriculture and livestock as their primary livelihood means. This recent flooding, which took place in an unusual time of the year hitting multiple provinces of the country.

The results of joint needs assessment, conducted by the emergency operation committees comprised of government departments, UN agencies, ARCS, and international NGOs, have been informing that emergency food security, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene, shelter, and livelihoods recovery are amongst the key and immediate needs of the populations affected by recent floods in target provinces (Parwan, Paktika, Maidan Wardak, Kapisa, and Panjshir). The water inundated and damaged the irrigational system and agriculture lands where more than 70% of affected population relying on this sector as their primary means of livelihoods. Parwan Province as the most affected among all has also experienced livestock loss and productive assets damage. The disruption on local market, related to access and supply chain, has worsened the food security among the affected people. Other government departments and international organizations, which are available in the ground, have mainly committed to provide WASH, shelter, protection, and livelihoods restoration supports to the affected populations. ARCS, using its existing resources such as available household items and hygiene kits in its warehouses, mobile health teams, and Basic Health Clinics, have been distributing the kits as well as providing basic health and treatment services to the people in need in target provinces. Using this requested DREF, ARCS intends to mainly cover the food needs of the affected populations by means of providing one-month emergency food assistance to 5,000 households.

The intervention, under this DREF Operation, will be intended to provide short-term, immediate relief to flood-affected households who are unable to recuperate lost incomes. Providing emergency food assistance will enable the target households to meet their household food needs and decrease use of negative coping mechanisms to gain income and increasing their prospects for early recovery. However, it will only be with longer term interventions that a longer term, sustainable solution to communities' vulnerability to the natural disasters, climate change, and reoccurring problem of the disasters will be significantly reduced. In addition, IFRC country office and ARCS are currently continuing the emergency operations under the support of IFRC Emergency Appeal to meet humanitarian needs of the people affected by the floods and complex drought emergency in nine provinces in Afghanistan through the provision of multipurpose cash grant, livelihoods restoration activities through cash, health services, disaster risk reduction and preparedness, protection, gender and inclusion until 30 September 2020.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has made the already worse situation of the country more deteriorating. The shocks and stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic has been having a much broader impact on the socio-economic of the vulnerable households and has not only diminished the well-being and livelihoods of people, but also undermined the markets and food security on which life depends. In Afghanistan, the COVID-19 outbreak came against the backdrop of the flood season. The shocks of COVID-19 have also impacted the labour markets, purchasing power and lost productivity – all of which are significant factors for Afghanistan, not least because few Afghans have access to productive or sustainable remunerative employment. A quarter of the labour force is unemployed, and 80 percent of employment is ‘vulnerable’ and insecure, comprising self-employment, day labour, or unpaid work. It is also important to note that Afghanistan’s economy and millions of families have grown reliant on remittances from Iran and other neighbouring countries. Currency devaluations over the past year have resulted in a drop in the value of such remittances but the surge in returns and COVID-19 interruptions to work opportunities in the neighbouring countries are further diminished the purchasing power of many communities who have been heavily reliant on remittance payments over recent years. This has had a severe impact on vulnerable families.

Targeting

The targeting process and criteria is designed to include vulnerability and needs based on findings from the joint rapid need assessment report produced by the emergency operation committee. Considering the absolute vulnerability of the poorest households, IFRC and ARCS will focus on mitigating the ongoing risk of the use of destructive coping strategies by ensuring minimum food / income security.

ARCS with technical supports from IFRC will follow three stages for collection of baseline data and beneficiary selection. 1) Community filtering and identification; as noted above, ARCS will meet the relevant field level stakeholders, for instance, UNOCHA, DoRR, and ANDMA, to receive their support for finalizing the list of communities. 2) Once the communities are selected, ARCS’s branch team will meet with the respective community members and will provide them with beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring that the wider community will understand the purpose of food assistance distribution. Following the finalization of the criteria, the community-based committees will provide ARCS with a list of all households meeting the criteria. ARCS will immediately assess all proposed households using its household emergency assessment tool and individual interview approach. 3) All data will then be entered, and household information will be verified. The final lists will then be produced to eligible participants and will be shared and verified with the local authorities (both at provincial and district-level) and the community representatives.

The following mandatory/eligibility criteria are anticipated: 1) Households that have been highly affected by floods; 2) Households that are having unstable and/or no income generation opportunities; and 3) Households with 2 or more children under the age of 5 unable to meet their basic food needs. Within this, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritize selection: 1) Elderly with responsibility for children in household. 2) Households without productive assets. 3) Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children. 4) Households with chronically ill members. 5) Households with disabled members who are unable to work. 6) Pregnant and lactating women.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted

Category	Estimated % of target group	% female	% male
Young Children (under 5 years)	15 % (5,250 people)	7.5 %	7.5 %
Children (5-17 years)	44 % (15,400 people)	21 %	21 %
Adults (18-49 years)	32 % (11,200 people)	16 %	16 %
Elderly (>50 years)	11 % (3,850 people)	11 %	11 %
Total	100 % (35,000 people)	50 %	50 %
People with disabilities	2 % (700 people)	1 %	1 %

Scenario planning

Below are some of the scenarios that can be predicted at this stage.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Impacts of livelihoods	The affected community may adapt negative coping mechanisms in case their needs are not met in a timely way.	ARCS will conduct in-depth needs assessment in the target provinces, and if the situation prevails, ARCS will look for support from other partners in the country or ask for the extension/second allocation of the DREF operation.
COVID-19	COVID-19 may affect implementation of activities.	Cases are on decline and government announced relaxation in all imposed restrictions. ARCS staff will be taking care of the guidelines issued time to time by Ministry of Public Health and WHO for the safety and security of staff, volunteers and targeted people. In this regard social distancing will be ensured besides using hand sanitizer, masks, gloves and other PPEs.

Deterioration of security situations	Further deterioration of security situations may affect implementation of the planned activities.	IFRC and ARCS will maintain its standard monitoring system for security. IFRC and ARCS will also ensure participation in food distribution and awareness raising initiatives as well as ensuring commitment by all stakeholders from the project's start-up. Government, staff, communities and financial service providers will maintain good relations in local communities and will participate in planning and monitoring activities.
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Operation Risk Assessment

ARCS have good access in all five targeted provinces even to the hard to reach areas in these provinces. Good access of ARCS is based on wide acceptance from all stake holders and organizational structure of ARCS (high number of volunteers from affected communities). This high level of access resulted in numerous operations successfully finished or still ongoing in these provinces. More specifically, ARCS have already been supporting the disaster-affected population providing them with humanitarian relief assistance in the target provinces for many years.

- IFRC and ARCS will ensure that design, planning, operations and implementation of ARCS programme incorporates acceptance as our core approach to gain safe access in the communities in both development and emergency humanitarian relief contexts.
- All component of IFRC's Principles and Rules for Red Cross Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance are fully integrated in the programme design and implementation and adopted by all staff.
- A community mobilization will be conducted in the target areas by having regular consultancy meetings, gatherings with key influential stakeholders explaining the impartiality, neutrality and transparency of IFRC and ARCS programme before starting the programme.
- Inclusion of compliant feedback mechanism in our community engagement and accountability (CEA) system, this gives an opportunity to the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to give direct feedback and make complaints about the delivery of programme interventions.

Operational risk at the five most affected provinces:

Province	Situation
Parwan	In general, 2020 security situation in Parwan province was not stable, with at least 14 AOG authored incidents recorded every month. Most of the AOG authored incidents in the province were SAF attack against ANSF checkpoints along the highway between Parwan to Kabul and Parwan to Bamyán. AOG (especially IEA) are active in districts of Siya Gird, Shinwari, Koh e Safi and Bagram.
Maidan Wardak	Wardak has been the most volatile province in the central region in the past three years, with IEA very active in most parts of the province. Number of incidents in 2020 has significantly increased in the province compare to the previous years. Jalrez, Behsud, Midan Shahr, Nerkh and Sayedabad are the most violent districts. Sayedabad has witnessed an increase in conflict activity this year and was the district to log the largest number of conflict-related incidents in the first half of the year country-wide. The level of activity in Sayedabad from January to June was three times greater than the same period in 2019.
Kapisa	Security situation continues to be deteriorated in many districts of the province. Both conflict actors (AOG and ANSF) has increased their offences against each other and number of security incidents has significantly increased in 2020 compared to previous years. Tagab, Nejrab, Hissa-e Awal-e-Kohestan and Hissa-e-Duwum-e-Kohestan have been the violent districts this year. SAF attack is the most common tactic (80 per cent) employed by AOG members in the province against ANSF checkpoints and convoys.
Panjshir	In general security situation in Panjshir province is very good and the province is considered one of the safest provinces in Afghanistan. However, in 2020 the province recorded seven security incidents which most of it were ANSF counter-narcotic operations against hashish farms in the province, resulted few arrests. Beside these two small-scale protests were recorded in the province, one of that was against ANSF attempt to arrest the former president of Afghanistan Football Federation, Keramudin Keram. In the past couple of years, the province has not recorded any AOG initiated security incident.
Paktika	Paktika is located in eastern Afghanistan, on the Afghan-Pakistani border. It borders Ghazni to the north-west, Paktya and Khost to the north, Pakistan to the south and east and Zabul to the south-west. The provincial capital of Paktika is Sharana. The capital city is in Sharana which is mostly under control of the government of Afghanistan. Place such as Sarda, Andar district, Kotwall, Sala and Mohammad Khil are those that have significant presence of the IEA, most of this location is said to be in their control. AOGs initiate attacks targeting ANSF and GOA and sometimes their families. There were reports of attacks on civilians in this province, in most cases, the AOG claimed the victims as GOA/ ANSF or their spies. The capital city Sharana is under strong control by the GOA and maintains a significant number of checkpoints around the city and the situation within the city is generally considered stable. Since the beginning of 2020 in Paktika at least 197 security incidents were reported which majority of it were initiated by AOG and were consisting small scale armed attacks and harassing in nature. During the first half of 2020, Paktika recorded one NGO incident on 20 May 2020, in the Pir Koti area of Urgun district. AOG members stopped an NGO vehicle with on-duty NGO staff accusing the staff members of not having obtained a permit to enter the AOG-controlled area. following mediation by tribal elders, the AOG members released the NGO staff members but kept the NGO vehicle. After negotiations AOG member released the NGO vehicle on the next day. The incident is assessed to be related to miscommunication.

Potential risks and appropriate mitigation measures

In order to mitigate the risks to IFRC and ARCS programme and staff, IFRC and ARCS is continuing to work on a complex approach of acceptance by engagement with all parties & stakeholders, clear and strict security protocols and procedures as well as to continue to extend its partner's engagement and capacity. This is in combination with continued analysis and a low-profile approach. IFRC and ARCS have dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting ARCS impact areas in order to provide training and support to field staff to enable them to safely deliver project activities. Timely sharing of security information is ensured among all staff. All staff are trained on personal security (Stay Safe and Safer Access) and oriented on RC/RC security management system, and actions in emergency situations. IFRC and ARCS staff are trained on culture sensitivity and staff respect to local norm and culture and build positive relation with community members and beneficiaries.

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Injuries or loss of life of staff or volunteer due to collateral damage from the detonation of an IED (improvised explosive device), or crossfire.	Ensure availability of first aid kit in vehicles, first aid-trained staff, keep distance from potential targets, don't drive on roads where there is IED threat, real-time monitoring of the situation and advising of staff and volunteers, communication of activities and movement with all stakeholders, use of protective emblem, Critical Incident Management and Emergency plans in place, movement monitoring.
Perception issues related to the conduct of the operations or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	Ensuring the dissemination of ARCS operation, the activities, its approach, including the methodology of beneficiary selection to all stakeholders as part of the response.
Staff or volunteer to be abducted/kidnapped due to disputes between the stakeholders.	Awareness sessions of staff and volunteers, clear communication of NIHA (neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action) nature of the organization to all stake holders, monitoring of the situation, daily communication with all stakeholders, training of the staff and volunteers on actions in critical situations, avoiding of disputed areas, movement monitoring. Coordination of Movement and activities with Movement partners, including ICRC who is operating in the same areas or location.
Extortion or robbery of staff or volunteers due to existence of criminal groups or illegal check points.	Advise to staff and volunteers to not carry valuables and to comply with requests, use of protective emblem, real-time communication with all stakeholders, monitoring of the situation and releasing advisories to staff and volunteers accordingly.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective

The proposed strategy and plan of this DREF operation will seek to provide life-saving assistance to address the immediate food needs of 5,000 flood affected households in Parwan, Paktika, Panjshir, Kapisa, and Maidan Wardak provinces for one month. Based on the results of joint needs assessment carried-out by the emergency operation committee, the affected populations are in need of immediate food assistance. This also aligns with IFRC's broader emergency response strategy for food security to ensure that the disaster affected families have access to food in sufficient quality and quantity to meet daily basic needs.

Due to the disruption of markets, the chosen modality to deliver this assistance will be distribution of food packages that will cover one month of food basket for a family of seven (based on standard of ARCS food security programming) to complement the overall assistance by the National Society. However, over the coming days, a rapid assessment of markets will be undertaken by ARCS branches and if it determines that local markets are functioning in a specific location, the strategy will be adjusted accordingly and cash interventions may be undertaken instead of food distributions. Should this be deemed feasible, ARCS have experience in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and is implementing CVA under its COVID-19 response. The National Society also has agreements with FSPs which could be drawn upon for this response.

IFRC and ARCS will ensure a gender sensitive approach so that both men and women have access to humanitarian aid and that socio-cultural barriers limiting access to services are considered: gender-sensitive selection process, accessible accountability mechanism and gender-balanced field team will ensure easy access by both genders.

Health protection measures will be taken as IFRC and ARCS are considering the latest development (outbreak of COVID-19) in the country in delivering of our humanitarian services. IFRC had supported ARCS in modifying all its SOPs and operations manual for its disaster risk management including food and cash transfer programming. The risks associated with doing food distribution in COVID-19 context will be fully recognized. For implementing the activities planned under this DREF, all protection measures and these modified SOPs will be strictly applied.

This proposed project will be implemented using a methodology based on lessons learned through implementation of previous food security and livelihoods operations of ARCS in Afghanistan. ARCS, as part of its disaster management

operation, has been providing lifesaving supports to the disaster-affected population in all 34 provinces of the country since it was instituted in 1934.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Following the recurring floods, multiple effects are seen in the communities and it is imperative to continuously communicate the required information and listen to the community and try best to solve their concerns. CEA will be an essential priority pivotal to operational success, acceptance and trust and building long term community resilience. CEA ensures communities are equal partners in the humanitarian response. It will enhance programme quality by increasing the reach, impact and levels of accountability to communities. Taking into account gender and diversity sensitive needs as well as other needs of affected communities across the targeted districts, measures will be put in place to enhance community communication, participation and improve programme accountability to communities. Several communication mechanisms will be adopted to promote the involvement of the communities in the implementation of the operation by allowing them a better understanding of ARCS in general and the strategy for this operation, to minimize the errors of inclusions and exclusion in targeting, and to eliminate any form of tension during implementation. Local information sharing mechanisms such as communicating via community-based committees, the traditional authorities, affected and non-affected committees will be adopted. CEA is an integrated approach of ARCS while carrying its activities. The National Society will use appropriate communication channels to disseminate key actionable and reliable information and strengthen participation through community engagement and communications systems to address, whether assistance is appropriate and contextualized and to engage communities in design of recovery assistance.

- **transparency:** all stages of planning is done in close collaboration and consultation with the various stakeholders. The mapping of the areas is done in coordination with the administrative authorities, the partners intervening in the country, the local Red Crescent branches concerned by the operation but also in full compliance with the documents (synthesis reports, publications, evaluations and reviews).
- **participation:** strategy for this operation would be to involve all stakeholders through regular exchanges, meetings, the establishment of community management structures, the organization of committees' meetings. This will already start before the implementation of the response, to ensure that communities influence the design of the response activities.
- **engagement:** the commitment of the ARCS is part of the engagement of humanitarian partners, the authorities and the local committees of the ARCS to face any critical situation on a commitment of communities through the implication of village committees. Through focus groups and interviews, communities in the areas expressed their needs and priorities for intervention, which have been considered for the design of this operation. During targeting and implementation, the village committees afore mentioned will be the main channel for community engagement and communication.

Operational support services

Human resources

As part of the implementation of the operation, the IFRC and ARCS will mobilize the following resources:

IFRC

- The IFRC Head of Country Office will be ultimately accountable for timely implementation, compliance, financial management and reporting of the operation.
- During the operation, IFRC will continue the technical support to ARCS through its staff from Country Office (CO) with Disaster Risk Management and Livelihoods.
- The IFRC Country Office will provide technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Admin, HR and Security.
- Implementation of this DREF operation is open for Shared Leadership approach to achieve collective impact. This includes the option of having PNS taking the lead in supporting ARCS in thematic area(s) of strength with IFRC sharing/providing financial resources from the DREF to enable that support. PNS may also provide technical support (including HR surge) through the existing surge and HR processes.
- If needed, IFRC CO will also bring local surge / rapid response support team who will primarily focus to support ARCS in implementation of the activities planned under this DREF. The current gap mainly in the area of PMER and remote support could be provided.

ARCS

- At the provincial level, the National Society will mobilize a project staff designated for the implementation of the planned activities.
- At the level of the implementation areas, the National Society will commit National Disaster Response Team (NDRTs) for operation and for the supervision of volunteers.

Logistics and supply chain procurement

ARCS logistics team is leading the logistics support for this operation with the support of IFRC Country Office Logistics

Officer. The overall goal of logistics is to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, fleet, warehousing and transportation to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

IFRC will support ARCS in procurement of the planned food items locally from Afghanistan. The recent shared experience of IFRC Country Office and ARCS with procurement of food items from local markets (for supporting 5,647 households under COVID-19 DRP) has confirmed that the requisite food items are available in local markets, and Afghanistan Ministry of Public Health has the ability to test and certify the quality of the food items.

Information Technology

Internet connectivity is available in the IFRC country office. ARCS staff members and volunteers in the field operation will be supported by high-quality internet facility and internet data packages on their smartphones which will enable them to communicate electronically with the provincial office to send reports and pictures.

Communication Strategy

ARCS and IFRC will collaborate to implement a communication strategy that will:

- support the positioning of the Afghan Red Crescent Society as a credible humanitarian responder with a network of volunteers and expertise in disaster management, and unique access to people in need.
- manage reputational risks.
- provide accountability to donors on the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent response.
- maximize opportunities to build ARCS communications capacity.

The audiences are the news media, social media audiences, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, partners, peer organizations and donors. Materials will be developed and shared, including high-quality photos and key messages to guide partner communications and social media posts. Spokespeople will be identified, supported and pitched to the media. Coverage will be monitored. Where possible, journalists and others will be supported to visit Red Crescent activities. All communications products will preserve the dignity of people and promote diversity, gender inclusion and respect.

Security

Rapid security assessments and analysis are carried out to ensure that our security risk register is current as well as mitigating measures implemented and updated in security plans across the operational areas. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security status and briefed on reactions in emergency before deployment in area of operations. The National Society's security framework will be applicable throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility the existing IFRC Afghanistan country security plan is applicable. Country office's Senior Security Officer continues to actively support the country office as well as National Society Security Managers and focal points through information gathering/sharing, providing security guidelines, security coordination and cooperation within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as with external partners and the humanitarian community.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

Continuous monitoring will be carried out through the ARCS staff members in the areas of implementation to support the floods response intervention and will ensure that there is compliance with the minimum international humanitarian standards (SPHERE, Fundamental Principles etc.), as well as client satisfaction, and the management of the available resources. The IFRC Afghanistan Country Office will also carry out monitoring missions in collaboration with the ARCS to support the effective implementation of this DREF Operation Trained staff and volunteers will be mobilized for data collection and basic analysis in the nine provincial branches. Data collected include registration of people to be assisted, post-distribution monitoring (PDM) data and end line survey. Steps are being taken to strengthen the National Society approaches to PMER.

Through this DREF, IFRC Afghanistan country office as part of PMER development efforts of the National Society will extend its PMER support, the plans will be developed with PMER unit at the National Society that will be responsible for implementing a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system. Monitoring and reporting will be done according to the agreed monitoring framework. Whereby the provincial branch staff and volunteers will submit reports to respective branch focal person monthly. The branch monthly report will then be submitted to national PMER unit for consolidation. Lessons learned workshop will be conducted towards the end of the operation to capture learnings from the operation.

Administration and finance

A Project Grant Agreement will be signed between the IFRC Afghanistan country office and the ARCS. The operation will rely on existing financial management and administration systems in ARCS and IFRC. The IFRC, through the finance department, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers and technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

AP008	Distribution of food assistance to 5,000 households.				x	x	x	x	x									
AP008	Process monitoring visits to food distribution sites				x	x	x	x	x									



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: All people affected

Requirements (CHF): integrated with other areas

Needs analysis: ARCS is currently using assessment forms that facilitate the capture of gender disaggregated data to inform this relief operation. A balance distribution on male and female volunteers in ARCS is applied for deployment purpose during all stages of the operation including assessments, distributions, awareness activities and post-distribution monitoring in the communities.

Risk analysis:

Women and vulnerable segments of society (person with disability, pregnant and lactating women, elderly head of households and widows) in target provinces might have limited access to information related to livelihood support due to the conservative environment in the region. ARCS will therefore ensure that female staff and volunteers are part of the assessment, relief distribution teams so that women and girls are included in the response activities. IFRC security team will continue to closely monitor the situation and will provide guidance should any change in the security environment.

Population to be assisted: 5,000 households

Programme standards/benchmarks: A few measures will be taken to ensure that the operation will comply with the minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services. (Target: Yes)</i>																
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	<i># of NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. (Target: 1, ARCS)</i>																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP031	Sensitization of all staff and volunteers in sector specific minimum standards for PGI in Emergencies			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
AP031	Ensure collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

AP031	Sensitization of response teams on code of conduct, child protection policy and PSEA policy		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
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Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 18,265

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.	# of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation (01)																
	Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	# of volunteers involved in the operation provided with briefing/orientation (Target: 30)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP048	Provide complete briefings and orientation to volunteers in disaster response, data collection and information management.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP048	Volunteers working with NS have insurance coverage for accidents and death		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured	Does the operation demonstrate evidence of effective and coordinated international disaster response? (Target: Yes)																
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained	# of RDRT deployed (01)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP048	Deployment of Rapid Response personnel														x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.2: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards	Procurement is carried as per IFRC standards. (Target: 100% compliance)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
-	IFRC country office provides support as needed to the National Society's logistics unit for procurement		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced	ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention. (Target: Yes - Inter Agency group)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
-	IFRC CCST supports ARCS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors and relevant clusters on a regular basis		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable	IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues. (Target: Yes)																
	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming	# of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps (Target: 1)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

AP048	Assessment of needs, capacities and gaps as part of a multi-sectoral assessment	x	x	x	x	x	x											
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded	# of national appeal launched (Target: 1)																
	Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved	# of lessons learned workshop conducted (Target: 1)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP048	Post distribution monitoring									x	x	x						
AP048	Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation													x	x	x	x	

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
Societies

*all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)*

DREF OPERATION

MDRAF006 - AFGHANISTAN – FLASH FLOODS

03/09/2020

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Food	354,000
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	354,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,000
Logistics, Transport & Storage	12,000
National Staff	6,500
Volunteers	250
Personnel	6,750
Workshops & Training	4,000
Workshops & Training	4,000
Travel	22,000
Office Costs	2,400
General Expenditure	24,400
DIRECT COSTS	401,150
INDIRECT COSTS	26,075
TOTAL BUDGET	427,225

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Information bulletin](#)

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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 Organizations (NGO's) 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.



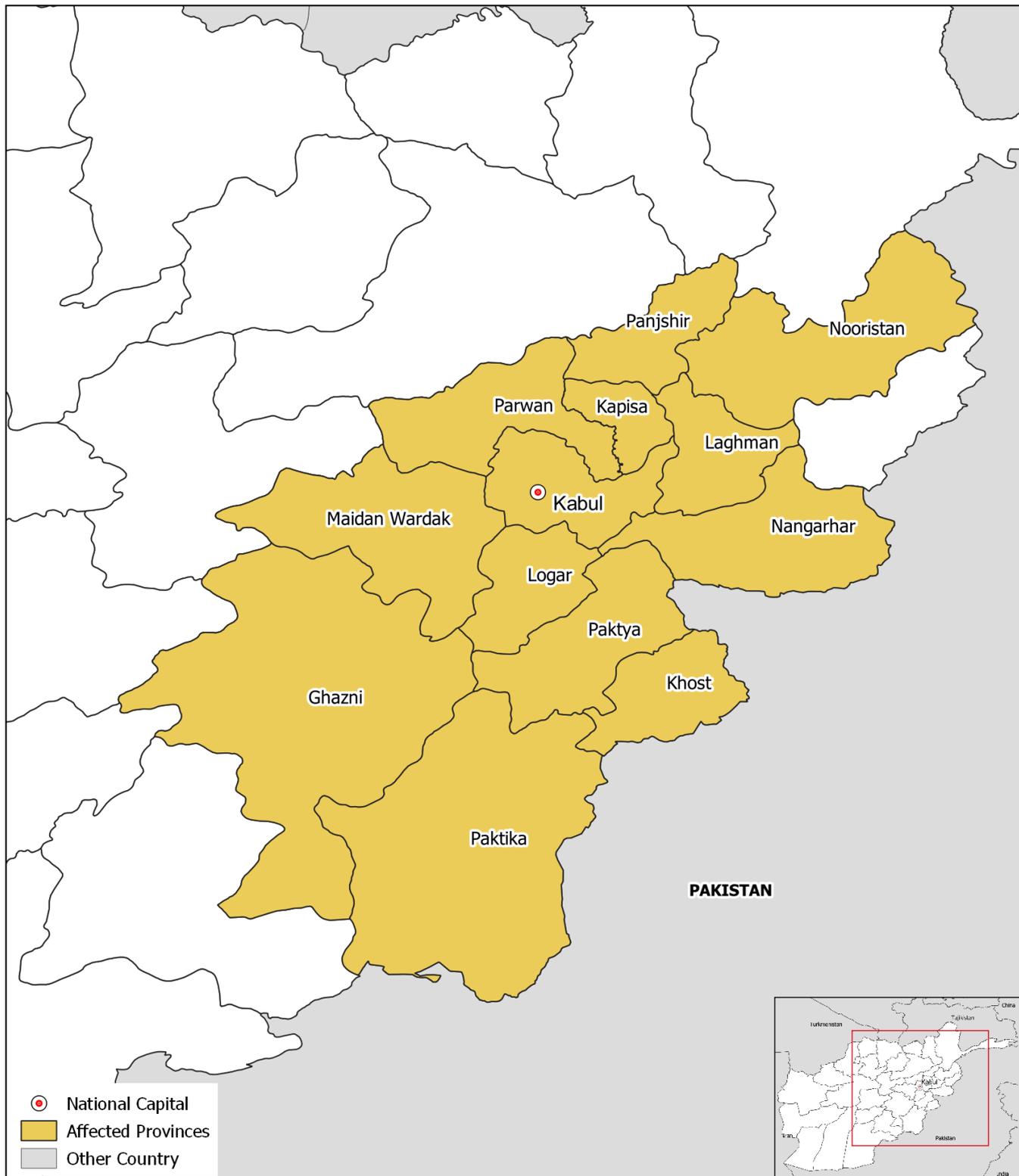
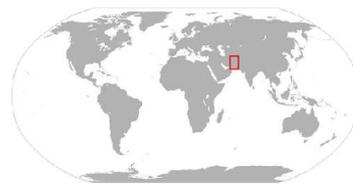
Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



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

Afghanistan: Flash Flood

28 August 2020



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC

