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# DREF update

## Afghanistan: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation n°</b> <a href="#">MDRAF003</a>	<b>GLIDE n°</b> <a href="#">EQ-2015-000147-AFG</a>
<b>DREF update n°</b> 1	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 3 November to 3 December 2015
<b>Date of issue:</b> 15 December 2015	<b>Date of disaster:</b> 26 October 2015
<b>Operation manager:</b> Charles Godfrey Byamugisha, DM Delegate IFRC Afghanistan Delegation	<b>Point of contact (name and title):</b> Abdulrahman Kalantary Director for Disaster Management Afghan Red Crescent Society
<b>Operation start date:</b> 3 November 2015	<b>Operation end date:</b> 2 March 2016
<b>Operation budget:</b> CHF 465,684	<b>Number of people assisted:</b> 14,000 people (2,000 families)
<b>Host National Society(ies) present (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> At least 1,800 staff, 25,000 volunteers and 34 provincial branches and seven regional offices nationwide. A total of 13 branches of ARCS are involved in the earthquake response, with some 700 volunteers mobilized to support activities to the benefit of affected people.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> As well as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), other Movement partners with presence in Afghanistan are the Canadian Red Cross Society (CRCS), Norwegian Red Cross (NRC) and Qatar Red Crescent Society. Danish Red Cross, Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Red Cross Society of China and Turkish Red Crescent Society do not have offices in Afghanistan but have supported the earthquake response through bilateral arrangements with ARCS.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Government ministries and agencies</b>, including Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMC).</li> <li>• <b>UN agencies</b>, including FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN HABITAT, UNHCR, WFP and WHO.</li> <li>• <b>International NGOs</b>, including Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development, Danish Refugee Council, International Assistance Mission, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Medecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam and Save the Children.</li> <li>• <b>National NGOs</b> under the umbrella of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Forum.</li> </ul>	

### Summary

CHF 465,684 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 3 November 2015 to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in delivering assistance to 2,000 families and replenishment of non-food items in the earthquake affected north east and eastern regions of Afghanistan.

This DREF operation aims to meet the immediate needs of 2,000 families (14,000 people) most affected by the earthquake through provision of non-food relief supplies, winter clothing, emergency shelter and psycho-social support. It also covers support for mobilizing DRU, staff and volunteers for assessments, distributions and monitoring. Thus far, ARCS with support from Movement partners have distributed non-food items to reach 1,824 families.

This operation focuses on the geographical areas of



ARCS volunteers distributing NFIs to earthquake affected families in Nangarhar province in Eastern region. Photo: ARCS

Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan and Takhar. It is expected to be implemented over four months, and will be completed by 2 March 2016. In line with IFRC reporting standards, the final report will be published 90 days after completion of the operation.

## Situation

Around 13:40 local time (UTC +4:30) on 26 October 2015, a magnitude 7.5 earthquake struck Badakhshan Province in the north-east region of Afghanistan. According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), the quake's epicentre was 82 km southeast of Feyzabad in the Hindu Kush mountain range and at 213 km in depth. Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Baghlan and Kunar provinces are ranked the most affected provinces.

Assessment reports indicate 117 deaths, 544 people injured, 12,794 homes damaged and 7,384 houses destroyed. Furthermore, 136,967 people are still in need of humanitarian assistance, of which 131,345 people have received some form of assistance so far date. More than 51,000 people were affected in Badakhshan alone, where property damage was most extensive. The earthquake claimed the most lives and caused the most casualties in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. Access remains the most significant challenge in providing assistance to people in need and is an issue reaching at least 194 villages affected by the earthquake.

## Coordination and partnerships

ARCS Secretary General has chaired four emergency coordination meetings at National Headquarters attended by partners that included; IFRC, ICRC, Iranian Red Crescent and Qatar Red Crescent. During the coordination meetings, information on existing response gaps, plans ahead and challenges were shared to come up with practical solution to respond to needs on the ground.

ARCS and IFRC signed a DREF project agreement which stipulates commitments of both parties with regard to time frame, funding, reporting and procurement among others.

A team from Qatar RC DM officials visited Afghanistan to assess the possibility of supporting ARCS in the earthquake recovery programming with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, nutrition and shelter after the emergency phase is over.

IFRC held coordination meeting on the earthquake response with United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) officials in Kabul on 4 November. A brief of the approved DREF was shared with OCHA in Kabul during this meeting. As a result, the DREF contribution to the earthquake was highlighted in one of the UN OCHA earthquake response updates. Discussions with UN OCHA emphasized on promotion of beneficiary communication before relief assistance is given, strengthening leadership in shelter sector with IFRC technical support and exploring use of cash transfer programming using available expertise including OCHA partners. Particularly, emphasis was on engaging in community dialogues to integrate beneficiary viewpoints during response and recovery operations.

**Partners who have contributed to the replenishment of this DREF include Canadian Red Cross Society/ Canadian Government (DFATD), DG ECHO, and Netherland Red Cross/ Netherlands Government (SEF).**

## Operational implementation

### Overview

ARCS staff and volunteers continued to actively get involved in field needs assessments using Disaster Response Unit (DRU) teams. A total of 900 volunteers have been mobilized and are supporting the response operations in the field. Their role was to collect data on needs using the newly drafted rapid assessment form (RAF) and assisting the earthquake affected population. Reports from the needs assessment have played key role in informing local authorities and other humanitarian agencies on the current humanitarian situation in the hardest to access areas. Based on needs assessments conducted, ARCS responded to 1,824 families in the affected provinces with non-food item from its available stocks within the affected regions.

With IFRC support from Disaster Management Unit (DMU) in Asia Pacific regional office and from the Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Delhi, formalities of the DREF application were completed in consultation with stakeholders at ARCS and IFRC at different levels of administration. The IFRC team also supported coordination of managing partner expectations including media, and simplifying the DREF application process given the past experience of 2014 DREF appeal for Afghanistan flood and landslide in the country.

In addition to monitoring, gathering and disseminating media messages on ARCS' response to the earthquake, the Communications Delegate, together with ARCS Communications Department conducted a sensitization on basic skills to handle the media expectation during emergencies. Experiences gained by those interviewed by various national and international media were shared with ARCS, IFRC and ICRC participants.

The Communication Delegate from Delhi together with IFRC PMER supported in documenting story on ARCS response efforts to the earthquake victims in affected regions. The story can be access [here](#).

## Quality programming

**Needs analysis:** This DREF allocation will support deployment of monitoring teams to determine whether the response is going as plan or whether adjustments to the plan need to be made. ARCS will also be supported to maintain two-way communication with beneficiaries.

<b>Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.</b>			
<b>Output 1.1: Additional assistance is considered where appropriate and incorporated into the plan</b>			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
<b>Activity 1.1.1:</b> Ensure that any adjustments to initial plans are informed by continuous assessment of needs and through established feedback mechanisms	x		NA
<b>Output 1.2.: Mechanisms are in place to facilitate two-way communication with and ensure transparency and accountability to affected people.</b>			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
<b>Activity 1.2.1:</b> Provide appropriate information, including on the scope of assistance, to disaster-affected people	x		90% (1,800) of the target families (2,000) were informed of the assistance provided
<b>Activity 1.2.2:</b> Ensure that affected people can deliver feedback on programme activities and/or report any complaints, in confidence, and that such are actioned by ARCS.		x	

### Progress:

Output 1.1: ARCS, through its Disaster Response Units (DRUs) conducted 7 pre-distribution meetings in each affected province with target beneficiaries in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Nuristan and Takhar provinces targeting over 1,800 families. Beneficiaries raised issues of delayed and inadequate relief assistance and the preferred type of winter clothing.

ARCS Mazar and Jalalabad regional offices have conducted monitoring visits to all distributions points where volunteers have carried out emergency relief distributions. Reports gathered during the monitoring visits will form basis for replenishing using the DREF stocks.

The initial budget of CHF 39,000 allocated for PSS activity was revised to be used for procuring and replenishing additional items in the provision of hygiene kits.

Output 1.2: The IFRC DM Officer has been coordinating with ARCS DM department in scheduling out monitoring visits planned for December 2015 and producing regular reports from the field. Reports on progress of the earthquake response on daily basis through ARCS deployed DRU teams were coordinated and six "earthquake summary response reports" were produced between 27 October and 15 November. All of these reports have been verified by ARCS DM authorities and circulated to the relevant stakeholders within IFRC and ARCS system.

ARCS regional offices with support from IFRC field offices continue to provide updated information on the earthquake response. A reporting template in excel sheet has been used by ARCS EOC for updating facts and figures of the earthquake casualties, damages and response status. All the affected provinces (13) are reporting which is being shared with stakeholders. During earthquake response IFRC staff at regional offices held several meetings with ARCS staff and provided update information through email/phone.

## Health and care

**Needs analysis:** Children in the most affected communities, especially those whose homes have been damaged and how are currently displaced, will need psychosocial support. At the same time, ARCS staff and volunteers, especially those working in remote and security-sensitive areas, will also benefit from psychosocial support.

**Population to be assisted:** Up to 3,000 children in Badakhshan will be provided with psychosocial support kits containing colouring books, crayons, stress balls, moulding clay, puzzle and toy blocks. "Caring for carers" interventions will be organized for ARCS staff and volunteers.

<b>Outcome 2: The immediate mental health risks of affected children and ARCS personnel are reduced.</b>			
<b>Output 2.1: Children in most affected communities and ARCS personnel involved in the response are provided with psychosocial support.</b>			
<i>Activities planned</i>	<b>Is implementation on time?</b>		<b>% progress (estimate)</b>
	<b>Yes (x)</b>	<b>No (x)</b>	
<b>Activity 2.1.1:</b> Provide select ARCS staff and volunteers with orientation on providing psychosocial support to children.		x	
<b>Activity 2.1.2:</b> Procure and distribute locally-adapted psychosocial support kits to 3,000 children.	x		100%
<b>Activity 2.1.3:</b> Conduct plays activities for 3,000 children in affected communities.		x	
<b>Activity 2.1.4:</b> Organize "caring for carers" interventions for ARCS staff and volunteers.		x	

### Progress:

Output 2.1: Available stocks of 3,600 PSS items for children (toys for 3-6 years old) and 100 PSS kits for volunteers from Kabul have been prepared to be dispatched to northeast and east regions. The materials include printed leaflets on PSS translated into Dari and Pashto. CBHFA supervisors in the northeast and east regions were advised to prepare the distribution plan for PSS items, along with 1,600 hygiene kits being dispatched to each region. Volunteers will be selected and oriented on the distribution and organization of PSS sessions and activities.

As the toothpaste within the available hygiene kits was found to be expired, 3,740 tubes of toothpaste were procured locally in Mazar in order to replace the expired items. The 3,740 new tubes of toothpaste have been repackaged in the 1,870 hygiene kits (2 tubes per kit) and readied for delivery to Kunduz-northeast region for distribution. Due to UNICEF's existing stocks and distribution of their own hygiene kits in the target areas of intervention in northeast region, the delivery of hygiene kits to Kunduz was put on hold for the time being.

Available stocks of 1,800 (60%) PSS support kits were delivered to east region for 3,000 children. This resulted in a modification of the plan to procure 3,000 locally-adapted psychosocial support kits for children (costing 39,000 CHF). The modification is to meet the additional 1,600 hygiene kits (costing CHF 36,800) and 1,870 toothpaste tubes (costing CHF 3,740) as requested by the ARCS health department.

## Shelter and settlements (and household items)

**Needs analysis:** Emergency shelter is the top priority, especially winterization. There is a need for emergency shelter solutions, including tarpaulins, as well winter clothing in view of the approaching winter and heavy snowfall predicted.

**Population to be assisted:** Up to 2,000 households will be assisted with tarpaulins, non-food items (high thermal blankets, jerry cans and kitchen sets) and hygiene kits. Furthermore, 1,000 families in areas where winter is projected to be harsher will be provided with winter clothing (jackets for children, *shawls* for women and *patus* for men).

<b>Outcome 3: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of population affected by the earthquake are met.</b>			
<b>Output 3.1: Essential household items are provided to the target population.</b>			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
<b>Activity 3.1.1:</b> Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiary households for distributions.	x		90%
<b>Activity 3.1.2:</b> Mobilize and transport non-food items, hygiene kits and winter clothing to affected areas.		x	
<b>Activity 3.1.3:</b> Distribute non-food items, hygiene kits and winter clothing to beneficiary households		x	
<b>Activity 3.1.4:</b> Conduct post-distribution and impact monitoring.			
<b>Output 3.2: Emergency shelter assistance is provided to the target population.</b>			
<i>Activities planned</i>	Is implementation on time?		% progress (estimate)
	Yes (x)	No (x)	
<b>Activity 3.2.1:</b> Identify, register, verify and mobilize beneficiary households for distributions.		x	
<b>Activity 3.2.2:</b> Mobilize and transport emergency shelter items (tarpaulins) to the affected area.		x	
<b>Activity 3.2.3:</b> Distribute emergency shelter items (tarpaulins) to beneficiary households.		x	
<b>Activity 3.2.4:</b> Provide guidance and technical support (on installation of tarpaulins, water proofing and insulation) to beneficiary households.		x	
<b>Activity 3.2.5:</b> Conduct post-distribution and impact monitoring		x	

### Progress:

**Output 3.1:** Based on initial rapid assessments, ARCS has compiled beneficiary registers in coordination with government and other NGOs for supporting distribution of NFIs.

Non-food Items (NFI) are being sourced with the support of IFRC Regional Logistics Unit (RLU) in Kuala Lumpur and GLS in Dubai. The process was initiated according to IFRC standard logistics procedures and processes early in the operation and the items are in pipeline. The table below outlines the NFI procurement status as of 3 December 2015.

Item (Int'l Procurement)	Quantity required	Quantity available (from Dubai)	Route (all deliveries to KBL)	Expected Delivery time	Status of Delivery as at 3.12.2015
Medium-thermal blankets	14,000 pieces	14,000 pcs	Ex-Dubai via Iran to Kabul	3-4 weeks (subject to custom clearance)	ARCS formally accepted replacement of initial 3,600 high thermal fleece blankets with 14,000 medium thermal woollen blankets. Request for Procurement (RFP) submitted on 12/11/2015.
10-ltr collapsible jerry cans	4,000 pieces	4,000 pcs	Ex-Dubai via Iran to Kabul	3-4 weeks (subject to custom clearance)	On process Ex-Dubai
Kitchen sets Type A	2,000 pieces	0	ex-KL via Iran to Kabul	6-8 weeks to Kabul, subject to custom clearance	On process Ex-KL

Hygiene kits	3,600 pieces	2,000 kits	2,000 ex-Dubai via Iran to Kabul 1,600 ex-KL via Iran to Kabul	Ex-Dubai 3-4 weeks Ex-KL 6-8 weeks (subject to custom clearance)	Increased from 2,000 to 3,600 kits based on assessed priority needs. PSS budget to cover the 1,600 kits and 1870 tubes of tooth paste (locally procured). 1,600 kits expected from KL and 2,000 kits expected from Dubai. A separate requisition for additional 1,600 hygiene kits to KL done.
Tarpaulins	4,000 pieces	4,000 pcs	Ex-Dubai via Iran to Kabul	3-4 weeks (subject to custom clearance)	On process Ex-Dubai

A template for monitoring replenishment of the NFIs was drafted and shared with ARCS for their approval and use. The template was designed to provide information on NFIs distributed by ARCS for the earthquake indicating type, ration, number of beneficiaries, quantities and location where distribution was conducted as a basis for replenishment. In the same form, location of stores with distances and quantities needed for replenishment are indicated.

Winter clothing items for children; 2,000 *shawls*, 2,000 *patas* and 3,000 jackets have been locally procured and delivered to ARCS warehouses in Jalalabad and Mazar. ARCS is still working the completion of the distribution plan for the items.

## Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

### Afghan Red Crescent Society:

- ✓ Mohammed Naim Dindar, Secretary General, email: [naimdindar7@gmail.com](mailto:naimdindar7@gmail.com)
- ✓ Abdulrahman Kalantary, Director of Disaster Management, email: [abr99@yahoo.com](mailto:abr99@yahoo.com)

### IFRC Afghanistan country office:

- ✓ Pat Laberge, Head of Delegation; email: [pat.laberge@ifrc.org](mailto:pat.laberge@ifrc.org)
- ✓ Charles Godfrey Byamugisha, Disaster Management Delegate, email: [charles.byamugisha@ifrc.org](mailto:charles.byamugisha@ifrc.org)

### IFRC multi-country office, Delhi:

- ✓ Daniel Bolanos, Regional Programme Coordinator; mobile: +91 88 2668 8542; email: [daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org](mailto:daniel.bolanos@ifrc.org)

### IFRC Asia Pacific regional office, Kuala Lumpur (phone: +60 3 9207 5700):

- ✓ Martin Faller, Head of Operations; email: [martin.faller@ifrc.org](mailto:martin.faller@ifrc.org)
- ✓ Nicolas Verdy, Operations Coordinator; mobile: +60 19 620 0357; email: [nicolas.verdy@ifrc.org](mailto:nicolas.verdy@ifrc.org)

### Resource mobilization and pledges:

- ✓ Diana Ongiti, Senior Relationship Officer; mobile: +60 12 371 2004; email: [diana.ongiti@ifrc.org](mailto:diana.ongiti@ifrc.org)  
Please send all pledges for funding to [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

### Logistics enquiries:

- ✓ Riku Assamaki, Logistics Coordinator; mobile : +60 12 298 9752; email: [riku.assamaki@ifrc.org](mailto:riku.assamaki@ifrc.org)

### Communications enquiries:

- ✓ Patrick Fuller, Communications Manager; mobile: +60-12-230-8451, email: [patrick.fuller@ifrc.org](mailto:patrick.fuller@ifrc.org)

### Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

- ✓ Peter Ophoff, Head of PMER, email: [peter.ophoff@ifrc.org](mailto:peter.ophoff@ifrc.org)

### IFRC Geneva:

- ✓ Christine South, Operations Quality Assurance Senior Officer; phone: +41 22 730 4529, email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org)



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All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (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**.