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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update

Afghanistan: Drought



DREF n° MDRAF004	GLIDE n° DR-2018-000052-AFG
EPoA update n° 1; 17 December 2018	Timeframe covered by this update: 1 to 30 November 2018
Operation start date: 1 November 2018	Operation timeframe: 4 months End date: 1 March 2019
Overall operation budget: CHF 265,185	
N° of people being assisted: 14,000 (2,000 families)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Societies, the 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).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: (i) Government ministries and agencies, 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 (ii) UN agencies; OCHA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, UN Children's Fund UNMAS, UN (iii) International NGOs; 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.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

No revision is being made to the plan of action or the budget and this is just a progress report.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Poor precipitation during the winter of 2017/2018 in the mountainous regions of Hindu-Kush is responsible for the severe drought that hit Afghanistan in the first half of 2018, particularly over the northwestern regions. These semi-arid/arid areas rely heavily on rain and melted snow flowing from the mountains for the majority of their water resources. As most of Western Afghanistan does not receive any precipitation between June and October, the lack of it in earlier months compromises water supply for the rest of the year.¹

The drought caused losses to the rural communities (70 per cent of population live in rural areas) and forced people to move toward makeshift camps and cities, to avoid famine as many people have been left without enough food to feed their families. Hilmand ANDMA reported about 1,400 individuals displaced from Khanshin to Lashkargah due to drought and lack of water. As part of the drought response in rural areas, WFP and its partners delivered 3,500 metric tons of food for more than 398,000 people in 13 provinces, in the last week of November (20-27 November). In the past month, more than 1.4 million people received food or cash from WFP as part of the ongoing full-scale drought response that plans to reach 2.5 million people by end of the year.²

¹ Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) – DG ECHO Daily Map, 22/11/2018

² Afghanistan Weekly Field Report 26 November – 03 December 2018

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society: The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) remains 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). 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.

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: 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).

ARCS response as of 2 October 2018 has been as below within all response including DREF within the overall drought response:

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 under ware, Sanitary pad 3 packs of 10 pieces each</i>	1,527 people (females)

An update of ARCS drought response activities from 1 November to 2 December 2018 is given below:

Sector	Intervention	People reached
Food security	Started the procurement process of 2,000 food parcels for Herat and Badghis provinces drought affected families. One food parcel for one family of average 7 people.	To distribute food items for 14,000 individuals in Herat and Baghis provinces in the western region.
Start of Emergency Need Assessment (ENA) planning and conducting of trainings in Herat and Badghis provinces in the west region.	One day ENA refresher training has been conducted in Herat province and 25 participants from Heart and Badghis trained. Participants include volunteers, DRU and BDRT members. Below agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DREF operation orientation Briefing participant ENA Introduction to detail assessment form, assessment Report template and checklist Briefing on relief distribution process including beneficiary registration, selection and reporting. 	25 volunteers, DRU and BDRT training on ENA in the western region. 3 female and 23 male.
EOC meeting held on drought operation.	On 27 November 2018, EOC meeting held on drought operation. The meeting was chaired by ARCS SG and participant were ARCS, IFRC and ICRC. it was recommended to use 2,000 food parcel from ICRC and replenish with 2,000 from DREF as the procurement takes a long time.	Distribution 2,000 parcels from ICRC and replenishment with DREF parcels.
RDRT deployments	The deployment process started, two RDRT members selected but due to passport extension and visa processing issues both RDRT members were not able to attend the mission.	

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

On 27 November 2018 a drought coordination meeting was held in ARCS - EOC meeting room and the meeting was chaired by ARCS SG. Basically, the meeting was among movement partners National Society, IFRC and ICRC. The purpose of meeting was to monitor the drought operation in the country and in particular DREF operation progress. Two DREF related issues were discussed in the meeting (1) RDRT deployment progress and (2) Procurement of 2000 food parcels. It was discussed that if the DREF procurement 2,000 food parcels is taking long, then the second option is to use the ICRC food parcels and later replenish with DREF. After the meeting, many coordination meetings took place between ARCS and IFRC DM departments to support the drought operation.

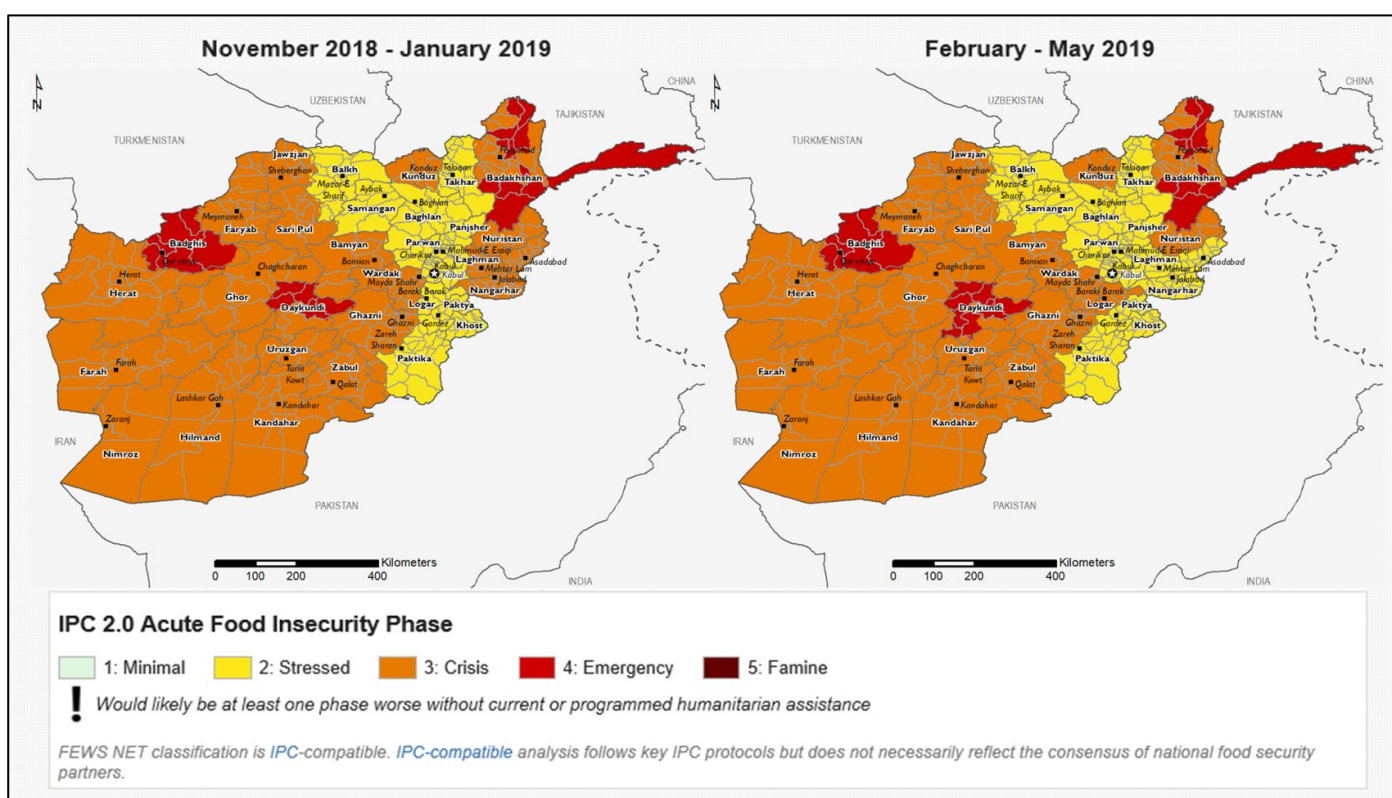
Overview of non-RCRC actors in country:

As part of the drought response in rural areas, WFP and its partners delivered 3,500 metric tons of food for more than 398,000 people in 13 provinces, in the last week of November (20-27 November). In the month of November more than 1.4 million people received food or cash from WFP as part of the ongoing full-scale drought response that plans to reach 2.5 million people by end of the year. During the past week, almost 578,000 people affected by conflict and drought, as well as returnees received humanitarian assistance. Assistance provided included cash, food, hygiene kits for families and women, emergency household items, emergency shelter and provision of safe drinking water. The response activities were carried out in Ghazni, Badghis, Ghor, Hirat, Baghlan, Zabul, Nimroz and Nangarhar provinces by humanitarian partners, including ACF, ACTED, ANDMA, CARE, CWSA, DACAAR, DAIL, IMC, IRC, MISSION EAST, SCI, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNMAS and WFP.³

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

According to Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET); Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food insecurity outcomes continue throughout most of the country. The areas worst affected by drought in Badakhshan, Badghis, and Daykundi provinces will continue to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes through the peak of the lean season. The number of households facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse outcomes is likely to increase through the lean season as the total food insecure population is anticipated to be between 6 and 7 million due to the negative impacts of drought, conflict, continued weak labor opportunities, and below-average remittances from Iran and Pakistan.



Based on information from the Nutrition Cluster, the nutritional status of IDP children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) is at a high risk of deteriorating due to the lack of adequate food, shelter, and other basic necessities through the lean season. MUAC screenings in September and October of IDP children in Herat city indicates about 25

³ Afghanistan Weekly Field Report (26 November – 03 December 2018) <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-weekly-field-report-26-november-03-december-2018>

percent of children 6-59 months are classified as acutely malnourished signifying a situation of concern. From January to September 2018, over 389,000 children under 5 years of age received lifesaving nutrition services.

Field reports indicate with the start of the wet season, winter wheat planting is ongoing in many areas. Although, delays in planting have been reported in parts of Baghlan, Balk, Faryab, Kunduz, Samangan, and Sar-e-Pul as early precipitation prevented land preparation activities and seed distributions have not been completed. In southern areas, there has not been enough rainfall to date to facilitate planting which is typical for this time of year.

Operation Risk Assessment

There are some risk factors anticipated such as:

- Access to the villages to do the need assessment, beneficiary selection and registration.
- Transportation of food items.
- Monitoring of distribution process.
- Security.

ARCS plan to anticipate these risks with providing activities that will decrease the level of risk in order to implement the activities in the targeted areas.

ARCS working in close coordination and cooperation with the relevant local authorities, communities and movement partners for the implementation of the activities such as conduct monitoring from the distribution process, transportation items to the field and accessibilities to the area.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY


Overall Operational objective:

The objective of the drought response DREF operation is 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 will contribute 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 will contribute to ongoing humanitarian efforts for drought affected people. That include encourage them to stay or return to their places of origin and actively engage in this cultivation season through provision of food assistance at their places of origin. These efforts will need repeated distribution of food assistance for coming 5-6 months by the time new crops are harvested.


Proposed strategy

1. ARCS in with the support from IFRC has conducted ENA refresher training for 25 persons including volunteers, DRU and BDRT members in the west regions for the purpose of conducting Emergency Need Assessment, beneficiary selection and registration in target areas.
2. ARCS staff and volunteers will focus on the Emergency Need Assessment, beneficiary registration, beneficiary selection and distribution of food parcels in Herat and Badghis provinces for the drought affected population in December 2018.
3. The deployment process has started and hopefully one RDRT members will arrive in December 2018.
4. EOC meeting will be conducted in 3rd week of December to provide updates and discuss way forward.
5. DM IFRC Officer will be participating in the upcoming ANDMA meeting.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

		
<h3>Livelihoods and basic needs</h3> <p>People reached: Male: Female:</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of drought affected people with livelihood and basic needs assistance</i>	14,000	0

Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold	2,000	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Started the procurement process of 2,000 food parcels for Herat and Badghis provinces drought affected families. One food parcel is intended for one family of average seven people. In the meantime, ARCS will distribute parcels from their stock that were from ICRC. In general, activities are ongoing within the EPoA proposed time lines. During the reporting period, ARCS has conducted the ENA training in Herat and 25 volunteers have been trained from Badghis and Herat provinces. The trained volunteers are engaged in emergency need assessment by local branches for seven other drought affected provinces. ENA workshops are planned for other regions in third week of December. No foreseeable challenges communicated by the NS as of reporting period. 		

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC engage in inter agency coordination at country level.</i>	Yes	Yes
Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARCS staff and volunteer oriented and engaged in ENA process.	25	25
Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of cluster coordination meetings ARCS and IFRC participated.	1	1
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicator:	Target	Actual
<i>Revised EPoA guided by assessment findings.</i>	Yes	Depending on ENA
Progress towards outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ARCS with the support from IFRC has conducted ENA refresher training for 25 persons including volunteers, DRU and BDRT members in the west regions for the purpose of conducting Emergency Need Assessment, beneficiary selection and registration in target areas. ARCS staff and volunteers will focus on the Emergency Need Assessment, beneficiary registration, beneficiary selection and distribution of food parcels in Herat and Badghis provinces for the drought affected population in December 2018. No foreseeable challenges communicated by the NS as of reporting period. 		
		
Emergency Need Assessment (ENA) Workshop in Herat Province (Photo: ARCS)		

D. BUDGET

CHF 265,185 has been allocated for ARCS to respond to the immediate needs of 14,000 affected people (2,000 families) in Herat and Badghis provinces in drought affected regions. The financial report will be provided in the operation final report due in May 2019.



Click for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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**.