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Emergency Appeal

Afghanistan: Drought and Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRAF005

Up to 650,000 people to be assisted

Appeal launched March 2019

Glide n° [FF-2019-000018-AFG](#)
[DR-2018-000052-AFG](#)

400,000 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends March 2020

7 million Swiss francs current Appeal
budget

This Emergency Appeal seeks **7 million Swiss francs** to enable the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** to support the **Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)** in delivering assistance and support up to **650,000 people** (approximately 92,466 households) affected by flood and drought for **twelve months**. The operation focuses on the following sectors: shelter, health and care; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods and basic needs; disaster risk reduction (DRR) and strengthening the capacity of the National Society. The planned response reflects the current situation and information currently available. It is likely to be adjusted based on further developments and ongoing detailed assessments. Further information will be available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) in the coming days.

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

April 2018: The government of Afghanistan declared a drought in mid-April and requested the international community support to drought affected population in Afghanistan.

May 2018: The long dry spell exacerbated drought conditions, leading to reduced pasture land, water shortages, and deaths of livestock, increasing the number of acutely food insecure people to emergency levels, with 2.2 million people in need at this time. IFRC released Information bulletin no. 1 on the crisis and ARCS's response.

November 2018: The Afghan Government Chief Executive Officer stated that more than 3.6 million people were severely affected by drought in 22 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Agriculture and related sectors are under threat from extreme weather events, as demonstrated by the current drought that leads to land degradation and desertification, causing lower production, food insecurity, economic degradation, displacement and loss of lives.

November 2018: Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF265,185 to support ARCS's response to the drought through the provision of food assistance to 14,000 people (2,000 households) while an emergency need assessment, was being carried out. The DREF operation will end on 31 March 2019.

December 2018: IFRC Surge Capacity deployed to support ARCS for Emergency Need Assessment of drought affected areas.



ARCS volunteers rescuing people affected by the floods. (Photo by: ARCS)

March 2019: The climatic context changed with heavy precipitation and snow fall in about 16 provinces across the country, resulting in flash floods and affecting more than 250,000 people, resulting in damages in nine provinces, with additional floods anticipated in seven other provinces.

March 2019: The government of Afghanistan established a command and control center under the supervision of Minister of State for Disaster Management, for coordination and to assist flood affectees. The government included civil and military departments from the country and in order to better respond to the needs of the flood affected population in provinces, organized by the Chief Executive Officer.

March 2019: Information bulletin no. 1 is issued for flash floods.

March 2019: Appeal launched and DREF increased to CHF400,000.

The operational strategy

Background

Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, snow avalanches, landslides and droughts due to its geographical location and years of environmental degradation. Climate change also poses a threat to Afghanistan's natural resources, of which most Afghans depend on for their livelihoods. Afghanistan faces significant impacts of climate change and disasters which impact growth prospects. It has a continental climate, which combined with its location at the western end of the Himalayas, renders it susceptible to extremes of temperature and rainfall.

It is also important to note that after decades of conflict, the current intensification of fighting and growing insecurity further hampers access to humanitarian aid and essential services. In the current unstable and volatile context, the civilian population is paying the highest toll to the protracted conflict which is significantly impacting their lives and livelihoods.

Needs assessment and selection of people to be reached

Drought

Since April 2018, Afghanistan is experiencing an increase in the frequency and severity of drought due to a rise in temperature and decrease in the amount of rainfall during monsoon season. Most areas in Afghanistan have experienced between four to six consecutive seasons of far below average rainfall over the last three years. With below average precipitation and above average temperatures since October 2017, the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), UN agencies and ARCS started monitoring the drought. Over 2018, the situation was closely followed with support from the local metrological department and Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET). By the middle of 2018, the protracted drought condition resulted in significant reduction in snow depths, river flows, water level in dams, water tables, and soil moistures. These conditions have already negatively and irreversibly impacted the winter 2017–2018 and spring/summer 2018 agricultural season in Afghanistan.

According to Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, as of September 2018, 9.8 million people (43.6 per cent of the rural population) were estimated to be in Food Crisis and Emergency (IPC Phase 3 and Phase 4). An estimated 2.6 million are classified in IPC Phase 4 nationwide; these people require urgent action to reduce their food deficits and to protect their livelihoods. The current Phase 3 and 4 estimates correspond to a 17.4 per cent increase (from 26.2 to 43.6 per cent) compared to the previous analysis for the same time period last year (2017). Projections suggest that from November 2018 to February 2019, the total population in IPC Phase 3 and IPC Phase 4 is expected to increase to 10.6 million (47.1 per cent of the rural population).

Aug 2018 – Oct 2018			Nov 2018 – Feb 2019		
9.8 million 43.6% of the rural population People facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe	10.6 million 47.1% of the rural population People who will be facing severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	2,583,371 People in Emergency		Phase 4	2,897,164 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	7,255,036 People in Crisis		Phase 3	7,731,348 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	6,877,624 People in Stress		Phase 2	6,785,308 People in Stress
	Phase 1	5,851,033 People minimally food insecure		Phase 1	5,153,244 People minimally food insecure

Afghanistan IPC acute food insecurity analysis projection from August 2018 until February 2019. (Source: *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification*)

The last available report from UN OCHA on 13 September 2018 indicated that the drought affected internally displaced people (IDPs) are estimated at around 266,000. Of these, 84,000 people have settled in Herat city and 182,000 within Badghis province of which 18,579 families (94,945 people) are now settled in Qala-e-Naw City (capital of Badghis province). IDPs are residing in dozens of sites on the outskirts of the cities, or in makeshift shelters within the main cities. This makes it more difficult to reach them in a higher number of catchment areas.

The humanitarian response in 2018 was hampered by underfunding and insecurity. Following revisions to the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, a total of almost 3.5 million food insecure people in 20 provinces of Afghanistan were identified as having acute humanitarian food needs, health and WASH issues and their livelihoods by ANDMA and UN agencies. Over 112,000 Afghans were displaced from their homes in Badghis, Herat and Ghor provinces, the worst affected provinces, to places where they could seek help in the city areas of Herat and Qala-e-Now. The response to the drought in areas of origin had been slow, which contributed to a displacement crisis in the Western region, where the shelter response has been inadequate to date, with people continuing to live in scattered sites in dire makeshift housing.

ARCS conducted an emergency needs assessment in nine¹ drought affected provinces in December 2018 and January 2019 within the DREF-supported drought operation while providing simultaneous food assistance to an initial 14,000 drought affected people (approximately 2,000 families) in Herat and Badghis provinces through food assistance. Besides, ARCS also provided emergency shelters, health services and household items to around 11,558 people in Herat and Badghis. ARCS deployed one Mobile Health Team (MHT) to provide medical treatment to IDPs in an IDP settlement in east of Herat since Aug 2018, together with some dignity kits to drought affected IDPs in Herat and Badghis provinces.

The emergency needs assessment report indicated that the priority needs of the affected population, who are staying in rural areas and IDP camps, are food, water, health care and livelihood support. During the assessment, it was found that almost 60 to 70 per cent of the water points, respectively, are now dry. Poor hygiene practices, including consumption of unsafe water, low latrine coverage and poor health seeking behaviour have been cited as some of the underlying factors for the high levels of malnutrition in the country. In addition, most of the affected communities in province of the country have very low latrine coverage. The water treatment is equally low, at less than 10 per cent and hand washing practices are also poor.

Floods

El Nino, declared in early February this year, brought above-normal snowfall/ rainfall² to Afghanistan, and this was also reflected in the seasonal forecast for March-May 2019. With poor soil absorption and limited vegetation in many mountainous areas due to the drought, the current rainfall in recent weeks and projections indicate the likelihood of increased and worsening spring floods to come³. On a positive note, FEWSNET indicates that the above normal precipitation will be beneficial for cropping.

The OCHA and government Command and Control Centre for Flood Emergency report notes that nine provinces have been affected by heavy rains and flooding to date, including Herat and Kandahar provinces. The flood damaged the infrastructure including equipment and amenities which led to the disruption of the routine functioning of these facilities in the affected areas. Several of the public buildings which were damaged during the disaster, have also lost connectivity and are inaccessible due to damages to roads and bridges.

ARCS conducted a rapid need assessment on 1 March which showed mass destructions of house and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities, mosques and displacements of people from their homes and IDPs camps due to the floods. It is anticipated that more rains shall fall in the coming months with little resources on ground to respond the needs of people in different provinces. The resilience of people in most of the provinces is already weak because of earlier protracted drought. There is a huge need in emergency shelter on the ground. Besides, there is continuous population movement from the rural villages to safer places with available humanitarian assistance and better basic services.

Most of the provinces already affected by the protracted conflict and recently drought, people are living in poor shelter without enough basic service. This has continuous and added negative effects on already fragile systems and communities that were displaced due to drought since 2017. Presently, there are many IDP settlements in Herat, Badghis, Kandahar and Farha that were by those affected due to drought. These settlements are growing with added people arriving due to the onset of floods.

¹ Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Nimroz, Badghis and Herat provinces.

² 146 per cent increase compared to 2018

³ The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre provided analysis of precipitation and forecast which will be included in the Emergency Plan of Action.

In view of the humanitarian needs, this Emergency Appeal responds to communities affected by the drought and floods, with interventions planned to cover almost 13 months (from March 2019 to March 2020). This appeal includes interventions to address the food crises, threat of disease outbreaks, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs, livelihoods disruption and ongoing internal displacement driven by the floods, drought and conflict. The operations team will continue to monitor the situation to adjust the operation and respond adequately to this, with a link and transition to existing and additional longer-term programming where applicable.

The operational strategy of this Emergency Appeal is the outcome of continuous assessments and data analysis, as well as consultation between the IFRC, ARCS and Movement partners on how to respond to this complex emergency in an integrated manner. Coordination with ICRC and partners began in early 2018 with the advent of ARCS drought response. Consultation for access to operation areas was obtained from ICRC within the Strengthening Movement Cooperation and Coordination (SMCC) plan. The Emergency Appeal aims at assisting around **650,000** people (approximately 92,500 families) who are at risk of food insecurity and livelihood disruption, deteriorating health and hygiene conditions, and limited access to safe drinking water due to factors such as current floods, drought, conflict and economic instability. Overall, this operation seeks to assist the following beneficiary targets within each sector and provinces:

Sector	No. of targeted people
Emergency shelter & household items	14,000
Livelihoods and basic needs	101,500
Health and Care	338,002
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	647,260
Disaster Risk Reduction	647,260
Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)	647,260

Province	Disaster	Sectors	Target population
Nangahar	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, shelter	56,734
Farha	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	88,793
Kunhar	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, shelter	57,492
Helmand	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	87,689
Herat	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	91,798
Kandahar	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	69,722
Jowzjan	Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	51,789
Nimroz	Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	53,487
Badghis	Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	89,756
Total			647,260

ARCS and IFRC aim to incorporate longer-term resilience-oriented approaches in programming to address some of the underlying factors causing vulnerability. Community-driven sustainable solutions will be used to increase the resilience of crisis-affected people to cope with cyclical food insecurity. The proposed response activities in this Appeal will also reinforce ARCS disaster response capacity and expertise in areas such as emergency shelter and household items assistance, health care provision, WASH and cash-based intervention (CBI), and strengthen its country-wide network of volunteers. These objectives will be closely linked to those of the national long-term (development) operational plan for Afghanistan, ensuring a concerted approach to capacity-building and allowing for an effective exit strategy when this Emergency Appeal is expected to come to an end (March 2020).

Target population

The operation defines the target of worst affected population by floods and drought in Nangahar, Farha, Kunhar, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Jowzjan, Nimroz and Badghis provinces.

The targeting criteria for household level assistance to floods and drought-affected communities will be defined based on further assessment and in consultation with local ARCS branches and leaders of community-based organisations. ARCS will invest in strong community-based targeting mechanisms to avoid potential selection biases and to meet the Movement's global standards on community engagement and accountability (CEA). More specifically the targeting will focus on: (i) Emergency Shelter/household items (ii) Acute Water Diarrhoea (AWD) high-risk communities; (iii) floods and drought affected internally-displaced populations (IDPs) and those who lost their livelihoods which affected the household income; and (iv) communities with basic health related issues.

Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC's Afghan country office is supporting ARCS in implementing health programmes including Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) in northern, north-eastern, central northern, central southern and western regions. Similarly, WASH activities are also being carried out in five provinces; Parwan, Nangarhar, Balkh, Samangan and Baghlan. ARCS partners with Canadian Red Cross together with IFRC in supporting health in

emergencies, mobile health teams (MHTs) in 11 provinces including youth health and routine immunisation in Paktika, Kunduz, Kandahar, Kunar, Nooristan, Nangarhar and Laghman.

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 promote and respect of IHL, health services, in particular for the wounded and sick, ensure physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitor the treatment of detainees across the country and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions. ICRC provides 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 “Safer Access” approach that promotes safer access to persons affected by conflict and other situations of violence, whilst minimising risks for staff and volunteers.

The Norwegian Red Cross has in-country presence supporting ARCS with health interventions, WASH and CBHFA activities in the provinces. The Danish Red Cross extends their support to ARCS in psychosocial support (PSS) together with the ICRC, volunteer management and youth mobilization activities in Afghanistan.

The Government of Afghanistan through its Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) coordinates all interventions by NGO and UN agencies with support from UNOCHA. ARCS is participating regularly in Command and Control Centre for Flood Emergency under the Minister of State for Disaster Management in Kabul. They are sharing and collecting updates with ANMDA and other authorities. ARCS also participate in all coordination meetings in clusters, technical working groups health, WASH, CBI and etc. including in government-led or other humanitarian organizations meetings. Other agencies implementing humanitarian activities related to the floods and drought response includes UN Agencies: WFP, UNDP, UNOCHA, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, IOM and other INGOs implementing water and sanitation activities while Save the Children, OXFAM, ACF, ACTED, Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils are providing emergency shelter and household items, and nutritional support project through health centres and immediate food assistance for floods and cash based initiatives are already taken for drought affected people through their cash programmes. ARCS and IFRC held meetings with mobile money service providers to develop an overview of the capacity of the mobile operators. The meetings highlighted the widespread use of mobile money platforms by the communities in Afghanistan for food purchases etc. The mobile money platform is widespread with sufficient network coverage in targeted areas under the operation. Mobile operators indicated that they are able to support the operation through registration of beneficiaries who are not on the mobile money platform and will orient on how the systems work.

Advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy

The relationship between this disaster and the pre-existing conflict situation in Afghanistan has further weakened the resilience of individuals and communities. Humanitarian advocacy with Afghan authorities and international organisations needs to address the criticality of this crisis situation for communities because of series of self-sustaining disasters (flash floods worsened by droughts). Humanitarian diplomacy with Afghan authorities and other actors will be undertaken in consultation with ARCS and the ICRC. This aims to mobilize public and governmental support and resources for humanitarian operations and programmes, and to facilitate effective partnerships for responding to the needs of vulnerable people. ARCS regional branches are collaborating with local authorities and humanitarian actors in floods and drought affected provinces. Information and situation updates are being shared regularly with ARCS National Headquarters. The IFRC Afghan country office will be strengthened with a team member to support these efforts for advocacy, negotiation, communication, formal agreements, and other measures with many players, including governments, international organisations, UN agencies and the public and private sectors.

Proposed Areas for intervention

The overall objective of this Emergency Appeal is to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of the population affected by the floods and protracted drought in Afghanistan through the provision of emergency shelter, non-food items, health & care, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH) and by providing cash resources enabling access to food and enabling livelihoods activities until March 2020.

Areas of Focus



Shelter

People targeted: 14,000

Male: 7,098

Female: 6,902

Requirements (CHF): 1.2 million

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: Most of the provinces already affected by the protracted drought were further impacted by the current and expected additional floods in the coming weeks and months. Presently, several IDP settlements in Herat, Badghis, Kandahar and Farha affected, with the most of them living in poor shelters without sufficient basic service

Compounding the situation are the ongoing floods, with thousands of houses completely or partially damaged and leaving people homeless. These homeless people have been accommodated in schools, and other public buildings which survived this disaster in and around their villages. An initial target of 14,000 people who have lost all their belongings and are in immediate need of emergency shelter, household items such as blankets, kitchen sets, cooking stoves, water containers and water purification tablets will be assisted in through this operation.

Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Identification, registering and verification of beneficiaries.
- Procurement of emergency shelter and household items.
- Mobilization of volunteers and provide orientation on distribution protocols.
- Transportation of emergency shelter and household items.
- Distribution of emergency shelter and household items to 2,000 households.
- Undertake post-distribution monitoring.

Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Preparation of materials on safer shelter techniques and appropriate use of materials for the orientation session with HH.
- Orientation of HHs on safer shelter techniques and appropriate use of shelter materials.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 101,500

Male: 51,460

Female: 50,040

Requirements (CHF): 1.5 million

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: The floods and drought affected population in Afghanistan, mostly rural community's livelihoods, particularly small-scale agricultural producers, whose limited production negatively impacted their access and the availability of resources to cover their basic needs. Overall, ARCS's assessments revealed that the current floods and drought hampered affected people's ability, these complex disasters also increased the need of affected people including shelter and food rations. The current flooding in many provinces and protracted drought, the affected population do not have the necessary resources to purchase

agricultural inputs, which affected their ability to earn a living. Households and communities need support to recover their livelihoods with dignity.

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

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Identification, registration and verification of beneficiaries for food needs.
- Food security training for staff and volunteers
- Distribution of food package among 9,000 households (in two phases).
- Food assistance through conditional cash transfers to 4,500 households (CHF 70)
- Post distribution monitoring, including regular measurement of FS indicators.

Output 1.3: Household livelihoods security is enhanced through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management (agriculture-based livelihoods)

- Restoration of livelihoods of 1,000 households by increasing access to agricultural inputs and tools (possibly through cash transfers) to set up vegetable gardens
- Training in vegetable gardening including climate smart practices, soil and water conservation...
- Monitoring of progress and activities throughout the planting season

Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Preparation of baseline assessment for Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) – consultation with service providers in the country.
- Capacity building of branch staff and volunteers on CBI; 3 days.
- Orientation on the beneficiary selection and use of mobile money transfer system for target population.
- Establishment of the CEA activities such as setting up targeting committees as well as feedback and complaints mechanism and training of volunteers.
- Identification, registration, verification and orientation of beneficiaries for cash grant.
- Preparation and piloting of mobile phone cash transfer.
- Conduct price and market capacity, post distribution monitoring and endline surveys.
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Health

People targeted: 338,002

Male: 54,500

Female: 62,500

Requirements (CHF): 400,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: Across the provinces, flood waters destroyed thousands of houses, public infrastructure and agriculture land. The high risks of consequent health emergencies are high and serious damage to the health service infrastructure, and lack of medical supplies, leaves millions vulnerable to diseases. A priority of the national society is to immediately deploy the medical health teams in severely flood affected provinces. Furthermore, as the National Society continues to care for those left vulnerable by these floods, it is critical that the emergency disaster preparedness stocks are replenished to allow the National Society to rapidly respond to the continuation of this operation as well as new emergencies. This Emergency Appeal seeks to provide the National Society, and thus vulnerable populations, with essential medical supplies as well as provide hygiene promotion and health education to prevent the further spread of disease in the aftermath of these floods.

The potential consequences of severe food insecurity and limited water availability will affect the most vulnerable people across Afghanistan, particularly children under five who may experience a deterioration in their nutritional and health status due to poor access to potable water and typical seasonal spikes in diarrheal diseases. The protection needs for agriculture and livestock are massive across the country.

The intense drought between April and December had aggravated the already poor malnutrition status within the 22 affected provinces. As a result, an increase in acute malnutrition caseload between July and December 2018 is augmented. In addition, the severity of acute malnutrition among children under five is getting worse, resulting in cases that are more complicated. Overall due to the dual emergency caused with floods and drought, it is reasonable to assume that the increase in magnitude and severity of acute malnutrition and disease will stretch the capacity of health facilities to provide treatment, and that in the medium to long-term, children will face heightened vulnerability to morbidity and mortality. Health cluster partners are present in 25 provinces and 106 districts in Afghanistan and they have prioritized under-served and conflict affected areas.

The latest version of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) learning resources has been reviewed by RMNCAH in Emergency sub-committee in Afghanistan.⁴ Rapid Assessment Tool developed by the committee was applied in assessing the health facilities of three provinces (Nangarhar, Kandahar and Herat). The committee decided to include the new-born health services and supplies in humanitarian services as part of its response strategy. Working together with the Ministry of Public Health, sustainable solutions need to be introduced to provide vulnerable population access to health care. Similarly, provision of healthcare has been a challenge with 63 incidents of attack on health facilities reported in 2018, leading to destruction of 21 and closure of 41 health facilities.

Output 1.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Deploy four mobile health teams (MHTs) in Herat and Kandahar (Flood and Drought affected) and in Helmand and Farah (heavily flood affected).
- Procurement and supply of medicines to ARCS-run health facilities.
- Provide refresher training for nurses and midwives to improve in case management and disease surveillance skills.

Output 2: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population.

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Establishment of nine community health committees.
- Community mobilization for vaccination and especially during NIDs.
- Identification of pregnant and lactating women for nutrition support.
- Distribution of food supplements to pregnant and lactating women.
- Conduct nutrition promotion sessions.
- Provide first aid services for the affected communities.
- Print and supply information, education and communication (IEC) materials for health volunteers with more focus on health promotion and acute watery diarrhoea/cholera prevention.
- Procure first aid kits and supply to volunteers for case management.
- Conduct community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) training to volunteers using ECV as a tool.
- Volunteer mobilization for health education.
- Field monitoring by ARCS HQ - jointly by IFRC.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 647,260

Male: 323,700

Female: 323,560

Requirements (CHF): 800,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: Access to safe water is an immediate need in floods and protracted drought affected communities of Afghanistan, as a significant proportion of households do not have access to sufficient and drinkable water to meet emergency standards. Even in areas where recent rains caused

⁴ National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) Strategy 2017–2021 of the Ministry of Public Health, Afghanistan.

flooding and water contamination, the reliance on uncovered sources for drinking, and the limited use of water treatment either at source or at the household level means that water quality is of serious concern. The knock-on effect of low-quality drinking water is likely to affect nutrition and health in the medium to long term. In Afghanistan, more than 90 per cent of water from wells and open streams are contaminated due to current floods and drought in past years. Local community are relying on unimproved water sources; borehole and/or unprotected wells as well as springs and streams water which are sources for both humans and animals.

The 2017/2018 winter period was the fifth consecutive year where the main planting season for wheat (October-February) was compromised due to drought. In 2018, more than two-thirds of the country - some 22 provinces were affected by severe rain deficit, negatively affecting water availability and impacting both rain fed and irrigated agricultural lands and pastures. The drought has had a devastating effect on pre-existing water sources, with 750,000 people experiencing acute water shortages and increase in use of unprotected water sources for drinking, exposing children to waterborne diseases, leading to malnourishment. However, in beginning of 2019 this is now exacerbated with floods that has led to further contamination of the above-mentioned sources with waste and faeces, providing potential of an outbreak of water borne diseases, that will be seen very soon.

The communities are lacking awareness on water purification system, and many are still inaccessible to community or household water purification methods. Solid waste management system has always been inefficient. WASH (especially in the hygiene promotion and solid waste management) needs to be the major focus area. Open defecation is a common practice in the affected area, and it has been observed that, animal and human faeces are contaminating drinking water sources potentially causing outbreak of water-borne diseases. In addition, stagnant water contributes to the increase in incidence of vector-borne diseases. The affected population needs immediate support in terms of access to clean drinking water through provision of water purification tablets, household water filters for affected families along with health and hygiene sessions for healthier living practices.

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population.

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Establish WASH committees in nine provinces.
- Repair/rehabilitation of 50 water points (boreholes/wells/water reservoir/spring) for 8,750 beneficiaries.
- Installation of new 20 handpumps in affected communities/schools for 3,500 beneficiaries from communities and 20,000 beneficiaries in schools.
- Procurement and distribution of 50 water tanks/tap stands in schools for 50,000 beneficiaries.
- Procurement and distribution of 5,000 households water filters for 35,000 beneficiaries.
- Procurement of 5,000 jerry cans and distribution among target communities for 2,500 families.
- Procurement and distribution of 50,000 Aqua tabs.
- Orientation sessions for safe water storage and use of water treatment products (Aqua tabs) to target communities/schools.
- Monitor treatment and storage of water through household/school surveys.

Output 2.2: Improved access to and use of adequate sanitation by the target population is provided to target population.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Construct 50 latrines in affected schools/communities.

Output 2.3: Hygiene promotion activities are provided to the entire affected population.

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Training on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodology for branch staff and volunteers (ToT).
- Conduct child hygiene and sanitation training (CHAST) training for teachers and volunteers (ToT).
- Support WASH and community health and hygiene promotion and awareness sessions along with distribution of ORS, households water treatment (HHWT), soaps and IEC materials during social mobilization campaigns.
- Develop, print and distribution of IEC materials through volunteers in relation to water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH).



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 647,260

Male: 323,7000

Female: 323,560

Requirements (CHF): 500,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: The underlying vulnerability and poverty of the people affected by floods and drought in Afghanistan cannot be underestimated. In many regions of Afghanistan, people's lives and their livelihoods are affected from periodic weather-related stress, particularly from below-normal rainfall and sudden onset of flash floods in the country.

Community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) and climate change adaption (CCA) program will enhance community capacity to address adverse effects of disasters due to climate change. Community preparedness and risk reduction measures will be implemented alongside relief and recovery interventions. As part of protecting and restoring community resilience to disasters, community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) activities will be undertaken by having early warning early action agents to identify local risks, vulnerabilities and capacities to strengthen resilience of communities. The DRR activities will also strengthen the response and coordination capacity of local government authorities (regional/district disaster management agencies) in the targeted areas, and will complement ongoing and longer term initiatives supported by the IFRC country acceleration plan.

Output 1.1 Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.

Activities planned to be carried out include:

- Training of staff and volunteers on DRR/CCA and early warning system – 3 days (9 provinces).
- Mobilization of volunteers for disseminating early warning messages.
- Formation of community-based disaster risk management committees in disaster prone areas (nine committees).
- Train and equip of community-based disaster risk management committees.
- Conduct CBDRR programming.
- Support awareness raising of risks of drought and floods and conduct mitigation measures.
- Plantation for climate change mitigation and to protect soil erosion on river banks in nine provinces.
- Work with local actors to enhance their capacities and resilience.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 647,260

Male: 323,700

Female: 323,560

Requirements (CHF): 200,000

Proposed intervention

Needs analysis and population to be assisted: During disasters, affected people are becoming more vulnerable due to lack of housing and economic insecurity. In Afghanistan, the multi-faceted protection crisis continues to negatively impact upon the civilian population. Vulnerable populations such as women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities and people with illnesses are at higher risk of violence, including sexual gender-based violence. Based on the findings through assessment, there is a need to protect these group and incorporate their different needs into the programming. In Afghanistan, protection issues continue to remain at the centre of the complex humanitarian crisis. Vulnerabilities are aggravated, and resilience impacted, especially for groups with specific protection needs such as boys, girls, women, children, older people and disabled. Limited accountability, insufficient humanitarian access, and uneven coverage of national protection frameworks and institutions - especially outside of urban centres - further affects the protection environment, while chronic poverty and underdevelopment renders large segments of the population susceptible to shocks. The protection impact

of the existing crisis is often aggravated due to limited options for positive coping strategies, low awareness of basic rights, and existing discriminatory and harmful socio-cultural practices.

In addition to the physical safety risks to civilians living in conflict, floods and drought affected areas and the increasing pressures facing those living in displacement, people have had to endure significant interruptions to vital services as a result of the closure of healthcare facilities and attacks on education facilities. ARCS and IFRC will coordinate with protection and gender-based violence clusters in western, central, northern and eastern regions. Stronger linkages with protection clusters are also sought on relevant issues of common interest, such as the development of a comprehensive disability and survivor support strategy and response; enhanced operational and planning integration around protection and GBV prevention and response.

Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Activities planned to be carried out:

- Trainings of Trainers (ToT) session on Minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergency (NHQ and regional/provincial staff).
- Follow up and provide technical support in compliance with IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergency programming, closely linked with a CEA approach.
- Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data.

Output 1.2: Emergency response operations prevent and respond to sexual- and gender-based violence and all forms of violence against children.

- Activities planned to be carried out:
- Develop content and support procurement and distribution of 5,000 dignity kits.
- Establish and operate women/child friendly spaces in four provinces.

Strategies for Implementation

Strengthening National Society

Budget (CHF): 850,000

Since the country is frequently affected by complex emergencies and natural disasters, ARCS aims to be better prepared and provide early warning to communities who are prone to disasters.

Preparedness for Effective Response

- Support on enhancing fleet (vehicles) for operations.
- Preposition of stock (non-food relief items).
- Improve contingency planning capacities in at least nine ARCS branches.
- Support for implementing priorities outlined in branch organizational capacity assessment (BOCA) plans / branch development plans.
- Training for branch staff and volunteers on CBI, DRR/CCA, early warning system, Disaster Response, PHAST and CHAST.
- Awareness raising on the Movement Policy on Displacement, and best practices of RCRC in addressing displacement.

National Society Development

- Volunteer development and management.
- Logistics capacity strengthening.
- Information management and reporting.
- Finance management.
- IT & telecommunications capacity enhancement.

Ensure Effective International Disaster Management

Budget (CHF): 1.3 million

The following program support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **surge support, logistics and supply chain, inter-agency coordination and information technology support (IT)**. More details will be provided in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Budget (CHF): 200,000

IFRC will support ARCS to develop work plan and reporting approach for this operation. Furthermore, ARCS and IFRC will maintain close coordination with ICRC and other humanitarian agencies throughout the operation period.

The following program support functions will be put in place to ensure that IFRC influences others as a leading strategic partner: **communications and media relations; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) and partnerships and resource development**. More details will be provided in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Ensure a strong IFRC

Budget (CHF): 50,000

Based on the demand for the technical and coordination support required to deliver in this operation, the following programme support functions will be put in place to ensure an effective and efficient technical coordination: **human resources, logistics and supply chain; information technology support (IT); communications; security; planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER); partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration**. More details will be provided in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Budget

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Afghanistan: Floods & Drought Funding requirements

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	500,000
SHELTER	1,200,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	1,500,000
HEALTH	400,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	800,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION,	200,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETY CAPACITIES	850,000
ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTER'L DISASTER MANAGEMENT	1,300,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	200,000
ENSURE A STRONG IFRC	50,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	7,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Elhadj As Sy
Secretary General

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Information Bulletin \(drought\)](#)
- [DREF \(drought\)](#)
- [Information Bulletin \(flash floods\)](#)

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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**.