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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update Afghanistan: Drought and Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal n° MDRAF005	Glide n° FF-2019-000018-AFG; DR-2018-000052-AFG
EPoA update n° 2 (6-month update); 22 November 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: 13 March - 30 September 2019
Operation start date: 13 March 2019	Operation timeframe: 12 months End date: 31 March 2020
Overall operation budget: CHF 8 million	DREF allocated: CHF 750,000 (First allocation: CHF 400,000. Second allocation: CHF 350,000) Emergency Appeal Budget: CHF 8 million
N° of people being assisted: 674,686 people (approx. 96,000 families)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 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) or from outside Afghanistan (Red Cross Society of China). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is the lead agency in Afghanistan.	
Partners who have, so far, contributed to the IFRC Emergency Appeal are: American Red Cross, British Red Cross, European Commission – DG ECHO, Finnish Red Cross, Hong Kong branch of Red Cross Society of China, Japanese Red Cross Society, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Swedish Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Government and the Netherland Red Cross (from Netherlands Government).	
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 etc.	
(ii) UN agencies: OCHA, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, UNHCR, UNOPS, UNV, UN-HABITAT, UNFPA, UNEP, UNESCO, ILO, IOM, 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, Care International, ACTED International, OXFAM, HELVETAS and Mercy Corps etc.	

Summary of 6-month update:

This 6-month update informs on the activities accomplished as per reporting period for the Drought and Flash Floods Emergency Appeal (EA) based on its Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) issued on 10 May 2019. The EA was issued in March and was later revised on 10 May 2019 to extend the operation in four new provinces affected by the floods while maintaining the operation end date of 31 March 2020. The revision was also required to ensure that the planned programmes remain coherent and relevant to the current situation and for the longer term. The sectors covered under the EA are Shelter; Livelihoods and basic needs; Health; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI).

Six months on, the Emergency Appeal is **at 47 per cent coverage** which resulted in some key sectoral areas of activities being partially covered or not covered at all due to budget limitations. Funding gaps will call for renewed resource mobilisation engagement with a focus on continued emergency needs and recovery efforts.

Description of the disaster

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. Together with the limited vegetation in many mountainous areas, extensive destruction of forests and warmer temperatures limiting snowfall, spring and summer storms in particular can lead to flash floods in many parts of the country. The problem of flash flooding is accentuated by the narrow valleys, often causing flood waters to pass through villages destroying many houses. Waters also cover farm land and irrigation facilities, damaging or destroying intakes and structures. The sediment laden waters deposit silt and boulders on farm land and in canals, rendering irrigation difficult or impossible. Floods are common in all parts of the country but particularly in the north, central, and eastern regions surrounding the Hindu Kush mountain range.

Afghanistan's climate can be characterized by hot and dry summers and cold winters. Most of the annual precipitation takes place in the northern region in the form of snow. Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, snow avalanches, landslides and droughts due to its geographical location and years of environmental degradation. Climate change is also posing a threat to the country's people and ecosystems. Climate change predictions such as changing temperature and precipitation pattern might lead to extreme weather event such as **drought and flash floods**. Changing weather is also affecting the productivity of agriculture, of which most Afghans depend on for their livelihoods, causing food security problem. Over the past decade and a half, droughts have become more frequent and more serious. It is likely this trend will continue, creating food crises, prompting large numbers of people to flee their homes, and increasing the risk that water conflict will exacerbate existing ethnic tensions. The worst drought in a decade, prolonged conflict and poverty have pushed families across Afghanistan to the brink. **About 13.5 million people are severely food insecure, 6 million more than in 2017** and they are surviving, for the time being, on less than one meal a day¹. Displaced families living in temporary and poorly insulated shelters are facing the risk of harsh weather but also the high risk of flash flooding, especially those residing on dry-river beds.

Afghanistan is experiencing a **major livelihood crisis** primarily caused by the severe drought, which limits food production and depletes farmers and livestock keepers of assets and livelihoods. However, **decades of civil conflict and instability** as well as the severely degraded condition of much of the land have compounded the impacts of the drought, leading to the food security crisis situation. Given the increased likelihood of above average temperatures, as well as above average rainfall and snow at higher elevations, the risk of flooding is elevated through until the end of the rainy season (April-June) in the western, northern, and central areas.

Humanitarian needs in flood-affected communities are compounded by the loss of resilience from drought and conflict. With many flood-risk areas already affected by the severe drought in 2017/18 and ongoing conflict, there are serious concerns about increasing food insecurity, malnutrition and the spread of communicable diseases, including acute watery diarrhoea/cholera. Many families are affected by several different types of incidents, with resulting increases in protection concerns and a reduced ability to absorb shocks. Flood response activities will continue to face access constraints in many areas due to ongoing conflict and related displacement, as well as damage to transport infrastructure in remote areas from flooding.

Several assessments by the humanitarian agencies have revealed significant shortcomings in the areas of water, sanitation, health, security and natural resource management. Furthermore, the high level of poverty, lack of livelihood and income generating opportunities, chronic health problems, and poor state of the infrastructure all add to the burden of natural disasters on the people of Afghanistan. Food insecurity is widespread and increasing among the population. The 2017 Afghanistan living conditions survey found that overall food insecurity, including both moderate and severe forms, rose from 33 to more than 44 percent in the last three years. Although food insecurity affects much of the country's population, women, children, displaced persons, returnees, woman-headed households, persons with disabilities and poor people are the groups most at risk.

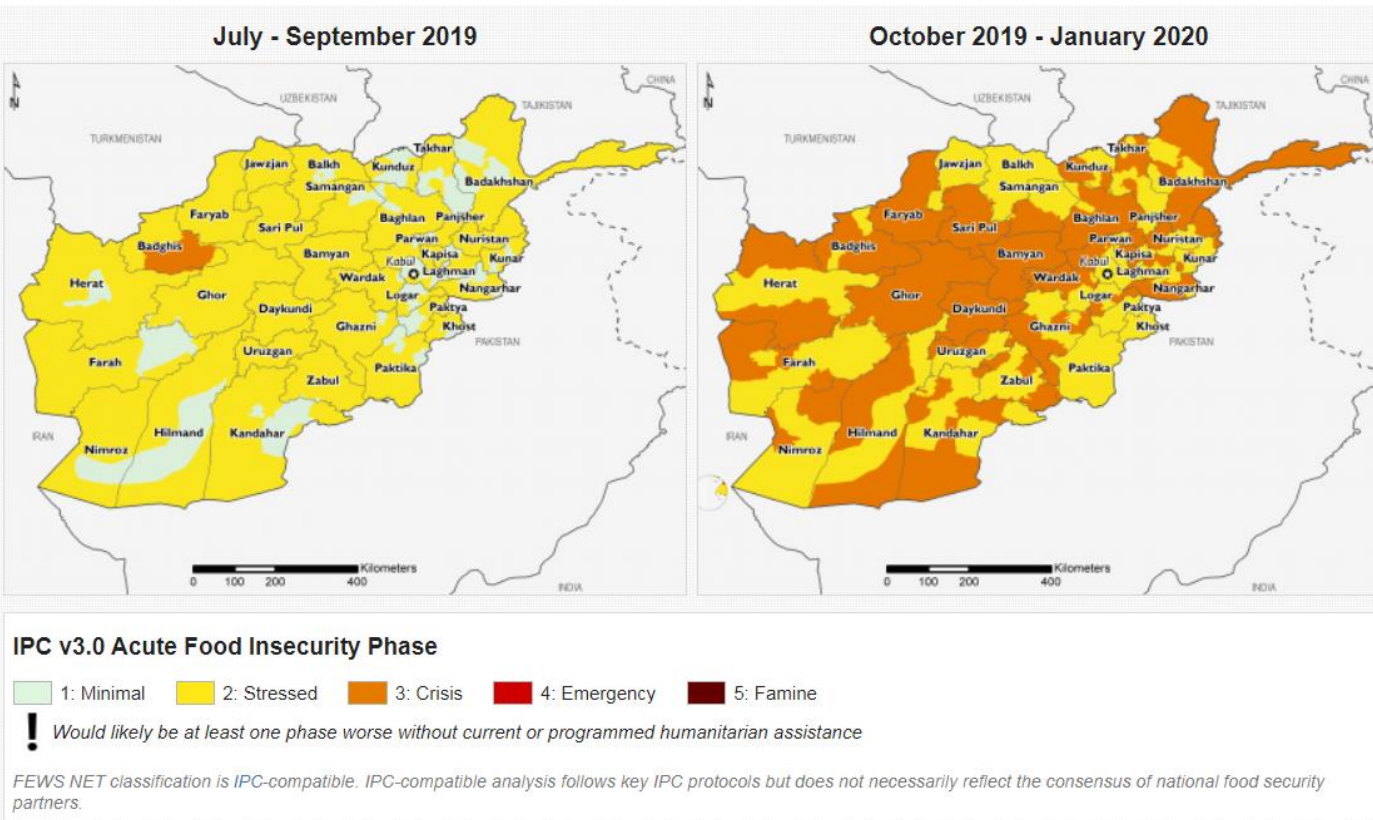
In April 2018, the Government of Afghanistan officially declared a **drought in 20 priority provinces** following months of dryness. A precipitation deficit of up to 70 percent in most parts of the country affected the winter harvest and resulted in dire prospects for crop production in the spring and summer of 2018. Given the prolonged dry spell that began in 2016 and poor precipitation in the winter of 2017/18, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) members agreed to carry out an Emergency Food Security Assessment across all 34 provinces in the country to better understand the effects of the current drought on livelihoods and food security of the rural populations.²

Since 2018, Afghanistan has been facing one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crisis, with alarming increase of food insecurity and loss of livelihoods, which led to the **displacement of some 275,000 Afghans across the Northern and Western regions in 2018**, and 52,000 more than the number uprooted by conflict in 2019. According to the ARCS branch team rapid assessments in operation areas, civilians continue to be gravely impacted by the highly unpredictable and politicised situation in Afghanistan. Violence along with a number of political processes coming to a head risks impacting not only people in need, but also affects the access of humanitarian aid organisations in most of

¹ IPC report – 2019.

² Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Assessment: August – September 2018.

part of the and their ability to provide essential services to people in need. Almost two-thirds of the population live in areas directly affected by conflict, routinely exposing them to natural disasters and human rights violations. Those living in conflict or disaster-prone areas have disproportionately high needs for trauma care and rehabilitation services which are often not available. Shorter-term support and assistance will be required should there be a sudden increase in humanitarian needs.



Like other humanitarian partners and the UN organisations in Afghanistan, ARCS is also closely monitoring developments and any changes in the security landscape, balancing staff safety concerns with a mandate to stay and deliver. A substantial return from Iran and Pakistan are likely to continue and be driven by the political and economic situation in these countries along with the perceived durability of peace in Afghanistan. The humanitarian crisis in Farah, Badghis and Herat illustrates how recurring shocks, conflict and displacement have eroded the resilience of people and forcing internally displaced to the population. Humanitarian organisations stand ready to reach people in need including areas that may become newly accessible due to any future lull in hostilities. The devastating combination of floods, drought, conflict and insecurity in the past years and 2019 continues to exacerbate the nutritional status of vulnerable people in Afghanistan. The provision of aid will continue to be needs based, in line with humanitarian principles to address the pressing needs of population affected by floods, drought and conflicts across the country.

The humanitarian needs overview estimates that close to a million people on the move will need humanitarian assistance by the end of the year. In 2019, displacement due to ongoing conflict and natural disasters; drought and floods is continuing to drive humanitarian needs in Afghanistan. More than 282,800 people have left their homes this year due to fighting. Many of these people remain displaced across the country, as conflict and poverty prevent them from returning to their areas of origin. Around **83,800 of the 245,000 people displaced in the country's West in 2018 by drought and other factors are still living in displacement sites**, yet to return home. In addition to this, close to 367,600 people have returned from neighbouring countries to Afghanistan so far this year including 346,800 from Iran, and 20,800 from Pakistan. Deportations from Turkey are also on the rise to 13,900 people so far in 2019, while a small number also returned from Europe.³

Helping communities affected by flash floods and other natural disasters; in March and April 2019, heavy rains resulted in large-scale, repeated flash floods in the northern provinces of Balkh, Farah, Faryab Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul; the western provinces of Herat; and southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand. The floods, which came much earlier than normal, not only destroyed homes, but also trapped communities and hindered teams from reaching people in need. Particularly in the rural areas of Afghanistan, many families depend on farming and agriculture to sustain their families – the natural disasters including floods and landslides have damaged or completely destroyed the livelihoods opportunities for many. Supporting these families with life-saving emergency support and developing measures to protect their communities from such disasters in the future is challenging.

³UNOCHA: Snapshot of Population Movements - January to September 2019

ARCS has started the response activities in October 2018 families affected by the protracted drought in the country and later response to the floods affected families in the country. The life-saving assistance included emergency shelter, various household items, food and basic health services based on the rapid need assessments. Response is ongoing to focus on increasing coverage, integration with food assistance, shelter and basic health services for affected population.

Summary of current response context

While the drought situation has not yet been alleviated, a number of droughts affected provinces were hit by flash floods in March 2019, making them even more vulnerable to cope from the drought situation. The problem of flash flooding was further exacerbated by the narrow valleys, which caused flood waters to pass through villages destroying many houses. On 25 March a fresh round of heavy rainfall again triggered flooding in seven provinces namely Herat, Jowzjan, Badghis, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Balkh and Kabul. This exacerbated humanitarian needs in these provinces and affected several new provinces including Kabul, Balkh, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul.

ARCS conducted an emergency need assessment in March and April, which indicated that there were mass destructions of house and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities, and displacements of people from their homes and IDP camps. The resilience of people in most of the provinces was already weak because of the ongoing and protracted drought. According to these assessments, nearly 60,000 people were affected and urgently required food items, shelter and safe drinking water. In view of the humanitarian needs, these affected provinces were included for this operation while ARCS kick started immediate humanitarian assistance in these areas. According to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency the most affected provinces are Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Herat, Nangarhar and Badghis. The flash floods damaged infrastructure and agricultural land in several districts, affecting more than 350,000 people in the country.

Overview of Host National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS has 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 has 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. 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 & Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people. 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 mobilisation.

Through a nation-wide coverage through 34 provincial branches and a network of 20,000 volunteers, ARCS is capable of implementing 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.

ARCS Early Drought and Floods Response

Drought response: Since the Afghanistan government declared a **drought situation in mid-2018**, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at headquarter level has been activated to coordinate with relevant stakeholders and to provide regular updates on the situation. ARCS conducted the needs assessment in October 2018. In this process the NS engaged with the communities, regional and provincial concerned branches, local authorities and carried out inception meetings on the implementation of response activities. Utilizing funds advanced from the Disaster Response Relief Fund (DREF) on 1 November 2018, ARCS provided food assistance to 14,000 drought affected people (approximately 2,000 families) in Herat and Badghis provinces. However, the support was only able to cater for immediate needs of a small portion of the affected population.

A detailed needs assessment was also conducted under DREF operation from December 2018 to January 2019. The findings indicated that the priority needs of the affected population, who are staying in rural areas and IDP camps, are food, water, health care and livelihoods. 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 provinces 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.

The response has been further complicated by the fact that people living in **protracted displacement and vulnerable host community members** have set up makeshift shelters among the new IDPs in an attempt to secure humanitarian assistance, making it challenging for humanitarians to target the most vulnerable recently displaced households. As drought is a slow-onset phenomenon, it is also unclear who has the responsibility to respond: at the outset of the drought induced displacement crisis, there was much debate about which agencies had the mandate to respond, with many humanitarian agencies suggesting that the emphasis of the response should be on development in the places of origin.

Humanitarian response teams in the country have extensive experience in dealing with displacement triggered by conflict, which affects the entire country but tends to be localised and relatively small-scale. Their usual response mechanisms have not been able to cope with the mass movements concentrated in the north-west of the country associated with the drought. Some humanitarians may also have been influenced by the reluctance of host communities and authorities to allow IDPs to settle in their areas, due in part to ethnic and tribal differences, but also security concerns; this caused delays in the initial response to the displaced. Given that the drought has predominantly affected areas that are contested or beyond government control, authorities fear the new arrivals may include members of non-state armed groups.

ARCS has reached more than 14,000 people through the provision of family tents, food parcels and dignity kits to displaced people in Herat and Badghis provinces. One mobile health team was also deployed to provide medical treatment in Herat province. With support from ICRC, ARCS has also distributed 5,000 food packages and household items to families displaced by conflict and affected by drought in the northern region covering the provinces of Samangan, Faryab, Jowzjan, and Balkh. This support included emergency food distribution, 'food for work' projects, and support for agriculture and livestock programmes. The National Society continued in the month of August in providing assistance in three provinces of Helmand, Kunahar and Nangahar. In Helmand 500 families were assisted with NFIs, Kunar with 250 tents while in Helmand with 500 emergency shelter and essential household items. During these distributions, the National Society was also conducting the monitoring of distribution and beneficiary satisfaction interviews using the disaster response management (DRM) toolkit.

ARCS flood response: The National Society has been in coordination with Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Command and Control Centre for Flood Emergency and participating in cluster meetings in provinces and at national level. A strong connection was also established with the National Statistics and Information Department. ARCS national headquarters regularly received information reports on operation activities from their respective provincial branches where they could count on trained staff and volunteers to conduct the needs assessment in flood affected provinces with the technical support from the national headquarters. **ARCS conducted rapid assessments in thirteen flood affected provinces** from 1 March to 10 April. The assessment reports revealed that nearly 200 people were killed many thousands of houses as well as public infrastructure and agriculture were damaged or destroyed by flood waters.

ARCS has been supporting 250 families with household packages in Pesht Qala District, Aka pada, Khair Abaad, Koh Jahr, Orbala, Paien, Anjiran and Dozdan and a further 2,000 vulnerable households in Zabul, Farah, Helmand, Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces, with food packages. These 2,000 food packages were replenished through the drought operation under the DREF by the IFRC CO logistics team. **Turkish Red Crescent** has also distributed 1,000 food packages and household items in Herat and Farah provinces respectively while **Qatar Red Crescent** supported 4,000 families with food packages in Kandahar, Mazar e Sharif, Samangan and Jawzjan provinces.

Summary of ARCS response supported by IFRC, ICRC and partner national societies from March to September 2019

Province	Families surveyed	Families assisted with FIs/NFIs (shelter & HHs Items)	Families assisted with food package
Ghazni	2,550	320	780
Paktia	356	8	180
Paktika	180	-	180
Khost	2,224	120	180
Logar	783	-	780
Wardak	387	48	228
Kunduz	704	84	180
Badakhshan	2,449	407	180
Baghlan	487	44	160
Takhar	5,895	894	180
Balkh	3,664	1,083	1,000
Jawzjan	2,653	31	500
Sar-e-pole	415	415	-
Samangan	1,075	333	500

Province	Families surveyed	Families assisted with FIs/NFIs (shelter & HHs Items)	Families assisted with food package
Faryab	2,800	-	1,000
Badghis	3,277	-	462
Ghor	997	336	-
Farah	9,247	900	1,500
Nimroz	290	245	-
Heart	3,390	1,904	1,214
Kunar	2,325	771	180
Laghman	461	176	180
Nangahar	3,630	795	1,580
Nooristan	616	89	180
Kandahar	3,127	396	1,539
Helmand	7,200	1,550	2,710
Urzgan	2,644	282	-
Zabul	386	-	29
Kabul	10,600	105	7,630
Parwan	706	126	180
Panjshir	826	264	180
Kapisa	1,450	148	180
Bamyan	1,313	225	180
Daykundi	2,817	65	180
Total	81,924	12,164	24,132

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has setup a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer terms programmes while support ARCS organisation development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC has supported ARCS disaster management teams and volunteers for needs assessment, resource mobilisation and for the design and implementation of the emergency operation, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and IFRC regional offices and 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 (MHT) and the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) in North, Northeast, Central North, Central South and West.

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 the 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.

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 together with the ICRC (PSS), volunteers management and youth mobilization activities in Afghanistan.
- **Qatar Red Crescent** and **Turkish Red Crescent** have been working in Afghanistan on health project and supported ARCS in the immediate response to drought and floods.

- Red Cross Red Crescent Movement 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 non-RCRC actors 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 this response, the government has mobilised civil and military departments from the country in order to better respond to the needs of the population in affected provinces. The Ministry of Public Health is leading the health cluster with the support of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Afghanistan. The Government of Afghanistan and WHO are working together to effectively improve the public health situation in the country with special emphasis on; (i) health security and prevention and control of communicable diseases; (ii) non-communicable diseases, mental health, violence and injuries, and nutrition; (iii) promoting health through the life-course; (iv) health systems strengthening; and (v) preparedness, surveillance and response. UNICEF supports the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development's rural water supply and sanitation programme.

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 (NGOs), United Nations agencies (UN), 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.

IFRC, together with ARCS, participate to coordination meetings through the clusters as well as technical working groups such as the CASH Working Group. 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.

Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) in Afghanistan is a well-established response modality for the delivery of humanitarian aid with experienced humanitarian actors and a good policy environment. In Afghanistan, there are three major tele-communication companies (AWCC, Roshan, Etisalat), which are offering 'Mobile banking' services in the country. Those includes 'My Money' by AWCC, 'M-paisa' by Roshan tele-com, and 'Hawala' by Etisalat. Based on discussion with different stakeholders and analysis of data, it has observed that Cash transfer through mobile money (Sim based/direct cash) is not something new in Afghanistan. Government organizations, Humanitarian actors and other institution are actively engaging the tele-communication companies for Cash transfer to the beneficiaries and other services such as salary payments. There are two delivery mechanisms offered by the telecommunication companies in the country: One is 'Sim-based Transfer'; where beneficiary is being register and paid with authentication of biometric, NFC, SIM card, and 6-digit code; The other is 'Direct Cash'; where the company creates an account for beneficiaries based on available data and generating token for each disbursement cycle. The tele-communication companies have rich experience in cash transfer while working with government departments, UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs. They have coverage in most part of the country with good number of registered agents.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

ARCS conducted an emergency needs assessment in **thirteen⁴ provinces** affected by drought and flash floods in **December 2018 and March 2019**. The findings on the emergency needs assessment 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. Large number of affected community dependent on agriculture, livestock and seasonal daily labour which are heavily affected by the drought in 2018. Flood shocks contributing to the increase in the food insecurity of vulnerable families. This can be observed in extremely poor food consumption, adopting of negative and harmful coping mechanisms. Majority of households lost their harvest and income sources. Around half of the interviewed households did not have food stock available to meet their food needs. Women, girls, disabled are the most vulnerable groups given their lack or limited access to markets, income generation activities and assistance.

ARCS teams carried out a need assessment of **flood-affected areas on 1-9 March, and 10-14 April** respectively 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. Critical needs on the ground called for the urgent provision of

⁴ Balkh, Nangarhar, Kunar, Kabul, Helmand, Faryab, Jawzjan, Samangan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Nimroz, Badghis and Herat provinces.

emergency shelter, food, basic health and WASH services. Besides, there has been a continuous population movement from the rural villages to safer places with available humanitarian assistance and better basic services.

The rapid need assessments enabled a comprehensive field data collection carried out by trained staff and volunteers in 13 drought and floods affected provinces. The needs analysis for this response is prepared based on interviews, surveys, focus groups discussion and market updates. Assessments also indicate the importance of including multipurpose cash grant and cash for livelihoods restoration. Strong gender and protection mainstreaming in emergency operation was also recommended for the most vulnerable groups and called for the participation of affected population.

Regional and provincial details

Region	Province	Disaster	Districts
East Region	Nangahar	Flood	Hesarak, Sorkh-Rod, Aftkamena, Batikot, Haychen, Kama, Khewa, Daray Noor, Chaparhar, Baesot and Moman dara
	Kunar	Flood	Sar-Kani, Marwara, Shegal, Sheltan, Watapor, Dangam, Asmar, Narahy, Ghaziabad and Chapa Dara
West Region	Farha	Flood	Nawahe Shar, Bakwa, Balabolok, Khak Safed, Anar Dara, Sheb Ko, Posht-Rod and Posht-Ko
	Herat	Flood & Drought	Herat city, Zer-ko shendan, Posht ko shendan Zawol, Khush ke Kuhna, Gulran
	Nimroz	Flood & Drought	Chakhansour, Kang, Char Burjak, Khashrood, Damarda and Mirza Azim
	Badghis	Flood & Drought	Abkamry, Moqure, Bala Morghab, Jawand, Nawe - Laman and Badghis city
South West	Helmand	Flood	Nawa, Lashkargah, Nada Ali and Nahri Saraj Malgir
	Kandahar	Flood & Drought	Kandahar city, Dand, Maiwand, Panjwai, Spin Boldak, Zheri, Arghandab, Daman, Takhta Pul and Arghestan
North Region	Jowzjan	Flood & Drought	Khanaqa, Khwaja Dako, Qush tepa, Faizabad and Shiberghan city
	Sar-e-Pul	Flood & Drought	Suzma qala, Ghusfandi, Sayad, and Capital of Sare-e-Pul
	Faryab	Flood & Drought	Shirin Tagaab, Qesar, Pashtoon Kot, Dawlat Abaad, Almar, Khuja Sabz Posh
	Balkh	Flood & Drought	Chamtall, Dehdadi, Sholgara, Doko and Part of Balkh City
North West Central Region	Kabul	Flood	Districts: 17 th , 11 th , 19 th , 9 th , 5 th , 13 th , 18 th and Qarabagh, Shakar Dara and Surabi districts of Kabul City

Targeting of the affected communities by critical groups and sectoral needs

Province	Disaster	Sectors	Population affected by floods & drought	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Target population
Nangarhar	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, shelter	52,485	4,249	56,734
Farha	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	77,574	11,219	88,793
Kunhar	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, shelter	45,683	11,809	57,492
Helmand	Flood	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	55,748	31,941	87,689
Herat	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	50,489	41,309	91,798
Kandahar	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	53,916	15,806	69,722
Jawzjan	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	33,663	18,126	51,789
Nimroz	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	53,487	0	53,487

Province	Disaster	Sectors	Population affected by floods & drought	Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Target population
Badghis	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH	55,465	34,300	89,756
Sar-e-Pul	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	2,520	1,680	4,200
Faryab	Flood & Drought	DRR, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	15,386		15,386
Balkh	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, PGI, WASH, health, shelter	5,600		5,600
Kabul	Flood	DRR, PGI, WASH, health	2,240		2,240
Total			504,256	193,665	674,686

Scenario planning

The planned response reflects the situation and information available in March-April taking into account the evolving situation and required adjustments to contextual changes. The EPOA which supports the design of the overall operation, focused on food, emergency shelter, health, WASH and multipurpose cash grant as well as PGI and disaster risk reduction. This could be modified in the event of a new major hazard adding into the already combined impact of the floods and drought and conflict-related displacements. Depending on available resources, efforts will further in a second phase on multi-purpose cash with multiplier effects for local economies as well as livelihoods activities including the promotion of longer-term financial inclusion and social protection.

Operation Risk Assessment

Funding gaps

Six months on, the Emergency Appeal was funded at 47 per cent which resulted in some key sectoral areas of activities (WASH, DRR, Health, PGI) being partially covered or not covered at all due to budget limitations. Funding gaps will call for renewed resource mobilisation engagement with a focus on continued emergency needs and recovery efforts.

Security risks

Afghanistan remains a challenging environment for humanitarian operations, though one that is manageable through diligent and active security management and analysis. Armed clashes between, and within, opposition groups and with Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), criminality, including organized crime, demonstrations and civil unrest have been assessed as key threats across the country. The situation for humanitarian organisations is continuously changing. Over the past many years, humanitarian aid actors have made significant changes in their approaches to providing aid in highly insecure environments in Afghanistan. A risk assessment done by the country office in January 2019 noted that security issues restrict field access by international staff – a situation that has been made even more restrictive as of 15 April by the Taliban's ban on ICRC, which was finally lifted mid-September.

In anticipating potential security risks, especially in conflict-related areas, further risk assessments will be carried out in provinces and districts where the operational response will take place. Security assessments will form a more substantive part of upcoming operational updates.

- **Jawzjan:** The number of conflict-related incidents in Jawzjan continued to decline in early September, with 11 small-scale security incidents recorded this period, while August logged 34 (early August 17) incidents, and July that saw a total of 45 (record for this year) incidents across the province. AOG attacks against ANSF convoys and checkpoints remain main incidents.
- **Herat:** Overall, conflict activity in Herat Province continued a positive trend of a gradual reduction of the monthly number of incidents recorded since May. This small decrease was accounted for by a decline in ANSF and IMF activity, particularly in Herat City. ANSF heightened their posture in Herat City during August, most likely to reinforce security with the start of the presidential campaign on 28 July.
- **Helmand:** A total of 26 targeted operations carried out by ANSF Special Forces were recorded in 2018 in Helmand. This year, at least 37 targeted operations carried out by ANSF Special Forces were recorded. Almost half of these targeted operations took place in historically kinetic districts, such as Nad-e Ali, which logged six such incidents, Nahr-e Saraj, where five targeted operations were recorded, or Kajaki. Some of these operations affected NGO-supported clinics or interfered with the provision of healthcare services. AOG-initiated conflict activity in these areas consisted mainly of small-scale close-range attacks on ANSF CPs or convoys, resulting in relatively low numbers of casualties among ANSF members. Previous three months, conflict activity in the north of Helmand Province was

concentrated in Nahr-e Saraj District. The Ring Road traverses Nahr-e Saraj which makes Nahr-e Saraj one of the most strategically significant and kinetic districts of Helmand Province. IMF airstrike on the AOG positions are very common.

Access and acceptance

Through its principled mandate and presence in communities, ARCS has enjoyed continued acceptance over the past months. The National Society has been able to operate in all targeted provinces affected by drought and floods, including to hard-to-reach areas. High vigilance and monitoring will be maintained to ensure access is gained through localised negotiation and acceptance by all parties.

B. Operational strategy⁵

Overall Operational objective

The overall objective of this Emergency Appeal has been to respond to the immediate humanitarian needs of the population affected by the floods and complex drought emergency in Afghanistan through the provision of emergency shelter, health care and nutritional interventions, the promotion of access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene and supporting food security and livelihood through cash transfers until end of March 2020.

Proposed strategy

Across the overall **protracted crisis context Afghanistan** has faced over the past decades, the emergency response operation aimed to address immediate needs relating to shelter/household items, food insecurity, deteriorating health and poor access to safe water and adequate sanitation, whilst contributing to building longer-term resilience in the affected communities.

The operational strategy and plan of this Emergency Appeal is the outcome of continuous follow-up, 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. The standard response package is a set of relief items and access to services that is to be provided at the household level. The operational strategy also aims at mitigating the combined impact of drought, floods and ongoing conflicts. The operation management team and movement partners will ensure that discussions and advocacy for linking emergency response to engagement in longer-term resilience programming with affected communities is carried out through tighter coordination mechanisms and articulated efforts in liaison with public authorities and involved parties.

In preparing the first **Cash pilot** operation in Jawzjan province – the first in Afghan Red Crescent's history – an in-depth and consistent effort has been made to put in place robust systems and procedures. One of the pre-requisites for Cash based intervention is to assess the capacity of Financial Service Providers (FSPs) to make it sure that they have the capacity to deliver Cash within agreed timeframe and methodology. Three of the most prominent mobile companies of Afghanistan have been assessed to inform the tendering process and the provision of necessary documents, with a view to enabling a level of flexibility in utilizing the services of any FSPs depending on the location, services and coverage.

While pursuing immediate assistance, especially in shelter and non-food household items, food, health and cash activities associated to earmarked funding, the operational strategy is being reviewed through the ARCS/IFRC cross-team task force. Rapid need assessments are being carried out in the provinces to guide renewed resource mobilisation efforts with a further focus on urgent needs and recovery-related activities on cash and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, PGI and National Society Development in emergencies (including towards improved M&E, reporting and communication).

Furthermore, **with the support of ECHO**, IFRC/ARCS have reached 4,500 households with food and emergency shelter and non-food items in 3 provinces (Nangahar, Helmand and Farah), paving the way for intensified and more integrated activities in these three provinces. ARCS will focus on **hard-to-reach areas and IDPs**, considering high population mobility and access restrictions for many humanitarian partners. It is often difficult to track movements of internally displaced and returning populations. ARCS through its regional and provincial branches, provides shared understanding of the protracted crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian need and the estimated number of people who need assistance, and represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint response planning.

⁵ The plan should be prepared by the National Society, with support from the Secretariat technical departments and support services.

Prioritised interventions

Overall, this operation seeks to assist the following within each sector:

- Emergency shelter and NFIs assistance to support access to safer living conditions during the initial stages of the emergency by the provision of a family tent, two tarpaulin sheets, seven blankets, two jerry cans and one kitchen set for each household, followed by provision of technical support and awareness;
- Distribution of food packages;
- Basic needs support through the provision of multi-purpose cash grants to allow households to prioritize basic needs and prevent them from falling below survival threshold;
- Livelihoods support through conditional cash grants aimed to restore their livelihoods by purchasing agriculture input and tool kits;
- Health interventions focusing on community-based disease prevention and health promotion, psychosocial support, first aid, deployment of medical health teams, and referral services and medical rehabilitation;
- Water, sanitation and hygiene interventions focusing on improving access and storage to safe water as well as meeting emergency and longer-term sanitation needs, as well as provision of hygiene items and support for hygiene promotion activities;
- Integrated community-based risk reduction & climate change, early warning early action and mitigation activities;
- Cross-cutting consideration and support to ensure community engagement and accountability (CEA) as well as protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) at all times;
- Support to National Society development in Afghanistan, to build the capacity of staff and volunteers in disaster preparedness at regional and provincial levels.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People targeted: 21,000

People reached: 12,250

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe, appropriate and adequate shelter and settlements assistance	21,000	12,250

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households are provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	3,000	1,750

Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive	3,000	1,750
# of staff and volunteer trained on safer shelter techniques	240	100

Progress towards outcomes

ARCS provincial branches carried out the assessment and identified the 3,000 most vulnerable families affected by the floods and to assist them with emergency shelter and household items.

Beneficiary selection criteria: broader selection criteria apply for identifying beneficiaries to respond emergency shelter assistance is as follows:

- Floods affected displaced families, needs emergency shelter assistance, not living with host families, rental houses or government properties.
- Family with non-livable (fully or partially damaged) house.

- Family headed by women and / or with disable family members.
- Have not received shelter assistance from other humanitarian organizations.
- Socially marginalized (minorities and socially disadvantaged) families.
- Households that are residents of the local village/district or internally displaced people recognized by the host community.
- Vulnerable households that have lost a considerable amount of assets due to flooding.

One complete package of emergency shelter and non-food items intended for one family of average seven people.

Standard package contents

No	Shelter & household Items	Amount per HH package	Unit
1	Blanket	7	pieces
2	Kitchen set	1	set
3	Jerry can	2	pieces
4	Tarpaulin sheet	2	pieces
5	Family tent	1	pieces

ARCS conducted the distribution in four provinces and the distribution was held in different locations in Nangarhar, Helmand, Farah and Kunar provinces. 1,750 families have been assisted with emergency shelter and non-food household items. The identified and selected households were informed through branch staff and local volunteers prior to the distribution and communicated the distribution date and location. The final round of distribution will take place in mid-October and November to cover 1,250 families in affected areas. Among 1,750 families there both female & male headed households, these entire families were displaced due to protracted drought and later by flash floods, assessed and registered. The ARCS planned activities to address the immediate emergency shelter assistance to internally displaced families.

The post distribution monitoring was conducted by ARCS, to assess and describe beneficiary satisfaction with respect to emergency shelter and non-food household items assistance in IDPs settlements affected by the floods. The objective of the activity was to assess whether the emergency shelter and non-food household items distributed were the most appropriate type of assistance, and therefore whether NFI packages should be adjusted or whether alternative assistance should be provided. How the distribution of emergency shelter assistance addressed the presented priority needs of the targeted people; understand how the community was engaged, any gaps identified during implementation as well as suggest any possible recommendations for future interventions. All respondents reported that the provision of emergency shelter assistance was appropriate in responding to their main urgent shelter need. All respondents reported to be satisfied with the quality of the emergency shelter package received. The ARCS team used the DRM toolkit which have several reporting and monitoring tools.

ARCS national headquarter teams have trained branch level staff and volunteer (male: 72 & female: 28) on safer shelter techniques to further staff and volunteers are conducting sessions for local communities. ARCS staff oriented the affected families those who received shelter assistance on installation of emergency shelter in the safe areas.



Emergency shelter & non-food household items distribution in Nangarhar province. (Photo: ARCS)

During the registration, the volunteers and chief of the local communities reconfirmed the targeted individuals if he/she met the criteria of registration, then he/she will be eligible to be registered. Since the distribution was targeting the floods affected families, it was agreed that only those who are given token during the registration could come and received the items. In order to minimize the number of unwanted crowds, when the chance of beneficiary comes, he/she proceeds to the table for signing/thumb impression against their name and after that the token is punched to ensure the beneficiary passes through screening point and finally proceed to receive the items. Beneficiaries were

also allowed to check their items before leaving the distribution point to ensure they have all the items in the kit. ARCS visibility was ensured by all staff and volunteers for easy recognition.

ARCS has also utilized its in-country available pre-positioned stocks i.e. tents and blankets for affected families. These stocks were mobilized to cover initial needs of affected households with the support of other Movement partners in addition to those to be distributed under the Appeal.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 105,000

People reached: 21,000

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that have enough food, cash or income to meet their survival threshold	105,000	21,000

Output 1.1: Vocational skills training and/or productive assets to improve income sources are provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households assisted with conditional cash grants	1,500	0
# of training conducted in vegetable gardening	25	0

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with food assistance	9,000	3,000

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARCS staff & volunteers trained on CVA	300	25
# of households reached with multipurpose cash grants for (basic needs)	4,500	0

Progress towards outcomes

ARCS has utilized available prepositioned stock from Kabul and regional warehouses to support flood affected families in 20 provinces. ARCS rapidly responded to 2,500 affected families with food assistance in Herat, Farah and Helmand during March, these food parcels were replenished under DREF response to drought affected families. ARCS is also supported by ICRC and other Movement partners for food interventions to assist drought and floods affected families.

ARCS local branches have completed the assessment for flood and drought affected families. In total 9,000 families will be assisted in the target 13 provinces. So far, 3,000 families have been assisted through food parcels in three provinces. The procurement of food parcels, sourced locally, has been completed by the IFRC CO for additional 6,000 families. The quality assurance of the food quality and lab test has been done following IFRC standard



Food distribution in Farah province. (Photo: ARCS)

The quality assurance of the food quality and lab test has been done following IFRC standard

procedures. After the completion of process, food parcels have been transported to target provinces and deliver safe products to the affected families.

In close coordination with the Cash and Voucher Working Group, ARCS has discussed the targeting of the multi-purpose cash grants based on ongoing gaps in coverage of the affected population. ARCS is working with IFRC CO on necessary documentation for signing of agreement. After the signing of MOU with financial service providers the piloting will be done in Jawzjan province targeting 500 families.

The IFRC oriented ARCS management / key relevant staff about cash component under Emergency Plan of Action and way forward. Key developments in supporting ARCS for developing the cash component have included:

- Meetings with ARCS management/Cash focal person.
- Identification of viable financial service provides (Mobile Money).
- Meetings and capacity assessment of the FSPs.
- Signing of MoU with FSPs for cash pilot project and future cash interventions
- Identification of area for CTP piloting agreed (Jawzjan Province for 500 families).
- Contextualization of CTP formats including, Market Assessment tools and FSPs capacity Assessment tools etc.



Cash transfer programming training in Jawzjan province. (Photo: ARCS)

ARCS has conducted the 4-days Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) training in Jawzjan province with branch staff and volunteers. The aim of this training was to build the capacity of ARCS core staff/volunteers in term of Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, in order to effectively respond to any emergency by using cash as a response mechanism.

The core staff and volunteers of ARCS regional and district chapters attended the training. Thirty staff/volunteers participated - the first time, they were involved in Cash training. However, most of them were BDRT members and have relevant experience. This training enabled ARCS to have Cash trained personals available at the regional and district chapters. A CTP database of trained staff and volunteers was created including names, contact details and technical expertise of the participants. This can be used at the time of an emergency to quickly identify and deploy CTP trained people to be part of the assessment and implementation teams ensuring CTP related information were systematically collected to inform decision making and the design and implementation of cash-based interventions.

Funding gap: 3,000 food packages as well as funding for multipurpose cash grants will be mobilized from the partners and donors. 2,500 families will also be supported for restoring their livelihoods.



Health

People targeted: 405,159

People reached: 18,027

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	405,159	10,762

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RCRC Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) deployed to provide health services support	6	3
# of people reached through NS emergency health management programme	405,159	10,762

Output 1.3: Community-based disease prevention and health promotion is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of community volunteers trained on CBHFA modules	180	0
# of ARCS RCY volunteers trained on CBHFA modules	90	0
# of PLW received nutritional supplements	4,500	0
# of people reached through health education sessions	405,159	18,027

Progress towards outcomes

Through the six Mobile Health Teams (MHT), in the six provinces people will have access to general health care, vaccinations, acute watery diarrhea (AWD) treatment, nutrition screening, hospital referrals and other services that are part of regular medical services through ARCS-managed clinics. 4,500 women will be targeted for nutritional supplements. The support will be targeting an estimated 10 per cent of lactating and pregnant women (PLW) in the ARCS MHTs catchment area. Target people will be selected through nutrition screening at the clinics or through community visits by mobile health team staff and volunteers. 4,500 PLW will receive nutritional supplements through the ARCS mobile health teams. Mothers of malnourished children will receive education on health, hygiene and nutrition, including Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) information at the clinic and mobiles, including through mother mentor groups.

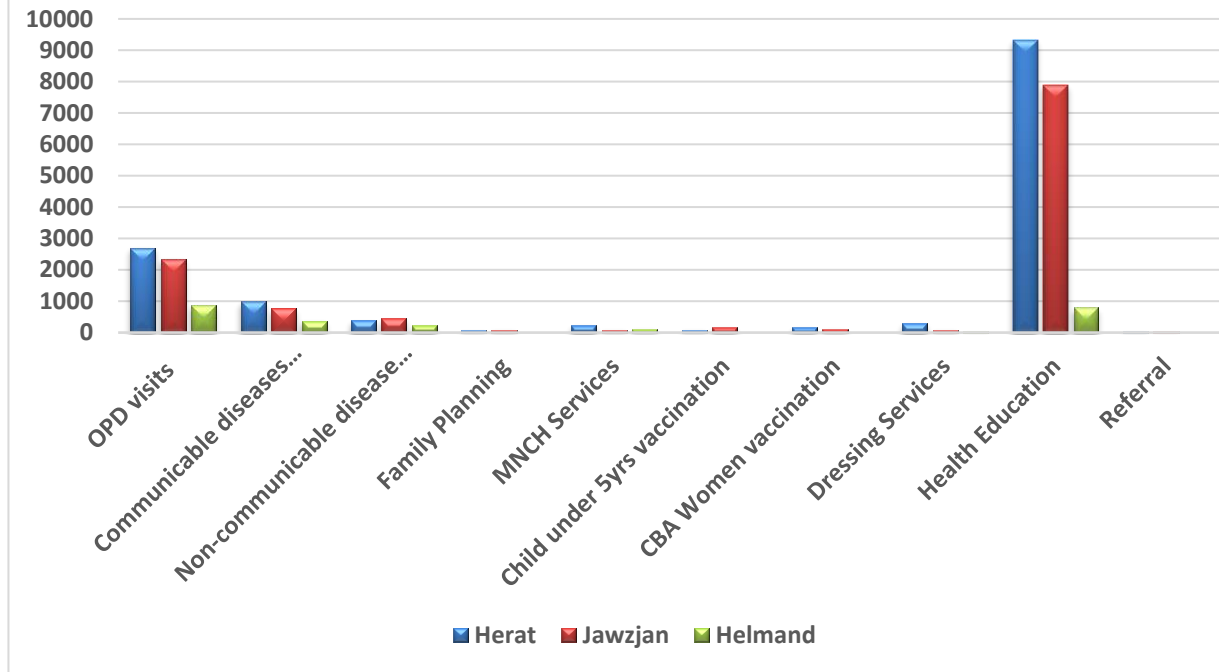
ARCS established three MHTs⁶ for response to floods and drought affected provinces in Herat, Jawzjan and Helmand. The new established MHTs under the emergency operation are equipped with mobile teams that focus on providing primary health care services to targeted populations. All essential medical and non-medical equipment were procured and transported to the respective provinces.

Summary of MHT activities in Herat, Jawzjan and Helmand provinces

Activity	Herat	Jawzjan	Helmand	Total
OPD visits	2,700	2,346	877	5,923
Communicable diseases morbidity	985	782	374	2,141
Non-communicable disease morbidity	385	440	226	1,051
Family Planning	77	92	00	169
MNCH Services	228	81	112	421
Child under 5yrs vaccination	91	176	00	267
CBA Women vaccination	178	121	00	299
Dressing Services	292	87	38	417
Health Education	9,337	7,887	803	18,027
Referral	41	32	5	74
Grand Total	14,314	12,044	2,435	28,789

⁶ 1 x Doctor, 1 x Nurse/Vaccinator, 1 x Pharmacist, 1 x Midwife – one MHT staff.

MHTs statistics Mar - Sep' 19



Mother and child health: For female OPD, it is anticipated MHT will ensure that all the required materials are made available to facilitate timely interventions for ante natal and post-natal care. ARCS community acceptance and quality of services resulted in a high turnout at the site of MHTs deployment and this led to high OPD coverage. The population at large is being sensitized on ARCS interventions and people from adjoining villages are also availed with the OPD services. Awareness and health education sessions are also conducted by MHT staff.

Currently there are three MHT running in Herat, Jawzjan and Helmand. Three more HMTs will be deployed in Badghis, Faryab and Kandahar and the recruitment for HMTs personnel is ongoing and will be completed end of October. The IFRC country office has completed the procurement process with technical support of Geneva team for 20 medicines kits for six MHTs support and transported to respective provinces for MHTs. The CBHFA will commence its activities such as refilling 500 First aid kits, CBHFA trainings in 4 provinces (Herat, Kandahar, Faryab and Jawzjan) and printing of 1,000 First Aid guidelines – to be completed in November.



Health services for affected population in Jawzjan province. (Photo: ARCS)



Health education/promotion sessions for affected population in Herat province. (Photo: ARCS)



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 674,686

People reached: N/A (dependent on funding)

Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted population have access to clean water, sanitation and with increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to Sphere standards	80%	0

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of people provided with safe water (according to WHO standards)	80%	0
% of target population with access to an improved water source	80%	0
# of water points rehabilitated/repared	50	0
# of new handpumps/boreholes installed	20	0
# of households provided with jerry cans (2 per HH)	3,000	0
# of households provided with water filters	6,000	0

Outcome 2. Sustainable reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of targeted population have access to sanitation facilities	80%	0

Output 2.2: Improved access to and use of adequate sanitation provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of latrines installed to an improved sanitation facility	60 ⁷	0

Output 2.4: Hygiene promotion activities are provided to the entire affected population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARCS staff/volunteers trained on PHAST modules	300	0
# of teachers/volunteers trained on CHAST modules	250	0
% of the targeted population reached for hygiene promotion activities	80%	0

Progress towards outcomes

Activities included in the Appeal remains relevant, contingent to additional funding, with a focus on high-risk communities:

1. Flood and drought affected communities.
2. IDPs living in camps.
3. IDPs and host communities accommodating IDPs.
4. School children in the affected communities.

Funding gap: There is **still a significant funding gap** in terms of the needs for WASH in the affected communities and the income available to conduct activities identified under the Appeal. Provided that resources are made available, these activities will be implemented according to the EPoA.



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted: 674,686

People reached: N/A (dependent on funding)

Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of the targeted population increased the resilience level and prepared to respond disaster (Target: 80%)	80%	0

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

⁷ This reflects the number of latrines that can be funded with the current Appeal income, actual needs are higher.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARCS staff/volunteers trained on DRR/CCA & EWS	225	157
% people have communities risk knowledge	80%	0
# of sessions conducted in flood & drought communities	200	0
# of provinces with mitigation measures taken in high risk areas	12	0

Progress towards outcomes

The underlying vulnerability and poverty the prevail in floods and drought affected areas remain key drivers of increasing disaster risk. Approximately 60 per cent of Afghanistan's population is threatened by natural hazards, and each year recurrent hazards affects. Addressing Afghanistan's complex humanitarian and environmental crises requires a holistic approach that prioritize disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in order to provide households and communities with the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from the shocks of natural hazards and climate change and work with local and national institutions to steer change through innovation and learning.

ARCS has conducted three-day training in five provinces – Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Badghis and Kunar. During the training course, participants accessed basic knowledge on community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change and early warning. Approximately, 157 participants (male: 143 and females: 14) attended the training course, including ARCS branch staff, and volunteers from three provinces. By providing a platform for discussion and sharing, the training course aimed to enhance the understanding of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation planning processes through capacity building for local staff and volunteer to further conduct the sessions in the community level.

The training course included several group discussions and experience sharing, as well as practical sessions. During the practical sessions, participants learned basic disaster management terminologies, mapping of natural disaster risks and their history in the area, community emergency evacuation and contingency planning at local level.



ARCS staff and volunteers training on disaster risk reduction & climate change adaptation in Balkh province. (Photo: ARCS)

After the training course, participants were able to build a relatively complete community-based sessions delivery in terms of DRR/CCA and early warning. Through participatory training methods, the training provided both ARCS staff and volunteers with a better understanding of potential disasters and how to minimise risks so that knowledge should be communicated to the entire community.

Funding gap: The DRR sector **currently has limited coverage under the Appeal** and also requires additional funding to extend the appropriate disaster risk reduction measures in communities that will enable the people to significantly reduce exposure and vulnerability to various hazards and to minimize adverse impacts.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 674,686

People reached: 21,000⁸

Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response</i>	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of staff/volunteers trained on PGI</i>	30	0
<i># of dignity kits distributed to women and girls</i>	5,000	0

Progress towards outcomes

PGI is another important focus in this operation, which aims to provide access to essential services for women, men, girls and boys in the target areas of floods and drought response in Afghanistan. Protection and community engagement approaches are still to be mainstreamed through all activities under the emergency operation. Contingent to funding, registered households will be provided with dignity kits for women and girls.

PGI focal person in ARCS provided guidance to the operations team and supported the analysis of gender and protection needs of the affected population. PGI team developed some indicators to observe the protection risk and gender analysis during the field visit while implementing the operations activities. When collecting data, the field teams also organized Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with male and female with different ages. Similarly, interviews and FGDs were also conducted with 'persons with disabilities'.

Funding gap: There is currently a significant funding gap for the undertaking of PGI activities under the operation. Dignity kits will be distributed, and trainings will be conducted for branch staff based on the availability of funding.

Strategies for Implementation

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS has a self-development plan in follow up to BOCA</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of insured volunteers engaged in the operation</i>	50	50

Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS</i>	6	5

Progress towards outcomes

⁸ Based on highest number of people reached in Livelihood and basic needs sector.

ARCS has undertaken the BOCA exercise in all 34 branches to localize humanitarian action and have adopted this BOCA process as a part of their branch development initiative and branches needs to review the plan and refresher will be conducted with IFRC support.

Approximately, 50 volunteers are deployed for operation to provide support to the implementation of the emergency operation. All the volunteers and staff involved with the operation are already insured and engaged in the operation. More structured trainings are provided to ARCS regional and provincial branch staff and volunteers to continue implementation of operation activities in target provinces. ARCS volunteers are oriented on Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and codes of conduct and specialized for emergency shelter, health, mobile data collection, cash and voucher assistance, CEA and other components of the implementation through trainings conducted by ARCS through IFRC technical support. Furthermore, a capacity building training for staff and volunteers is in process according to the activities including training on emergency need assessment, an orientation on 'Fraud & Corruption Prevention.

International Disaster Response

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS surge capacity deployed for the operation</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Global response tools deployed to support the operation</i>	Yes	Yes

The operation has in place local staff and delegates, currently with operation manager, surge operation support, admin and finance, technical support of CO health unit, logistics, field-based staff. The operation was also initially supported by procurement delegate from APRO for short time and RDRTs for Cash and communication.

Logistics, supply chain and fleet services: Logistics and supply chain activities aim to effectively and efficiently manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, fleet, storage, custom clearance and transportation to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. In order to coordinate the operational needs in the field and to seek for in-kind (IKD) support and contributions offered by donors/partners a mobilization table was created and regularly updated by the AP Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) Department in Kuala Lumpur including the coordination and monitoring the IKD shipments to Afghanistan. The importation of relief items is challenging to Afghanistan due to lengthy importation process and because of the logistical challenges to reach the land-lock country. Procurement files are still being handled by IFRC at country level, supporting the current operation including procurement of medicines kits, procurement of ES/NFIs, non-medical equipment and others through APRO and Geneva.

The IFRC Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) unit in Kuala Lumpur has been technically supporting country office and ARCS operation in Afghanistan through remote support. Surge support has been deployed on a short-term basis from APRO to support operation with the implementation of logistics and supply chain related activities. Surge support and RDRTs have been also deployed to support the conduct of the operation in critical technical area; operation, communications and cash from APRO and other countries.

In order to meet the immediate needs, ARCS pre-positioned relief stocks in different regional warehouses were transported to floods and drought affected provinces and distributed to the affected population. However, due to the wide-scope of the emergency, the available in-country stock was not enough to meet the large humanitarian needs, thus ARCS requested for international assistance through an emergency appeal.

Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate public information focusing on the humanitarian needs and the Red Crescent response is vital to support effective resource mobilization efforts and enhance collaboration with key partners and stakeholders. During the initial months, communications efforts have provided visibility to the Red Crescent and the emergency operation through online platforms, media relations, audiovisual production and social media engagement. Online materials included nine items on www.ifrc.org or Medium while media coverage included mainstreamed media outlets such as Voice of America. However, the absence of Communication personnel since July, due to unmet request for surge communication, have prevented from developing more strategic communication

initiative to advocate for the needs of the affected communities and further enable visibility and resource mobilization efforts.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Regular coordination with the government and within the humanitarian system</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of involvement within the humanitarian system on advocacy for the crisis</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of evaluations conducted</i>	2	0
<i># of paper/report published (for RCRC)</i>	2	0

IFRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society participate in most of coordination meetings in relevant clusters, technical working groups with, so far, a focus on Health, WASH, Shelter and NFIs and Cash Working Group. IFRC and ARCS team will intensify and better document their involvement in clusters in liaison with the Advisory Body of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund which IFRC is a member of as observer. IFRC will also support ARCS participation with Government-led coordination and monitoring mechanisms at national and local levels.

Building humanitarian diplomacy: ARCS and the IFRC CO are establishing stronger humanitarian diplomacy activities with humanitarian actors, donors and government, focusing on resource mobilization and ensuring response efforts adhere to humanitarian standard timely and effectively to address the needs of affected population.

The operation will continue to communicate through social media, a significant platform for sharing information with communities and listening their feedback by involving ARCS local branches. The focus is now on rebuilding communities through restoring their livelihoods of ongoing operation activities.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

ARCS and IFRC work together to safeguard an efficient operation. Operational expenses such as volunteer per diems, accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Procurement is done following IFRC standard procedures. Finance and administration support to the operation is provided to the operation and staff. As per the IFRC's reporting guidelines for operations, the IFRC will publish the narrative and financial reports with all its operations updates and final report for this emergency.

IFRC CO has also carried out the security risk assessment in the country in 2019. The purpose of this activity was to assist with the improvement of the IFRC security setup for Afghanistan and to know about the security situation in the operation areas where IFRC supported activities are ongoing with ARCS, and to provide security support to the PNS.

D. BUDGET

The total Emergency Appeal budget for this operation is CHF 8 million with first DREF allocation of CHF 400,000 (which has been reimbursed) and second DREF allocation of CHF 350,000. As of reporting period, the appeal coverage is at CHF 3.77 million (47 per cent). (Click [here](#))

Out of an income of CHF 3.7 million end of September – including 1.1 million value for in-kind donations from Finnish Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross, approx. CHF 1.5 million has been spent. The CHF 2 million balance – including CHF 760,000 in-kind – is planned to be spent by end of March 2020. CHF 1.3 million were already in the pipeline end of September 2019. Detailed income and expenditure as of **September 2019 closing** as per attached financial report at the end of this update. **However, higher expenditure will only be reflected in the next report** due in January 2020.

Based on the field assessments launched end of October, renewed efforts on resource mobilization will be carried out in November and December to cover under-funded critical response areas in meeting urgent and recovery needs, including for WASH, livelihoods, PGI, health and DRR.



Click for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

Contact

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

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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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**.

Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/3-9	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019/3-2020/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 02 Dec 2019

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF005 - Afghanistan - Drought and Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Mar 2019 to 31 Mar 2020; appeal launch date: 16 Mar 2019

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	593,000
AOF2 - Shelter	1,895,500
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	1,448,000
AOF4 - Health	479,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	969,500
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	182,000
AOF7 - Migration	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	779,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	1,487,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	151,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	16,000
Total Funding Requirements	8,000,000
Donor Response* as per 02 Dec 2019	3,771,115
Appeal Coverage	47.14%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0	7,257	-7,257
AOF2 - Shelter	2,240,136	867,630	1,372,506
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	565,256	30,339	534,916
AOF4 - Health	167,192	126,475	40,717
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	0	0	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	0	0	0
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	458,017	30,072	427,945
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	148,865	203,505	-54,640
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	54,404	11,531	42,873
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	81,834	35,830	46,004
Grand Total	3,715,703	1,312,639	2,403,064

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2019/09

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	2,930,945
Expenditure	-1,312,639
Closing Balance	1,618,307
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	1,618,307

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	750,000	Reimbursed :	750,000	Outstanding :	0
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Emergency Appeal

Interim FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019/3-9	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019/3-2020/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 02 Dec 2019

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF005 - Afghanistan - Drought and Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Mar 2019 to 31 Mar 2020; appeal launch date: 16 Mar 2019

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
American Red Cross	252,917				252,917		
British Red Cross	229,845				229,845		
China Red Cross, Hong Kong branch	25,497				25,497		
European Commission - DG ECHO	1,128,498				1,128,498		
Finnish Red Cross	9,753	152,050			161,803		
Japanese Red Cross Society	89,726				89,726		
Norwegian Red Cross	13,163	215,860			229,022		
Red Cross of Monaco	16,536				16,536		
Swedish Red Cross	109,489				109,489		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	687,612				687,612		
Total Contributions and Other Income	2,563,036	367,910	0	0	2,930,945	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					2,930,945	0	