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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° 6 (12-mth); 12 June 2020	Timeframe covered by this update: 13 March - 31 March 2020
Operation start date: 13 March 2019	Operation timeframe: 18 months End date: 30 September 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: The 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 operation update:

This 12-month operation update mainly informs operation progress covering the period from 13 March 2019 until 31 March 2020. A brief [operation update](#) issued on 9 March 2020 (OU#5) informed the extension of the operation for a further six months, with a revised end date of 30 September 2020 to enable the National Society reaching targeted people with the much-needed humanitarian assistance.

Since the issuance of the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) in May 2019, a few more needs assessments had been conducted by ARCS. The need assessment conducted from 7-19 December 2019 indicated that the situation has not improved from the past 10 months (March- December 2019) as the affected people are still living in harsh conditions. Based on the assessment, it is estimated that at least 217,581 people (31,083 households) in six provinces (Kunar, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis and Jawzjan) are still struggling to cope from the effect of 2018/2019 drought and floods. The assessment report indicated that the affected population are still in need of livelihoods and restoration activities through cash, health services, disaster risk reduction and preparedness initiatives.

Heavy snowfall, flooding and a large number of avalanches reported in different parts of Afghanistan between 12 -15 January 2020 further worsened the situation. Rapid need assessments conducted by ARCS in the flood-affected provinces¹ from 12-19 January 2020 highlighted mass destructions of houses and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities and displacements of people from their homes and IDPs camps. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been affected badly - provinces with casualties and significant damage to homes and livelihoods included Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Laghman, Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Daykundi, Bamyán and Baghlan.

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 also poses a serious threat to the communities and this compounding affect may prolong the ongoing crisis. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported the first confirmed case on 24 February 2020 located in the western province of Herat, at the border with Iran. As of 20 April 2020, MoPH data shows that 996 people across 30 provinces have been confirmed to have the virus, with 33 reported deaths. Cases are expected to increase rapidly over the weeks/months ahead as community transmission escalates, creating grave implications for Afghanistan's economy and people's well-being.

During the first year of this operation, the ARCS and IFRC closely coordinated to reach over 181,000 people from the following areas of focus: Shelter; Livelihoods and basic needs; Health and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The gap in funding notably resulted in operation reaching significantly less than the initial target of 674,686 people in 13 provinces by end of original operation timeframe of 12 months (end date 31 March 2020). Furthermore, as the Emergency Appeal (EA) is only roughly **48 per cent** funded, this has left some key sectoral areas of activities with significant funding gaps due to budget limitations - Livelihoods and basic needs; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); DRR and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI).

Considering the planned early recovery actions in the extended timeframe, available resources and evolving situation in-country, it is envisioned that for the remaining timeframe, special focus will be given to meeting the needs of livelihoods recovery targeting affected people with multipurpose cash grants to vulnerable households to meet their basic needs, and health in five provinces. This prioritization will enable the ARCS to continue providing life-saving assistance that meets the critical humanitarian needs of up to **209,467 people** (approximately **29,924** households) affected by floods and drought from April-September 2020 in five provinces with a focus on the following areas: **Health; Livelihoods and basic needs** and **strengthening the capacity of the National Society**; alongside de-prioritization of these areas: WASH; DRR; Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Shelter (activities already completed).

This approach also recognizes the ongoing needs of the affected people in Afghanistan predominantly in the provinces with casualties and significant damage to homes and livelihoods². In this timeframe, the response aims to carry out the unmet humanitarian responses humanitarian needs of the population affected by the 2019 floods and protracted drought while putting in place transition activities to meet longer-term needs. By end of operation, this approach taken for the remaining timeframe will enable the IFRC to support the National Society to deliver assistance and support to at least **391,188 people** throughout **18 months**.

“The IFRC kindly encourages increased donor support to this EA that will enable the National Society to continue to contribute to the humanitarian needs of the affected people”.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Afghanistan experienced the worst drought in a decade in 2018-2019 with about 13.5 million people severely food insecure, which was 6 million more than in 2017³.

Several droughts affected provinces were also hit by flash floods in March and April 2019, further exacerbating the humanitarian situation. The flash floods destroyed homes, damaged infrastructure and agricultural land in several districts affecting more than 350,000 people in the country. According to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency, the most affected provinces were Farah, Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Herat, Nangarhar and Badghis.

Early of this year heavy snowfall, flooding and a large number of avalanches have been reported in different parts of Afghanistan between 12-15 January 2020. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been badly affected. Provinces with casualties and significant damage to homes and livelihoods included Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Laghman, Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Daykundi, Bamyán and Baghlan. ARCS has mobilized their staff and

¹Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand, Laghman and Badghis

² Including Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Balkh and Helmand provinces

³ IPC report – 2019.

volunteers in the affected areas from 13 January 2020 to conduct assessments and to distribute relief items such as blankets, tents, kitchen set, tapeline sheets and jerry cans.⁴

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 poses a serious threat to the communities and this compounding affect may prolong the ongoing crisis. In Afghanistan, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported the first confirmed case on 24 February 2020 located in the western province of Herat, at the border with Iran. As of 20 April 2020, MoPH data shows that 996 people across 30 provinces have been confirmed to have the virus, with 33 reported deaths while 131 people had recovered from the virus. Cases are expected to increase rapidly over the weeks/months ahead as community transmission escalates, creating grave implications for Afghanistan's economy and people's well-being. The risk of COVID-19 spreading across the Afghanistan is very high due to constant cross-border population movement with neighbouring countries, especially from Iran. It is acknowledged that the COVID-19 caseload in Afghanistan only captures a fraction of the real impact of the pandemic in the country. Until 20 April, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported that only 6,422 tests had been conducted. In war-torn Afghanistan, the overall health system is not equipped to absorb the shocks of a major pandemic as suffering from systemic weaknesses in terms of human resources, financial resources and infrastructures. On 20 April, the testing capacity for the coronavirus had been slowly increased up to 1,000 tests a day through eight laboratories. This remains largely insufficient compared to required standards and imperative to systematically track, test and treat. Towards the end of March, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health estimated that 25.6 million Afghans (approximately 80 per cent of the population) could be infected and 110,000 Afghans might die from COVID-19. If that estimate is borne out, the casualties from the virus would be much higher than the total civilian casualties of the more than 18-year war

As of March 2020, millions of people are still struggling to recover from the devastating effects of the drought and flash floods further compounded by COVID-19 pandemic.



Left - The dry and cracked land is a testament to Afghanistan's devastating drought, the worst in a decade (Source: Al Jazeera)

Middle - Residents inspecting houses damaged by the floods (Photo: ARCS)

Right - A Kabul resident removes snow from his shelter, 12 January 2020 (Source: REUTERS/Omar Sobhani)

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

As auxiliary to the government, ARCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country and facilitate disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS 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 have vast expertise with different types of programming through multilateral projects supported by IFRC, as well as through bilateral programs with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and with ICRC. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid, restoring family links, community resilience (including WASH and Livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of IHL, humanitarian values & Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people for IDPs.

⁴960-blankets, 90-tents, 2-kitchen set, 11-tapeline sheets,10-jerry cans, 2-spades and 2-picks.

ARCS has vast expertise with different types of programming through multilateral projects supported by IFRC, as well as through bilateral programmes with Red Cross Red Crescent partners. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), 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 30,000 volunteers, ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes in coordination with public authorities and across lines of conflict. Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys a high level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. The branches in targeted areas have teams of trained volunteers in disaster preparedness and response through established National and Branch Disaster Response Teams, Mobile Health Teams and community mobilisers as part of the CBHFA programme.

ARCS started the response activities in October 2018, assisting families affected by the protracted drought with the support of partners including IFRC, ICRC, Turkish Red Crescent, Qatar Red Crescent, China Red Cross and Saudi Government. It was later expanded to include floods response beginning March 2019. The life-saving assistance included emergency shelter, various household items, food and basic health services based on the rapid need assessments conducted in the affected areas. Ongoing response focus on increasing coverage, integration with food assistance, shelter and basic health services for affected population. ARCS prepositioned stock from national, regional and provincial level has been utilized. Post distribution monitoring has been conducted and during these distributions, beneficiary satisfaction survey was held at the distribution points using the disaster response management toolkit and open data kit (ODK).

The health service department is one of the vital sections of the ARCS, which delivers health services to the disaster affected population to improve health quality around the country. The basic health services are; Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), providing basic medicine to vulnerable people in areas where people cannot access to the basic health services. Health education is one of the areas where ARCS providing epidemic control services, environmental health services (individual and group health training), strengthen mental health and social services by advising including referral services. In addition, health in emergency and mobile and fix clinics are also functional, 21 Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) in its structure that provides medical services in emergency cases targeting the disasters affected areas.

Heavy snowfall, flooding and a large number of avalanches have been reported in different parts of Afghanistan between 12-15 January 2020. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been affected badly. Provinces with casualties and significant damage to homes and livelihoods included Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan, Laghman, Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Daykundi, Bamyán and Baghlan provinces. ARCS later mobilized their staff and volunteers in the affected areas to conduct assessments and to distribute relief items like blankets, tents, kitchen set, tapeline sheets and jerry cans.⁵

ARCS has been in coordination with Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and participating in cluster meetings in provinces and at national level. A close coordination is established with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH), National Statistics & Information Department and national disaster management commission at provincial level. ARCS national headquarters regularly received information reports on operation activities from their respective provincial branches. ARCS has organised the emergency needs assessment trainings for branch level staff and volunteers in 13 floods and drought affected provinces with the technical support from the national headquarters. ARCS has also carried out further need assessments in 9 floods and drought affected provinces⁶ from in December 2019 after 10 months of the operation to identify the unmet needs of the communities.

As of December 2019, ARCS has reached more than 16,000 households through the provision of emergency shelter, and 33,000 households with food parcels in 34 provinces. With support from ICRC, ARCS has also distributed 9,000 food packages and essential household items to families displaced by conflict and affected by drought in the country covering the provinces; Helmand, Samangan, Faryab, Jawzjan, Nimroz, Zabul, Kandahar, Paktika, Paktia, Daykundi, Logar, Ghazni and Balkh.

⁵960-blankets, 90-tents, 2-kitchen set, 11-tapeline sheets,10-jerry canes, 2-spades and 2-picks.

⁶Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Balkh and Helmand.

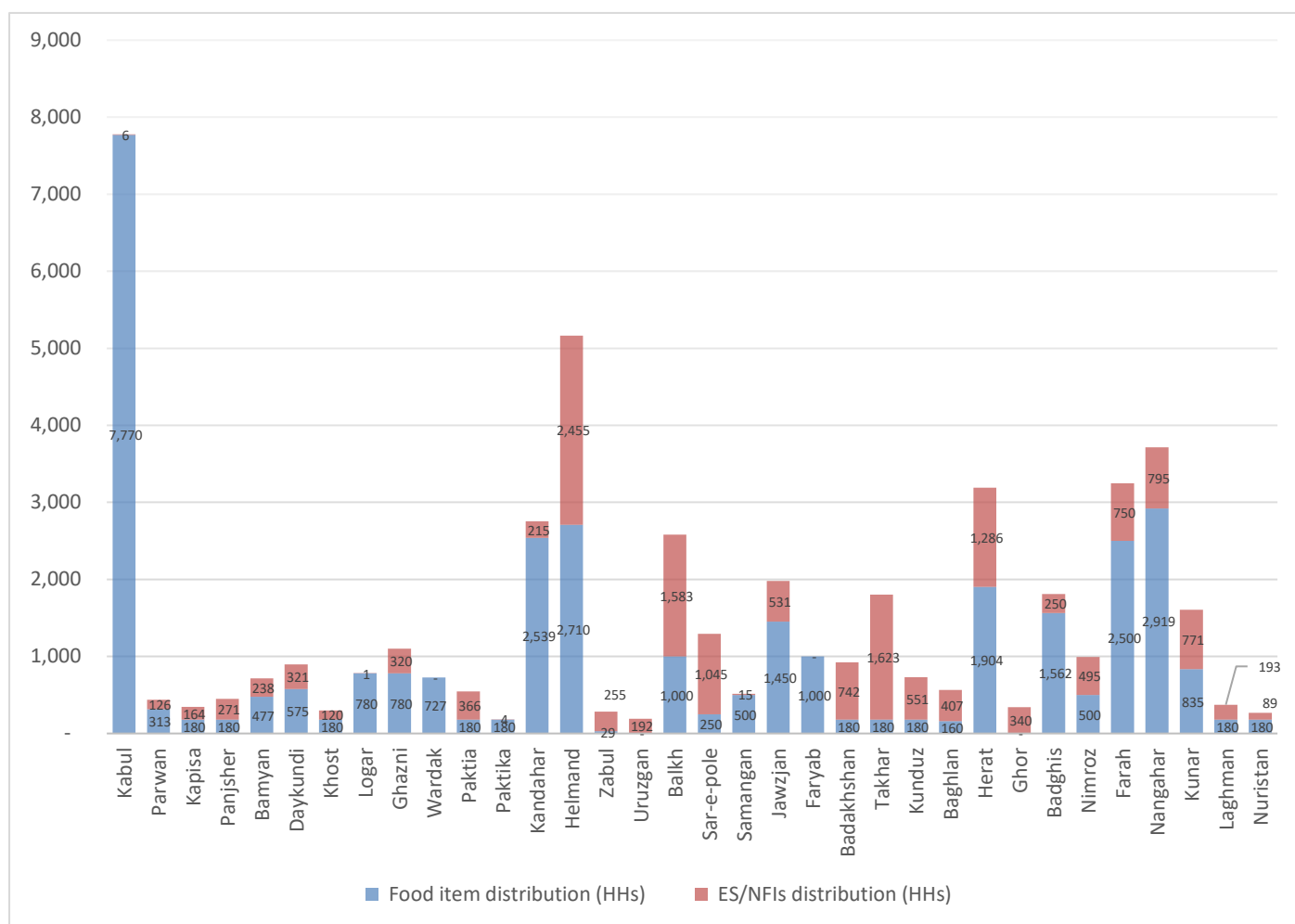


Figure 1: ARCS Food & non-food items distribution province-wise (as of December 2019)

The following table summarizes the IFRC **Appeal funded achievements**:

Table 1: Summary of sector-wise achievements, March 2019 - March 2020

Sector	Intervention	Reach	Remarks
Shelter	Distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items	4,000 HHs	4,000 most vulnerable families were reached out in 10 provinces with in-kind and cash pledge support from partners.
	Orientation of HHs	4,000 HHs	Orientations sessions conducted - 4,000 families.
Livelihoods and basic needs	Food assistance	6,000 HHs	6,000 families are assisted with food assistance in 8 provinces.
	Cash assistance	498 HHs	Cash piloting is done in one province, where 498 households assisted with multipurpose cash grant.
Health	Deployment of Medical Health Teams (MHTs)	106,050 people	5 MHTs deployed in 5 provinces (Herat, Jawzjan, Helmand, Badghis and Kandahar) reaching 106,050 people.
	CBHFA activities	22,640 people	Trained volunteers conducted sessions on health and hygiene promotion campaigns to reduce the number of vector-borne (malaria), diarrheal outbreaks and hygienic diseases reaching 3,200 households (male: 10,250 and female: 12,150). Local communities were also provided with relevant brochures and posters.
Disaster Risk Reduction	Capacity building trainings & community based	2,185 people	DRR trainings conducted in 8 provinces - Herat, Badghis, Nimroz, Kandahar, Helmand, Nangarhar, Kunar and Balkh. Branch staff trained in the 8 provinces, and community based DRR or Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), and

Sector	Intervention	Reach	Remarks
	DRR/CCA & EWEA sessions		Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) sessions conducted in Herat and Balkh province, where 2,000 people participated. DRR sector is also with significant funding gap.
WASH	Hard and soft components	-	WASH activities are deprioritised for extension timeframe.

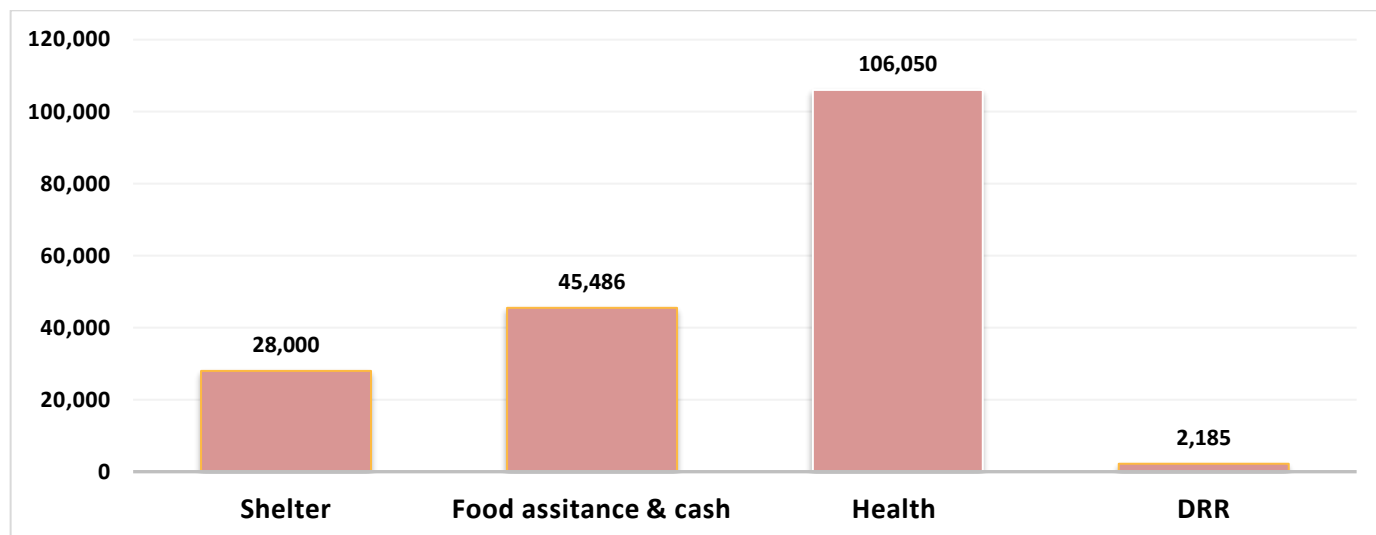


Figure 2: Number of people reached sector-wise, March 2019 - March 2020

Table 2: Summary of people reached in provinces, March 2019 - March 2020

Province	Disaster	Sectors	# of people
Nangarhar	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	12,855
Farha	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	12,795
Kunhar	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	2,560
Helmand	Flood	livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	31,456
Herat	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	33,459
Kandahar	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	15,721
Jowzjan	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	29,230
Nimroz	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	5,940
Badghis	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	21,961
Sar-e-Pul	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	3,875
Faryab	Flood & Drought	Livelihoods, shelter & PGI	6,719
Balkh	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, shelter & PGI	5,150
Kabul	Flood	-	-
Total			181,721

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC country office 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 mobilization and for the design and implementation of the emergency operation, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and IFRC Headquarters in Geneva. With regards to longer terms programmes, IFRC is supporting immunization initiatives for children and implementation of community-health services through the support to Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and the CBHFA in North, Northeast, Central North, Central South and West.

The ICRC, in its role of lead agency, is present in Afghanistan since 1986 and engages in dialogue with all parties to the conflict having a direct or indirect influence on the humanitarian situation in the country. The key operating areas in responding to the Afghanistan protracted conflict include the promotion and respect of IHL, health services, in particular for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitoring the treatment of detainees

across the country and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions. They provide support to the civilian population in improving livelihood and water and sanitation, health, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and tracing activities. The ICRC supports ARCS, as its primary partner in its development and operations with focus on the “Safer Access” approach that promotes safer access to persons affected by conflict and other situations of violence, whilst 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 (PSS) together with ICRC, 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 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-Red Cross Red Crescent 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, United Nations (UN) agencies, public authorities and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings occur monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies coordinated through UNOCHA and covering shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition. Meetings are attended by cluster partners, members and observers to share information, coordinate humanitarian interventions at cluster or multi-cluster levels, address operational challenges and feed into funding instruments such as the Afghan Humanitarian Fund. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum that guides principled humanitarian action in Afghanistan. The Afghan Humanitarian Forum (AHF) is composed of all heads of International and National humanitarian NGOs and feeds into the HCT.

IFRC, together with ARCS, participate to coordination meetings through the clusters as well as technical working groups such as the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG). Other implementing agencies include WFP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNICEF, IOM as well as INGOs including Save the Children, OXFAM, ACF, ACTED, Norwegian and Danish Refugee Councils.

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 and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Millions of people are still reeling from the crippling effects of the 2018-19 drought and floods and struggling to recover. The cumulative impact of decades of war, combined with recurrent natural disasters and chronic poverty, have resulted in crippling debt and depleted people's capacity to cope with repeated shocks. Malnutrition is soaring, with over 3 million children and women acutely malnourished, requiring specialized nutrition supplies and medicines⁷. Reports state that humanitarian food assistance will be necessary through the upcoming winter to mitigate food consumption gaps and prevent malnutrition in Afghanistan, especially as up to 85 per cent of the country's food comes from irrigated farming. It is predicted that, because of the drought, the number of people experiencing crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity will rise to 14.3 million people between the period of November 2019 and March 2020. This is an increase by 113 per cent over the same period a year previous, as per Flow minder 2020 population projections⁸.

The situation continues to deteriorate across the country, and the needs of communities are increasing while actors struggle to meet the basic needs of the drought and floods affected population. Repeats shocks from natural disaster in these conflicts affected areas has made it difficult for most people in Badghis, Helmand, Nangarhar and Farah to cope with the crises. Influx of migrants into these provinces puts pressure on the limited resources increasing the vulnerability of these floods and drought affected population. There is a need to continue to support the communities with access to food, Shelter, health services among other basic needs.

The Movement partners including the ARCS will continue to do regular needs assessments and targeted assessment to monitor the situation and improve the modality of assistance depending on the situation. Afghanistan is now the scene of the deadliest conflict in the world. Fighting continues to rage, exposing civilians, particularly women and children, to daily deadly risks, prompting mass displacement and choking the country's unstable economy. Years of shocks have left an acutely vulnerable population with few economic resources, an eroded capacity to cope with the unfolding crisis and little hope of recovery if the current conditions persist.

Since the issuance of the original EPoA in May 2019, further assessments have been conducted by ARCS related to this response. ARCS carried out a need assessment from 7-19 December 2019 and from the assessments conducted, it is indicative that the situation has not improved from the past 10 months (March- December 2019) as the affected population are still living in the harsh conditions because of drought and floods effects and the on-going conflict, and now worsened by the heavy snow in some provinces. There are still huge needs on the ground, and this has resulted in population movement in which floods and drought affected people seek better places in order to get assistance and become displaced due to the ongoing conflict. Based on the assessment, it is estimated that at least **217,581 people (31,083 households)** in six provinces (Kunar, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis and Jawzjan) are still struggling to cope from the effect of 2018/2019 drought and floods. The assessment report indicates that the affected population are still in need of the livelihoods and restoration activities through cash, health services, disaster risk reduction and preparedness initiatives. These affected population did not receive emergency assistance from the 2018/2019 drought and floods response as they are at hard-to reach areas where humanitarian actors are limited and does not have much presence. The main challenges and needs facing the communities of the provinces are: (1) Disbursement of multipurpose cash grants to most affected households, (2) Provision of health services to people through the deployment of mobile health teams.

Table 3: Details of assessment carried out by ARCS in December 2019

Province	Disaster	Affected people with needs	IDPs with needs	Target population	Sectoral needs
Kunar	Flood	35,520	5,041	40,561	Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Nimroz	Flood & Drought	23,736	2,800	26,536	Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Herat	Flood & Drought	43,802	33,271	77,073	Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Faryab	Flood & Drought	8,576	1,256	9,832	Shelter/Food/livelihood/Cash, DRR & health
Badghis	Flood & Drought	23,580	19,400	42,980	Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Jawzjan	Flood & Drought	14,473	6,126	20,599	Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Total		149,689	67,894	217,581	

⁷ UNOCHA report, 7 Jan 2020

⁸ UNOCHA report, 20 Dec 2019

Following heavy snowfall, flooding and large number of avalanches reported in different parts of Afghanistan between 12 -15 January 2020, ARCS teams carried out rapid need assessments in flood-affected provinces⁹ from 12-19 January 2020. The assessment showed mass destructions of houses and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities and displacements of people from their homes and IDPs camps due to the floods. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been affected badly. 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 are already affected by the protracted drought, recurring floods and conflicts people are living in poor condition without enough basic services. Hence the ARCS is considering assisting them with humanitarian interventions basing on the needs prevailing from these communities.

According to UNOCHA, programme Cycle 2020 shows that the humanitarian status quo or conditions will continue to slightly worsen over the year ahead. This scenario would see a continuation of the highest levels of violence, protection risks for civilians and setbacks created by drought and floods.¹⁰

Targeting

In early 2019, ARCS teams carried out a need assessment of drought and flood affected areas in 13 provinces¹¹, which showed mass destructions of house and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities and displacements of people from their homes and IDPs camps due to the protracted drought and flash floods. The ARCS response focuses on emergency shelter, food distribution and cash transfers to meet basic needs, health, WASH, DRR and PGI interventions in thirteen provinces. Up to **674,686 people**, approx **96,000 households** affected by the floods and protracted drought, are targeted. ARCS focus is on hard-to-reach areas, considering high population mobility and access restrictions for many humanitarian partners. ARCS through its regional and provincial branches, provides shared understanding of the protracted crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and the estimated number of people who need assistance, and represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint response planning. ARCS is working closely with the government, stakeholders and other agencies to ensure that there will be no duplication of intervention activities.

By end of March 2020, due to limited funding, ARCS was only able to provide limited services coverage to 12 out of 13 provinces (Kabul was not covered) with distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items; food and cash assistance; MHTs services and CBHFA activities as well as DRR activities reaching around 181,721 people. Furthermore, WASH activities could not be carried out due to funding constraints. This resulted in operation falling significantly below the initial target of 674,686 people (approx. 96,384 families) in 13 provinces. Considering unmet humanitarian needs and following recent assessments, the operation was extended in March 2020 for another six months until September 2020.

It is envisioned that for the remaining timeframe, following recent assessments and considering funding availability, the operation is targeting up to 209,467 people (male: 106,200 & female: 103,267) approximately (29,924 households) through the provision of livelihoods recovery initiatives through multipurpose cash grants, health care and strengthening the capacity of the National Society, whilst contributing to building longer-term resilience in the affected communities. alongside de-prioritization of these areas: WASH; DRR; PGI and Shelter. More details as shown in the following table:

Table 4: Summary of provincial targets

Province	Disaster	Sectors	Floods & drought affected population	
			Affected population with needs	IDPs with needs
Herat	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, health and PGI	43,802	33,271
Badghis	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, health and PGI	24,580	19,400
Jawzjan	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, health and PGI	14,473	6,126
Kandahar	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, health and PGI	22,769	11,781
Helmand	Flood & Drought	livelihoods, health and PGI	23,453	9,812
Total			209,467	

The vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population change frequently and are complex. Priority will be given to most vulnerable people especially when taking coping mechanisms and socio-economic status into account. ARCS ensure that the other sectors use IFRC's standards of gender and diversity sensitive analysis in beneficiary selection, i.e. by targeting women-headed households, pregnant or lactating women, widows, men and boys made vulnerable, people with a disability and excluded people. The recovery phase takes into account women's and men's distinct range

⁹Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand, Laghman and Badghis

¹⁰Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2020 – issued December 2019

¹¹ Nangahar, Kunar, Farha, Herat, Nimroz, Badghis, Helmand, Kandahar, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab, Balkh Kabul

of roles and responsibilities while social and disability inclusion will be promoted for all interventions. The beneficiary selection criteria for ARCS also follows the IFRC standards and includes:

- Families fully displaced due to completely collapsed houses.
- Floods and drought affected families (temporarily displaced families-TDPs).
- Family with non-liveable (fully or partially damaged) house by floods.
- Pregnant/lactating women, children, elderly and people with disabilities.
- Women headed families.
- Family with disable person/child.
- Family with limited access to food due to financial constraints.
- People in need of urgent support and living in most remote areas.
- Family those have lost a considerable amount of assets like livestock and crops due to drought and floods.

ARCS will strongly ensure the community-based targeting mechanisms to avoid potential selection biases and to meet the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's global standards on community engagement and accountability (CEA). Community engagement will be an ongoing process, which will also be used to collect information about the impacts of responses and to inform course-correction, where necessary. This approach is adopted for its ability to improve the two-way communication between ARCS and affected communities, and to enhance the NS and IFRC's accountability to communities. Comprehensive targeting criteria will be developed and validated through community dialogue sessions for their input/review and used to selecting the most vulnerable to receive assistance. The ARCS has good acceptance within the communities they serve and with the local authorities. These relationships will be leveraged to facilitate operations and recovery interventions in areas considered hard to reach, which this appeal aims to support.

Scenario planning

The humanitarian consequences of the crisis now affect every aspect of life in all corners of the country. Constant exposure to high-stress, conflict situations and repeated loss of human lives are taking their toll on the mental health of people living in the country. The cumulative impacts of decades of war, combined with repeated displacement, grinding poverty, disasters have eroded people's resilience and capacity to cope with recurrent shocks. A large proportion of the population now lacks the emotional strength or resources to support their own recovery, perpetuating a cycle of aid dependency. The crisis in Afghanistan is now affecting every province in the country with shock-affected households facing multiple humanitarian needs simultaneously, undermining their capacity to cope and recover.

Following the latest assessment done in December 2019 and January 2020, ARCS will continue operation activities to assist affected households, those struggling to cope from recurrent shocks of natural disasters compounded by conflict. The operation has recently been extended for another six months, from April to September 2020, to assist the families with unmet needs.

Operation Risk Assessment

After twelve months into the operation, the Emergency Appeal coverage of only 48 per cent resulted in some key sectoral areas of activities (DRR, Health, PGI) being partially covered and WASH sector completely uncovered due to budget limitations. In December 2019, a partners call was organized to present the overall of progress of operation activities and sectors those still need to be addressed, according to the latest need assessment findings and critical need at communities level. Further to cover the funding gaps, IFRC CO will call for renewed resource mobilization engagement with a focus on continued emergency needs and recovery efforts.

A security risk assessment done by the country office in 2019, noted that security issues restrict field access by international staff at one time or the other, but it is not anticipated that these will hamper the smooth implementation of the operation. Because it is recognized for its neutrality, impartiality and independence, ARCS – as a local agency – with acceptance across Afghanistan has staff and volunteers present in every province across the country, with direct access to communities. The National Society is able to operate and has on-going operations in Afghanistan where they are running the integrated health care programme, disaster risk reduction; volunteer management, livelihoods and cash activities for floods and drought affected population in different regions that cater for the settled, remote and nomadic communities and people provided with food and non-foods relief items with their available resources. Therefore, the National Society will utilize its capacity and extensive experience in implementing projects in complex emergency, floods and drought affected areas.

The IFRC has a Security Delegate who will support and work with the Afghanistan Country Office in monitoring the security situation and guidance on how the operation will be implemented. The IFRC staff will seek security clearance from the ICRC through the Security Delegate before undertaking any field missions outside Kabul as per the Movement Coordination Agreement. The IFRC operational team only provides remote technical support to the ARCS branches for intervention in some areas. Further to this, the Security Delegate will orient and update regularly to IFRC staff working directly with the operation on `Safer Access` and `Do no Harm`.

Recently, IFRC launched a global Emergency Appeal to support its worldwide membership to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Besides critical components such as health interventions, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and other forms of support to medical services, the global Emergency Appeal has a strong focus on National Society institutional preparedness. This component considers how the humanitarian landscape is changing due to challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and considers the development of effective and relevant guidance to ensure that ongoing activities will factor in these new risks. As auxiliaries to the government, ARCS has a strong role to play in supporting national COVID-19 response focused on preparedness, containment and mitigation against the pandemic. Focus is also given to supporting National Society to maintain critical service provision to people affected by humanitarian crises through ongoing Emergency Appeals, while adapting to COVID-19. This includes ensuring the health and safety of staff and volunteers and developing plans specifically for emergency health service provision where relevant. As such, the National Society actions dedicated to COVID-19 and those conducted through ongoing operations will be mutually beneficial and built upon programmatic synergies. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this particular crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same.

Summary of foreseeable main risks and their mitigation strategies are as follows:

Table 5: Risk matrix

Risk	Assumption	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Collateral involvement	The Movement is not considered as side in the conflict, but with the fact that armed conflict is ongoing and high level of incidents, there is high possibility of RCRC staff and volunteers being collaterally impacted.	Medium	High	Liaison with all stakeholders in the field. Register assets on non-strike list. Protective role of emblem. Monitoring of the situation in real time and informing staff and volunteers about development of the situation. Avoiding or postponing of the operations in areas with ongoing ground or air operations. Staff and volunteers to be trained on reactions in emergency situations.
Criminality (kidnapping, abduction, extortions, theft, robbery, corruption, illegal taxation...)	Criminality is on the raise, especially in the big cities. Staff of IO is considered wealth comparing to average population.	High	Medium	Training of staff and volunteers for reaction in threatening situations. Awareness trainings for staff and volunteers. Assessments and reassessments of the situation. Good communication with affected community and all stakeholders in the field. Passive security measures (awareness, limitation of movement just during day lights, technical measures for protection for compounds...)
Unsatisfied beneficiaries	Noticeable are incidents in which unsatisfied beneficiaries, for different reasons, attacked staff or volunteers of NGOs.	Medium	Medium	Work with beneficiaries' leaders Transparency in criteria and selection of beneficiaries for distribution Involving of beneficiaries in process of selection for distribution Involving of beneficiaries in maintaining order during distribution Awareness sessions for staff and volunteers working in the field Training in crowd control and negotiation ("Stay safe" manual)
Reputational damage (not respecting NIHA, involvement in criminal, bad treatment of beneficiaries, inappropriate statements in public or on the social networks...)	To build reputation is needed long time but to ruin it is enough just a moment. Involvement of staff or volunteer in criminal activity or inappropriate statement on social networks can make big damage to	Low	High	Awareness sessions for staff and volunteers. Code of Conduct Movement Fundamental Principles NIHA principles Monitoring of social networks Webinars and trainings on protection from corruption Monitoring of the processes and operations in the organization

Risk	Assumption	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
	organizational reputation.			
Access and acceptance limitation	We witnessed in the past that components of the Movement were rejected access because various reasons	Low	High	Transparent relation with all stakeholders Sticking to Fundamental and NIHA principles International Humanitarian Law Dissemination of materials Communication with communities Training of staff and volunteers
COVID-19 mitigation and restrictions measures from the government result in restricted movement of people, closure of businesses and loss of jobs	Limited capacity to mobilize staff and volunteers, limited capacity of target beneficiaries to access, limited capacity to conduct field monitoring and visits, increase vulnerability due to income loss. ARCS response to the COVID-19 situation results in human resources focused on tackling the pandemic, reducing volunteers and staff available to support floods and drought efforts.	Medium	High	Constant monitoring of the ongoing situation. Adaption of working models according to the situation. ARCS developed a contingency plan for the outbreak, mapping of resources and actions to be conducted. When possible, activities will be carried out through phone. The EA integrated now an extension (until September 2020) to allow buffer time in case livelihoods and health activities are slow down due to restrictions.

B. Operational strategy

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 September 2020.

Proposed strategy

Across the overall protracted crisis 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, and help affected people self-recover in a way that contributes 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

Going into the remaining six months of the operation, below approach is being adopted:

- Initial phase implemented from March 2019 to March 2020 and reached 12 provinces (181,721 people) through distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items; food and cash assistance; MHTs services and CBHFA activities as well as DRR activities.
- Second phase implemented from April to September 2020 in five provinces following recent assessments, targeting up to **209,467 people** (male: 106,200 & female: 103,267) approximately (**29,924 households**) through the provision of livelihoods recovery initiatives through conditional cash, multipurpose cash grants, health care and strengthening the capacity of the National Society, whilst contributing to building longer-term resilience in the affected communities. alongside de-prioritization of these areas: WASH; DRR; PGI and Shelter.

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 hard-to-reach areas. High vigilance and monitoring will be maintained to ensure access is gained through localised negotiation and acceptance by all parties. Through focus groups and interviews, communities in the areas expressed their needs and priorities for intervention, which have been considered for the further design of emergency operation. The local communities are involved through several channel for community engagement and communication which is adopted to promote the participation and to ensure the satisfaction level of beneficiary. During the implementation of operation activities by allowing them a better understanding of ARCS in general and the operation strategy, and to minimize the errors of inclusions and exclusion in targeting, and to eliminate any form of tension during implementation. Continuous monitoring visits are carried out through the ARCS staff members in implementation areas to support the operation activities and ensure the compliance according to the IFRC standards, as well as beneficiary satisfaction and the management of the available resources.

Prioritised interventions

In the beginning, this operation sought to assist the following within each sector:

- Emergency shelter and household items 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 as a contribution to a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which represents the absolute minimum need to survive and keep an individual or family from destitution and poverty. Livelihoods support through conditional cash grants aimed to restore their livelihoods by purchasing agriculture input, tool kits and to increase capacity on crop production while ensuring good practice in agriculture;
- 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.

However, by March 2020, in part due to limited funding, the operation only managed to reach 12 provinces (181,721 people) through distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items; food and cash assistance; MHTs services and CBHFA as well as DRR activities. Following recent assessments and considering funding availability, the following are key activities prioritized in the remaining timeframe:

- Distribution of multipurpose cash grants to households.
- Provision of health services to affected people through the existing mobile health teams in five provinces.
- Ensure protection, gender and inclusion, and to make sure that Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention is mainstreamed throughout the operation.

Table 6: Summary of the interventions completed in the first 12 months and planned for the remaining timeframe

Area of Focus	Intervention	Period	
		Mar 2019-Mar 2020	Apr – Sep 2020
Shelter	Distribution of emergency shelter and essential household items	4,000 HHs (28,000 people)	No new activities. Targets achieved during first phase.
	Orientation of HHs		
Livelihoods and basic needs	Food assistance	6,000 HHs (42,000 people)	No plan for food distribution in second phase as 6,000 families already assisted with food assistance in 8 provinces during first phase.
	Cash assistance	498 HHs (3,486 people)	1,500 households (10,500 people) will be assisted with multipurpose cash grant.
WASH	Provision of safe water, rehabilitation of water source, etc	-	Deprioritized due to significant funding gap.
Health	Deployment of Medical Health Teams (MHTs)	106,050 people	5 running MHTs will be continued in second phase to provide health services in 5 provinces (Herat, Jawzjan, Helmand, Badghis and Kandahar) to reach out 198,967 people.
	CBHFA activities	22,640 people	
Disaster Risk Reduction	Capacity building trainings & community based DRR/CCA & EWEA sessions	2,185 people	DRR activities are deprioritized for extension timeframe due to the significant funding gap.

From April 2020, ARCS will continue providing life-saving assistance that meets the critical humanitarian needs of up to **209,467 people** (approximately: **29,924 households**) affected by floods and drought from April-September 2020 with a focus on these areas - health, livelihoods and basic needs and strengthening the capacity of the National Society.

Operational support services

Human resources

The IFRC and ARCS will continue with the following resources:

IFRC:

- The IFRC Head of Country Office is ultimately accountable for timely implementation, compliance, financial management and reporting of the operation.
- During the extension time period of operation, IFRC will continue with the technical support to ARCS through its staff from Country Office (CO) with Health/Livelihoods/CVA/PMER and Surge Operations Support.
- The Operations Manager is overall responsible for operation & monitoring according to the IFRC procedures and technical support to the National Society.
- RDRTs with a profile of Cash logistics and PMER will be deployed subject to needs, to support technically to NS.
- The IFRC Country Office is providing technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Admin, Livelihoods & Cash and Health.

Implementation of the operation is open for Shared Leadership approach to achieve collective impact. This includes the option of having PNS taking the lead in supporting ARCS in thematic area(s) of strength with IFRC sharing/providing financial resources from the Emergency Appeal to enable that support. PNS may also provide technical support (including HR surge) through the existing surge and HR processes.

ARCS:

- At the provincial level, the National Society project staff is responsible for the implementation of revised Appeal with Health, Livelihoods & Cash, PMER and youth & volunteer, admin & finance focal persons.
- At the level of the implementation areas, the National Society engaged the NDRTs for operation and for the supervision of volunteers.

Logistics and supply chain Procurement

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. The overall goal of the logistics function is to continue supporting and

further strengthen the logistics structure and capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society and Afghanistan Country Office. In this way the demand placed on the supply chain of the floods and drought recovery operation is fulfilled through effective and efficient procurement, warehousing, transport and fleet management.

Information Technology

Internet connectivity is available in the IFRC country office. ARCS staff members and volunteers in the field operation is supported by high-quality internet facility and internet data packages on their smartphones which is enable them to communicate electronically with the provincial office to send reports and pictures. Assessment through mobile phone is carried out through mobile apps, since Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has been piloted and further will be scaled up carrying out surveys with Open Data Kit (ODK). As part of this operation IT equipment are provided for the areas of operation where needed.

Communication Strategy

ARCS and IFRC is regularly collaborating to implement a communication strategy that will:

- raise awareness of the complex, recovery and long-term recovery needs of communities in Afghanistan, who are currently out of sight, in an under-estimated crisis with limited access by humanitarian agencies or media, out of reach because of conflict and out of scope because this is a large, slow- onset disaster;
- support the positioning of the Afghan Red Crescent Society as a credible humanitarian responder with a network of volunteers and expertise in disaster management, and unique access to people in need;
- promote the revised emergency appeal and support a partner's call for the international community to make the funds available for life-saving help;
- manage reputational risks;
- provide accountability to donors on the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent response;
- maximize opportunities to build ARCS communications capacity.

The audiences are the news media, social media audiences, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, partners, peer organizations and donors.

Materials are developed and shared, including high-quality photos, videos, stories, key messages to guide partner communications and social media posts. Spokespeople are identified, supported and pitched to the media. Further coverage will be monitored for the extension time period. Where possible, journalists and others will be supported to visit Red Crescent activities.

All communications products are preserving the dignity of people and promote diversity, gender inclusion and respect.

Implementation strategy according to the funding mobilization plan

The implementation of the activities foreseen in the revised Appeal, subject to the mobilization of the resources, will follow the following order of prioritization:

1. the coverage of livelihoods restoration activities;
2. the implementation of cash-based intervention;
3. the implementation of health activities;

In geographical terms, through on-going coordination with the afore mentioned humanitarian partners, the ARCS has prioritized the coverage of needs in five provinces; Herat, Jawzjan, Helmand, Badghis and Kandahar of Afghanistan.

Community engagement and accountability

Community accountability and feedback/response mechanisms is integrated into the operation to ensure that affected populations have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by ARCS and expected behaviour of staff and volunteers. Since only a fraction of the affected population is selected, the selection criteria are communicated clearly to affected people and wider communities so that they understand the rationale behind the selection process. This avoids the potential tensions/frustrations by the people who do not meet the ARCS selection criteria. Besides, these mechanisms have been established throughout the operation to receive feedback, opinion and complaints of beneficiaries. ARCS regional and provincial branches are directly addressing the feedback through setting up a hotline or complaint box/desk in the communities. Best practices are being captured, and all efforts are made to record case studies as the operation progresses.

Security

Generally, the security situation in the country remains unpredictable and volatile, and in some areas the security risks are extreme. The overall response in floods and drought affected communities have been hampered by the access restrictions caused by security concerns. The shrinking humanitarian space and access to populations in need remain significant challenges. The conflict has rendered major roads such as the western-region highway in very poor condition, further limiting the population's access to vital services. Humanitarian workers have reported pressure from some authorities not to respond in areas controlled by non-state armed groups. I/NGO staff report harassment and

restriction of movement to and from such areas. Humanitarian actors, including the Movement, have had very limited access in the past nine months.

Civilians living in the provinces of Nangarhar, Kabul, Helmand, Ghazni, and Faryab are most impacted by the conflict. UNAMA notes with extreme concern that Nangarhar became the province that recorded the most civilian casualties. The increase in the number of civilian casualties from suicide and complex attacks by Anti-Government Elements, more than half of which are attributed to a non-state armed group, continued to offset decreases in civilian casualties from other incidents. The majority resulted from suicide and complex attacks, which increased both in frequency and in lethality to civilians, driving the overall rise in civilian deaths. Ground engagements were the second leading cause of civilian casualties, followed by targeted and deliberate killings, aerial operations, and explosive remnants of war.

Generally, the security situation in 2019 in the country remains unpredictable and volatile, and in some areas the security risks are still extreme. Number of incidents did not change comparing to 2018. Noticeable was increase in Airstrikes and ground operations what increased risk for civilian casualties. December of 2019 and January 2020 showed trend of slow reduction in number of security incidents. Number of complex attacks is on historical minimum in big cities. Reason for decrease of the incidents was probably severe winter in the most parts of the country. Second reason and more important (could lead to cease fire and inter Afghan negotiation process) could be Peace negotiation process between IEA and USA, in which one of the conditions for signing it, is "Violence reduction".

Ongoing conflict activities throughout the country continued to represent high risk for RCRC staff and volunteers to be collaterally affected. Number of the incidents in which NGOs were affected is still high. High risk areas to be collaterally impacted are main roads, as all factors trying to keep control of main supply and smuggling routes, as well as District Administrative Centres. Noticeable are incidents in which unsatisfied beneficiaries, individuals or groups, not satisfied with the services provided or not selected for distribution of aid protesting or even attacking (trying to intimidate) NGO staff.

The IFRC Afghanistan country office will continue to provide regular security briefings that indicate the accurate security level, as well as the required prevention and mitigation measures in case the situation deteriorates. The fragile context reinforces that adaptability of this operation to changes in the context is a key operational principle underpinning the planning and delivery. As such, flexibility of funding must accompany the adaptability of the operation.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

Continuous monitoring is ongoing through the ARCS staff members in the areas of implementation to support the floods and drought intervention and ensure that there is compliance with the minimum international humanitarian standards (SPHERE, Fundamental Principles etc.), as well as beneficiaries satisfaction, and the management of the available resources. The IFRC Afghanistan Country Office is regularly in collaboration with the ARCS to support the effective implementation of the operation and budget is conducted based on the results of the monitoring report. Trained staff and volunteers are mobilised for data collection and basic analysis in the floods and drought affected provinces through local branches. Data collection including registration of people has been done, baseline data on CVA post-distribution monitoring (PDM) data, end line survey, market analysis and price monitoring data have been carried out during the first phase of operation. Steps are being taken to strengthen the National Society approaches to PMER.

Through this EPoA, IFRC Afghanistan country office as part of PMER development efforts of the National Society extends its PMER support, the plans are developed with PMER unit at the National Society to implement and monitor on regular basis. Monitoring and reporting are done according to the agreed monitoring framework. Whereby the provincial branch staff and volunteers submits reports to respective branch focal person monthly. The branch monthly reports then share with national PMER unit for further consolidation. An independent end-term evaluation will be carried out, mainly for impact assessment.

Administration and Finance

A Project Grant Agreement will be extended for the next six-months extension timeframe between the IFRC Afghanistan country office and the ARCS. The operation is relying on the existing financial management and administration systems in ARCS and IFRC. The IFRC, through the finance department, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers and technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices. As the recovery continues the emphasis to move further towards supporting the capacity building to the ARCS in financial management both at the headquarters and at the provincial branch levels as a core strategy to the organizational development component of the appeal. The administration team continues their support services to the operation such as organizing the workshops and meeting etc. for IFRC international and national staff and ARCS staff.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People targeted: 21,000

People reached: 28,000

Male: 14,196

Female: 13,804

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	28,000

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	3,000	4,000

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	4,000
# of staff and volunteer trained on safer shelter techniques	240	240

Progress towards outcomes

Completed activities:

- **Identification of people to be assisted:** ARCS provincial teams carried out assessments in the affected areas to identify the most vulnerable people in need of humanitarian assistance. Broader selection criteria were used in selecting, registering and verification of the affected people:
 - Floods affected displaced families, needs emergency shelter assistance, not living with host families, rental houses or government properties.
 - Families with non-livable (fully or partially damaged) house.
 - Families 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.

A complete package of emergency shelter and non-food items intended for one household consists the following items:

Table 7: Standard package contents

No	Shelter and 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

- **Procurement of items:** The procurement of shelter items was done following IFRC standards. This was facilitated by IFRC standard procurement guidelines and the procurement was done outside the country. Logistics and supply chain activities aimed 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. Due to the unavailability of some items in the country, international procurement took some time.

- **Distribution of emergency shelter and household items**

ARCS conducted the distribution in 10 targeted provinces and the distribution was held in different locations in Nangarhar, Helmand, Farah, Kunar, Balkh, Badghis, Sar-e-Pole, Nimroz, Herat and Jawzjan provinces. As of reporting period, some 4,000 families have been assisted with emergency shelter and non-food household items, well beyond the initial target of 3,000 outlined in the EPoA. The identified and selected households were informed through branch staff and local volunteers prior to the distribution and communicated the distribution date and location.

Table 8: Emergency shelter and household items distribution details

No	Distribution date	Provinces	Emergency Shelter & Household Items	Target	
				Male	Female
1	24-26 Aug 2019	Nangarhar	500 standard package	1,774	1,726
2	27-28 Aug 2019	Helmand	500 standard package	1,774	1,726
3	27-28 Aug 2019	Farah	500 standard package	1,774	1,726
4	12-14 Nov 2019	Balkh	500 standard package	1,774	1,726
5	27-28 Aug 2019	Kunar	250 tents	887	863
6	26-27 Oct 2019	Badghis	250 tents	887	863
7	28-29 Oct 2019	Sar-e-Pole	250 tents	887	863
8	30 Oct-2 Nov 2019	Nimroz	250 tents	887	863
9	13 Oct 2019	Herat	500 tents	1,774	1,726
10	28-30 Oct 2019	Jawzjan	500 tents	1,774	1,726
Total			4,000	28,000	

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



Two beneficiaries taking a rest after collecting the emergency shelter and household items at the distribution point (Photo: ARCS)

volunteers for easy recognition.

The post distribution monitoring was conducted by ARCS from 17 – 30 October 2019 for Nangarhar, Farah and Helmand, 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.

Ongoing/planned activities:

- No new activities will be carried out in the remaining timeframe as all planned activities have been implemented and target reached by March 2020.

Challenges:

- The procurement process was started by IFRC Country Office Afghanistan for emergency shelter and non-food items for floods and drought affected families following the standard procurement process of IFRC. The IFRC Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) unit in Kuala Lumpur was involved for procurement of ES/NFIs for emergency operation. The average time to import goods to Afghanistan is about 67 days, and this process heavily depends on the responsiveness of the MoFA in Afghanistan, Kabul Main Customs Authority, Kabul Customs Authority, Afghanistan Ministry of Commerce and the Afghan Consulate in Pakistan and Pakistan Custom Authorities. However, it took more than 4-months for supply chain, including procurement, customs clearance, storage and transportation to Kabul in accordance with the project requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. The distribution schedule was changed many times and repeatedly communicated to the donor.
- In order to urgently serve the needs of beneficiaries under the emergency response, the National Society utilized its in-country pre-positioned stocks for a smaller number of floods affected families in west region. So, the operation covered the replenishment of ES/NFIs stocks for 500 families.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 105,000

People reached: 45,486

Male: 23,061

Female: 22,425

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	45,486
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	6,000
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	75
# of households reached with multipurpose cash grants for (basic needs)	4,500	498

Progress towards outcomes

Completed activities:

- **Food distribution:** The overall target was to assist 9,000 households in the target 13 provinces with food assistance. Altogether, 6,000 households in 8 provinces were assisted with food parcels, procured locally. The quality assurance of the food quality and lab test was done following IFRC standard procedures.

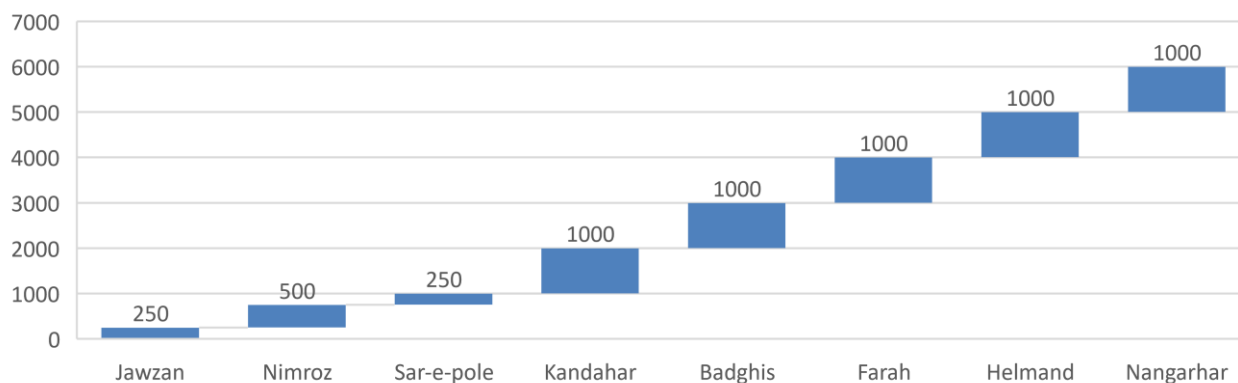


Figure 3: Province-wise food distribution

- **Cash and Voucher Assistance training:** ARCS conducted a 4-day Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) training in Jawzjan, Herat and Badghis provinces with branch staff and volunteers - 75 participants (male: 57 and female: 18). The core staff and volunteers of ARCS provincial and district level attended the training. The aim of this training was to build the capacity of ARCS core staff/volunteers in term of CVA programming in emergencies, in order to effectively respond to any emergency by using cash as a response mechanism.

This training enabled ARCS to have Cash trained personnel available at the provinces and districts level. A CVA 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 CVA trained people to be part of the assessment and implementation teams ensuring CVA related information are systematically collected to inform decision making and the design and implementation of cash-based interventions.

Community needs assessment was conducted in Jawzjan, Herat and Badghis provinces. During assessment of the markets in rural and urban areas, average rates of all consumable and non-consumable items/goods and other services had been quoted by the local shopkeepers. It is a matter of fact that while injecting/circulating money within a specified community and markets, an inflation is expected in general circumstances. However, in this case the authorities in Sheberghan are fully on board and could be utilized for prices/wages stability during the programme phase (as specified by ARCS). The local trade association has also been assigned the responsibility of maintaining prices to their standard level as decided by the authorities.



Left - Market capacity assessment, Right - Cash distribution in Herat Province (Photo: ARCS)

- **ARCS Cash piloting:** ARCS successfully implemented the first cash distribution pilot in Jawzjan province on 5 December 2019. Out of total 500 targeted beneficiaries, 498 beneficiaries (male: 258 and female: 240) were

provided with multi-purpose cash grant of AFN 5,600 (approximately 70 CHF) to allow households to prioritize basic needs and prevent them from falling below survival threshold. Direct cash was provided to the affected beneficiaries through a local FSP – Afghan Besim Mobile Money Company (ABMMC) after signing of agreement with the FSP. Fourteen trained branch level staff and volunteers were mobilized for cash piloting activity, including beneficiary’s registration, community need analysis and market assessment.

Table 9: Household of Jawzjan province selected for cash piloting

No	Province/ District	Villages/Communities	Total population	
			HHs	Individual
1	Province Jawzjan; District Sheberghan	Awra Mast	25	175
2		Yaka Bagh Afghania	15	105
3		Ashraf	35	245
4		At Chapar	30	210
5		Misar Abad	96	672
6		Eid Mahalla	54	378
7		Ghajari Khana	35	245
8		Yaka Bagh Uzbekia	105	735
9		Yangi Arighe	103	735
Total			498	3,500

Ongoing/planned activities:

- No plan for food distribution in second phase as 6,000 households already assisted with food assistance in eight provinces.
- Depending on funding availability, at least 1,500 households (10,500 people) will be assisted with multipurpose cash grant in the remaining timeframe.

Challenges:

- Food items were locally sourced from Afghanistan and IFRC included an exhaustive quality assurance process to deliver safe products to the families in need. Suppliers were identified through the process and samples were collected for the lab test through certified labs to ensure the quality of food and nutrition. After the completion of quality assurance process, food parcels were transported to target provinces and delivered to the affected families. Overall food distribution was completed in the last week of September 2019. Only two ARCS local branches were with the prepositioned food items, which was distributed in Helmand and Herat provinces. Later, the operation covered the replenishment of food items for 1,500 households.
- Identification of FSPs was an extensive process, since cash is first time piloted in Afghanistan. It was also a challenge to convince NS management for cash-based interventions, which took approximately six-months for approval and finalization of FSPs. Hence, the cash piloting was only completed 5-7 December 2019, months after the appeal launch in March 2019.



Health

People targeted: 405,159

People reached: 106,050

Male: 53,766

Female: 52,284

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	94,428
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	5

# of people reached through NS emergency health management programme	405,159	106,050
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	240
# of ARCS RCY volunteers trained on CBHFA modules	90	28
# of PLW received nutritional supplements	4,500	0
# of people reached through health education sessions	405,159	40,466

Progress towards outcomes

Completed activities:

- Mobile Health Teams:** ARCS established five MHTs¹² in Herat, Jawzjan, Helmand, Badghis and Kandahar. However, it was not the case in Faryab- yet to be established. These established MHTs are equipped with mobile teams that focus on providing primary health care services to targeted populations. MHTs teams provided basic and primary health services including essential medicines, child health and immunization, maternal health and family planning, along with health, nutrition and awareness sessions and WASH education. Mother and child health - for female outpatient departments (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 accessible to the OPD services. Awareness and health education sessions were also conducted by MHT staff. The mobile teams are designed to assist vulnerable communities including through a reduction of maternal newborn and child mortality and morbidity. The five MHTs deployed reached some 106,050 people with primary health care services.



Medical health services for affected population in target provinces (Photo: ARCS)

- Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA):** ARCS started community-based integrated approach in first aid and health by engaging communities and their volunteers, who use simple pictures adapted to the local context in order to promote behavioral change in health, first aid and safety practices. The community-based volunteers provided preventative, promotional and first aid services to the community in their catchment areas in Nangarhar, Jawzjan, Kunar and Helmand provinces.

During the fourth quarter of 2019, ARCS with the support of IFRC conducted 12 community level trainings on ECV, PFA and HHWT training for volunteers (males: 120 and female:120). The trained volunteers conducted the sessions on health and hygiene promotion campaigns to reduce the number of vector-borne (malaria), diarrheal outbreaks and hygienic diseases. These volunteers were involved in campaigns and messages have been communicated to 3,200 households (male: 10,250 and female: 12,150) which they are directly benefited, the local communities in each province provided with the relevant brochures and posters.

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



CBHFA sessions in target provinces (Photo: ARCS)

- **Community health committees:** Three health committees established in Jawzjan, Helmand and Herat provinces and 45 participants attended one-day orientation session on CBHFA activities in their communities. The committee members were informed about their role and responsibility and function of the health committees.

Ongoing/planned activities:

- Depending on funding availability, MHTs in five targeted provinces will continue serving affected population with primary health care services in the remaining timeframe.

Challenges:

- ARCS faced challenges at field level to deploy the MHTs due to security situation in the target provinces. Another challenge was the long-hiring process for these MHTs, following the national society HR procedures and approval from the management. Medicine kits have also been taking a long-time to arrive in the country and NS utilized their available medicines for MHTs.



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/repaired	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
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# of latrines installed to an improved sanitation facility	60 ¹³	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		
<p>No WASH activities were able to be started or conducted during the first 12 months due to funding constraints. By end of March 2020, there is still a significant funding gap to conduct activities identified under the Appeal. Provided that resources are made available, WASH outcomes, output and activities have been deprioritized due to funding constraints, current needs and evolving situation.</p>		

	<h2 style="color: red;">Disaster Risk Reduction</h2> <p>People targeted: 674,686 People reached: 1,185 Male: 665 Female: 520</p>	
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%	1%
Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of ARCS staff/volunteers trained on DRR/CCA & EWS	225	185
% people have communities risk knowledge	80%	1%
# of sessions conducted in flood & drought communities	200	10
# of provinces with mitigation measures taken in high risk areas	12	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Completed activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRR Training: ARCS conducted 3-day training in eight provinces – Balkh, Kandahar, Helmand, 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. A total of 185 participants (male: 158 and female: 27) attended the training, including ARCS branch staff, and volunteers from three provinces. <p>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. After the training, 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 minimize risks so that knowledge should be communicated to the entire community.</p>		

¹³ This reflects the number of latrines that can be funded with the current Appeal income, actual needs are higher.



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

- Community DRR and CCA awareness raising sessions:** ARCS trained staff and volunteers conducted community-based disaster risk reduction, climate change and early warning early action sessions at local community level in Herat and Balkh province, reaching approximately 2,000 participants. The purpose of these sessions was to bring together people within the same community to enable them to collectively address a common disaster risk and collectively pursue a common disaster risk reduction measure. Information, education and communication material was developed and distributed among local communities through local volunteers.

It is a process of mobilizing a group of people in a systematic way towards achieving a safer and resilient individual/community which takes place in a geographically defined living area (or) in sector groups not necessarily living in same location.

The end in view is a dynamic community that equalizes power relations, binds the group cohesively in the process of making decisions, deals with conflicts, resolves issues and manages individual and collective task in addressing and bouncing back from hazard events.



ARCS staff and volunteers imparting community level awareness raising sessions on DRR and CCA (Photo: ARCS)

Ongoing/planned activities:

- DRR activities will be deprioritized in the remaining timeframe unless funding is made available.

Challenges:

- Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, snow avalanches, landslides, droughts and years of environmental degradation. Afghanistan faces significant impacts of climate change and disasters which impact growth prospects. People in need have become more vulnerable compounding the effects of displacement as many people have exhausted their coping mechanisms as decades of war have eroded people's resilience. DRR activities will build resilience and capacity at community level to be able to identify, address and report on risks and vulnerabilities for early action and raise awareness and strengthen early warning early action with the aim to support the community.
- 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: 169,113¹⁴

Male: 85,740

Female: 83,373

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**Completed activities:**

- The minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergencies in all programs are well ensured. The ARCS PGI focal point is involved to support PGI approaches in the operation which aims to provide access to essential services, dignity, access, participation and safety for all people affected by disasters and crises. It provides practical guidance on how to mainstream these principles in all sectors, based on a consideration of gender, age, disability and other diversity factors. This includes limiting people's exposure to the risks of violence and abuse and ensuring that emergency operations "do no harm". The minimum standards also include guidance on SGBV prevention and response and child protection, 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'.

Ongoing/planned activities:

- PGI will continue to be mainstreamed in the operation.

¹⁴ Based on highest number of people reached in Shelter, Health, Livelihood and basic needs & DRR sector.

Challenges:

- Women, girls and children in the country who are often unable to fully participate in civil life, face heightened risks of discrimination and abuse if divorced, separated or widowed, including expulsion, forced remarriage and hampered property ownership. Holistic approaches should implement to improve the resilience and self-reliance of affected households, as well as enhance positive engagement of governance structures and need to reduce vulnerabilities and to mitigate short and longer-term protection risks. Timely identification of protection risks and violations through systematic and coordinated protection monitoring and analysis and inform preventative, responsive, and remedial interventions, as well as enhance accountability. This includes evidence-based advocacy, protection specific service delivery and community-based mobilization, mitigation and prevention activities creating a protection-conducive environment.
- There is currently a significant funding gap for the undertaking of PGI activities under the operation to address all these issues associated with the local community.

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	6

Progress towards outcomes

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. These volunteers are trained on branch disaster response team (BDRT), disaster response unit (DRU), emergency need assessment and data collection tools, cash and voucher assistance (VCA), kobo toolbox, first aid and disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation where they further conducting awareness raising sessions in the communities. They are being involved in thirteen floods and drought affected provinces in emergency operations.

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
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<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
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>IFRC CO through APRO OLPSCM team procured 15 medicine kits from Geneva for new three established Medical Health Units (MHTs) in the country. Procurement process has been completed and medicine kits are arrived in the country to support the ARCS health team to operationalize the MHTs in the fields. Medical and non-medical equipment procurement is also done in country for newly established MHTs.</p> <p>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.</p>		

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	1

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.

Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) successfully implemented its first cash distribution in Jawzjan province on 5 December 2019. ARCS Cash team has presented the Cash piloting experience to Cash, Voucher Working Group (CVWG).

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 appeal budget for this operation is CHF 8 million with total DREF allocation of CHF 750,000 (which has been reimbursed). As of reporting period, the appeal coverage is at CHF 3.8 million (48 per cent). (Click [here](#)) The expenditure as of 31 March 2020 closing is CHF 3,572,942 (92 per cent utilization against income). See attached financial report for more details. (Click [here](#))

Reference documents



Click for:

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

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

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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	2019/3-2020/3	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29 May 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF005 - Afghanistan - Drought and Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Mar 2019 to 30 Sep 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 29 May 2020	3,781,887
Appeal Coverage	47.27%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0	43,769	-43,769
AOF2 - Shelter	2,240,136	2,191,364	48,772
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	754,813	374,521	380,292
AOF4 - Health	170,233	257,848	-87,616
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	0	0	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	0	0	0
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	467,321	140,455	326,866
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	247,257	376,431	-129,175
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	53,253	25,405	27,847
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	115,090	163,148	-48,058
Grand Total	4,048,102	3,572,942	475,161

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2020/03

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	3,872,439
Expenditure	-3,572,942
Closing Balance	299,497
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	299,497

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	2019/3-2020/3	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29 May 2020

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF005 - Afghanistan - Drought and Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 13 Mar 2019 to 30 Sep 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	1,123,611				1,123,611		
Finnish Red Cross	9,753	152,050	0		161,803		
Japanese Red Cross Society	89,726				89,726		
Norwegian Red Cross	13,163	215,860			229,022		
On Line donations	1,189				1,189		
Red Cross of Monaco	16,536				16,536		
Swedish Red Cross	109,489				109,489		
The Canadian Red Cross Society	47,775	809,402			857,177		
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	88,015				88,015		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	687,612				687,612		
Total Contributions and Other Income	2,695,127	1,177,312	0	0	3,872,439	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					3,872,439	0	