

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Final Report

Afghanistan: Drought and Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency Appeal	Operation n° MDRAF005
Date of Issue: 26 January 2021	Glide n° FF-2019-000018-AFG ; DR-2018-000052-AFG
Operation start date: 13 March 2019	Operation end date: 30 September 2020
Host National Society: Afghan Red Crescent Society	Operation budget: CHF 8 million
Number of people affected: Over 10 million people	Number of people assisted: 205,437 (approximately 29,348 households ¹)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners involved in the operation:	
<p>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.</p> <p>Partners who have contributed to the IFRC Emergency Appeal: 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).</p>	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation:	
<p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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.</p>	

Summary of Final Report:

Majority of Afghanistan was hardly hit by drought and floods in 2018 and 2019. This disaster was an addition to the existing emergency and crisis situations in Afghanistan. The IFRC Afghanistan Country Office (CO) supported ARCS by launching an Emergency Appeal (EA) in order to provide relief and lifesaving assistance to households that were affected by drought and floods and that were amongst the poorest and financially most vulnerable. Hence, this final report reflects and cover all activities operationalized and achievements, challenges, and learning achieved in 2019 and 2020 from this operation.

Majority of health and livelihoods activities planned under Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) were implemented between April 2020 to September 2020. Afghanistan, like any other countries, is struggling with the spike of COVID-19 cases that affected the implementation of the activities. The pandemic hit Afghanistan when 72 per cent of its population were under

¹ Throughout this report, the terms families and households are used interchangeably. One household consist of an average of 7 family members.

poverty line (World Bank) and when 32 out of 34 provinces were in crisis and emergency phases of food insecurity (Afghanistan 2020 IPC report²). Fragile and very poor health system and services are further factors for the Afghan communities in not having meaningful access to health care services. The implementation of health and livelihoods activities, amongst others, have also contributed significantly to addressing some of the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 in target provinces.

By the end of the original operation timeframe of 12 months (31 March 2020), the gap in funding notably resulted in operation reaching significantly less than the initial target of 674,686 people in 13 provinces. The EA was only roughly **48 per cent** funded and had 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). In March 2020, the operation was extended for another 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.

During the first 12 months of this operation, the ARCS and IFRC closely coordinated to reach over 181,000 people in 12 provinces from the following areas of focus: Shelter; Livelihoods and basic needs; Health and DRR. Meanwhile, in the subsequent six months, special focus was given to support the livelihoods of the affected people with multipurpose cash grants which can be utilized to meet their basic needs, early recovery effort and health needs in five targeted provinces. This prioritization enabled the ARCS to continue providing life-saving assistance and early recovery effort that eventually meets the critical humanitarian needs of up to **205,437 people** (approximately **29,348** households) affected by floods and drought in 12 provinces with a focus on the following areas: **Health; Livelihoods and Basic Needs.**

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Afghanistan has been in a state of protracted crises and political instability for more than 40 years while the country is exposed to recurring natural disasters, diseases, displacements, and disruption of livelihood due to overall high vulnerability and reduced coping mechanisms. Based on the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview, in 2020, 14 million vulnerable people were in need of urgent food and livelihoods assistance in the country. Several droughts (2018) 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.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has made the already worse situation of the country more deteriorating. The shocks and stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic have had a much broader impact on the socio-economic of the vulnerable households. In Afghanistan, the COVID-19 outbreak comes against the backdrop of the Spring flood season. Each year, floods affect large swathes of the country as heavy snow melts and rivers swell, inundating communities. Heavy rainfall also contributes to flash flooding. The typical flood season runs from March to June every year. Between 1 January 2020 to 13 November 2020, about 76,600 people were affected by floods.

The shocks of COVID-19 also have had impacts on labour markets, purchasing power and lost productivity – all of which are significant factors for Afghanistan, not least because few Afghans have access to productive or sustainable remunerative employment. A quarter of the labour force is unemployed, and 80 per cent of employment is 'vulnerable' and insecure, comprising self-employment, day labour, or unpaid work.

It is also important to note that Afghanistan's economy and millions of families have grown reliant on remittances from neighbouring countries. COVID-19 interruptions to work opportunities in the neighbouring countries further diminished the purchasing power of many communities who have been heavily reliant on remittance payments over recent years. This has had a severe impact on vulnerable families.

Within this broader context, and thanks to implementing activities under this EA, IFRC supported ARCS to provide relief and lifesaving Health and Livelihoods assistance to the financially poor and most vulnerable households affected by multiple hazards including drought and floods.

² <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/where-what/asia/afghanistan/en/>



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 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.

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. Response focused on increasing coverage, integration with food assistance, shelter and basic health services for affected population. ARCS utilized prepositioned stock from national, regional and provincial levels. Post distribution monitoring was conducted and during 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 delivered health services to the disaster affected population to improve health quality around the country. The basic health services are; maternal, new-born 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 provides 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 disasters affected areas.

ARCS had been in coordination with ANDMA and participated in cluster meetings in provinces and at national level. Close coordination was also 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 organized 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 also carried out further need assessments in nine floods and drought affected provinces³ in December 2019 after 10 months of the operation to identify the evolving needs on the ground.

By end of September 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 205,437 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. The table below summarizes total number of people directly reached thanks to implementing Health, Livelihoods, and DRR activities under this emergency appeal.

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

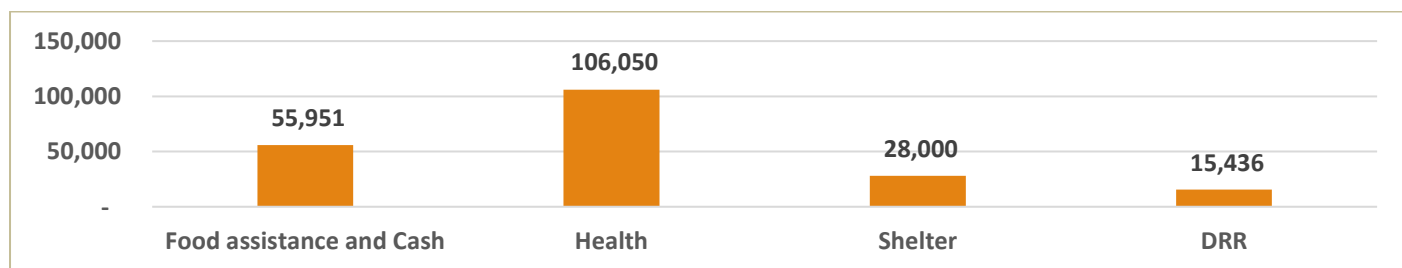
Table 1: Summary of sector-wise achievements, March 2019 – 30 September 2020

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 assisted with food assistance in 8 provinces.
	Cash assistance	1,993 HHs	Cash piloting conducted in Jawzjan province, where 498 households assisted with multipurpose cash grant. During the six months extension 1,495 more households were 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	40,466 people	Trained volunteers conducted sessions on health and hygiene promotion campaigns to reduce the number of vector-born (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 DRR/CCA & EWEA sessions	15,185 people	DRR trainings conducted in 2 provinces (Balkh and Herat). Branch staff trained in the 8 provinces (Helmand, Kandahar, Nimroz, Herat, Badghis, Kunar, Nangahar, Balkh) for community based DRR or Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Early Warning Early Action (EWEA).
WASH	Hardware and software components	-	WASH activities were deprioritised for extension timeframe.

³Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis, Jawzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, Balkh and Helmand.

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

Province	Disaster	Sectors	# of people
Nangarhar	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	12,855
Farah	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	12,795
Kunar	Flood	livelihoods, shelter & PGI	2,560
Helmand	Flood	livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	31,456
Herat	Flood & Drought	DRR, livelihoods, shelter, health & PGI	46,467
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	24,418
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	13,401
Kabul	Flood	-	-
Total			205,437

**Figure 1: Number of people reached sector-wise, March 2019 - September 2020**

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC CO has set up a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-term programmes while supporting ARCS organizational development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC 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 Secretariat in Geneva. With regards to longer term programmes, IFRC is supporting immunization initiatives for children and implementation of community-health services through the support of MHTs and the CBHFA in the North, Northeast, Central North, Central South and West regions.

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 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 mobilized civil and military departments from the country in order to better respond to the needs of the population in affected provinces. The MoPH leads 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 in 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 is found 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

The chronic drought and flood risks in Afghanistan have changed over the past decades and have been impacting the lives of the people especially in the area of livelihoods and food security where the majority of population are relying on agriculture and livestock as their primary livelihood means. In this respect, millions of people had been impacted by the 2018-2019 drought and floods and struggled to recover. Furthermore, the cumulative impact of decades of war, combined with recurrent natural disasters and chronic poverty, have exacerbated people's capacity to cope with repeated shocks.

A series of needs assessments were conducted and they're critical in guiding the interventions. The needs assessment conducted by ARCS teams in early 2019 in the drought and flood affected areas in 13 provinces showed mass destructions of house and shelters, loss of lives, public facilities and displacements of people from their homes and IDPs camps. Following this, up to 674,686 people, approximately 96,000 households affected by the floods and protracted drought, were targeted by the ensuing emergency appeal. ARCS focus was on hard-to-reach areas, considering high population mobility and access restrictions for many humanitarian partners. The ARCS response focused on emergency shelter, food distribution and cash transfers to meet basic needs, health, WASH, DRR and PGI interventions in thirteen provinces.

About ten months into the operation, further assessment was conducted in December 2019 and it was found that the affected population were still living in harsh conditions because of drought and floods effects and the on-going conflict. Based on the latest assessment, at least 217,581 people (31,083 households) in six provinces (Kunar, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis and Jawzjan) were struggling to cope from the effect of 2018/2019 drought and floods. The assessment report indicated that the affected population were 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 were: (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	Shelter/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	Shelter/Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Jawzjan	Flood & Drought	14,473	6,126	20,599	Shelter/Food/livelihood/Cash/DRR & health
Total		149,689	67,894	217,581	

In early 2020, following heavy snowfall, flooding and large number of avalanches were reported in different parts of Afghanistan. ARCS teams carried out rapid need assessments in flood-affected provinces⁴ from 12-19 January 2020. Around 11 out of 34 provinces reported to have been affected badly. Besides, there was continuous population movement from the rural villages to safer places with available humanitarian assistance and better basic services. Most of the provinces were already affected by the protracted drought, recurring floods and conflicts, people are living in poor condition without enough basic services.

Based on these latest assessments, and available funding at hand, in the last six months, special focus was given to meeting the immediate needs of livelihoods targeting affected people with multipurpose cash grants to vulnerable households to meet their basic needs, and health in five provinces (Kunar, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis and Jawzan). This prioritization enabled the ARCS to continue providing life-saving assistance that eventually meets the critical humanitarian needs of up to 205,437 people (approximately 29,348 households) affected by floods and drought in 12 provinces with a focus on the following areas: Health; Livelihoods and Basic Needs.

Targeting

Based on the assessment conducted in early 2019 in 13 provinces, up to 674,686 people, approximately 96,000 households affected by the floods and protracted drought, were targeted. ARCS focus was on hard-to-reach areas, considering high population mobility and access restrictions for many humanitarian partners. However due to limited resources and appeal coverage, of these just over 181,000 were able to be reached in 12 provinces by March 2020.

As explained in earlier section, further assessments were conducted by ARCS in December 2019 and also early 2020. Based on these latest assessments, the focus for the last six months of the operation (April to September 2020) was on five targeted provinces (Kunar, Nimroz, Herat, Faryab, Badghis and Jawzan), targeting up to 209,467 people approximately (29,924 households) with a focus on these areas: Health; Livelihoods and Basic Needs

As the vulnerabilities and capacities of the affected population change frequently and are complex. Priority was given to most vulnerable people especially when taking coping mechanisms and socio-economic status into account. ARCS ensured that IFRC's standards of gender and diversity sensitive analysis are fully considered and applied 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 beneficiary selection criteria for ARCS also followed the IFRC standards and included:

⁴Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand, Laghman and Badghis

- Families fully displaced due to completely collapsed houses.
- Floods and drought affected families (temporarily displaced families-TDPs).
- Family with un-livable (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 applied 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). CEA was an ongoing process, as part of which information about the impacts of the response was collected and to inform course-correction, where necessary. This approach was adopted for its ability to improve the two-way communication between ARCS and affected communities, and to enhance the National Society and IFRC's accountability to communities.

ARCS maintained a beneficiary feedback and complaints mechanism through the community-based approach, with a field-based presence that allowed communities to submit face-to-face feedback and complaints, and receive answers. This also complemented complaint desks established at the distribution sites. In addition, IFRC and ARCS collected feedback and complaints during PDM data collection and issues raised were included in the PDM report.

Risk Analysis

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 did not 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 utilized its capacity and extensive experience in implementing projects in complex emergency, floods and drought affected areas.

IFRC Afghanistan country office and ARCS are having well-established safety and security teams who were engaged and by means of monitoring and analysing the security situations and communicating information with implementation teams, fully supported operationalization of this emergency plan of action.

Because of some of the activities under this Emergency Plan of Action were implemented in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country, COVID-19 was another risk to ARCS staff and the beneficiaries. ARCS, as auxiliary to government of Afghanistan, has been fully engaged in addressing the health and socio-economic impacts of this pandemic by means of providing humanitarian relief assistance to affected population. ARCS therefore have full SoP and risk mitigation measures that were strictly considered and applied for implementing the remaining activities (cash distribution and MHTs) in 2020.

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 was 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 was a set of relief items and access to services to be provided at the household level. The operational strategy also aimed at mitigating the combined impact of drought, floods and ongoing conflicts. The operation management team and movement partners also ensured that discussions and advocacy for linking emergency response to engagement in longer-term resilience programming.

In general, below operational approach was 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 latest 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 were involved through several channel for community engagement and communication which was 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 were 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 immediate and longer-term sanitation needs, as well as provision of hygiene items and hygiene promotion activities.
- Integrated community-based risk reduction & climate change, early warning early action and mitigation activities.
- Cross-cutting consideration and support to ensure 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, for the second phase of implementation (April - September), the following activities were prioritized.

- 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.

Operational support services

Human resources

The IFRC and ARCS supported implementation of this Emergency Plan of Action 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 continued with the technical support to ARCS through its staff from CO with Health/Livelihoods/CVA/PMER and Surge Operations Support.
- The Operations Manager was 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 was deployed subject to needs, to support technically to NS.
- The IFRC CO provided technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Admin, Livelihoods & Cash and Health.

ARCS:

- At the provincial level, the National Society project staff was responsible for the implementation of revised Appeal with Health, Livelihoods & Cash, PMER and youth & volunteer, admin & finance focal persons.
- At 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 aimed 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 was 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 was fulfilled through effective and efficient procurement, warehousing, transport and fleet management.

Information Technology

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

Communication Strategy

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

- raised 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.
- supported 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.
- promoted the revised emergency appeal and support a partner's call for the international community to make the funds available for life-saving help.
- managed reputational risks.
- provided accountability to donors on the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent response.
- maximized opportunities to build ARCS communications capacity.

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

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

CEA is amongst the core components of IFRC's humanitarian programming. As of this reporting period, IFRC and ARCS ensured CEA in all aspects of field implementation.

Our CEA approach emphasizes a more regular or permanent presence in the communities, and strong community engagement from the outset. It promotes resilience among the affected communities by ensuring they are able to access

humanitarian assistance as necessary, have the required information on the services available to them, and are involved in the planning and delivery of assistance, including beneficiary selection, distribution of cash assistance, and implementation of post distribution monitoring activities.

The main operation activities were regularly accompanied by community-based information and sensitization sessions in the community. Community members were heavily involved in project implementation – not just with regards to this action, but through all projects implemented by ARCS. The community engagement was facilitated and supported by the pre-established community volunteers (male and female), which played instrumental roles in facilitating identification of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups, and implementation of the planned activities. Community elders / representatives played an active role in beneficiary assessment and selection. The community members also supported implementation of the project activities in their respective communities and then in conducting monitoring visits. In group discussions / meetings, normally held at community level, the community members also shared their thoughts and feedback on the activities that take place in their villages.

Eligibility criteria for accessing targeted assistance (i.e., for multipurpose cash grant) and/or participating in the proposed activities (distribution of cash assistance and PSM activities) were also properly communicated to targeted communities making it into a transparent process.

ARCS maintained a beneficiary feedback and complaints mechanism through the community-based approach, with a field-based presence that allowed communities to submit face-to-face feedback and complaints and receive answers. This also complemented complaint desks established at the distribution sites. In addition, IFRC and ARCS collected feedback and complaints during PDM and issues raised were included and analysed in the PDM report that feeds into the lessons learned for future operation. One of the issues raised was when the beneficiaries were asked by community elders to redistribute among community members the cash assistance they had received. To address this issue, after receiving the complaints, ARCS staff met CDC members and District Governor. The community key members were remobilized to conduct dialogue with the community elders and local government. ARCS re-emphasized the objective of the cash assistance and that the distributed cash belongs only to households based on specific eligibility criteria. The agreement concluded and the situation in the community remain stable and no similar complaint received further.

Security

Generally, during the course of implementation, the security situation remained volatile and unstable in country. 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. There were cases that some of the humanitarian workers reported pressures from some authorities not to respond in areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

Ongoing conflict activities throughout the country continued to represent high risk to RCRC staff and volunteers to be collaterally affected. Number of the incidents in which NGOs were affected remained high. High risk areas to be collaterally impacted were the main roads, as all factors were trying to keep control of main supply and smuggling routes, as well as District Administrative Centres. Noticeable were 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.

In order to mitigate the risks to IFRC and ARCS operation and staff, IFRC and ARCS used a complex approach of acceptance by engagement with all parties & stakeholders, clear and strict security protocols and procedures as well as continued to extend its partner's engagement and capacity. This was in combination with continued analysis and a low-profile approach. IFRC and ARCS have had dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting ARCS target areas in order to provide training and support to field staff to enable them to safely deliver the response activities. Timely sharing of security information was ensured among all staff. All staff involved in response were trained on personal security (Stay Safe and Safer Access) and oriented on RC/RC security management system, and actions in emergency situations. IFRC and ARCS staff are also trained on culture sensitivity and staff respect to local norm and culture and to build positive relation with community members and beneficiaries.


Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Office was regularly in collaboration with the ARCS to support the effective implementation of the operation and budget was conducted based on the results of the monitoring report. Trained staff and volunteers were 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.

Through this EPoA, IFRC Afghanistan CO as part of PMER development efforts of the National Society extended its PMER support, the plans were developed with PMER unit at the National Society to implement and monitor on regular basis. Monitoring and reporting were done according to the agreed monitoring framework. Whereby the provincial branch

staff and volunteers submitted reports to respective branch focal person monthly. The branch monthly reports were then shared with national PMER unit for further consolidation. At the time of this report publication, an independent end-term evaluation is being implemented to assess the extent of this operation achieved their collective goals and objectives of providing effective and efficient humanitarian assistance to the affected population. The findings and full report of this evaluation is expected to be published within February 2021.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter</p> <p>People reached: 28,000</p> <p>Male: 14,196</p> <p>Female: 13,804</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual	
<i># of people targeted/reached with safe, appropriate and adequate shelter and settlements assistance</i>	21,000	28,000	
<i># of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance</i>	4,000	4,000	
<i># of households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive</i>	3,000	4,000	
<i># of staff and volunteer trained on safer shelter techniques</i>	240	240	
Narrative description of achievements			
<p>Identification of people to be assisted:</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floods affected displaced families, needs emergency shelter assistance, not living with host families, rental houses or government properties. Families with unlivable (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. <p>A complete package of emergency shelter and non-food items intended for one household consists the following items:</p>			
Table 4: 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
<p>Procurement of items:</p> <p>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.</p>			

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 5: 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 packages	1,774	1,726
2	27-28 Aug 2019	Helmand	500 standard packages	1,774	1,726
3	27-28 Aug 2019	Farah	500 standard packages	1,774	1,726
4	12-14 Nov 2019	Balkh	500 standard packages	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 encouraged to check their items before leaving the distribution point to ensure they have all the items in the kit. ARCS visibility was ensured by all staff and volunteers for easy recognition.

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. However, some of the respondents / beneficiaries also reported that they would prefer cash assistance instead of NFI kits justifying that they did have access to markets and cash assistance would allow them to purchase based on their particular needs.



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

Challenges

The procurement process was started by IFRC CO 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.

Lessons Learned

The followings are two key learnings ARCS had with implementing the activities under this sector. Details on evaluation and recommendation for future operations can be referred to the final evaluation report expected to be published in February 2021.

- ARCS to further improve the knowledge and skills of its staff in area. Though ARCS implemented the activities, planned under this sector, in coordination with local communities, but ARCS observed that further improvement is needed in mainstreaming CEA in its operation more systematically and in quality way. Meaningful mainstreaming of CEA in our operation will greatly contribute to rightly targeting beneficiary selection based on the pressing needs of lifesaving assistance and quality implementation in general.
- Considering that procurement of NFI kits is a very time-consuming work and normally such procurement is done internationally and not from local markets of Afghanistan, it was learned that ARCS should consider 'cash transfer' when intends to provide shelter and NFI assistance to disaster affected households. Using the 'multipurpose cash grant' response option, where local markets are functioning, instead of the 'in-kind' one, ARCS can have much more effective response to the people in need. The cash option is faster and also cheaper from operation and logistics point of view. It also gives the disaster affected people the choice of purchasing the items as per their needs. There are also other international humanitarian organizations in the country that implement multipurpose cash grants.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 45,486

Male: 23,061

Female: 22,425

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that have enough food, cash or income to meet their survival threshold	105,000	45,486
# of households assisted with conditional cash grants	1,500	0
# of training conducted in vegetable gardening	25	0
# of households reached with food assistance	9,000	6,000
# of ARCS staff & volunteers trained on CVA	300	75
# of households reached with multipurpose cash grants for (basic needs)	4,500	1,993

Narrative description of achievements

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.

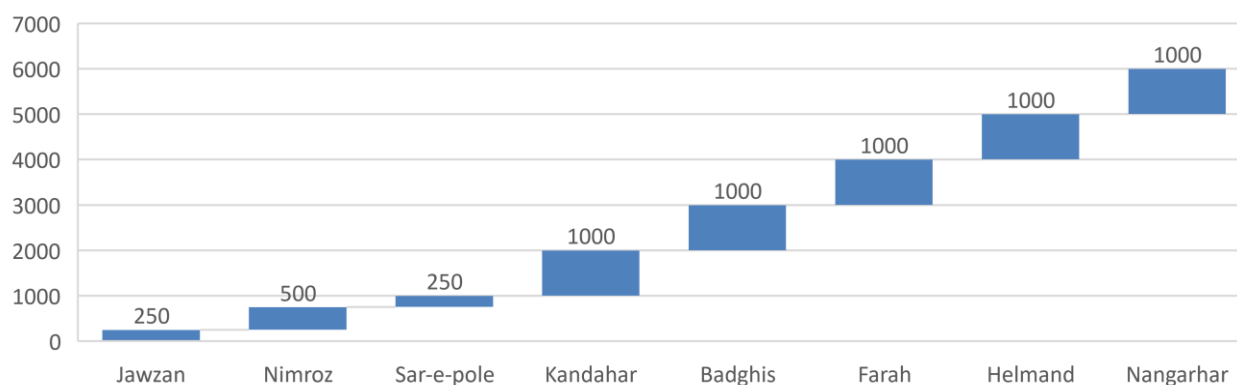


Figure 2: Province-wise food distribution

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 attended by 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 in December 2019. Out of 500 targeted beneficiaries, 498 beneficiaries (male: 258 and female: 240) were provided with multi-purpose cash grant of AFN 5,600 (CHF 70) to allow households to prioritize basic needs and prevent them from falling below survival threshold. During second quarter of 2020, additional 1,495 more households (10,465 people) were assisted with multi-purpose cash grant to enable them to meet their basic needs. 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 6: Household of Jawzjan, Badghis and Herat provinces selected for cash assistance

No	Province	Villages/Communities	Total population	
			HHs	Individual
1	Jawzjan	Multiple	498	3,486
2	Badghis	Multiple	351	2,457
3	Herat	Multiple	1,144	8,008
Total			1,993	13,951

Added value of cash and vouchers assistance: distributing cash after prolonged drought and during COVID-19 pandemic was absolutely vital and lifesaving, most of the beneficiary households depending on agricultural crops and daily wage activities as their primary source of earning had faced many challenges, having not earned a penny due to COVID-19 lockdown. Most of them had to adopt negative coping mechanisms i.e., selling livelihoods assets.

The benefits of cash were uniquely flexible and not easily replaced by in-kind assistance. Households used cash for their specific needs, and, according to economic theory, use it for purposes that maximize the households' marginal utility. As a result, where enabling conditions exist, cash is likely to be the most cost-effective response measure to respond to a broad range of household needs.

Beneficiary verification and selection: As part of the rapport building process in communities, the representatives of the communities were oriented and provided with details of beneficiary selection criteria and within the primary mandatory criteria, prioritization was made on basis of further vulnerabilities (elderly persons, HHs with disabled persons, HHs with chronically ill persons, and pregnant and lactating women).



Sensitization meeting with project beneficiaries prior to cash distribution (Photo: ARCS)

Considering the criteria, the community representatives provided the project team with a list of all households that meets the criteria. The project team then assessed all proposed households using DM's modified household assessment questionnaire. All data – collected in result of household assessment – then entered, and household information were verified. The final beneficiary lists produced having eligible participants details was then shared with communities and financial service provider (FSP).

Cash distribution management: The cash distribution process was well managed in light of ARCS's cash distribution SOPs, before actually planning the distribution of the cash assistance the BDRT staff and volunteers were trained by deployed staff from ARCS headquarters.

The distribution sites were established in a way that had clear entry and exit points and in order the distribution to flow smoothly and beneficiaries be well guided through the process, all the points through the distribution process were appropriately labelled, i.e., 1) community awareness/sensitization, 2) token cards distribution team, 3) ID/identification documents verification, 4) cash distribution, 5) cash crosscheck, and 6) complaint and feedback registration.



Project beneficiary is receiving cash assistance (Photo: ARCS)

Crowd controller were on move to control crowd inward to distribution process and throughout the process till they were back guided to exit of the distribution site.

Beneficiaries sensitization: As beneficiaries' sensitization is crucial to a well-managed distribution and is also part of ARCS's SOP for cash distribution. Before actually entering to the distribution site, beneficiaries were sensitized on different aspects of the response operation, i.e., source of fund, implementing organizations, specific info about ARCS and its operation in Afghanistan, overall distribution process and required documentation for receiving the cash assistance.

In addition to the above, beneficiaries were sensitized on the precautionary measures of COVID-19, such as physical distancing, wearing facemask and other hygienic practices.

Cash crosscheck:

After beneficiaries' documents were verified, beneficiaries were forwarded to cash distribution point. After receiving cash from the financial service provider, an ARCS staff setting next to FSP's agent was helping beneficiaries re-count the cash for its completeness and then only beneficiaries were guided through the process to complaint and feedback desk and then to exit point.

Establishment of complaint and feedback desk: As per ARCS's SOP for cash transfer programming, effective complaint response mechanism was established ensuring that the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries could share their voices and complaints with ARCS. In addition to the typical community-level complaint response mechanism – established by ARCS for all its projects – during the distribution period the ARCS PMER staff / BDRT members established a desk, in distribution sites accessible to all beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Complaints needing management's attention were properly logged and were responded timely. The PMER staff also utilized this space to interview beneficiaries on the process of distribution and to conduct post-distribution exit interviews, where possible.

Highlights on Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for cash distribution in Jawzjan and Herat provinces are outlined below.

Beneficiary satisfaction with the selection: All the respondents were very satisfied with the selection process and the assistance provided with note that there were still a lot of eligible families that should receive the cash assistance but were not the listed.

The utilization of Cash assistance:

Details	%
Respondents reported that they spent most of the amount to purchase food	65%
Respondents used some of the amount for health/medicine purposes	19%
Respondents used some of the money to pay their household loans	9%
Respondents used it to pay house rent	6%
Respondents bought clothes with the money	1%
Respondents used the Cash grant to cover education and transportation cost and other purposes (i.e., purchasing necessary household items)	1%

The recipient and the manager of Cash in the family: 63 per cent respondents received the cash through male head of households or the husbands, 36 per cent respondents received the assistance through female family member or the wives, and 1 respondents received through the sons of the household.

In term of managing the cash, 67 per cent respondents said that the husbands (head of the household) managed the cash, 32 per cent mentioned that the wives managed the cash while 1 per cent reported that the cash was managed by the son of the household.

Beneficiary safety: In accordance with the "Do No Harm" principle, ARCS attempts to reduce any perceived or actual risks to beneficiaries, which may be caused by the provision of cash grants. A multiple-choice question examines feelings of risks inside the venue of the distribution session.

The majority (95%) of the participants reported feeling safe during the distribution sessions. The other 5 per cent indicated multiple causes for feeling at risk inside the overcrowd venue, and they wanted to receive the cash in their own villages.

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 laboratory test through certified laboratories 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 from 5 to 7 December 2019, months after the appeal launch in March 2019.

Lessons Learned

The total amount of assistance provided was considered fair and gave beneficiaries the possibility to purchase food, repay part of their debts and cover other household requirements, reducing the use of negative coping mechanisms in the short-term. Through post distribution monitoring activities, it was found that the impact of the intervention on households' food security was overall positive although limited in time as the duration of the intervention was, according to beneficiaries, too short to allow many to recover from the impact of drought and floods and therefore even less effective at building resilience. This suggests that there is a need for longer-term interventions that allow livelihood recovery while investing in resilience to future shocks.

As an emergency life-saving response, the response was effective in addressing immediate food security and other basic needs, but the impact remains limited in time, due to chronic food insecurity in the implementation provinces. Given the context of poverty and insecure livelihoods, it is important to design longer-term interventions that focus on livelihood recovery and improve households' resilience to future shocks. Additionally, to sustain household food security further, therefore increasing resilience, ARCS would like to consider cash transfer responses that go beyond the immediate lifesaving needs of the affected populations.

While direct distribution of cash is reasonably fast and cost-effective, other ways of delivering cash can be explored for implementation of cash-based intervention in Afghanistan. Hence, ARCS intends to do an assessment of different electronic and mobile delivery options, based on factors including security, technology, connectivity, and community acceptability under our future similar operations. With implementing this assessment, ARCS will review different cash delivery mechanisms and will come with certain list of finding and recommendations based on contexts in Afghanistan.

It is recommended that the local government officials should be involved, as ARCS did it, during the entire implementation period. Involvement of the formal authorities has a positive effect on sustainability of the activities.

In order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the response activities, it is recommended that coordination with the government entities and other stakeholders at national and provincial level should be improved. ARCS programme implementation teams should either participate in the existent coordination mechanisms or should establish new coordination mechanisms so that every emergency response operation is implemented in a timely and quality manner.



Health

People reached: 129,087

Male: 65,834

Female: 63,253

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by NS with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	405,159	112,514
# 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	129,087
# 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
Narrative description of achievements		

Mobile Health Teams:

ARCS established five MHTs in Herat, Jawzjan, Helmand, Badghis and Kandahar. 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. For Mother and child health - for female outpatient departments (OPD), MHT ensured that all the required materials 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 129,087 people with primary health care services.



MHT delivering medical services to beneficiaries in Jawzjan (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 Household Water Treatment (HWT) 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.



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.

Challenges


During the reporting period, the project faced some challenges across the implementation namely as deployment of teams to the field due to security situation, complexity of HR especially staff recruitment process (NS HR policy and procedures), supply of medicine to the teams at the field, supply of medicine from outside the country taking so long to arrive the country and working advance clearance of 70 per cent which is a challenge and the program cannot transfer new working advance until the NS reports 70 per cent of the previous working advance.


Lessons Learned

The followings are some of the bullet points indicating the lessons learned and best practices noticed during the course of this emergency operation.

- Good coordination, community involvement and communication at all levels with stakeholders and line departments were found vital and these lead the response operation to a successful completion.

- The roles of the scholar were found very positive and influencing at community level, and this needs to be encouraged more specially for the gender-based violence and protection related activities.
- Community Based Health and First Aid approach was found practical and well-accepted at community level at all implementation provinces. Hence, this programme to be replicated in rest parts of the country as well.
- Under this emergency operation, ARCS was also working with community members to encourage them to practice improved hygiene and sanitation practices e.g., hand washing every day. Though the achievement of this operation was good, and ARCS received good collaboration of community members for implementation of emergency health activities, longer-term community-based programming is required to have desirable and good result from a behavioral change programme. Within 6 months or 12 months, it is very difficult to bring significant changes to the behavior of community members.

	<h3 style="color: red;">Water, sanitation and hygiene</h3> <p>People targeted: 674,686 People reached: N/A (dependent on funding)</p>	
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
% 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
% of targeted population have access to sanitation facilities	80%	0
# of latrines installed to an improved sanitation facility	60 ⁵	0
# 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
Narrative description of achievements		
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. WASH outcomes, output and activities have been deprioritized due to funding constraints, current needs and evolving situation.		
Challenges		
No WASH activities was implemented under this Emergency Appeal. Hence, no challenge to report.		
Lessons Learned		
No WASH activities was implemented under this Emergency Appeal. Hence, no specific learning to report.		

	<h3 style="color: red;">Disaster Risk Reduction</h3> <p>People reached: 15,185 Male: 7,592 Female: 7,592</p>	
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of the targeted population increased the resilience level and prepared to respond disaster (Target: 80%)	80%	2.2%

⁵ This reflects the number of latrines that can be funded with the current Appeal income, actual needs are higher.

# of ARCS staff/volunteers trained on DRR/CCA & EWS	225	185
% people have communities risk knowledge	80%	2.2%
# of sessions conducted in flood & drought communities	200	16
# of provinces with mitigation measures taken in high risk areas	12	10

Narrative description of achievements

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 and early action. A total of 185 participants (male: 158 and female: 27) attended the training, including ARCS branch staff, and volunteers from eight provinces.

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.

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 15,000 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 training on disaster risk reduction & climate change adaptation (Photo: ARCS)



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

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 had 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 in the future.

Lessons Learned

Through the activities implemented under this sector, ARCS learned that community-based disaster risk reduction programming requires more resources (i.e., time, staff, and budget) for having a lasting change/impacts in target communities. It would be difficult in having a sustainable result if ARCS's assistance to disaster-affected communities is limited to very short-term training sessions or one-day campaigns only. It is only with longer-term recovery or community resilience building programmes that the chronic and multi-layer needs and vulnerabilities of Afghan communities can be addressed.

With longer-term community resilience building programmes, ARCS can support the vulnerable communities in analyzing the conditions of their communities, understanding the opportunities and assets they have in their communities, identifying the key risks that threaten their lives and livelihoods, and in finding the ways and approaches to cope with and reduce the impacts of those risks. In short, ARCS learned that it would be difficult to address the chronic DRR needs of vulnerable communities only with some training activities. ARCS should plan, make strategies, design programmes, and generate funds to contribute in resilience building of Afghan communities more effectively.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 205,437⁶

Male: 110,937

Female: 94,500

⁶ Based on the estimated number of people reached through operation, with PGI mainstreaming in programming in consideration

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response</i>	Yes	Yes
<i># of staff/volunteers trained on PGI</i>	30	0
<i># of dignity kits distributed to women and girls</i>	5,000	0
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>The minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergencies in all programmes are well ensured. 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. Due to limited funding, distribution of dignity kits for women and girls did not materialize.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Challenges		
<p>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. Significant funding gap limited the undertaking of PGI activities under the operation to address all these issues associated with the local community.</p>		
Lessons Learned		
<p>As a result of the activities under this emergency operation, ARCS, as noted above, learned to further improve the technical knowledge and skills of its staff and volunteers in CEA and in gender, protection, and inclusion sector. Quality mainstreaming of CEA in our humanitarian programming will not only ensure quality implementation but will also support in gender and protection sensitive service delivery. Moving forward, ARCS should enhance the role of its gender team in its programming. ARCS also intend to provide more capacity building trainings to its staff and volunteers in PGI sector.</p>		

Strategies for Implementation

Strengthen National Society		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS has a self-development plan in follow up to BOCA</i>	Yes	Yes
<i># of insured volunteers engaged in the operation</i>	50	50
<i># of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS</i>	6	6
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>ARCS had 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.</p>		

Some 50 volunteers were deployed for operation to provide support to the implementation of the emergency operation. These volunteers were 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.

All the volunteers and staff involved with the operation were insured. ARCS volunteers were 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.

Challenges

No significant challenge to report under this component.

Lessons Learned

The overall operation level learning is documented and will be shared in the final evaluation report of this operation.

International Disaster Response

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>NS surge capacity deployed for the operation</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Global response tools deployed to support the operation</i>	Yes	Yes

Narrative description of achievements

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

Logistics, supply chain and fleet services

Logistics and supply chain activities 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. 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.

The IFRC OLPSCM unit technically supported CO and ARCS operation in Afghanistan through remote support. Surge support was 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 were also deployed to support the conduct of the operation in critical technical area. The IFRC CO through APRO OLPSCM team also supported the procurement 15 medicine kits from Geneva for new three MHTs in the country, to support the ARCS health team to operationalize the MHTs in the fields. Medical and non-medical equipment procurement was also done in country for newly established MHTs.

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. Mainly during the initial months of the operation, 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.

Challenges

No significant challenge to report under this component.

Lessons Learned		
The overall operation level learning is documented and will be shared in the final evaluation report of this operation.		
Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Regular coordination with the government and within the humanitarian system</i>	Yes	Yes
<i># of involvement within the humanitarian system on advocacy for the crisis</i>	Yes	Yes
<i># of evaluations conducted</i>	2	1
<i># of paper/report published (for RCRC)</i>	2	1
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>IFRC and the ARCS participated 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 also supported ARCS participation with Government-led coordination and monitoring mechanisms at national and local levels.</p> <p>ARCS successfully implemented its first cash distribution in Jawzjan province on 5 December 2019. ARCS Cash team presented the Cash piloting experience to Cash, Voucher Working Group (CVWG).</p> <p>Through the operation and beyond, ARCS and the IFRC CO will continue 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 crisis and disaster affected population.</p> <p>An independent end-line or final evaluation is currently ongoing at the time of this report publication to assess the impact of this emergency operation. The findings and full report of this evaluation will be published within February 2021.</p>		
Challenges		
No significant challenge to report under this component.		
Lessons Learned		
The overall operation level learning is documented and will be shared in the final evaluation report of this operation.		
Effective, credible and accountable IFRC		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>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.</p> <p>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</p>		

Challenges

No significant challenge to report under this component.

Lessons Learned

The overall operation level learning is documented and will be shared in the final evaluation report of this operation.

D. Financial Report

The appeal budget for this operation was CHF 8 million with total DREF allocation of CHF 750,000 (which has been reimbursed). By end of operation period, the appeal coverage was at CHF 3,871,646, including in kind goods (48.40 per cent). The expenditure as of 30 September 2020 closing is CHF 3,871,537 (99.99 per cent utilization against income). Any income balance from this appeal will be transferred to the IFRC Country Office Operational Plan.

On behalf of ARCS, IFRC would like to thank partners and donors – who contributed towards the Emergency Appeal – for their invaluable support towards the operation. Detailed income and expenditure of the appeal are outlined in the attached final financial report (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:

In the Afghan Red Crescent Society

- Dr. Nilab Mobarez, secretary general; phone: +93781570085; email: drnilab.mobarez@gmail.com
- Abdulrahman Kalantary, director disaster management; phone: +93792222182; email: kalantary@redcrescent.af

In the IFRC Afghanistan Country Office, Kabul

- Pierre Kremer, head of country office; phone: +60 19 620 0758; email: pierre.kremer@ifrc.org
- Ahmad Ali Rezaie, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, phone +93 70 36 33 502, email ahmadali.rezaie@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, regional director; email: alexander.matheou@ifrc.org
- Necephor Mghendi, head of DCC unit; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Vinod Muniandy, operations coordinator; email: opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org
- Siokkun Jang, logistics manager; email: siokkun.jang@ifrc.org
- Antony Balmain, communications manager; email: antony.balmain@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Nelson Castano, manager, operations coordination; email: nelson.castano@ifrc.org
- Christina Duschl, senior officer, operations coordination; email: christina.duschl@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

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

- Liew Siew Hui, PMER manager; email: siewhui.liew@ifrc.org

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

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019-2020/11	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 24 Dec 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 24 Dec 2020	3,781,887
Appeal Coverage	47.27%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	0	43,771	-43,771
AOF2 - Shelter	2,219,828	2,329,236	-109,408
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	610,601	395,608	214,992
AOF4 - Health	264,033	353,806	-89,773
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	0	0	0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	0	0	0
AOF7 - Migration	0	0	0
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	375,492	140,417	235,075
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	141,328	383,741	-242,413
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	49,882	24,456	25,426
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	163,057	200,502	-37,445
Grand Total	3,824,221	3,871,537	-47,316

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2020/11

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	3,871,646
Expenditure	-3,871,537
Closing Balance	109
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	109

IV. DREF Loan

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

Emergency Appeal

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2019-2020/11	Operation	MDRAF005
Budget Timeframe	2019-2020	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 24 Dec 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	1,122,818				1,122,818		
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			229,023		
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	2,694,335	1,177,312	0	0	3,871,646	0	
Total Income and Deferred Income					3,871,646	0	