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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Afghanistan: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDRAF007	Glide n°:	DR-2021-000022-AFG
Date of issue:	19 March 2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 July 2021
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Orange			
DREF allocated: CHF 500,000.			
Total number of people affected:	9 million (around 80% of the total population of 11 provinces that are severely affected by La Nina events and dry conditions).	Number of people to be assisted:	24,500 people (3,500 households)
Provinces affected:	Out of the 34 provinces of the country, 11 provinces are severely affected: Badghis, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Takhar, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Samangan, Faryab, Kunduz, and Herat.	Provinces targeted:	3 provinces (Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has around 2,027 staff and 30,000 volunteers, 34 provincial branches and seven regional offices all over the country. For this operation, three regional offices and three provincial branches will be involved.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: ARCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies with presence in Afghanistan i.e., Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent Society.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Most of the humanitarian actors such as UN agencies and international NGOs are still working on preparation and planning. No major response operation is commenced yet. UNFAO has just started implementing a small emergency food security and livelihood project with total budget of around USD 500,000. In one of the recent Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings, it was discussed that the World Bank was planning to fund Government's food security and livelihood response to drought affected populations. The funding would be around USD 90 million to Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

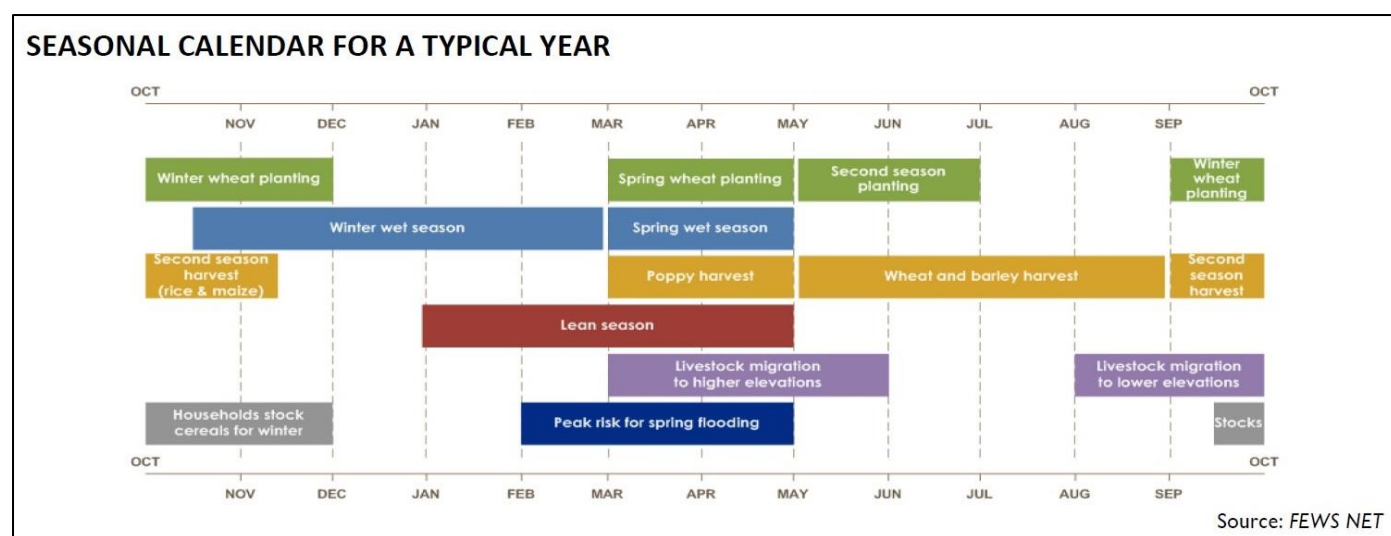
Forty years of war, recurrent natural disasters, increasing poverty, and COVID-19 are devastating the people of Afghanistan. Conflict continues to drive extreme physical and psychological harm and is forcibly displacing hundreds of thousands of people every year. Civilian casualties remain staggeringly high, with no sign of a lull in fighting, and women and children continue to be disproportionately impacted. The onset of COVID-19 has had catastrophic consequences for people's health, incomes, and levels of debt. Hunger and malnutrition have spiked amid the ongoing conflict and economic downturn, with food insecurity now on par with the 2018-2019 drought, leaving Afghanistan with the second-highest number of people in emergency food insecurity in the world¹.

Drier-than-average conditions associated with La Niña had, in the past, affected winter crops in the area very significantly. For example, the 2017–2018 winter wet season was characterized by persistent dryness across most of

¹ Afghanistan 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview

the country, combined with high temperatures, which were likely induced by La Niña conditions. In April 2018, the Government of Afghanistan officially declared a drought emergency. Drought continued during the spring and summer months and caused substantial cumulative rainfall deficits throughout the country, resulting in the lowest wheat production since 2011.

During the second half of 2020, a moderate to strong La Niña phenomenon was registered that is causing extreme weather conditions in various parts of the world. This phenomenon, which affects temperatures, precipitation, and storm patterns, is expected to continue at least until spring 2021, according to the World Meteorological Organization. In Afghanistan, this commonly results in below-average rainfall and snowfall across the country. The timing of this La Niña event coincides with the main wheat season with harvests in May-July 2021, which are critical following the lean season (January-April). *The figure below outlines the seasonal calendar for a typical year in Afghanistan.*



Afghanistan has been experiencing below-normal rainfall since October 2020. Such conditions are expected to continue through the first half of 2021 in the country according to forecasters. The conditions have affected the winter season snow accumulation, which is critical for water access during the spring and summer agricultural seasons. It is anticipated that the situation will have an impact on both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture/livestock, as well as on the availability of water for drinking, washing, and sanitation. Mid-March through to the end of July will likely be the peak period during which drought impacts on crops and livestock (agricultural drought) would manifest. The wheat production deficit is expected to be 16 to 27 per cent this year and as a result, requiring increased top-up from international suppliers². Such drivers would further affect communities already suffering from the ongoing economic crises exacerbated by the secondary effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including high prices of basic commodities, conflict, and food insecurity.

In Afghanistan, winter grains are usually planted in October and November, after seasonal rains sufficiently replenish soil moisture. Erratic rainfall in October and early November 2020 was not conducive for planting and crop establishment. The cumulative precipitation amounts in the 2020–2021 winter season has been below-average, stemming from La Niña conditions across most of the country. Inadequate winter precipitation negatively affects the establishment and development of key grains such as wheat and barley. Lack of snow cover makes crops susceptible to frost kill. In addition, reduced snowfall constrains the availability of irrigation water from melted snow for summer crops. At greatest risk are rainfed production areas in northern, western, and some parts of central regions of the country. Reduced agricultural production constrains farmers' income and limits livelihood opportunities for casual agricultural labour, as well as nomadic herders' access to fodder or feed for their livestock. Limited access to water will further affect the body conditions of their animals. The key drivers that underpin food insecurity in the country remain present as well, including conflict, limited livelihood opportunities, high food prices, and natural disasters.

The winter wet season is critical for successful agricultural production throughout the year. Decreases in precipitation during this period is having devastating effects on crops and livestock, which in turn will further exacerbate the already chronically food-insecure population and will disrupt the country's main livelihoods. Agriculture, which provides a livelihood to nearly 80 per cent of the population, is being the sector most affected by current dry conditions. Impacts will include insufficient food, loss of assets, likelihood of drought-induced migration, reduced planting areas, and distress selling of livestock. According to a recent IPC report and other food insecurity reports produced by the Food Security Cluster and Ministry of Agriculture, food insufficiency can already be seen.

² Afghanistan Spring Disaster Contingency Plan published by Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT)

The Negative Impacts of La Nina Events and Below Average Precipitation on Agriculture Sector Per Province – January 2021								
No	Province	Population	Below Average Precipitation	Irrigated Production	Rain-Fed Production	Pasture	Livestock	Critical Vulnerability
1	Urozgan	436,079	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
2	Badghis	549,583	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
3	Bamyan	495,557	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
4	Badakhshan	1,054,087	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
5	Baghlan	1,014,634	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
6	Balkh	1,509,183	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
7	Parwan	737,700	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
8	Paktiya	611,952	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
9	Paktika	775,498	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
10	Panjshir	169,926	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
11	Takhar	1,093,092	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
12	Jawzjan	602,082	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
13	Khost	636,522	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
14	Daikundi	516,504	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
15	Zabul	384,349	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
16	Sar-i-Pul	621,002	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
17	Samangan	430,489	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
18	Ghazni	1,362,504	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
19	Ghor	764,472	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
20	Faryab	1,109,223	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
21	Farah	563,026	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
22	Kabul	5,204,667	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
23	Kapisa	488,298	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
24	Kunduz	1,136,677	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
25	Kandahar	1,399,594	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
26	Kunar	499,393	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
27	Laghman	493,488	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
28	Logar	434,374	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
29	Maidan Wardak	660,258	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
30	Nangarhar	1,701,698	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock
31	Nuristan	163,814	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock

The Negative Impacts of La Nina Events and Below Average Precipitation on Agriculture Sector Per Province – January 2021								
No	Province	Population	Below Average Precipitation	Irrigated Production	Rain-Fed Production	Pasture	Livestock	Critical Vulnerability
32	Nimroz	183,554	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Livestock
33	Herat	2,140,662	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Livestock, Pasture, Rain-fed agricultural productions
34	Helmand	1,446,230	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Livestock

Data source: Afghanistan National Statistic and Information Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
Legend- Red: Severe Impact; Orange: Medium Impact

As outlined in the above table, vulnerability is highest in rainfed provinces as the agricultural productions (rain-fed), pastures, and livestock are being affected the most in these provinces. Afghanistan has been experiencing an exceptional food insecurity condition in 2020 and 2021.

The ongoing food insecurity situation is very much worse than the previous years. According to the IPC report, from November 2019 to March 2020, 2,695,000 people were in IPC phase 4 and 8,591,000 people were in IPC phase 3. Based on the same IPC report (produced recently by Food Security Cluster and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock), between November 2020 and March 2021 – a period that corresponds to the lean season – around 13.15 million people (42% of the total population) have been experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), out of which nearly 4.3 million people are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and an estimated 8.85 million people are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Moreover, only five provinces of the country were in IPC phase 4 in the first quarter of 2020, but by March 2021, 10 provinces of the country are classified in IPC phase 4³.

In addition to the chronic underlying factors (e.g., armed conflicts, unemployment/underemployment, etc.) of food insecurity, the pandemic – COVID-19 – has further deteriorated the situation and has been greatly increasing the level of food insecurity in Afghanistan. The current negative developments (dry conditions due to La Nina events) are putting additional pressures and pushing the financially poor households – especially amongst the pastoral households – at risk of experiencing destructive coping strategies. The majority of financially poor households, in provinces affected by drought the most, rely on remittances from family members working outside their provinces. However, seasonal labour supply outpaces demand, further eroding the purchasing power of these households. Others are resorting to reducing the quality and quantity of food, leaving the poorest households surviving on a below basic diet of bread and tea.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

As an 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 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 Movement partners and with ICRC. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid, restoring family links, community resilience (including water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of IHL, humanitarian values, and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people for IDPs.

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 mobilization. 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 mobilizers as part of the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) programme.

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-ipc-acute-food-insecurity-analysis-august-2020-march-2021-issued>

ARCS has also gained good experience in providing emergency food security and livelihoods assistance to disaster-affected populations. ARCS has been providing in-kind food assistance to people in need for many years. Most recently, ARCS provided in-kind food assistance to 5,000 poor households affected by floods that happened in five provinces in August 2020. In addition, ARCS, in line with the local contexts, has also been supporting the disaster-affected populations using Cash and Voucher (CVA) response modality. In 2019 and 2020, ARCS provided multipurpose cash grants to 2,000 households affected by drought and floods in Jawzjan, Badghis, and Herat provinces. In 2020, with financial assistance from Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund of UNOCHA, ARCS provided cash for food assistance to 5,200 households that were in IPC phase 4 (emergency) and phase 3 (crises) in Daikundi province. Furthermore, in 2020, ARCS also provided cash for food and livelihoods protection assistance to 2,700 households who either fully or partially lost their primary means of income due to COVID-19. Out of the three target provinces (Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab), ARCS has previous experiences of doing cash-based interventions in Badghis and Faryab provinces. In December 2020, IFRC commissioned an impact assessment/evaluation of two emergency operations including the CVA activities, implemented by ARCS in 2019 and 2020. This evaluation was carried out by an external consultancy. Amongst others, one of the key findings was that the CVA response modality has been appropriate and effective in distributing humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected populations. As per the report: 100 per cent of the respondents in Balkh and Badghis, indicated that the cash pay-out was the most appropriate and effective option when compared to in-kind assistance since it allowed the beneficiaries to purchase the specific items to meet their immediate emergency needs. ARCS is also an active member of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Cash and Voucher Working Group, and other technical clusters and working groups available in the country.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in-country

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation has set up a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-terms programmes while IFRC supports ARCS organization development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC has supported ARCS disaster management teams and volunteers for needs assessment, resource mobilization and for the design and implementation of the emergency operation, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and IFRC Headquarters in Geneva. With regards to longer terms programmes, IFRC is supporting immunization initiatives for children and implementation of community-health services through the support to Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and the CBHFA in North, Northeast, Central North, Central South and West of Afghanistan.

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 a focus on the “Safer Access” approach that promotes safer access to persons affected by conflict and other situations of violence, whilst minimizing risks for staff and volunteers.

Other Partner National Societies

- The Norwegian Red Cross has an in-country presence and strongly supports 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 its 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 Societies (TRCS) have been working in Afghanistan on health and livelihoods programming and supported ARCS in the immediate response to drought and floods. ARCS through the support of TRCS has provided one-off food assistance to 1,000 households in the immediate aftermath of the flash 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-RCRC actors' actions in-country

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.

Regarding the anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of the drought, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing a small short-term emergency food security project. The objective of their project is mainly to mitigate the impact of reduced precipitation due to La Niña resulting in drier or drought-like conditions during the agricultural season. The intervention is benefiting 2,000 households through the provision of crop production packages and training on pest management. In addition, *legume* and oilseeds – traditionally more resilient to drier conditions – are being provided to diversify beneficiaries' production. About 1,500 additional households are also either being engaged in cash-for-work activities to repair/rehabilitate local irrigation and flood protection systems or receive unconditional cash transfers valued at USD 50/household. An additional 2,000 livestock keepers (known as Kuchis) are also receiving livelihood protection packages with animal feed and fodder seed along with healthcare kits for vaccinations and deworming.

In addition to FAO, World Bank has also committed to funding the Government of Afghanistan (Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development) around USD90 million. This financial assistance will specifically aim to extend relief assistance to the most vulnerable and financially poor households that are impacted by current dry conditions. Implementation of this programme is not yet started. The Government of Afghanistan and the World Bank are at the planning stage.

The following two emergency food security programmes are also being implemented by the Government of Afghanistan. These two programmes are not drought response ones, but they are under Government's response plan to food and nutrition insecurity. 1) "Dastarkhwan-e-Meli" – meaning "National Meal Program" – is being implemented and benefiting an estimated 4.1 million households with incomes of USD 2 a day or less and covering 90 per cent of households in the country. Under this programme, one-off food distribution (one-month food basket of a household) is done to target beneficiaries. 2) The COVID-19 Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households Project which benefits some 2.9 million households across Afghanistan. The COVID-19 Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households Project is implemented through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), and the Kabul Municipality. It helps provide relief to Afghan households through grants to Community Development Councils (CDCs) to purchase food and sanitation packages for households in their respective communities. Implementation of these two programmes was commenced in 2020 and the programmes are still ongoing.

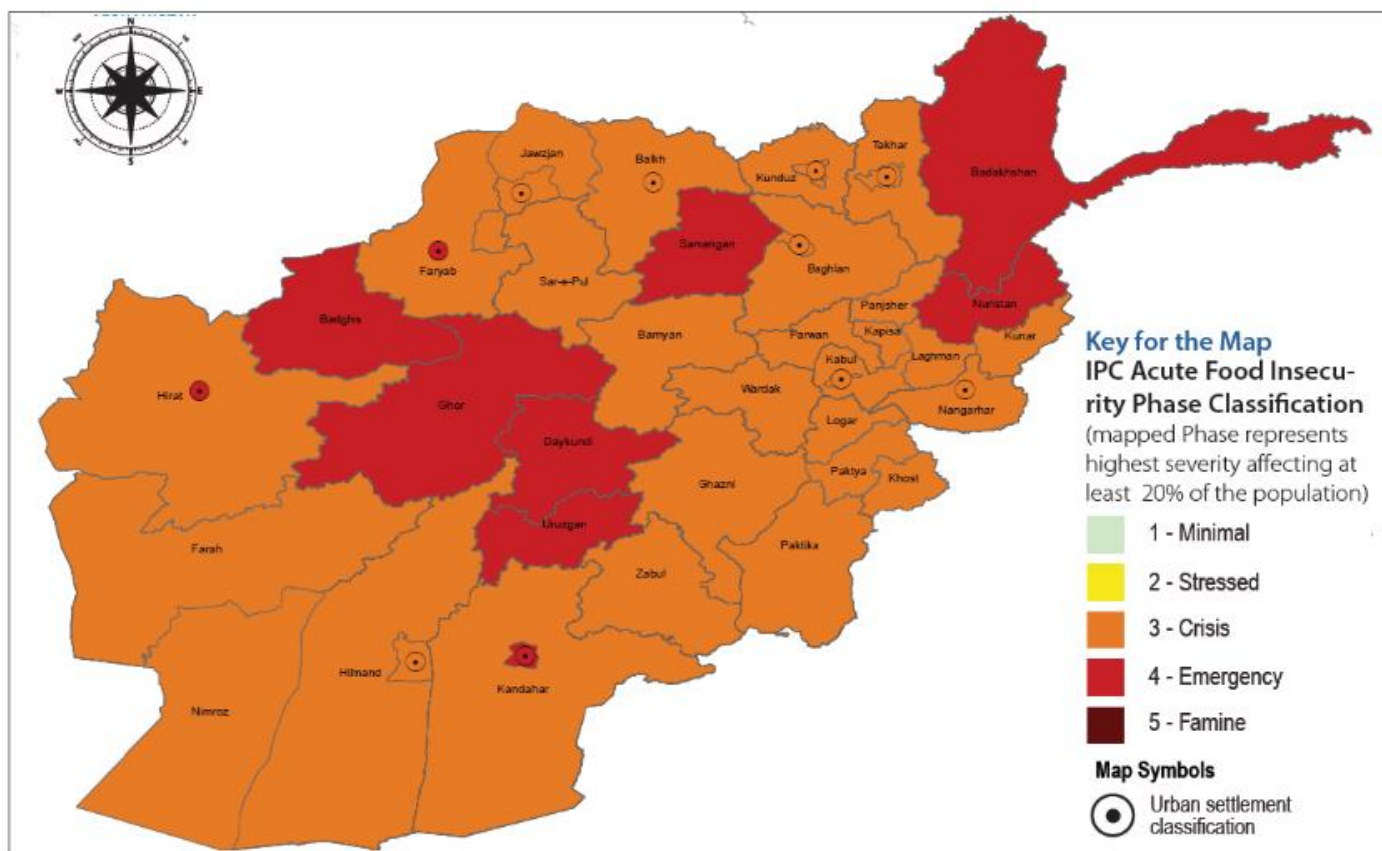
ARCS will ensure close coordination and collaboration for implementing the activities planned under this DREF operation. For instance, the community mappings (which communities / villages to be selected to receive food assistance) will be done in collaboration from and consultation with local government departments. In addition, under the operation, ARCS will focus on rural and hard to reach areas where other actors do not have access or do not cover under their food security programming. With implementing the emergency food security activities – under current DREF – or livelihoods rehabilitation and recovery activities – under the upcoming / potential Emergency Appeal – ARCS will complement efforts of the public authorities (geographically). For the later (livelihoods recovery assistance under a potential Emergency Appeal), ARCS will also target some of the households, who are receiving short-term food assistance from Government but will not receive any recovery assistance, to provide them with supports.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

Over the past 5 years, the food security situation in Afghanistan has steadily deteriorated with the percentage of food-insecure people doubling (from 37 per cent in September 2015 to 76 per cent in Nov 2020), while the proportion of people in crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity has increased more than five-fold (from 8 per cent to 42 per cent over the same period). The 2020 Seasonal Food Security Assessment, technically led by Food Security Cluster, shows that the current scale of acute food insecurity in the country is now comparable to the situation faced in 2018-2019 – the worst year for food insecurity in recent memory which resulted from a devastating drought.

As per the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, from November 2020 to March 2021, corresponding to the lean season, the total population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is expected to increase to 13.15 million. The number of provinces classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) will increase from five to ten including Daikundi, Badghis, Ghor, Samangan, Badakhshan, Urozgan, Nuristan, Faryab urban, Kandahar urban, and Herat urban. The map below outlines the food insecurity situations in the country in the first half of 2021. Afghanistan has been experiencing an exceptional food insecurity condition in 2020 and 2021. The ongoing food insecurity situation is worse than the previous years.



The interventions under this DREF operation will be intended to provide short term, immediate relief to households who are affected by multiple shocks and who are unable to recuperate lost incomes. Providing emergency food assistance, using cash response modality, will enable the target households to meet their household food needs and decrease the use of negative coping mechanisms to gain income, and increasing their prospects for early recovery. However, it will only be with longer-term interventions that a longer-term, sustainable solution to communities' vulnerability to natural disasters, climate change, and the reoccurring problem of the disasters will be significantly reduced. Therefore, ARCS with IFRC supports, in addition to providing emergency food assistance, will also conduct needs assessment including Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM) in drought-affected provinces to better understand the impacts of current dry conditions on the lives and livelihoods of most vulnerable households. The existing secondary data and available reports from Government departments, humanitarian country team, UNFAO, World Bank, and other like-minded organizations will also be reviewed and used. The pace of data collection will be commenced in last week of March 2021. ARCS plans to launch the Emergency Appeal by mid-April. Under the full Emergency Appeal, ARCS intends to provide Livelihoods and WASH assistance with rehabilitation and recovery objectives to drought-affected households. ARCS will also cover a greater number of provinces under the Emergency Appeal. The findings of needs assessment, planned under this DREF, will specify the exact activities that ARCS will implement under the Livelihoods and WASH sectors. It is worth to highlight Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) will be fully mainstreamed in the implementation of the proposed activities under this DREF including the needs assessment.

Targeting

Under this DREF operation, ARCS with the technical assistance of IFRC Afghanistan Delegation, intends to start with supporting the drought-affected population from three provinces including Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab. These three provinces are amongst the hotspot provinces affected by current drought. The rural and hard to reach areas in these provinces are currently not covered by any other actors for food security programming. ARCS is therefore well-placed to have its humanitarian intervention and provide food security assistance to the people in need in these locations. In addition, considering the amount allocated from DREF, focusing only on three provinces will enable coverage of more households per province instead of spreading over wider geographical areas. This approach will also ensure efficiency in terms of operating costs thus having more financial resources allocated for direct delivery assistance to affected households.

In 2021, ARCS is having a couple of other emergency food security projects as well, under which ARCS is covering some of other IPC 4 and 3 provinces. For instance, ARCS is currently implementing a USAID-funded project (funding is channelled through IFRC), under which ARCS will provide multipurpose cash grants to households experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity in Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Sar-i-Pul, and Zabol provinces. ARCS, in collaboration with IFRC, recently submitted a 12-month project proposal to ECHO. If successful, ARCS intends to commence implementing

this project as of April 2021. ARCS, under this project, will provide cash for food assistance to 5,000 multiple shocks affected households in Badakhshan, Badghis, Daikundi, and Nuristan provinces (these are IPC 4 provinces). To this end, ARCS, under this operation funded by DREF, intends to provide assistance to acutely food insecure households, who are also impacted by the current dry spell, in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces. With a full Emergency Appeal, ARCS will be able to target more provinces and to provide livelihoods recovery and protection assistance to households affected by current dry conditions.

As noted above, under this DREF operation, ARCS intends to provide emergency food assistance, using cash response modality to multiple shocks affected households in at least three provinces including Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab. These three provinces are amongst areas that are severely impacted by La Nina events and therefore are experiencing dry conditions. As per the recently produced IPC report, these three provinces are also amongst areas that are classified in phase 3 (crisis) and phase 4 (emergency) IPC.

The targeting process and criteria are designed to include vulnerability and drought-specific indicators. During the initial phase, ARCS will prioritize the poorest and poor households with rain-fed lands and whose primary livelihoods means are negatively impacted by La Nina events. ARCS, through a community-based targeting approach, will also identify the most vulnerable including landless labourers who are affected by the drought. Considering the absolute vulnerability of the poorest households, ARCS will focus on mitigating the ongoing risk of the use of destructive coping strategies by ensuring minimum food/income security.

ARCS with technical supports from IFRC will follow three stages for the collection of baseline data and beneficiary selection. 1) Community filtering and identification; as noted above, ARCS will meet the relevant field-level stakeholders, for instance, UNOCHA, ANDMA, etc. to receive their support for finalizing the list of communities. 2) Once the communities are selected, ARCS's branch team will meet with the respective community members and will provide them with beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring that the wider community will understand the purpose of cash for food assistance distribution. Following the finalization of the criteria, the community-based committees will provide ARCS with a list of all households meeting the criteria. ARCS will immediately assess all proposed households using its household emergency assessment tool and individual interview approach. 3) All data will then be entered, and household information will be verified. The final lists will then be produced to eligible participants and will be shared and verified with the local authorities (both at provincial and district-level) and the community representatives.

The following mandatory/eligibility/drought specific criteria are anticipated: 1) Households that have engaged in highly destructive, food-related coping mechanisms; 2) Households with rain-fed lands of less than 3 jeribs or no other productive assets; and 3) Households with 2 or more children under the age of 5 unable to meet their basic food needs. Within this, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritize selection: 1) Elderly with responsibility for children in household. 2) Household without livestock. 3) Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children. 4) Household with chronically ill member. 5) Household with disabled household member who is unable to work. 6) Pregnant and lactating women. These targeting criteria will be finalized in consultation with community elders, relevant government departments, and other (inter)national organizations that are available in these provinces. ARCS will coordinate closely with other organizations working in the areas that are also implementing emergency food security programming in these provinces to avoid duplication.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

Category	Estimated % of target group	% female	% male
Young Children (under 5 years)	7,038 (27.93 %)	50 %	50 %
Children (5-17yrs)	7,038 (27.93 %)	50 %	50 %
Adults (18-49 yrs)	7,080 (28.10 %)	50 %	50 %
Elderly (>50 yrs)	3,540 (14.05 %)	50 %	50 %
People with disabilities	504 (2 %)	50 %	50 %
Total # of Direct Beneficiaries	25,200 individuals (100 %)		

Scenario planning

Around 80 per cent of the total population in Afghanistan rely on agriculture and livestock for their primary means of livelihoods. The current La Nina induced dry conditions therefore negatively impacting the primary income sources of the majority of the Afghanistan community. Amongst others, at greatest risk are the financially poor households, smallholders, households that rely on sharecropping. Most importantly, the current dry spell is happening during the

planting seasons (winter wheat planting and spring wheat planting) in the country. The inadequate winter precipitation is negatively affecting the establishment and development of key grains such as wheat and barley. The reduced snowfall will constrain the availability of irrigation water from melted snow for summer crops. Reduced agricultural production will constrain farmers' income and limits livelihood opportunities for casual agricultural labour.

In addition to dry conditions, most parts of Afghanistan are also experiencing spring seasonal flooding. According to the Afghanistan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, around 200,000 people are impacted by seasonal flooding every year in the country. To this end, it is anticipated that the seasonal flooding will further deteriorate the ongoing humanitarian situations in the country.

Under this DREF, as noted above, ARCS intends to provide short-term emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable and those pastoral households that are at the greatest risks due to the current dry spell. Implementation of the proposed emergency food assistance activities will be a start. In addition, ARCS is also planning to conduct a detailed needs assessment in provinces which are impacted the most by the current dry conditions, to have a clearer understanding of the impacts of dry spell on agriculture, livelihood conditions, and food security amongst the most vulnerable. The findings of needs assessment will inform a full Emergency Appeal that ARCS, in collaboration with IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation, is intending to have for the ongoing dry spell. Through the Emergency Appeal, ARCS intends to implement rehabilitation and restoration activities supporting the impacted households strengthen their resilience and cope with the impacts of drought/dry conditions. The exact types of rehabilitation and restoration activities will be defined later at the Emergency Appeal stage.

Operation Risk Assessment

ARCS has good access in all three target provinces even to the hard-to-reach areas in these provinces. Good access for ARCS is based on wide acceptance from all stakeholders and organizational structure of ARCS (high number of volunteers from affected communities). This high level of access resulted in numerous operations successfully finished or still ongoing in these provinces. More specifically, ARCS have already been supporting the disaster-affected population providing them with humanitarian relief assistance in the target provinces for many years:

- IFRC and ARCS will ensure that design, planning, operations and implementation of ARCS programme incorporates acceptance as our core approach to gain safe access in the communities in both development and emergency humanitarian relief contexts.
- All components of IFRC's Principles and Rules for Red Cross Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance are fully integrated into the programme design and implementation and adopted by all staff.
- A community mobilization will be conducted in the target areas by having regular consultancy meetings, gatherings with key influential stakeholders explaining the impartiality, neutrality, and transparency of IFRC and ARCS before starting the programme.
- Inclusion of a compliant feedback mechanism in IFRC and ARCS Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) system, this gives an opportunity to the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to give direct feedback and make complaints about the delivery of programme interventions.

Potential risks and appropriate mitigation measures

In order to mitigate the risks to IFRC and ARCS programme and staff, IFRC and ARCS is continuing to work on a complex approach of acceptance by engagement with all parties and stakeholders, clear and strict security protocols and procedures as well as to continue to extend its partner's engagement and capacity. This is in combination with continued analysis and a low-profile approach. IFRC and ARCS have dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting ARCS impact areas in order to provide training and support to field staff to enable them to safely deliver project activities. Timely sharing of security information is ensured among all staff. All staff are 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 trained on culture sensitivity and staff respect to local norm and culture and build positive relationships with community members and beneficiaries.

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Injuries or loss of life of staff or volunteer due to collateral damage from the detonation of an IED (improvised explosive device), or crossfire.	Ensure availability of first aid kit in vehicles, first aid-trained staff, keep distance from potential targets, don't drive on roads where there is IED threat, real-time monitoring of the situation and advising staff and volunteers, communication of activities and movement with all stakeholders, use of protective emblem, Critical Incident Management and Emergency plans in place, movement monitoring.

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	Ensuring the dissemination of ARCS operation, the activities, its approach, including the methodology of beneficiary selection to all stakeholders as part of the response. For any community-based distribution activities, proper communication with communities will be utilized. Sensitisation meetings with community elders and community members will be used to ensure and help with crowd control. Sensitisation meetings will discuss the nature of the assistance, exact targeted locations, the type of assistance, time, date, and venue of distribution as well as the distribution process with beneficiaries and was duly incorporated their feedback.
Staff or volunteers abducted/kidnapped due to disputes between the stakeholders.	<p>a) Awareness sessions of staff and volunteers, clear communication of neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action (NIHA) nature of the organization to all stakeholders, monitoring of the situation, daily communication with all stakeholders, training of the staff and volunteers on actions in critical situations, avoiding of disputed areas, movement monitoring.</p> <p>b) Coordination of Movement and activities with Movement partners, including ICRC who is operating in the same areas or location.</p>
Extortion or robbery of staff or volunteers due to the existence of criminal groups or illegal checkpoints.	Advise staff and volunteers not to carry valuables and to comply with requests, use of protective emblem, real-time communication with all stakeholders, monitoring of the situation, and releasing advisories to staff and volunteers accordingly.
Overcrowding during cash distribution activities	ARCS will put in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres, and will mark queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centres. ARCS will invite beneficiaries to come to the distribution centres in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they have to spend queuing outside.
COVID-19 Context	To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of the target beneficiaries and the staff who will be involved in distributions, the COVID-19 SoP will be acknowledged and physical distance maintained. Moreover, masks, handwashing facilities, and sanitiser will be available in distribution sites.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective is to provide humanitarian food security assistance to financially poor and most vulnerable households whose primary livelihood means are affected by drought in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces. ARCS intends to provide emergency food security supports, using cash transfer modality, to drought-affected households during the last months of lean period (April – May 2021).

The planned humanitarian food security activities will be implemented in two phases. The initial phase, which covers the period from 15 March 2021 to 31 July 2021, will be for providing life-saving assistance to address the immediate food needs of financially poor and most vulnerable households that are affected by drought. During this initial phase, ARCS will also conduct a needs assessment in drought-affected provinces to seek in-depth understanding of the impacts of La Nina event-induced drought on food security and livelihoods of pastoral households. In addition to the three provinces, targeted under this DREF, ARCS will expand the geographical target for this assessment. The list of provinces for this assessment will be finalized in coordination and consultation with Government departments, Food Security Cluster, and other humanitarian organizations who will also plan to have food security and livelihood programmes for drought-affected populations. The findings of this needs assessment will also support ARCS understand what types of livelihood restoration activities are most suitable, healthy, and sustainable for the affected households. At

the end of the initial phase, when emergency food assistance is distributed and livelihood needs assessment is conducted, ARCS with IFRC support plans to launch an Emergency Appeal and will request the second funding allocation to implement livelihood restoration activities intended under the second specific objective as noted above.

During the initial phase, as noted above, ARCS will provide life-saving food security supports to 3,500 households, (in accordance with DREF budgetary availability), that are affected by drought and who have lost their primary means of livelihoods in three provinces (Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab). All target beneficiaries will be eligible to receive two months of food assistance through unconditional cash distributions. The value of each transfer will be CHF 60 per month and will cover 75 per cent of the cost of a monthly food basket for a family of seven (based on agreed standards of Afghanistan Food Security Cluster). The cash distribution will take place during the last months of the lean period (April – May). The planned full Emergency Appeal to provide WASH and livelihoods recovery and protection assistance to households, including the ones that will receive food assistance under this DREF, that are affected by current dry conditions. Under the Emergency Appeal, ARCS will plan to reach a greater number of affected households in more provinces than what is targeted under this DREF. Hence, ARCS, under this DREF, intends to only provide emergency food assistance to the affected households enabling them to meet their immediate food needs.

The implementation of planned activities under this DREF will take place in close coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian actors (e.g., FAO or WFP) and government departments (Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock) available in target provinces. ARCS will encourage to link and establish synergies between the proposed emergency food security activities under this DREF and other food security and livelihood recovery projects if any of the other available actors in target provinces will have such projects.

ARCS will provide emergency food security assistance to pastoral households who lost/will lose their primary means of livelihoods due to drought in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces. These provinces are also classified to be in IPC phase 3 or 4 in the first half of 2021. This food security intervention will happen during the lean period and will support drought-affected households not to use destructive food security and livelihoods-related negative coping strategies. The chosen modality to deliver this assistance will be unconditional cash assistance (distributed monthly in two rounds), which will enable target beneficiaries to purchase essential food items for two months. This modality will also assist in strengthening local markets by increasing demand with local vendors in the target locations. IFRC and ARCS will ensure a gender-sensitive approach so that both men and women have access to humanitarian aid and that socio-cultural barriers limiting access to services are considered: gender-sensitive selection process, accessible accountability mechanism, and gender-balanced field team will ensure easy access by both genders.

Health protection measures will be taken as IFRC and ARCS are considering the latest development (outbreak of COVID-19) in the country in delivering humanitarian services. IFRC had supported ARCS in modifying all its SOPs and operations manual for its disaster risk management including food and cash transfer programming. The risks associated with doing cash distribution in time of COVID-19 will be fully recognized. For implementing the activities, planned under this DREF, all protection measures and these modified SoPs will be strictly applied.

Any kind of cash assistance depends on a functioning market. As per a rapid check, ARCS did with local authorities in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces, markets are functioning with households accessing markets. All key food commodities are readily available in the market and the indication is that supply is constant and stable. Trucks are moving all year round, and market traders report few problems keeping food in store. The price of wheat is expected to remain stable as shortfalls in production are being covered by imports. The price of beans and other pulses has increased, and this is problematic for the protein poor families. Competition is very high so an injection of cash into the market is not expected to cause inflation. Generally, there are few governmental regulations and almost anyone can get involved in the market provided he/she has the money to buy commodities. Although significant changes in the price of basic commodities are not expected in the coming months, the main markets will be continuously monitored through the duration of the response to ensure the cash amount provided is still adequate to cover 75 per cent of the household food basket.

Community Engagement and Accountability

CEA is amongst the core components of IFRC's and ARCS's humanitarian programming. Under this DREF operation, IFRC and ARCS will ensure community engagement and accountability in all aspects of field implementation.

The 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 will regularly be accompanied by community-based information and sensitization sessions in the community. Community members will heavily be involved in project implementation – not just with regards to this action, but through all projects implemented by ARCS. The community engagement will be facilitated and supported by the pre-established community volunteers (male and female), which played instrumental roles in facilitating the identification of vulnerable individuals and groups, and implementation of the planned activities. Community elders/representatives will take an active role in beneficiary assessment and selection. For instance, once the implementation communities will be mapped-out, the ARCS team will meet with the respective community members and will provide them with beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring that the wider community understands the response, and the criteria is finalized in coordination with the community leaders. Following the finalization of the criteria, the community leaders will provide the ARCS staff with a list of all households meeting the criteria. ARCS staff will then assess all proposed households using ARCS's beneficiary assessment tool and by conducting household level interviews. The community members will also support the implementation of the project activities in their respective communities and then in conducting monitoring visits. In group discussions/meetings, normally held at the community level, the community members will also share their thoughts and feedback on the activities that will happen in their villages. ARCS staff, normally PMER team, will share the feedbacks with the Disaster Management team ensuring that immediate and appropriate actions are taken, and the issues (if any) are addressed timely.

Eligibility criteria for accessing targeted assistance (e.g. cash assistance) and/or participating in the proposed activities (distribution of cash assistance and PDM activities) will also be properly communicated to targeted communities making it into a transparent operation, which have been contributing to meaningful participation, accountability, and transparency.

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

Operational support services:

Human Resources

As part of the implementation of this requested DREF, the IFRC and ARCS will mobilize the following resources:

IFRC:

- The Head of IFRC Afghanistan Delegation will be ultimately accountable for timely implementation, compliance, financial management, and reporting of the operation.
- During the operation, IFRC will continue the technical support to ARCS through its staff from Afghanistan Delegation with Disaster Risk Management and Livelihoods team.
- The IFRC Afghanistan Delegation will provide technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Admin, HR, and Security departments.

ARCS:

- At the provincial level, the National Society will mobilize a project staff designated for the implementation of the planned activities.
- At the level of the implementation areas, the National Society will commit NDRTs and BDRTs for operation and for the supervision of volunteers.

Information Technology

Internet connectivity is available in the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation Office. ARCS staff members and volunteers in the field operation will be supported by high-quality internet facility and internet data packages on their smartphones which will enable them to communicate electronically with the provincial office to send reports and pictures.

Communication Strategy

ARCS and IFRC will collaborate to implement a communication strategy that will:

support the positioning of ARCS as a credible humanitarian responder with a network of volunteers and expertise in disaster management, and unique access to people in need;

- manage reputational risks;
- provide accountability to donors on the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent response;
- maximize opportunities to build ARCS communications capacity.

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

Materials will be developed and shared, including high-quality photos and key messages to guide partner communications and social media posts. Spokespeople will be identified, supported, and pitched to the media. Coverage will be monitored. Where possible, journalists and others will be supported to visit Red Crescent activities.

All communications products will preserve the dignity of people and promote diversity, gender inclusion and respect.

IFRC will support the ARCS communications team to communicate with external audiences with a focus on the drought and the Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian actions assisting the affected people. The communications will generate visibility and support for the humanitarian needs and the Red Cross Red Crescent response. Close collaboration will be maintained between the Asia Pacific IFRC regional communications unit, IFRC Country Delegation and the National Society to ensure a coherent and coordinated communications approach.

Communications content will be promoted on national, regional and global IFRC channels and shared with National Societies in the IFRC network. Media and social media scanning will aim to increase effectiveness and contribute to assessing and managing risks.

Security

Rapid security assessments and analyses are carried out to ensure that the security risk register is current as well as mitigating measures implemented and updated in security plans across the operational areas. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security status and briefed on reactions in an emergency before deployment to area of operations.

The National Society's security framework will be applicable throughout the duration of the operation to its staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, the existing IFRC Afghanistan Delegation security plan is applicable.

IFRC Afghanistan Delegation Senior Security Officer continues to actively support Afghanistan Delegation as well as National Society Security Managers and Focal Point through information gathering/sharing, providing security guidelines, security coordination, and cooperation within the RC Movement as well as with external partners and the humanitarian community.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

ARCS with IFRC supports has progressively innovated, streamlined, and enriched its PMER system to improve quality of any emergency operation delivery. In addition to regular monitoring and evaluation, the PMER system of ARCS promotes accountability by ensuring access of target communities to detailed information on the quality standards of programme activities. ARCS implements the Community Engagement and Accountability approach in its all-humanitarian programme which ensures the participation of project beneficiaries and wider communities in programme.

For the PDM data collection, planned under this DREF, ARCS will use the PDM tool created in collaboration with IFRC CVA technical staff. The PDM data will be collected by ARCS PMER staff and if required by external enumerators but will not be collected by ARCS project staff involved in the distribution of cash assistance to project beneficiaries. PDM visits will be conducted two weeks after the distribution. During the course of implementation, in addition to submitting the progress status reports, PDM reports will be developed and shared with relevant and concerned parties with successes and challenges shared based on the response experiences regularly. PDM activities will enable ARCS to review key aspects of response quality and effectiveness, including the accessibility of the assistance to all target groups (irrespective of gender, age, disability), satisfaction with the distribution process, timeliness of assistance provided, use of the cash assistance provided, to what extent assistance was adequate in meeting needs, perceptions on appropriateness and relevance of the assistance and record perceptions on treatment by transfer agents and staff.

Administration and Finance

A Project Grant Agreement will be signed between the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation and the ARCS. The operation will rely on existing financial management and administration systems in ARCS and IFRC. The IFRC, through the finance department, provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 24,500 (3,500 households)

Male: 12,250

Female: 12,250

Requirements (CHF) 481,2039

Needs analysis: Requisite information is provided under Section A: needs analysis.

Population to be assisted: 3,500 households that are affected by drought and also classified in IPC phase 3 and 4 and are living Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The standard/benchmark of food assistance, which means a full basket equivalent to 2,100 kcal per day and per person, will be considered and applied for distributing the planned assistance.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions	# of drought affected people supported with livelihood and basic needs assistance (Target 24,500)																
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.	# of households assisted with unconditional cash grant (Target: 3,500)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP008	Project orientation to ARCS staff in headquarter and in target provinces.		x															
AP008	Coordination activities with local stakeholders in target provinces.			x	x	x												
AP008	Community socialization and sensitization meetings.			x	x	x												
AP008	Beneficiary assessment and registration.				x	x	x	x										
AP008	Modification and signing of cash transfer operation documents (scope of work, etc.) with Financial Service Provider.			x	x	x												
AP008	Distribution of unconditional cash assistance to 3,500 household beneficiaries in 3 target provinces.					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: All people affected.

Requirements (CHF): integrated with other areas.

Needs analysis: ARCS is currently using assessment forms that facilitate the capture of gender-disaggregated data to inform this relief operation. A balance distribution on male and female volunteers in ARCS is applied for deployment purpose during all stages of the operation including assessments, distributions, awareness activities and post-distribution monitoring in the communities.

Risk analysis: Women and vulnerable segments of society (person with disability, pregnant and lactating women, elderly head of households and widows) in target provinces might have limited access to information related to food security and livelihood support due to the conservative environment in the region. ARCS will therefore ensure that female staff and volunteers are part of the assessment, relief distribution teams so that women and girls are included in the response activities. IFRC security team will continue to closely monitor the situation and will provide guidance should any change in the security environment.

Population to be assisted: 3,500 Households (24,500 individuals).

Programme standards/benchmarks: A few measures will be taken to ensure that the operation will comply with the minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies.

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.								Operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response (Target: Yes)									
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.								# of assessment of specific needs conducted as per minimum standards commitments (Target: 1)									
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
-	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
-	Sensitization of all staff and volunteers in sector specific minimum standards for PGI in Emergencies			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
-	Ensure collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
-	Sensitization of response teams on code of conduct, child protection policy and PSEA policy			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 18,797

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform	# of NS regional/provincial branches that are well functioning (in the operation) (Target: 3)																
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	# of volunteers insured (Target: 250)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.	Please include an indicator from the Key Data Sheet with a target																
	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	# of PDM conducted (Target: 1)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP046	Implementation of post distribution monitoring activities.											x	x	x	x	x	x	
AP055	Livelihoods needs assessment in drought affected provinces			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x							
AP055	Conduct headquarter level lesson learned workshop.																x	
P&B Output Code	Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders	% of compliance to IFRC financial standards (Target: 100%)																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	AP064	Compliance with financial procedures and reporting requirements and standards	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRAF007 AFGHANISTAN DROUGHT

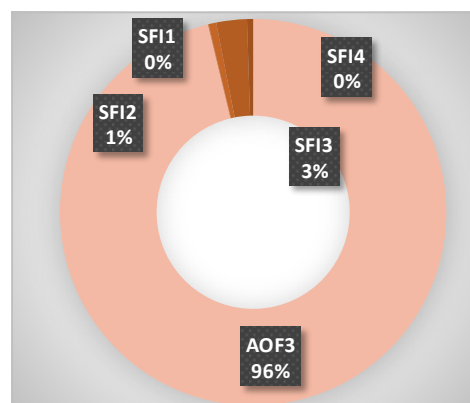
18/3/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Cash Disbursement	420,000
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	420,000
Distribution & Monitoring	13,000
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,500
Logistics, Transport & Storage	14,500
Volunteers	250
Personnel	250
Workshops & Training	2,000
Workshops & Training	2,000
Travel	11,934
Office Costs	2,400
Financial Charges	18,400
General Expenditure	32,734
DIRECT COSTS	469,484
INDIRECT COSTS	30,516
TOTAL BUDGET	500,000

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF3 Livelihoods and Basic Needs	481,203
SF11 Strengthen National Societies	266
SF12 Effective International Disaster Management	3,195
SF13 Influence others as leading strategic partners	12,780
SF14 Ensure a strong IFRC	2,556
TOTAL	500,000



Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.