

(Revised) Appeal No: MDRAF007	To be assisted: 210,000 people	Appeal launched: 10/04/2021
	DREF allocated: 500,000 CHF	Revision n°: x issued: n/a
Glide No: DR-2021-000022-AFG	Funding requirements: 7.5 million CHF	Appeal ends: 31/03/2022

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of 7.5 million Swiss francs to enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society to deliver assistance and support to 210,000 people over 12 months.

A. EVENTS TO DATE



ARCS volunteers provide Cash for Food Assistance in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, as a part of the COVID-19 response

January 2021: A report by the Afghanistan National Statistics and Information Authority and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock indicates that 16 provinces are experiencing severe negative impacts of La Niña events and below average precipitation on the agriculture sector.

February 2021: Afghanistan public authorities indicate the need for scaling up response to the drought. The World Bank Board approves a grant of 97.5 million US dollars to provide regular and predictable cash support to Afghans affected by droughts and COVID-19.

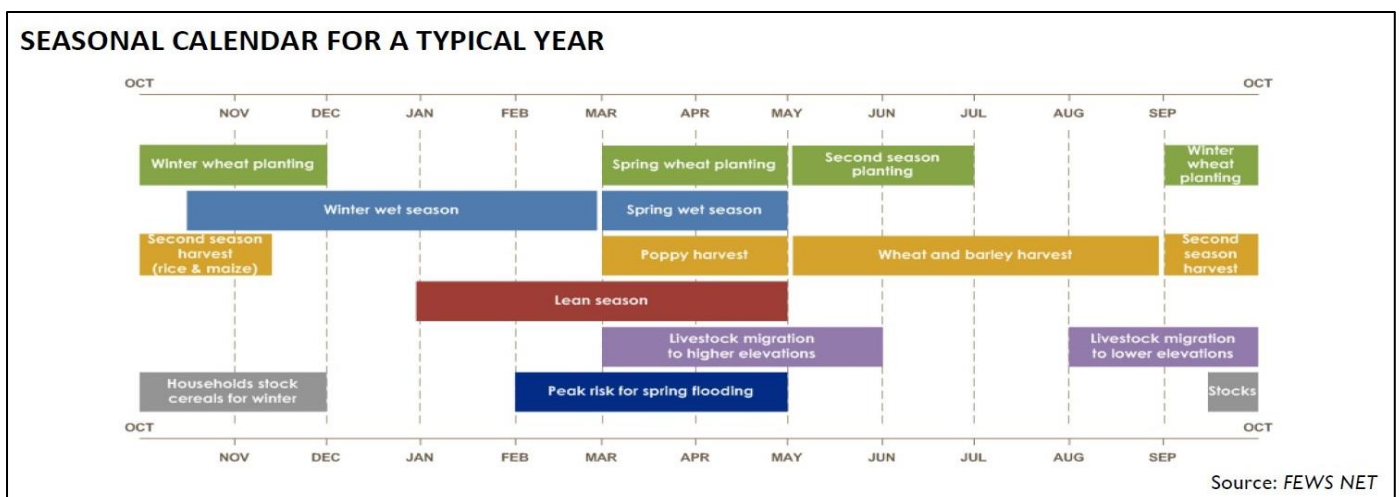
20 March 2021: IFRC allocates 500,000 Swiss francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society to initiate a response operation.

10 April 2021: IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal seeking 7.5 million Swiss francs to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society to deliver assistance and support to 210,000 people for 12 months. In 10 provinces most affected by food insecurity and drought, the appeal will focus on food assistance in the form of cash grants, livelihood protection and restoration through crop production and livestock packages and training, an entrepreneurial training track and seed capital for income generation activities of female-headed households, and community-based sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Situation overview

Hunger and malnutrition have spiked in Afghanistan amid the ongoing conflict and economic downturn, with food insecurity now on par with the 2018-2019 drought, leaving the country with the second-highest number of people in emergency food insecurity in the world¹. This comes in the backdrop of over 40 years of conflict, recurrent natural disasters, increasing poverty, and COVID-19 which are also 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 COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic consequences for people’s health, incomes, and levels of debt.

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.



The dry conditions are expected to continue through the first half of 2021, according to forecasters, and have affected the winter season snow accumulation, which is critical for water access during the spring and summer agricultural seasons. The situation has been impacting both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture/livestock as well as on the availability of water for drinking, washing, and sanitation. Mid-March through to end-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 in 2021 and as a result, requiring increased top-up from international suppliers.²

The above 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. Humanitarian assistance is needed to alleviate the situation.

¹ Afghanistan 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

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

Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with support from the IFRC's Country Delegation for Afghanistan, is closely coordinating and consulting with the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies, and other (inter)national humanitarian actors both at national and subnational levels. ARCS is a member of the Early Action Committee (EAC) established by the Government of Afghanistan to work on current drought issues. The EAC undertook an assessment and has produced a report specifying the provinces affected severely and those with medium impacts. ARCS and IFRC are also part of Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Inter Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT). Following deteriorating humanitarian conditions because of the drought conditions, in mid-March 2021 ARCS launched an emergency operation, with funding support from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). The [DREF Operation](#) aims to provide emergency food security assistance to 3,500 drought affected households in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces – which are amongst drought hotspot provinces – utilizing unconditional cash as a modality. In addition, with financial assistance from various donors such as USAID, Red Cross Society of China, etc., ARCS has also been providing short-term emergency food security assistance (using CVA modalities) to multiple shocks affected households in four provinces including Faryab, Ghor, Sar-i-Pul, and Kandahar.

B. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Needs assessment and targeting

Impact and needs assessment

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 condition 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 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.

Afghanistan has been experiencing an exceptional food insecurity condition in 2020 and 2021. The ongoing food insecurity situation is much worse than previous years. According to the IPC report, from November 2019 to March 2020, 2.69 million people were in IPC phase 4 and 8.59 million people were in IPC Phase 3. In comparison to the same IPC report (produced recently by Food Security Cluster and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock), between November 2020 and March 2021, corresponding to the lean season, around 13.15 million people (42 per cent 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 in the first half of 2021, 10 provinces of the country are classified in IPC phase 4³. In addition to the chronic underlying factors (including armed conflicts and unemployment/underemployment) of food insecurity, COVID-19 has further exacerbated the situation and escalated the level of food insecurity in Afghanistan.

In the affected provinces, drought has not only affected sources of income (which in turn puts negative impacts on health), but also caused potable water shortage (which can have negative health impacts as well). Drought poses many and far-reaching short-term health, longer term and indirect health effects. These include shortages of safe drinking water, poor-quality drinking water, impacts on air quality, sanitation and hygiene, and food and nutrition. Provision of primary health care services, mainly provided by Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) and its partners, will be stretched since existing capacities will need to also respond to the increased emergency health and WASH needs in drought affected areas.

Poor households, such as female-headed and small hold farmers, will be hit hardest by the drought due to reduced household wheat stocks and income from on-farm labour where food consumption deficits will continue through the next harvest. For

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

livestock communities, the most affected groups are expected to be small livestock holders (around up to 10 animals including large and small ruminants) who are unable to access fodder, and whose pasture area is limited (mobility) and under stress (overgrazed). These people are at particular risk of severe food insecurity once their flocks are drastically reduced. The core breeding animals may also be endangered leading to no reproduction or milk.

Targeting

ARCS, with technical support of IFRC, intends to provide humanitarian relief and early recovery assistance to households in provinces severely affected by drought as well as provinces that are classified in IPC Phase 4. Details of the target provinces are as follow: Badghis, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghor, Kandahar, Nuristan, Samangan and Urozgan. Already, under the [DREF operation](#), ARCS is providing emergency food security assistance to 3,500 drought affected households in Badghis, Baghlan and Faryab provinces. This Emergency Appeal will enable ARCS to scale up the response initiated using the amount advanced from the IFRC DREF. Livelihood recovery activities will form the bulk of the planned activities under this Emergency Appeal. ARCS will target the most vulnerable people, including female-headed households, landless agricultural labourers, herders and food-insecure smallholder farming households, among others.

Emergency Food Security Assistance: ARCS intends to provide life-saving assistance to address immediate food needs of 12,000 households. In most locations, the modality to deliver this assistance will be unconditional cash grants which will enable target households to purchase essential food items for two months. This modality will contribute to supporting local markets by increasing demand with local vendors in the target locations. In very limited areas, where the target households will have challenges in accessing markets and therefore will prefer in-kind assistance, ARCS will distribute in-kind food packages. The targeting process and criteria will be designed to include vulnerability and drought specific indicators. In addition to the mandatory criteria, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritize selection: 1) Elderly with responsibility for children in household. 2) Households without productive assets. 3) Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children. 4) Households with chronically ill members. 5) Households with members with a disability who are unable to work. 6) Pregnant and lactating women.

Livelihood Protection and Restoration Assistance: ARCS aims to reach 20,000 households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods and are severely impacted by drought, in eight target provinces (2,500 households per province) with livelihood restoration and protection activities to help them restore and revive their income sources. ARCS will also implement specific **income generation activities** which have the potential to contribute to the financial resilience of poor households whose primary means of incomes are fully or partially affected by the drought. An entrepreneurial training track and seed capital for project start-up will target 1,600 young adults from 1,600 households. The micro-enterprise activities will prioritize women participants to expand appropriate home-based self-employment options.

Disaster Risk Reduction measures: Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, drought, landslides, and avalanches. Inclusion of risk sensitive programming early in the response is an entry point to integrate community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience building approaches into the mid-term and longer-term initiatives in a comprehensive manner. ARCS will incorporate DRR across all sectors of the response, where relevant and feasible in their regular programming as well as under this Emergency Appeal. In many regions of Afghanistan, lives and livelihoods suffer from periodic weather-related stresses, particularly, from below-normal rainfall.

Health and WASH Assistance: Poor hygiene exposes people to germs that cause communicable diseases and prevent their bodies from putting their diets to the best possible use. Since hygiene is closely linked with personal nutritional outcomes, poor WASH practices lead to an increase in morbidities, especially among children under five. Hence, community-based hygiene promotion activities under this appeal will mainly focus on community hygiene promotion education to inspire and empower community members to improve their hygiene knowledge and practices. As drought conditions lead to scarcity of water, it is necessary to provide water storage containers to affected households. Furthermore, given the limited availability of hygiene materials at the district level markets, and low purchasing power of the drought affected households, ARCS will also distribute hygiene kits to 20,000 households in the target provinces.

Coordination and partnerships

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, ARCS is a primary national partner for responding to disasters across the country and facilitates disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches. ARCS has a long history of providing life-saving assistance to people in need in Afghanistan. ARCS presence and local networks are exceptionally well established, which enables the National Society to reach vulnerable populations who are not served by other humanitarian actors, such as those in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas.

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan has set up a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-terms programmes while supporting ARCS organizational development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC has supported ARCS disaster management teams and volunteers in conducting needs assessment, resource mobilization, designing

and implementing emergency operations, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners as well as the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and headquarters in Geneva.

The ICRC has been 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 Afghanistan's protracted conflict includes the promotion and respect of IHL, health services 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. The ICRC supports ARCS 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.

Several Partner National Societies are present in the country providing technical and financial assistance to humanitarian operations and longer-term programmes of ARCS. These include the Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent. At this point, none of them are supporting the ARCS drought response.

Collectively, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners have established coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored on a Movement Cooperation Agreement. Movement partners hold tripartite meetings where ARCS, ICRC and IFRC leadership address strategic issues. Movement operational coordination meetings bring together all components to investigate operational issues while various technical coordination groups are in place to address technical matters.

Other Actors in the Country

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from UNOCHA and through the Command-and-Control Centre under the supervision of the Minister of State for Disaster Management. The government has established an Early Action Committee – comprised of multiple government ministries, international organizations, and ARCS – that has been focusing on current dry conditions by assessing the impacts of the drought on overall lives and livelihoods in the country, producing reports, and sharing information with concerned public, humanitarian and development agencies.

The IASC Clusters are also 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 are held monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies. These include shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection and nutrition. UNOCHA facilitates the inter-cluster coordination.

Capacity analysis of the National Society in the country, risk analysis and scenario planning

ARCS has vast expertise with different types of programming through multilateral projects supported by IFRC, as well as through bilateral programmes supported by other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners including the ICRC. These include youth development, disaster risk management, community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), restoring family links, community resilience building, dissemination of IHL, humanitarian values, and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and recovery programming. ARCS also has good access in all parts of the country, including the hard-to-reach areas. Good access by ARCS is based on wide acceptance from all stakeholders and the organizational structure of ARCS (high number of volunteers from affected communities). This high level of access results in numerous operations that have successfully finished or are still ongoing in the country. For providing humanitarian relief in any emergency and/or disaster context,

- ARCS and IFRC will ensure that the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of ARCS' programmes incorporate acceptance as a core approach to gain safe access in the communities in both emergency humanitarian relief and development contexts.
- Community engagement will be conducted in the target areas by having regular consultation meetings, gatherings with key influential stakeholders explaining the impartiality, neutrality, transparency of ARCS, and information about programme goals, timeline, and other relevant programme information before starting the programme.
- Inclusion of a complaints and feedback mechanism, as part of community engagement and accountability (CEA), will give an opportunity to those who receive assistance as well as those who do not receive assistance to provide direct feedback and make complaints about the delivery of programme interventions.

To mitigate the risks to ARCS and IFRC programmes and personnel, ARCS and IFRC are 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. ARCS and IFRC have dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting affected areas to provide training and support to field staff on safe delivery of project activities. IFRC also coordinates security arrangements with the ICRC, including in sharing of

security information. All ARCS and IFRC staff are trained on personal security (Stay Safe and Safer Access) and oriented on Red Cross Red Crescent security management system, and actions in emergency situations.

Scenario planning

In addition to dry conditions, some 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. Should floods affect the same provinces covered by this Emergency Appeal – since trends show that periods of drought followed by excessive rainfall bring floods – a revision will be done to incorporate the flood response thus ensuring that ARCS addresses the impacts of the twin disasters.

C. PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 210,000

Male: 102,900

Female: 107,100

Requirements (CHF): 5,042,000

Proposed intervention

Emergency Food Security

Emergency food security assistance will be provided to financially poor and most vulnerable households whose primary livelihood means are affected by drought in target eight provinces: Badghis, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Daikundi, Faryab, Ghor, Kandahar, Nuristan, Samangan and Urozgan. In total, 12,000 households that are affected by drought and who have lost their primary means of livelihoods in target provinces will be reached under this component. All target households will be eligible to receive two months of food assistance through unconditional cash distributions. The value of each transfer will be 60 Swiss francs 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). In extremely limited areas, where the target households will have challenges in accessing markets and therefore will prefer in-kind assistance, ARCS will distribute in-kind food packages instead of cash grants.

This emergency food security intervention 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 households to purchase essential food items for two months. ARCS and IFRC 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 all genders.

Specific activities:

1. Establish a framework agreement with financial service provider.
2. Provide training to ARCS branch staff, BDRT (Branch District Response Team) and volunteers in its CVA standard operating procedures.
3. Map implementation villages and communities.
4. Finalize criteria for selecting households to receive assistance in coordination with other actors.
5. Select and verify households to receive assistance, including forming community committees.
6. Distribute unconditional cash, for food assistance, to **12,000 drought-affected households**.
7. Undertake market assessment and monitoring and post-distribution monitoring activities.

Livelihoods Protection and Restoration

Most of the community members in target provinces rely on natural resource-based livelihood options such as agriculture, livestock, and on common property resources. Recent occurrence of drought has jeopardised the food production and livestock productivity resulting in severe vulnerability of communities due to loss of livelihood. The situation has turned the

balance to unfavourable conditions thereby, impacting negatively the lives and livelihood of the poor households. The project theory of change envisages that the project area communities will become resilient and their conditions are stabilised as a result of the interventions by IFRC and ARCS.

The planned interventions under the resilient livelihood programme, will create a strong backbone for the target communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters. Interventions to support small holders/ farmers & small livestock keepers to resume agriculture/ livestock-based activities will lead to increased food production, income and improved living conditions. Interventions in capacity building will facilitate enhanced capacity of project area households to have increased capacity to cope with crisis. Specifically, the target communities and households will be capacitated through access to information and scientific knowledge about specific topics including climate resilient livelihood practices. The households will be effectively supported to increase their resilience against climate vulnerabilities and disasters. The planned activities will include but not limited to existing livestock, agriculture, poultry, and greenhouse farming skills. The participants will be provided with both the tool kits and capacity building trainings enabling them to restore their livelihoods. The seed fund (tool kits) will be provided either in cash or in-kind. The Department of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (DAIL) and other locally available technical trainers will be hired and engaged in project implementation to provide technical training (e.g., integrated pest management, greenhouse management, climate smart agriculture practices, backyard poultry, animal by-product production, animal diets and animal health, etc.) to the project's recipients.

Specific activities:

1. Undertake livelihood assessments in the operational area as well as in a few provinces in the southern region of the country.
2. Select, verify, and sensitize households who will be covered by the project, including forming and formalising community committees/ interest groups.
3. Distribute agro-tools/ equipment and/or livestock packages to **20,000 households** in eight provinces. The modality of the intervention will depend on the market functionality, where the project will follow cash-based interventions (cash for livelihoods, cash for fodder, etc.). Where necessary, the project will procure and provide in kind assets (agro-tools, equipment, and livestock).
4. Provide relevant training to the project's recipients of agriculture and livestock in technical as well as extension and market access.
5. Training to selected youths from the project operational areas, who will become Community Animal Health Workers. This will be implemented in partnership with Department of Livestock.
6. Establish community-based income generation activities for **1,600 vulnerable and marginalised female-headed households**.
7. Provide training in entrepreneurship, market access, and business development service to female participants and collectives/ group enterprises.
8. Undertake mini-Rapid Assessment of Market prior to project implementation and post distribution monitoring activities.



Health

People targeted: 210,000

Male: 102,900

Female: 107,100

Requirements (CHF): 128,000

Proposed intervention

Droughts have negative impacts on different angles of life including health. In order to provide a complete response to the needs of affected population, ARCS will use the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) approach. The targeted communities will benefit from community-based health activities that will include training of community members/volunteers on ECV (Epidemic Control for Volunteers), First Aid training and community mobilization and awareness raising on hygiene promotion and hand washing benefits to prevent communicable diseases.

People to be reached will include but not limited to community members, IDPs and returnees residing in the target provinces. Most vulnerable groups like IDPs, returnees, persons with disabilities, children, women (especially pregnant and lactating women), malnourished children, elders and those with chronic health conditions will be prioritized for health and WASH assistance. Soap and hygiene kits will be distributed to the multiple shocks affected households.

Specific activities:

1. Undertake community assessments.
2. Sensitize communities on public health practices to prevent diseases due to drought impact.
3. Train 640 community volunteers on First Aid, Psychological First Aid (PFA), and diarrheal illnesses.
4. Conduct 32 ECV training sessions for volunteers.
5. Procure and distribute First Aid Kits to ARCS volunteers that will take part in this operation.
6. Undertake risk communication on COVID-19.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 140,000

Male: 68,600

Female: 71,400

Requirements (CHF): 743,000

Proposed intervention

Droughts have significant negative impacts on water access, sanitation, and hygiene. In order to provide a complete response to the needs of the affected population in this impacted area, WASH activities will be part of the response package. The targeted communities will benefit from WASH hardware and software activities, which will include activities of training community volunteers on household water treatment, hygiene promotion including hand washing, conducting awareness raising campaigns, and distribution of hygiene kits and soap.

Specific activities:

1. Conduct household water treatment training session for volunteers.
2. Conduct hygiene promotion trainings for volunteers.
3. Conduct awareness raising campaigns on hygiene promotion in target areas.
4. Reproduce IEC material on prevention of waterborne/communicable diseases, use of water purification materials.
5. Distribute 20,000 hygiene kits (menstrual hygiene management material included).
6. Distribute water storage containers (27,600 jerry cans). Procurement to be carried out locally.
7. Procure and distribute soap (for handwashing) to target households.
8. Distribute water purification supplies (Aqua tabs).
9. Distribute 12,800 water filters to the affected households.
10. Provide briefing to assisted households on how to use/maintain water purification supplies and water filters.



Protection, gender and inclusion

People targeted: 210,000

Male: 102,900

Female: 107,100

Requirements (CHF): 77,000

Proposed intervention

During disasters, affected people are made more vulnerable by housing and economic insecurity. Vulnerable groups in Afghanistan such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, women, IDPs, and returnees are at higher risk of exploitation. There is a need to protect these groups and incorporate their different needs into the programming. Protection needs in the complex emergency in Afghanistan are mainly related to the deteriorating security situation, involuntarily population movements and current drought situations affected most of the population in country. Children, especially, who are unaccompanied or separated from caregivers, are at particular risk of abuse, neglect, marginalization and exploitation, as well as interrupted school attendance, child labour, drug abuse and trafficking. Multiple forms of gender-based violence, particularly, early and forced marriage, domestic, psychological and sexual abuse are reported, affecting individuals in hosting and displaced communities alike. Holistic approaches aimed at improving the resilience and self-reliance of affected households, as well as enhancing positive engagement of governance structures are needed 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 will 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.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

1. Organize training of trainers (ToT) sessions on minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies, PSEA, and IFRC's policy on PSEA (headquarter and regional/provincial staff).
2. Provide training to ARCS staff and volunteers in IFRC principles and approach to migration and displacement.
3. Follow up and provide technical support in compliance with IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergency programming, closely linked with Movement wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA.
4. Support collection and analysis of sex, age and disability disaggregated data.
5. Support sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) reference system at local level.
6. Assess immediate and longer-term PGI needs, including SGBV. The assessment results will be built into the continuous planning and design across the operation.



Disaster risk Reduction

People targeted: 210,000

Male: 102,900

Female: 107,100

Requirements (CHF): 87,000

Proposed intervention

Disaster Risk Reduction

Addressing Afghanistan's complex humanitarian and environmental crises requires a holistic approach that prioritize DRR and CCA to provide households and communities with the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from the shocks of natural hazards and climate change and work with local and national institutions to steer change through innovation and learning. The climate-smart disaster risk reduction activities: (a) community is aware of changes in weather patterns and b) community receives and understands locally available weather information; will enhance the community capacity to address adverse climate and disaster impacts and risks in drought affected areas. This 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 systems with the aim to support the community. To this end, under this Emergency Appeal operation, community-level awareness will be raised, and capacities built through training and information dissemination activities. A variety of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials will be used in colour for local level information dissemination. The materials will be adjusted to the local contexts in each village and communities. The community-based training activities will be a combination of ARCS information dissemination, DRR activities, and first aid. The agricultural training activities, planned under livelihood component, will also contribute to disaster risk reduction as more diversified sources of income and livelihoods improve the resilience of population to disasters.

Specific activities:

1. Develop IEC material with DRR/CCA and early warning messages.
2. Train staff and volunteers on DRR/CCA and early warning, early action.
3. Provide first aid training to community-based committees.
4. Mobilize volunteers for disseminating DRR/CCA and early warning messages.
5. Support community-based awareness raising on risks of drought and floods.
6. Support community members to conduct mitigation measures.

ENABLING ACTIONS

Influencing others as strategic partners

Requirements (CHF): 136,000

Coordination with the authorities and humanitarian actors

As a member of the Early Action Committee – comprising multiple government ministries, international organizations, and ARCS – ARCS is engaging and coordinating with non-Movement stakeholders. At the regional, provincial and district levels ARCS is also engaging with local authorities in prioritization of specific communities to be supported. This engagement will continue

throughout the operation. IFRC and ARCS are observer in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and a member of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT), and relevant IASC Clusters and inter agency working group meetings/forums, including the Food Security Cluster and the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) Working Group. Cluster and working group members included NGOs, UN agencies and public authorities.

Partnerships and resource development

The IFRC Country Delegation has a Coordination and Partnerships Manager who will support resource mobilization efforts together with the Partnerships and Resource Development (PRD) unit of the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office. IFRC has engaged with several diplomatic missions and key donor agencies (including ECHO and USAID) to promote shared understanding of the drought response. This engagement will continue throughout the operation. ARCS leadership and the IFRC's Head of Delegation will engage with diplomatic missions, key donor agencies and partners to enhance understanding of this operation.

Strengthening coordination and accountability

Requirements (CHF): 758,000

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA is a core component of this operation. 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 can 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 selection of people to receive assistance, 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 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), who play 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 assessment and selection of households to receive assistance.

Security

To ensure the security of staff and volunteers, ARCS and IFRC security personnel are working closely to monitor the situation in all provinces covered by this operation and to ensure situational risk analyses. Minimum Security Requirements and clear/strict security protocols and procedures are in place to ensure continuous adaptation to the changing situations on the ground. Security Risk Assessments will be conducted as necessary and viable, to identify additional risk mitigation measures with the aim of ensuring safe delivery of operational activities. ARCS and IFRC also coordinate security arrangements with the ICRC, including in sharing of security information. All ARCS and IFRC staff are trained on personal security and briefed on security management, and actions in emergency situations.

Risk management

Risk management will be an important enabler in this emergency appeal operation. This will include updating the risk register of the IFRC Country Delegation to ensure that information to manage risks better is available for timely decision making. IFRC will also work with ARCS to provide training or sessions to key personnel involved in the operation on the IFRC fraud and corruption prevention policy. Measures to support identification, mitigation and reporting of risks will be pursued. In addition, IFRC will involve partners and donors in discussions – where necessary – on critical risks to facilitate a risk-sharing approach.

Communications and advocacy

Communications is a key component of this appeal operation. The principal aim is to ensure that this humanitarian response is professionally communicated, understood, and supported by internal and external stakeholders. Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate public information focused on the humanitarian needs and the ARCS response will be done to support humanitarian diplomacy and effective resource mobilization efforts. Communications measures will also aim at enhancing collaboration with key partners and stakeholders and mitigating reputational risks. ARCS will deploy a photographer/videographer to ensure the production of high-quality audio-visual materials for use in publicity efforts of this operation.

Logistics and supply chain management

Logistics and supply chain management is a key enabling action to support the delivery of operational priorities. The IFRC's Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management team in-country will support ARCS with local in-kind procurement needs. Most in-kind items will be sourced locally although hygiene kits may be procured internationally with support of the Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management team in Kuala Lumpur. With a bulk of deliveries set to be done using

cash as modality, ARCS – with support of IFRC – is in the final stage of finalizing a framework agreement with a suitable Financial Service Provider (FSP) through a transparent tender process.

Human resources

ARCS will mobilize existing staff and headquarters and branch levels to support the operation. Where needed, some personnel will be deployed from the headquarters to complement the capacity of branches. Where gaps are identified, new recruitments may be done. The IFRC Country Delegation has an existing team that will provide technical and coordination support to ARCS as required to deliver in this operation. These include those specializing in disaster risk management; finance and administration; food security and livelihoods; health and WASH; human resources; logistics and supply chain; information technology (IT); security; programme quality assurance; partnerships and resource development. To strengthen existing capacity for supporting ARCS, the only new recruitment will be for planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER). More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action.

Strengthening National Societies

Requirements (CHF): 533,000

The emergency appeal operation will also support ARCS to address some self-assessed gaps with the view of further leveraging its mandate and capabilities as partner of choice for emergency response and disaster preparedness. In this regard, ARCS will be supported to fast-track its **digital transformation** including digital connectivity of its headquarters and branches, including by providing relevant hardware, software, and training. ARCS will also be supported to implement policies on **personnel behaviour**, to enhance **financial management capacity** of its branches in the eight target provinces, strengthen its **supply chain management capacity**, and enhance its **planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) capacity** at national and branch levels. Finally, ARCS will be supported in enhancing **financial sustainability** of selected branches (by adding value of properties that can generate income), **leadership development** (by supporting allowances for specific leadership positions), **duty of care** (for all personnel involved in the operation), **membership and Movement coordination**.

D. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

EMERGENCY APPEAL

MDRAF007 - AFGHANISTAN - LA NIÑA DROUGHT

Funding requirements – summary

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	87,000
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	5,042,000
HEALTH	128,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	743,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION	77,000
STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SOCIETIES	533,000
INFLUENCE OTHERS AS LEADING STRATEGIC PARTNERS	136,000
STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	758,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	7,504,000

Contact information

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

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In the IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation, Kabul

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In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: alex.matheou@ifrc.org
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- Audrey Seetho, PMER Manager a.i.; email: Audrey.SeeTho@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Alice Ho, Partnership in Emergencies Coordinator; phone +60 13 360 0366, email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Siokkun Jang, Logistics Manager; email: siokkun.jang@ifrc.org

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [DREF Operation](#)
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.

Jagan Chapagain
Secretary General
