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Final Report

Afghanistan: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRAF006
Date of Issue: 31 May 2021	Glide number: FF-2020-000191-AFG
Operation start date: 8 September 2020	Operation end date: 28 February 2021
Host National Society: Afghan Red Crescent Society	Operation budget: CHF 427,225
Number of people affected: 56,000 people (8,000 households).	Number of people assisted: 41,363 individuals (5,909 households)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) had been 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: i) Government ministries and agencies, Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Committees (PDMCs), Department of Refugees and Repatriation, and Department for Rural Rehabilitation and Development. (ii) UN agencies; OCHA, UNICEF, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Food Programme (WFP). (iii) International NGOs; some of the international NGOs, which had been active in the affected areas are including, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee, and Care International.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

Afghanistan is considered as a country prone to a number of natural disasters such as earthquakes, flooding, drought, landslides, and avalanches and man-made disasters: alongside other natural hazards floods are common in the spring when snow begins to melt, and rainfall is heavy most often in south and southeast often trigger flash floods. Disasters brought on by natural hazards affecting around 250,000 people a year, causing many to flee their homes, including some already displaced by conflict and violence in Afghanistan. As Afghanistan is located in a zone of high seismic activity and given the rugged and mountainous nature of the country and the location of villages, towns and cities, there is always a high propensity for widespread death and destruction whenever an earthquake, landslide, mudslide, avalanche, or flooding occurs.

On 26 August 2020, due to heavy rainfall, floods hit 14 provinces (Parwan, Maidan Wardak, Kabul, Kapisa, Logar, Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Khost, Paktiya, Paktika, and Ghazni) of the country. More than 150 people were killed and another 181 sustained injuries and about 400 households got displaced across the affected provinces. Around 2,400 houses were damaged and over 1,550 houses destroyed, in addition, the floods heavily impacted agricultural lands, livestock, and public infrastructure. The map above highlights the affected provinces.



Map of affected province. (Source: ARCS)



From left to right: flood affected area in Parwan province and flood affected area in Kapisa province. (Photo: ARCS)

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

As auxiliary to the government, ARCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country and facilitate disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS have 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 partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including ICRC. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), restoring family links (RFL), community resilience (including WASH and Livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian values and fundamental principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS' programmes. This includes assessment, identification and registration of any target population. Through nationwide coverage of 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.

Right after the onset of disaster, ANDMA and OCHA as the key coordination bodies for humanitarian crisis brought by natural disasters called for emergency provincial disaster management committee (PDMC) meetings on regional and provincial levels, where IOM, ANDMA, WFP, UNICEF, DRC, CARE International, DACAAR, IRC, DAIL, DoRR, and ARCS volunteered to form joint assessment teams for verification of needs at floods affected provinces. Government line departments (ANDMA and DoPH) provided lifesaving services such as emergency food assistance and health services to a limited number of populations. On the other hand, humanitarian organizations NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies also contributed to providing non-food items as well as a number of international organizations through their ERM fund provided multi-purpose cash grants in some of the affected provinces, outside the target of this DREF. ARCS being the only organization in Afghanistan having access to each corner of the country was requested by the emergency operation committee comprising of governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs, INGO and UN agencies) to provide food assistance to flood affected population in the five provinces of Kapisa, Maidan Wardak, Parwan, Panjsher and Paktika.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation has set up a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-terms programmes while supporting 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 Geneva.

The ICRC, in its role as the 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, 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 available in country

- The Norwegian Red Cross has an in-country presence and strongly supports the 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.
- Turkish Red Crescent Society has 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.

The in-country 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 in country

The Afghanistan ANDMA coordinates all interventions by humanitarian agencies with support from UNOCHA and through the Command-and-Control Centre under the supervision of the Minister of State for Disaster Management. From the onset of the emergency, the government mobilized civil and military departments in order to respond to the immediate needs of the affected people, particularly on WASH, shelter, protection, and livelihoods restoration support.

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.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Following the reports from a joint assessment conducted by emergency operation committees at regional and provincial levels, consisted of government line departments, UN agencies, ARCS and international NGOs, needs were evident in multiple sectors including but not limited to health, emergency food security, WASH, emergency shelter and non-food items (ES-NFI) and livelihoods restoration. The flash floods washed away agricultural crops, damaged available agricultural irrigation systems and agricultural lands, whereas a vast majority of the affected population economically relied on agriculturally based livelihoods.

Parwan province, especially its capital Charikar was most affected amongst the provinces affected by floods in terms of human casualties as a result of collapsed houses' building/structures, poorly planned urbanization by the residents and local authorities, building houses in the mid basin of the river and at its very edges. In other provinces, the floods mainly hit rural areas, destroyed agricultural lands and existing irrigation system, damaged and destroyed houses, but to a relatively lower degree. Destruction of connecting roads to far located districts and villages created a big gap of access of the resident population to markets. This worsened the food security situation in general, especially for the people affected by the floods. The COVID-19 outbreak, cities lockdown and hike in prices had already made life difficult for all, impacting socioeconomic, psychosocial and social conditions of the vulnerable populations. The flooding compounded the problems and threatened the lives of many vulnerable people who hardly have enough money or food to live on and 100 per cent relying on agricultural lands or daily waged activities to fulfil their basic needs.

Other government departments and international organizations, which were available on the ground, mainly committed to providing WASH, shelter, protection, and livelihoods restoration supports to the affected populations. ARCS, using its existing resources such as mobile health teams, and basic health clinics, distributed available household items and hygiene kits in its warehouses, as well as provide basic health and treatment services to the people in need in five provinces (Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir, Paktika, and Maidan Wardak). Under this DREF operation, ARCS provided emergency food assistance to 5,909 floods-affected households.

Risk Analysis

ARCS presence in communities in the form of trained volunteers is its strongest point for mitigation of security risks and good acceptability of ARCS and its programmes at the community level. ARCS is regularly informed of the security situation, safe and unsafe ways to travel through, due to ARCS positive involvements in communities and good humanitarian image built through the delivery of humanitarian assistance for over seven decades, vast access and its active existence in every corner of the country. In addition, good communities mobilization and sensitization with respect to a specific project and keeping communities engaged in all stages of the programme (starting from the assessment and beneficiaries verification until the assistance distribution and conducting last round of PDM), decisions were always made through participation and involvement of local communities and encapsulating the feedback of communities into programme cycle, specifically, on choosing the best location for distribution, proper timing and dates for distribution, that made it best safe both for staff and beneficiaries travelling from residences to the distribution site and safe return.

ARCS followed standard SoPs for distribution of relief goods (cash/food/NFI), conducting beneficiaries' sensitization on the date of distribution, putting in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centre, and marked queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centre. Beneficiaries were invited to come to the distribution centre in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they had to spend queuing outside.

Regarding safety and security, ARCS had been utilizing community engagement and acceptance building. ARCS' security management staff implemented standard, though heightened, mitigation measures including, varying journey timings and routes; carefully controlling information surrounding movements and activities; ongoing stakeholder mapping and engagement to ensure understanding and communication of potential grievances; and regular check.

Furthermore, the implementation of all activities including but not limited to beneficiaries' sensitization, beneficiaries' selection and verification and distribution of food assistance were completed taking into consideration the SoPs of distribution in the COVID-19 context. To prevent COVID-19 from further spreading, besides sensitizing beneficiaries on distribution-related information for about five minutes, they were also sensitized about COVID-19 of keeping physical distance, wearing a mask and washing hands. Furthermore, all staff and volunteers involved in distribution had to mandatorily keep the COVID-19 precautionary measures including but not limited to wearing masks, observing physical distance and frequently using hand sanitizer, hand washing facilities, and sanitizers were available in distribution sites and beneficiaries were asked to do so as well.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The initial proposed strategy and plan of this DREF operation had been to provide life-saving assistance to address the immediate food needs of 5,000 flood-affected households in Parwan, Paktika, Panjshir, Kapisa, and Maidan Wardak provinces for one month. Based on the reports and findings of the joint needs assessment carried out by the emergency operation committee, the affected populations were found in need of immediate food assistance. This also aligns with IFRC's broader emergency response strategy for food security to ensure that the disaster affected families have access to food of sufficient quality and quantity to meet daily basic needs.

Due to the disruption of markets, the chosen modality to deliver this assistance was the distribution of food packages that covered one month of the food basket for a family of seven (based on the standard of ARCS food security programming) to complement the overall assistance by the National Society.

As per the request of ARCS, a one-month no-cost extension was granted, in order to purchase 909 more food packages from the savings made and distribute it to the most in need left out from assistance in Panjshir and Kapisa provinces of the country.

Stakeholders' coordination and consultation

From the very onset of disaster, ARCS had been there and been actively participating in provincial disaster management committee (PDMC) meetings, where governmental and non-government organizations volunteered and tasked to perform the needs assessment and ARCS played its vital role in reaching out to families living in outskirts of the country where no other organization could access. Continuing its efforts in response to the disaster, ARCS stayed in close contact with the existing coordination bodies including ANDMA/UNOCHA and the emergency operation committee and also had



Top management of IFRC, ECHO and ARCS holds meeting with governor of Panjshir. (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)

been in a close loop with FSAC country and regional representatives while assisting the 5,909 households in the five flood-affected provinces.



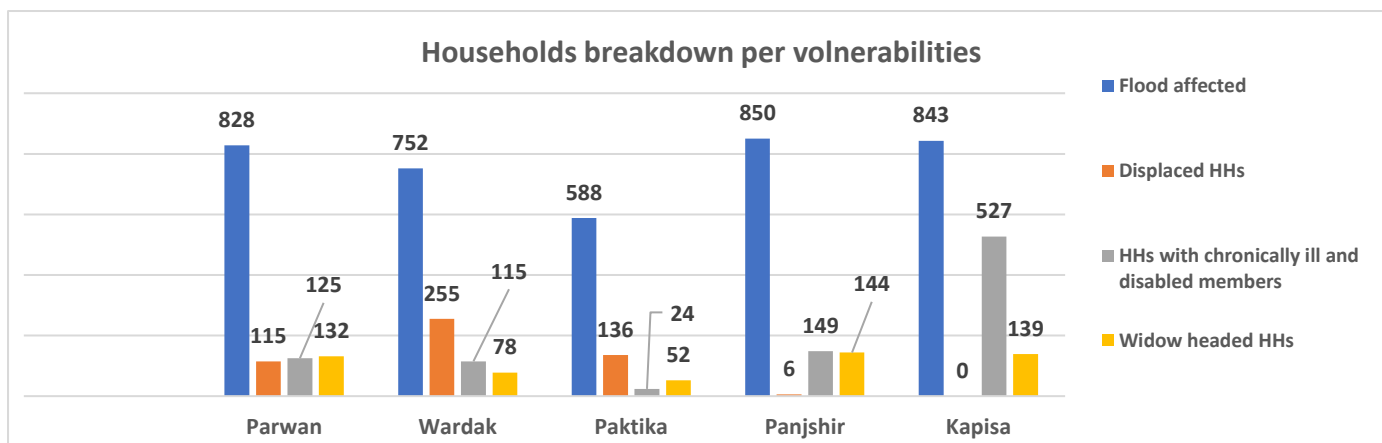
A delegation from ARCS, IFRC and ECHO holding a meeting with heads of Shura of affected population, Panjshir province. (Photos: ARCS/IFRC)

Assessment of people affected

As part of ARCS's standard practices, ARCS followed three stages in the implementation of the beneficiaries' assessment:

- 1) ARCS held coordination and consultation meetings at provincial and district levels with both government and non-government organizations to map communities for selection of beneficiaries and ensure prevention of duplication from the very beginning.
- 2) Once communities were selected, ARCS went to communities to sensitize heads of shura, members of Shura and common residents of the communities on the objectives, timeline, target beneficiaries and beneficiaries' selection criteria of the project and then asked communities to prepare a list of the most vulnerable household falling under the shared criteria.
- 3) ARCS staff and volunteers then entered the data of the introduced beneficiaries and on a random basis verified the households, making sure that the introduced household fully meeting the selection criteria. The final list produced was then shared with members of communities for their information and results of their involvement in the project lifecycle.

Verification and registration of people to be reached



ARCS in collaboration with community representatives completed beneficiary selection in all five target provinces. A total of 5,909 households were verified and registered with the following details: Kapisa 1,509 households; Paktika 800 households; Panjshir 1,200 households; Parwan 1,200 households; and Maidan Wardak 1,200 households. For cross-referencing, community discussions were conducted with Community Development Council (CDC) leaders, and with a number of community members (men and women) who were not part of the CDCs. The criteria that had been defined at the proposal stage was accepted and implemented. The criteria that had been defined at the proposal stage, which was also agreed by local authorities and communities, included the following:

Mandatory / eligibility criteria: 1) Households that have been highly affected by floods; 2) Households that are having unstable and/or no income generation opportunities; and 3) Households with two or more children under the age of five unable to meet their basic food needs.

Within this, the following vulnerability criteria were 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 who have members with disability members that are unable to work; and 6) Pregnant and lactating women.

Procurement of food items

IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation supported ARCS to procure food items from the local market in Kabul. Considering that international procurement would take a long time and such food assistance had to reach flood-affected people as soon as possible, IFRC Country Delegation and ARCS preferred to do the procurement from local markets but ensuring that IFRC procurement policy and procedures were strictly considered and applied. In the local market, particularly in Kabul, some qualified and experienced local food suppliers have the capacity of supplying food items when needed. Some of the international humanitarian organizations and government departments – who are also having food security programming – purchase the foods from local suppliers too. Before distributing the food items to beneficiaries, ARCS had the quality of all food items tested by the Ministry of Public Health. Only when the Ministry of Public Health was done with the lab test and test results were submitted to ARCS, ARCS allowed the supplier to transfer the food items to ARCS warehouses, which were then transported by ARCS logistics to the target provinces.

Access and acceptance

ARCS through its strong commitment to humanitarian principles and principles of the RCRC movement, has gained good acceptance all over Afghanistan, had enjoyed both good access and acceptance throughout the implementation of the DREF operation. In addition to ARCS strong commitment towards its principled mandate, ARCS has a strong network of volunteers spread across the country in each corner of Afghanistan, their effective coordination and attachment with ARCS makes ARCS more powerful and acceptable organization throughout the country and helps ARCS to spread its any message/word in quite lesser time in vast Afghan communities and the volunteer there could assist local communities better under the message and eventually having a good impact and consequences. Before entering into any community as discussed, communities' participation is ensured and are sensitized on the type of assistance planned to deliver and on the other hand effective coordination is done with either local government/dominant groups and upon green light further activities are conducted. Continuous monitoring visits were carried out through the ARCS staff members in implementation areas to support the operation's activities and ensure compliance according to the IFRC standards, as well as beneficiary satisfaction and the management of the available resources.

Community engagement and accountability

The community engagement and accountability (CEA) approach emphasizes a more regular or permanent presence in the communities and strong community engagement from the outset in line with the Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA where possible. 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 (PDM) activities.

The main activities of the operation were regularly accompanied by community-based information and sensitization sessions in the community. Community members were heavily involved in project implementation – not just with regards to this emergency operation, but through all projects implemented by ARCS. The community engagement was facilitated and supported by the pre-established community volunteers (50 per cent male and 50 per cent female), which played instrumental roles in facilitating the identification of particularly vulnerable individuals and groups, and implementation of the planned activities. Community elders/representatives took an active role in beneficiary assessment and selection.

The community members, including both ARCS volunteers and other community elders, also supported the implementation of the project activities in their respective communities and also in conducting monitoring visits. In group discussions/meetings, normally held at the community level, the community members also shared their thoughts and feedback on the activities happening in their villages. Most of the feedbacks included 1) applauses to ARCS for its humanitarian supports and 2) requests for further food security and livelihoods programming in their communities due to chronic issues of unemployment and poverty. In response, ARCS re-discussed the nature of its humanitarian programming and that the food aid the floods affected households had received was under a short-term emergency food assistance project. ARCS also discussed that its operations rely a lot on external funding. When and if ARCS receives further humanitarian financial assistance for longer-term recovery programming, ARCS will certainly provide livelihood and other longer-term assistance to people in need via its recovery or community resilience building projects.

ARCS maintained a beneficiary feedback and complaints mechanism through the community-based approach, with a field-based presence that allowed communities to submit face-to-face feedback and complaints and receive answers. ARCS also shares complaints and feedback focal points' details with beneficiaries during distribution dates, so that beneficiaries can raise certain confidential matters that could not be dealt with in face-to-face communication and are

handled in light of protection and GBV guiding principles. This complemented complaint desks established at the distribution sites. In addition, ARCS collected feedback and complaints during PDM data collection and issues raised were included in the PDM report.

Food distribution methodology

Distribution teams were formed, ranging from 6-10 members as distribution volume suggested, teams composed of representatives from PMER and DM of ARCS HQ and staff and volunteers specific to regions, where security situation and cultural norms allowed gender balance was always considered.

Prior to starting food distribution at a specific location, the distribution of food items was well coordinated within the organization and as well as with local/provincial authorities of that province/region. Once the food items reached to a specific distribution point, before actually starting the distribution, dates (number of days for distribution) as well as selection of appropriate place for distribution were considered in close consultation with local communities and heads of shura of those specific locations. All of the selected distribution sites had all the basic facilities (shade, water, soap, seats or space appropriate for sitting).

Distribution sites were arranged with clear entry and exit points. Prior to entering the distribution site, on a group basis, beneficiaries were sensitized about the whole food distribution process, including entities involved. Crowd controlling staff was placed both at entry and exit points who were guiding beneficiaries on the steps within the distribution site.

In order to avoid a huge rush at the distribution site, beneficiaries were called for distribution on CDC/Shura basis, and vulnerable groups (disabled person, elderly persons and pregnant women) were prioritized. Furthermore, food rations were well placed at distribution points, having space of 1-2 metres in between, beneficiaries were called into distribution site from the list of beneficiaries, right after which their identification/verification was made based on holding documents and after receiving their thumbprints they were guided to receive their food items, once again detailing them on amount of food they are entitled to and providing them information on other procedures to follow to within the distribution process.

ARCS PMER team had established complaint feedback desks at the distribution sites, where the beneficiaries were registering their complaints (if any), they had been directly observing the food distribution process, filling a checklist for monitoring and also they were interviewing beneficiaries. During the whole distribution process, ARCS didn't receive any sharp complaints, most of the project beneficiaries were thanking the ARCS and donor agencies for their generous support. Also, because of chronic unemployment and poverty issues in their communities, they were requesting ARCS for further food security and livelihood supports. Some minority had stated that the food items could not meet their needs given their huge family size of over 13. Following the above mentioned processes and procedures, the food distribution was started on 10 December 2020 and completed on 20 February 2021. Food packages were distributed to 5,909 flood-affected households in five provinces (Parwan, Wardak, Panjshir, Paktika and Kapisa) of Afghanistan, as detailed below:



Beneficiary receiving food aid, Mahmodi Raqi district, Kapisa province . (Photo: ACS)

No.	Province	Families' composition			# of households
		Children	Women	Men	
1	Parwan	4,163	2,177	1,534	1,200
2	Wardak	5,422	2,969	2,115	1,200
3	Paktika	5,279	1,928	1,648	800
4	Panjshir	6,124	1,459	1,300	1,200
5	Kapisa	7,119	1,576	2,024	1,509

Progressive monitoring of the intervention

ARCS PMER (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting) staff carried out continuous monitoring visits to implementation communities in target provinces. Baseline data collection, food distribution to beneficiaries, and meetings with community-based committees/community elders were monitored through those visits, where all available challenges were gathered, some were addressed on spot at field levels and some others of different natures were recorded and were worked on for its resolution and utilized those as lessons learned for other locations.

Post distribution monitoring




ARCS PMER team collecting PDM data, Charikar city Parwan province. (Photo: ARCS)

Post distribution monitoring (PDM) followed by this food distribution was meant to measure the efficiency and effectiveness of ARCS/IFRC services, ensure the accessibility of the assistance to all target groups (irrespective of gender, age, disability), and provide evidence to show the impact of the project. The information from the monitoring report was used to bring improvements in decision making, address challenges and pave the way for a smoother and transparent food items distribution process in the future. The purpose of this monitoring was also to enhance accountability and transparency to the targeted communities, government and other stakeholders. The major findings from the PDM were as follow:

- Out of 180 interviews, the team were able to conduct interviews with 15 (8 per cent) women and 165 (92 per cent) men in both Parwan and Kapisa provinces.
- All the beneficiaries received their food items such as bean, rice, sugar, salt, tea, cooking oil and high energy biscuits. A total of 32 families were absent in Parwan province during the distribution and their food items were stocked in the Parwan ARCS branch. Later on, the families approached the ARCS Parwan branch and received their food item packages.
- All the beneficiaries were quite happy with the way they have been selected (fair selection process), the selected site for the food distribution, behaviour of the ARCS staff and the amount of the food items.
- In general, 95 per cent of the beneficiaries were happy. The 5 per cent who were not happy indicated that the distribution site was quite far from their living area. They added, the food items were not quite enough for them to cover for one month, and they have requested ARCS to provide them with more food items.
- All the beneficiaries were quite happy with the quality of the distributed food items.
- Some of the beneficiaries spent between AFN 200 to AFN 250 as taxi rent to get the food items from the distribution site to their houses.
- The food items packed were labelled with logos of ARCS, IFRC and ECHO.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 41,363 Male: 20,681 Female: 20,681</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households with acceptable food consumption score.	5,000	5,909
Output 1.1: Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people; flood-affected women, men and children of all ages who receive one-month food responses in a timely manner.	35,000	41,363

Narrative description of achievements:



Food distribution moments, Charikar city, Parwan Province. (Photos: ARCS)



Food distribution moments, Mahmudi Raqi district, Kapisa province. (Photos: ARCS)

ARCS staff targeted the communities with flood-affected households. The criteria for targeting the flood-affected households were drawn from the initial assessment and discussed with other organizations working in the area — including UNOCHA and the representatives of ANDMA — as well as with the provincial- and district-level authorities, and local communities. For purpose of cross-referencing, community-based discussions were held with the members and leaders of the Community Development Councils and with several community members who were not part of the CDCs. Assessment forms were prepared including assessment criteria for each beneficiary household. At each site, CDC leaders and members submitted the beneficiary lists, following the criteria for receiving food assistance. ARCS staff and volunteers visited all potential beneficiaries of food assistance in order to assess their level of vulnerability. Communication with the CDCs on the criteria was strong, and all listed households were confirmed as having met the selection criteria. After this was completed, the assessment sheet was signed. The session also served to avoid double-counting. A total of 5,909 households (Kapisa 1,509 households; Paktika 800 households; Panjshir 1,200 households; Parwan 1,200 households; and Maidan Wardak 1,200 households) were enrolled in food assistance activities.

ARCS reached a total of 5,909 households by distributing one-off food assistance to them. A total of 41,363 individuals were regarded as direct beneficiaries of the project due to one household member having access to food distributions through this operation. Each household received one complete food package which covered a monthly food basket for a family of seven. As distribution was carried out transparently and beneficiaries and community leaders were fully aware of the entitlements, the likelihood of misuse of food items was limited. The beneficiaries, who were interviewed, after they received the food packages, stated that they received the full food entitlement.

Challenges

Followings are some of the challenges ARCS experienced during the implementation of this emergency operation:

a) Procurement of food items took longer than expected. Though IFRC supported ARCS to do the procurement from a local market in Kabul, procurement of food took longer for ARCS. Delays in procurement further delayed the distribution of food assistance to flood-affected households who needed such assistance as soon as possible after the disaster (flooding). Hence, it is strongly recommended that when local markets are functioning in target provinces and when it is feasible, ARCS must use cash transfer modality for similar response operations in future. Cash transfer programming is faster as well as it is cost-effective, and it will also give the beneficiaries the choice of purchasing food as per their needs.

b) The target provinces (Kapisa, Maidan Wardak, Parwan, Paktika, and Panjshir) are amongst IPC (integrated food security phase classification) phase 3 (crisis) that are experiencing severe food insecurity conditions. This situation made it very difficult and challenging for ARCS to finalize the list of beneficiaries to receive food assistance. In all flood-affected communities, many other households have been suffering from chronic food insecurity issues. ARCS therefore greatly relied on to support of community elders in selecting the target beneficiary households. Considering the chronic food insecurity issues in the country, it is recommended to implement continuous recovery and community resilience building projects that can address the food insecurity issues more sustainably.

Lessons Learned

- Distance to distribution sites should be accurately calculated and to the extent possible, more distribution sites to be arranged as few beneficiaries had been found travelling long distances to reach the distribution site.
- A number of the affected provinces didn't have BDRTs, it was found that some of the staff and volunteers were lacking the required skills for responding to emergencies. Therefore, BDRTs to be established in each province and be ready for any potential disaster to respond to.
- Plans for beneficiaries' assessment/verification shall be designed/plotted in close coordination with ARCS zone/branch levels staff, as they have good knowledge of the situation and location to those who travel from ARCS HQ.
- During post distribution monitoring it was also found that there were more eligible families than the target considered in couple of provinces, it indicates that less time was considered for beneficiaries' assessment and assistance was planned based on initial figures.



Protection Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 41,363

Male: 20,681

Female: 20,681

Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

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

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.</i>	Yes	Yes

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies were well integrated into this operation. The ARCS PGI focal point was involved in supporting PGI approaches in the operation aiming to ensure equal and equitable access to essential services, safeguarding the dignity, access, participation and safety of all people affected by the floods. The PGI focal point provides practical guidance on how to mainstream these principles in all sectors, taking into consideration gender, age, disability and other diversity factors. This includes limiting people's exposure to the risks of violence and abuse and ensuring that emergency operations "do no harm". The minimum standards also include guidance on SGBV prevention and response and child protection, women, men, girls and boys in the target areas of floods and drought response in Afghanistan. Protection and community engagement and accountability approaches are still to be mainstreamed through all activities under the emergency operation.

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

Challenges

Women, girls and children in the country are often unable to fully participate in civil life, face heightened risks of discrimination and abuse if divorced, separated or widowed, including expulsion, forced remarriage and hampered property ownership. Holistic approaches should be implemented to improve the resilience and self-reliance of affected households, as well as enhance positive engagement of governance structures, reducing vulnerabilities and mitigating short and longer-term protection risks. Timely identification of protection risks and violations through systematic and coordinated protection monitoring and analysis can inform preventative, responsive, and remedial interventions, as well as enhance accountability. Appropriate interventions include evidence-based advocacy, protection specific service delivery and community-based mobilization, mitigation and prevention activities all aimed at creating a protection-conducive environment.

Lessons Learned

- It was found that where (relatively secure location) ARCS could observe gender balance in its distribution teams, every female-headed household was approaching the distribution site to receive their ration by themselves, hence, assistance was taken by the right person without any intermediary practices.
- Though ARCS PGI focal points from ARCS HQ had quality and effective engagement in this DREF implementation, for an in-depth transfer of knowledge to ARCS PGI focal points countrywide, it is recommended that all provincial focal points of PGI receive thorough training on PGI and its application in emergencies.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome S1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation	1	1

Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation provided with briefing/orientation	30	35

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of effective and coordinated international disaster response?	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RDRD deployed.	1	0

Output S2.1.2: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Procurement is carried as per IFRC standards.	100 % compliance	100 % compliance

Output S2.1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention.	Yes – Inter Agency Group	Yes – Inter Agency Group

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps.	1	1

Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of national appeal launched.	1	0
Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted.	1	1*
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Since the first half of September 2020, all major activities were completed without major challenges, including but not limited to initial project coordination and consultation meetings with stakeholders, contracting local food supplier, conducting need assessments, communities mobilization/sensitization, distribution of relief goods to 5,909 floods affected vulnerable population, conducting process monitoring and final PDM of the operation, well in advance to the extended end date of the operation (28 February 2021).</p> <p>This operation coincided with the closing and evaluation of three other emergency response operations (AHF-funded emergency food security project in Daikundi province, emergency appeal drought and floods, and COVID-19 disaster response plan). *In a lesson learned session ARCS organized for these bigger response operations, ARCS also covered and discussed its other emergency response operations such as this DREF.</p>		
Challenges		
No major challenges were faced.		

D. Financial Report

The DREF fund allocated for this operation is CHF 427,225 out of which CHF 395,899 (93 per cent) was utilized as of DREF operation completion. The remaining balance will be returned to the DREF pot. Detailed expenditure is outlined in the attached financial report. (Click [here](#))

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO, Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the ARCS, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click for:

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

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

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

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

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How we work

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

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/9-2021/3	Operation	MDRAF006
Budget Timeframe	2020/9-2021/2	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/May/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF006 - Afghanistan - Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 08 Sep 2020 to 28 Feb 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	427,225
DREF Allocations	427,225
Expenditure	-395,899
Closing Balance	31,326

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction		962	-962
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	408,960	394,929	14,031
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	408,960	395,892	13,068
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	266		266
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	4,260	7	4,253
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	4,260		4,260
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	9,479		9,479
Strategy for implementation Total	18,265	7	18,257
Grand Total	427,225	395,899	31,326

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2020/9-2021/3	Operation	MDRAF006
Budget Timeframe	2020/9-2021/2	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 18/May/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF006 - Afghanistan - Flash Floods

Operating Timeframe: 08 Sep 2020 to 28 Feb 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	354,000	319,034	34,966
Food	354,000	316,965	37,035
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene		2,069	-2,069
Logistics, Transport & Storage	12,000	4,934	7,066
Storage		528	-528
Distribution & Monitoring		3,494	-3,494
Transport & Vehicles Costs	12,000	911	11,089
Personnel	6,750	24,963	-18,213
National Staff	6,500	5,000	1,500
National Society Staff		19,963	-19,963
Volunteers	250		250
Workshops & Training	4,000		4,000
Workshops & Training	4,000		4,000
General Expenditure	24,400	22,805	1,595
Travel	22,000	796	21,204
Information & Public Relations		222	-222
Office Costs	2,400	81	2,319
Communications		593	-593
Financial Charges		12,978	-12,978
Other General Expenses		1,787	-1,787
Shared Office and Services Costs		6,348	-6,348
Indirect Costs	26,075	24,163	1,912
Programme & Services Support Recover	26,075	24,163	1,912
Grand Total	427,225	395,899	31,326