

<b>(Revised) Appeal No:</b> MDRAF007	<b>To be assisted:</b> 280,000 people	<b>Appeal launched:</b> 10/04/2021
	<b>DREF allocated:</b> 500,000 CHF	<b>Revision n° 1: issued:</b> 03/08/21
<b>Glide No:</b> DR-2021-000022-AFG	<b>Funding requirements:</b> 15 million CHF	<b>Appeal ends:</b> 30/06/2022
	<b>14.3 million CHF funding gap</b>	


This revised Emergency Appeal seeks a total of **15 million Swiss francs**, an increase from 7.5 million Swiss francs, to scale up the **Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)** humanitarian response following the drought emergency announcement by the President of Afghanistan and complex humanitarian crisis which resulted from the compounding impact of the drought, conflict, COVID-19 and other pre-existing development issues. This Emergency Appeal will enable the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support the ARCS to deliver assistance and support to **280,000 people** over **15 months**. The extended timeframe will enable ARCS to efficiently implement the planned relief and recovery activities.

### A. EVENTS TO DATE



ARCS volunteers provide Cash for Food Assistance in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, as 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 indicated that 16 provinces were experiencing severe impacts of La Niña events and below average precipitation.
- February 2021:** Afghanistan public authorities indicated the need to scale up response to the drought. The World Bank Board approved a grant of 97.5 million US dollars to provide cash support to people affected by drought and COVID-19.

- 
- 20 March 2021:** IFRC allocated 500,000 Swiss francs from Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society to initiate a response operation.
  - 10 April 2021:** IFRC issued an Emergency Appeal seeking 7.5 million Swiss francs to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society to deliver relief and early recovery assistance and support to 210,000 people in 10 provinces for 12 months.
  - 22 June 2021:** The President of Afghanistan officially declared an emergency state to the current drought.
  - 3 August 2021:** IFRC launched a Revised Emergency Appeal with the targeted population increased to 280,000 individuals and the funding requirement to 15 million Swiss francs to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in delivering assistance and support to drought affected households in 15 months.

## Situation overview

Afghanistan is facing a drought which was officially declared by the President of the country on 22 June 2021. This is the second drought to impact Afghanistan in four years. During the second half of 2020, a moderate to strong La Niña phenomenon was registered and resulted in below-average rainfall and snowfall across Afghanistan. The dry conditions affected the snow accumulation that is critical for water supply during the spring and summer agricultural seasons. According to the government, in 2021, the country's wheat crop will be reduced by nearly two million tons due to this. More than three million livestock are also in danger of death due to lack of fodder and water.

The drought has also exacerbated the hard living conditions in a country that is grappling with escalating conflict, COVID-19 and crippling poverty. COVID-19 cases have steadily risen since mid-May 2021, with compounding socio-economic impacts. Moreover, the years of conflict and instability have caused livelihood disruption and displacements. Despite efforts for a peace deal, this has not yet translated into a sustained reduction in violence. In the first half of 2021, an estimated 140,691 people have been displaced due to armed clashes. Still, internally displaced people (IDPs) from previous years are unable to return to their places of origin mainly because of continued conflict, loss of livelihoods, and a lack of economic opportunities. The ongoing complex humanitarian emergencies – with the drought being the worst – in the country have not only increased the vulnerability but have severely impacted the living conditions and livelihoods in many parts of the country. The impacted populations are in need of emergency food assistance, lifesaving health care, and means to restore and protect their livelihoods. Currently, around 11 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity due to conflict, COVID-19, high food prices, and rampant unemployment<sup>1</sup>.

## Summary of Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

ARCS initiated the response for the drought in March 2021 with a DREF allocation and later in April, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal due to the increasing needs. Early action is necessary to reach the drought-affected people in their places of origin before displacement happens and ARCS initiated the response early to support the population in a timely manner.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> [Afghanistan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Report \(Mar - Nov 2021\) | HumanitarianResponse](#)

Through this appeal, ARCS provided emergency food security assistance to the most vulnerable amongst the drought-affected households in Badghis, Baghlan, and Faryab provinces. A total of 3,500 households (1,100 households in Badghis province; 1,200 households in Baghlan province; and 1,200 households in Faryab province) received the first round (of two rounds) of cash for food assistance which amounts to 82.5 Swiss francs per household. Additionally, with financial assistance from various donors outside this appeal, ARCS also provided short-term emergency food security assistance through cash assistance to affected households in Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Sar-i-Pul, and Kandahar provinces.

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 International Humanitarian Law, 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 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 Participating 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, Turkish Red Crescent, and Qatar Red Crescent.

## **B. THE OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Needs assessment and targeting**

#### **Needs assessment**

On 22 June, the Government of Afghanistan officially declared drought in the country. In the South region of the country, farmers are reporting water shortages which are threatening agricultural outputs. In the East region, reduced food production is expected to contribute to an already dire food security situation exacerbated by the effects of La Niña and a continued dry spell. In the West part, the provinces are facing either extreme or severe drought conditions and humanitarian partners have commenced assisting vulnerable people with food, water, sanitation and hygiene, cash and the rehabilitation of water sources. In the North-East region, drought does not pose an immediate threat at present, but forecasted water shortages may affect 60 per cent of farmers (about 586,000 people) in 12 districts during the upcoming agricultural seasons beginning in September 2021. The declaration of the drought comes at a time when Afghanistan is experiencing a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases and intensifying conflict against the background of ongoing peace talks and the withdrawal of US forces<sup>2</sup>.

The winter seeds are usually planted in October and November, after seasonal rains sufficiently replenish soil moisture. However, 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 have been below-average, stemming from La Niña conditions across most of the country. Inadequate winter precipitation negatively affects the establishment and development of key seeds 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. Rainfed production areas in northern, western, and some parts of central regions of the country are most at risk. 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 winter wet season is also 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 the

---

<sup>2</sup> OCHA in Afghanistan, 28 June 2021.

current drought. Impacts will include insufficient food, loss of assets, the likelihood of drought-induced migration, reduced planting areas, and distress selling of livestock.

Affected communities need to expand additional resources to compensate for limited local water availability and poor water quality. Those who cannot afford to purchase water through private vendors may de-prioritize water for sanitation and hygiene, which in turn will increase the risk of infectious and waterborne diseases, including COVID-19 and acute watery diarrhea (AWD). At the same time, limited existing or accessible healthcare is a high risk in the affected provinces.

Poor households, such as female-headed and smallholder farmers, will be hit hardest by the drought due to reduced household wheat stocks and income from farm labour and food consumption deficits will continue through the next harvest. For 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 and IFRC have revised this Emergency Appeal to align the response plan with the government's national drought response plan and to extend the target provinces from 10 to 13 provinces of which all are severely affected by the drought **Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Daikundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Nuristan, Sar-i-Pul, and Urozgan.**

The key reasons for revising this Emergency Appeal are **a)** as noted above, recent analyses done and a report produced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL), and other relevant technical ministries that have informed some changes in the list of provinces that were earlier classified as the most affected areas; **b)** due to the escalation of armed conflicts and significant negative changes in the security situation in target provinces, other service providers including government departments and international humanitarian organizations have been experiencing further limitations to access the drought-affected districts. Hence, ARCS is expected to step in and cover more hard-to-reach districts, thus targeting a greater number of households (from 20,000 to 40,000 households). This is mainly because ARCS is very well-known by all stakeholders and has a good level of acceptance and access in the country. Hence, under this revised Emergency Appeal, in addition to the initial target provinces, ARCS will have a greater focus on hard-to-reach districts.

In addressing the food security needs, for most locations, the modality will be unconditional cash grants through a financial service provider. In a few 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.

## **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 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.

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 sub-national 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.



The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan has set up a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-term programmes while supporting ARCS organizational development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC 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 Secretariat in Geneva.

Collectively, Red Cross Red Crescent 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 drought 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 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 through the Operational Plan, as well as through bilateral programmes supported by other Red Cross Red Crescent partners including the ICRC. These programmes and projects compliment the activities in this appeal. These include youth development, disaster risk management, community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), restoring family links, community resilience building, dissemination of International Humanitarian Law, 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. This includes complaints and feedback mechanism.

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. ARCS and IFRC

is also developing specific risk mitigation measures for the operation due to the developing situation in country. 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 the safe delivery of project activities. IFRC also coordinates security arrangements with the ICRC, including in sharing of security information.

### Scenario planning

In addition to the drought, the country has already been grappling with escalating conflict, a devastating new wave of COVID-19 and crippling poverty. COVID-19 cases have steadily risen to alarming levels after mid-May 2021. The daily average number of new cases is far surpassing figures seen during the peak of the first and second waves in the country. The cases being reported per day increased from fewer than 200 in early May to more than 1,800 in early June 2021. The ongoing negative developments in the security situation is another critical factor for livelihood disruption and displacements in the country. Despite efforts for a peace deal, this has not yet translated into a sustained reduction in violence. In the first half of 2021, an estimated 140,691 people have been displaced due to armed conflicts. Still, IDPs from previous years are unable to return to their places of origin mainly because of continued conflict, loss of livelihoods, and a lack of economic opportunities. To this end, it is anticipated that such compounded factors will further deteriorate the ongoing humanitarian situations in the country. Should the target provinces – covered by this Emergency Appeal – experience large conflict-induced displacements, a further revision will be done to incorporate the new internal displacements thus ensuring that ARCS addresses the impacts of the multiple disasters.

## C. PROPOSED AREAS OF INTERVENTION

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION



#### Livelihoods and Basic Needs

**People targeted: 280,000**

Male: 137,200

Female: 142,800

**Requirements (CHF): 11,710,000**

#### Proposed intervention

##### Emergency Food Security

Emergency food security assistance will be provided to **40,000** financially poor and most vulnerable households whose primary livelihood means are affected by drought in the target 13 provinces: Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Daikundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Nuristan, Sar-i-Pul, and Urozgan. In total, 40,000 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. The value of each transfer will be 82.5 Swiss francs per month and will cover 100 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 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. 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. Provide training to ARCS branch staff, BDRT (Branch District Response Team) and volunteers in its CVA standard operating procedures.
2. Map implementation villages and communities.
3. Finalize criteria for selecting households to receive assistance in coordination with other actors.
4. Select and verify households to receive assistance, including forming community committees.
5. Distribute emergency food assistance (cash / in-kind) to **40,000 drought-affected households**.
6. Undertake market assessment and monitoring and post-distribution monitoring activities.

### **Livelihoods Protection and Restoration**

ARCS aims to reach 20,000 households, who rely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods and are severely impacted by drought in 13 target provinces with livelihood restoration and protection activities to help them restore and revive their income sources. Where the security context allows, 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 income are fully or partially affected by the drought. An increased entrepreneurial training track and seed capital for project start-up will target 6,000 young adults from 6,000 households. The micro-enterprise activities will prioritize women participants to expand appropriate home-based self-employment options. ARCS will use knowledge from its recently implemented programme on women empowerment focusing on women for economic support in Balkh, Bamyān, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces.

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 smallholders/ farmers and 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 the enhanced capacity of project area households to have increased capacity to cope with the 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 are 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 detailed multisector assessments in target provinces.
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 13 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 Veterinary Workers. This will be implemented in partnership with the Department of Livestock.
6. Where local security context allows, establish community-based income generation activities for **6,000 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: 89,500**

Male: 45,696

Female: 43,904

**Requirements (CHF): 85,000**

### Proposed intervention

Droughts have negative impacts on different angles of life including health. In order to provide a complete response to the needs of the 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 handwashing benefits to prevent communicable diseases. Health projects and programmes that are supported through IFRC Operational Plan is also complementing the activities in this appeal.

People to be reached will include but are 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. Family hygiene kits, water filters and Aquatabs will be distributed to the multiple shocks affected households.

Specific activities:

1. Undertake community assessments to identify and select volunteers and beneficiaries to reach with specific health interventions.
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 and nutrition orientation sessions for volunteers.
5. Procure and distribute First Aid Kits for ARCS volunteers.
6. Undertake risk communication on COVID-19.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

**People targeted: 140,000**

Male: 68,600

Female: 71,400

**Requirements (CHF): 2,018,000**

### Proposed intervention

Since hygiene is closely linked with personal nutritional outcomes, poor WASH practices lead to an increase in morbidities, especially among children under five. Good sanitation and hygiene practices will also increase coping with and mitigating compounding risks of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

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, WASH activities will be part of the response package. The targeted communities will benefit from WASH-related hardware and software activities, which will include training of community volunteers on household water treatment, hygiene promotion including hand washing, awareness-raising campaigns, and distribution of hygiene kits, water filters and Aquatabs.



**WASH:** Access to adequate and safe drinking water through the distribution of water filters, Aquatabs and hygiene kits, including jerry cans. In order to provide clean water to severely affected families, water trucking for 2,000 households for a month is also planned in this intervention.

Specific activities:

1. Conduct household water treatment training sessions 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 40,000 hygiene kits (including appropriate menstrual hygiene materials) to 20,000 households. Each household will receive two hygiene kits.
6. Distribute water purification supplies (Aquatabs).
7. Distribute 20,000 water filters.
8. Implementation of community initiative water supply network micro-projects
9. Water trucking for 2,000 severely affected households for a month. The water trucking activities will be implemented only in areas where the needs are confirmed, and where ARCS is requested to cover those needs.
10. Provide briefing to assisted households on how to use/maintain water purification supplies and water filters.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

**People targeted: 280,000**

Male: 137,200

Female: 142,800

**Requirements (CHF): 23,000**

### Proposed intervention

During disasters, affected people are made more vulnerable by housing and economic insecurity. Vulnerable groups in Afghanistan such as children, the 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 the country. Women and Children, especially, who are widowed or unaccompanied children are at particular risk of abuse, marginalization and exploitation, 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 the use of a PSEA policy at all levels in the organisation, 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 CEA combined with 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's principles and approaches 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. 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: 280,000**

Male: 137,200

Female: 142,800

**Requirements (CHF): 91,000**

### **Proposed intervention**

#### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

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.

Addressing Afghanistan's complex humanitarian and environmental crises requires a holistic approach that prioritizes DRR and climate change adaptation (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 the 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 to support the community. IFRC has been supporting ARCS to implement long-term community-based disaster risk management programmes to strengthen the capacity of the most vulnerable communities so that they can cope with natural disasters and deal with changes that occurred or that may occur due to climate change phenomena. 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 community. The community-based training activities will be a combination of ARCS information dissemination, DRR activities, and first aid. The agricultural training activities, planned under the livelihood component, will also contribute to disaster risk reduction as more diversified sources of income and livelihoods improve the resilience of the population to disasters.

Disaster Risk Reduction projects and programmes including resilience programming that are supported through IFRC Operational Plan is also complimenting the activities in this appeal.

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): 138,000

#### 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 the prioritization of specific communities to be supported. This engagement will continue throughout the operation. IFRC and ARCS are an 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 including 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 a 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): 266,000

#### 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 the 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 the 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 to ensure safe delivery of operational activities. ARCS and IFRC also coordinate security arrangements with the ICRC, including in sharing of security information.

#### 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 continue to 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**

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 is deploying a photographer/videographer to ensure the production of high-quality audio-visual materials for use in the publicity efforts of this operation.

### **Logistics and supply chain management**

The IFRC logistics team in the Country Delegation will support ARCS with local in-kind procurement needs, ensuring compliance as per IFRC Procurement Procedures. For instance, under the Livelihoods and Basic Needs component of this operation, food packages will also be procured to support the impacted households in districts where households will have limited access to markets and where cash transfer modality will not be a suitable response option. IFRC and ARCS will ensure that the quality of food safety standards is fully adhered to. Most in-kind items will be sourced locally although hygiene kits may be procured internationally with the support of the IFRC Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Asia Pacific (GHS&SCM-AP) team in Kuala Lumpur. With a bulk of deliveries set to be done using cash as modality, ARCS – with support of IFRC – has signed long-term framework contracts with two Financial Service Providers (mobile money companies) who will support ARCS's cash transfer programming.

### **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 will 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 the existing capacity for supporting ARCS, the only new recruitment will be for planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER). In addition, an Operation Coordinator, from IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, will be deployed to Afghanistan during August and September who will support the in-country teams in operationalization of the activities planned under this emergency operation. More details are in the Emergency Plan of Action.

## **Strengthening National Societies**

**Requirements (CHF): 669,000**

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 the 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 the **financial management capacity** of its branches in the 12 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**. Additionally, specific capacity enhancement on cash programming for ARCS is being addressed through an ongoing project within IFRC operational plan (e.g. Red Ready) which compliments the cash transfer activities that is being conducted in this appeal.

## D. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

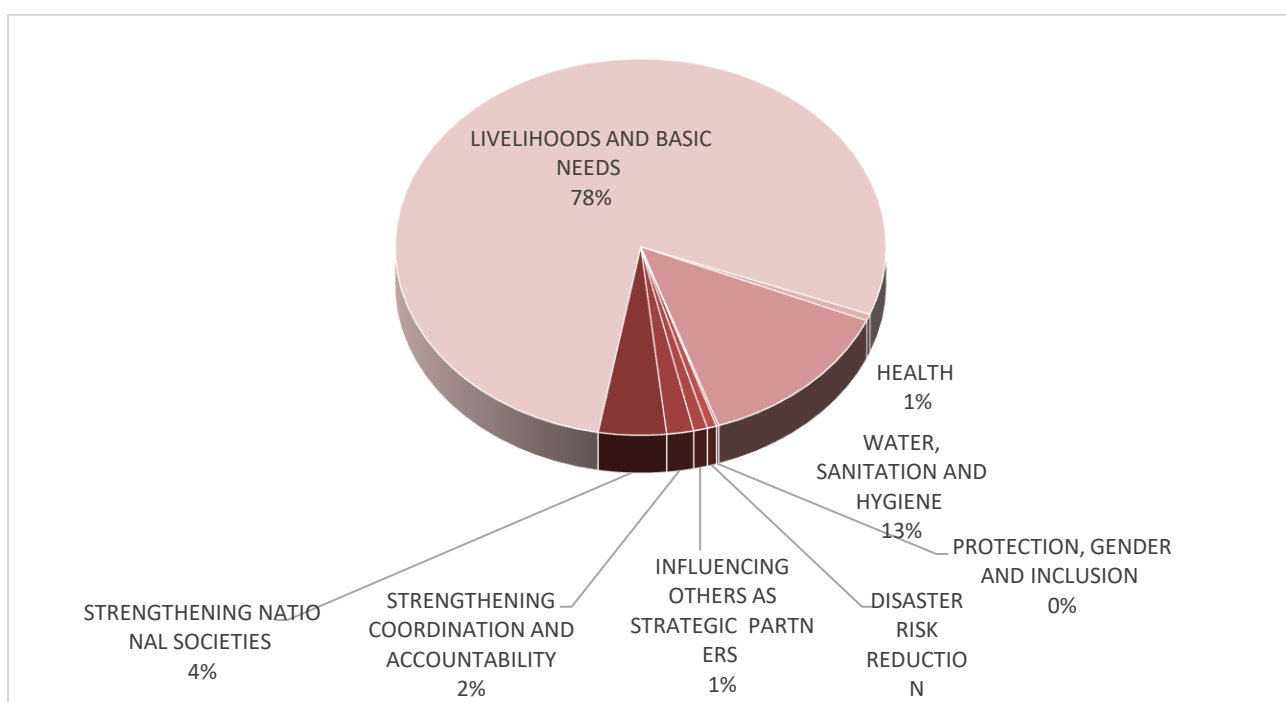
### EMERGENCY APPEAL

#### MDRAF007 - AFGHANISTAN - DROUGHT

##### Funding requirements - summary

Area of Intervention	Needs in CHF
LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS	11,710,000
HEALTH	85,000
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE	2,018,000
PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION	23,000
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	91,000
INFLUENCING OTHER AS STRATEGIC PARTNERS	138,000
STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY	266,000
STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SOCIETIES	669,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*





## Contact information

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

### In the Afghan Red Crescent Society

- Abdulrahman Kalantary, Director of Disaster Management; phone: +93 792 22 21 82 and +93728900114; email: [abr99@gmail.com](mailto:abr99@gmail.com)
- Mohammad Taib Yosufzai Amin, USG Support Services; phone: +93 728 9000 25; email: [taib\\_amin@outlook.com](mailto:taib_amin@outlook.com) and [taibamin94@yahoo.com](mailto:taibamin94@yahoo.com)

### In the IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation, Kabul

- Necephor Mghendi, Head of Delegation; phone: +60 12 224 67 96, email: [necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org](mailto:necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org)
- Ahmad Ali Rezaie, Disaster Risk Management Coordinator; phone +93 70 36 33 502, email: [ahmadali.rezaie@ifrc.org](mailto:ahmadali.rezaie@ifrc.org)

### In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: [alex.matheou@ifrc.org](mailto:alex.matheou@ifrc.org)
- Nur Hayati Ahmad, Operations Coordinator; email: [OpsCoord.SouthAsia@ifrc.org](mailto:OpsCoord.SouthAsia@ifrc.org)
- Mursidi Unir, PMER Manager a.i.; email: [mursidi.unir@ifrc.org](mailto:mursidi.unir@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](mailto:partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- Siokkun Jang, Logistics Manager; email: [siokkun.jang@ifrc.org](mailto: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

---