



Operation Update Report Afghanistan: Nuristan Floods



DREF n° MDRAF009	GLIDE n° FF-2021-000102-AFG
Operation update n° 1 Date of issue: 5 November 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 4 August 2021 – 24 October 2021
Operation start date: 4 August 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months; end date: 31 January 2022 (revised from 31 December 2021)
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 265,440	
N° of people being assisted: 4,200 (600 households)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) with presence in Afghanistan.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority; Department of Refugee and Repatriations; Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development; Department of Public Health; District and Provincial Governor Offices; and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA).	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

Due to the cessation of banking services and persistent difficulties in accessing cash in Afghanistan, limited activities have taken place at this time. Noting that needs still remain, the planned interventions have been assessed to still be applicable. With the access to funds by ARCS expected to be possible soon, the resumption of activities is similarly forecast to take place too. Therefore, the timeframe of this operation has been extended until 31 January 2022 at no additional costs. Envisioned cash assistance is replaced with in-kind assistance under WASH and Livelihood areas of focus as an interim measure and the operation is being supported by an IFRC resourcing hub set up in Pakistan to support the IFRC/ARCS operations in Afghanistan.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

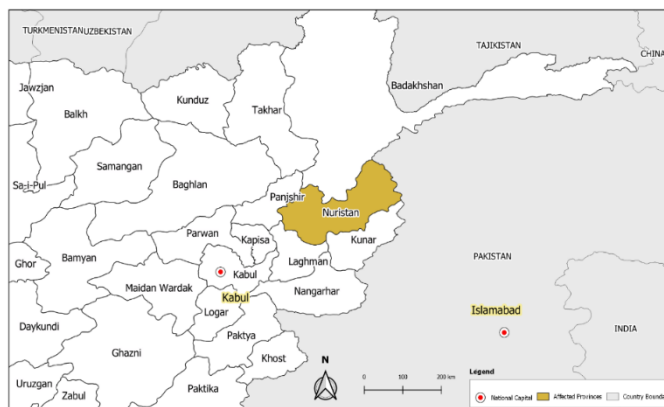
Since the massive flash floods in Nuristan Province that occurred in the late night of 28 July 2021, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) had managed to conduct a damage and needs assessment in Kamdesh district – a remote area that was then not under government control. Based on updated figures tabulated by 1 August 2021, in addition to the loss of more than 260 lives, nearly 30 business premises, 3 mosques, and 7 bridges were destroyed, as well as water and electricity infrastructure and over 360 hectares of agricultural land and 3,200 fruit trees.

On 9 August 2021, in coordination with ARCS, UN OCHA dispatched and distributed relief items to 1,631 people. These included shelter supplies, tarpaulins, a two-month supply of emergency food, and nutritional supplies for women and children. ARCS continued to collaborate with tribal and village elders to return the dead bodies of the victims to families and to coordinate processes for conducting respectful funerals. Search efforts for the missing recovered bodies as far away as Naray, Asmar, and Sarkano districts in the Kunar River.

On 15 August, the departure of the government led to the Taliban assuming control of the capital. Foreign military units hastened the planned departure from the country, facilitating non-combatant evacuation operations till 31 August, whence all foreign military units officially departed the country. The Taliban take-over led foreign governments and

organizations to impose a cessation of bank services and foreign aid, severely hindering essential services, humanitarian aid, and worsening the economic outlook of the country. These impacted the planning and implementation of ARCS activities for this DREF floods response. Without a means to access funds, other post-flood activities could not be carried out.

However, ARCS remains a trusted humanitarian partner in Afghanistan and is able to access all territories of the country. The floods risks of Nuristan remain - recently, flash flood [warnings](#) for Nuristan were also issued by the Civil Aviation Authority Meteorological Department. Coupled with the remoteness of the village and devastation from the flash floods of 28 July 2021, the targeted areas in this DREF operation continue to require immediate humanitarian assistance for disaster relief and early recovery.



Map of affected area (Source: IFRC)

Summary of current response

Overview of host National Society

As a neutral, independent and auxiliary to public authorities and because ARCS has good level acceptance and access in all 34 provinces of the country, ARCS is best placed to provide relief and early recovery assistance to the affected households. ARCS has already deployed its Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) from Kunar province, its Disaster Response Unit (DRU) from Nangarhar Regional Office, and a Mobile Health Team to the impact district since 30 July 2021. The ARCS response team (ARCS staff and volunteers) have been supporting the community members in rescue works, providing emergency health services to affected people, and distributing clean potable water to the impacted households. In addition, using the household items (relief shelter, kitchen sets, and utilities) from its regional warehouse in Nangarhar, ARCS has also distributed household items to 233 affected households.

Even though Nuristan was previously not under government control, ARCS was able to access the area and conduct the damage and needs assessment. With the establishment of the new interim government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, ARCS has ensured close coordination and collaboration with public authorities and other humanitarian actors right from the first day when the flooding happened. The coordination and collaboration with government departments, and other stakeholders in target/affected areas will be maintained throughout the entire period of this emergency operation.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation has been engaging and collaborating with multiple government and non-governmental actors and continues to coordinate and collaborate with the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and the IFRC Geneva headquarters on mitigating the challenges on accessing funds in-country. These issues are being resolved and resumption of ARCS activities is expected to take place soon.

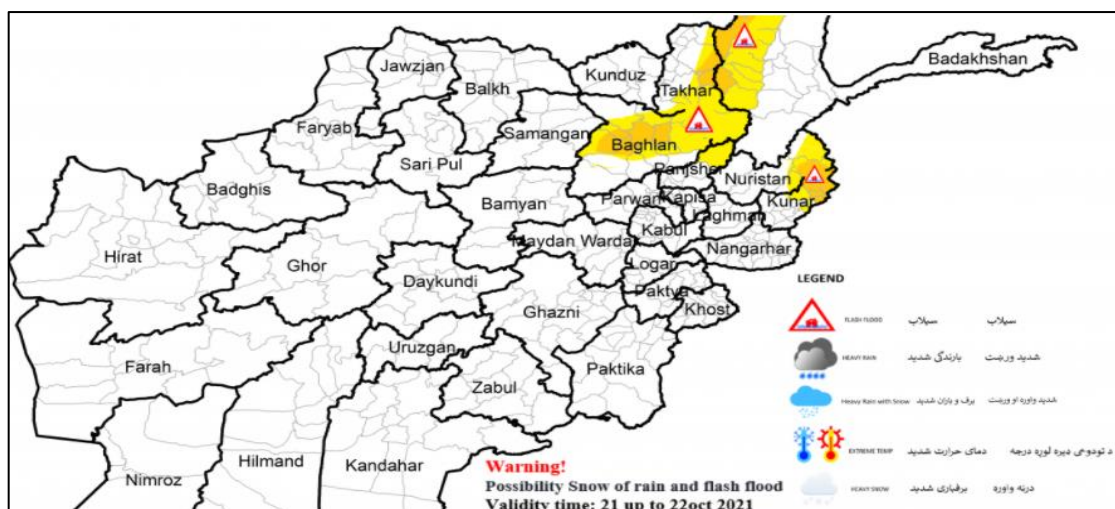
The ICRC, in its role as the lead agency, is present in Afghanistan since 1986 and engages in dialogue with all parties to the conflict. ICRC key activities include the promotion and respect of IHL, support to health services, in particular for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, visit places of detention across the country and maintaining contact between detainees and their families. ICRC provides support to the civilian population through protection and assistance interventions, including through water and sanitation, health, Restoring Family Links (RFL). 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.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Cluster system is established as sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including non-governmental organizations, 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. ARCS and IFRC are the members of and participate in the national level monthly coordination meetings of Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Cash

and Voucher Working Group, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, Accountability to Affected Population Working Group, Health Cluster, WASH Cluster, Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.

Needs analysis and scenario planning



Infographic extracted from the Civil Aviation Authority Meteorological Department. (Source: [Afghanistan Meteorological Department](#))

Needs analysis

This DREF operation is intended to provide short-term, immediate relief to flood-affected households who are unable to recuperate lost incomes and rehabilitate their shelters. Due to the challenges in providing cash assistance and other factors like the depreciation of the Afghani currency and disruption of markets, the distribution of in-kind materials will be an interim measure until the economic situation improves. Further assessments would be conducted in coordination with governmental authorities and humanitarian partners to ensure needs of the affected populace are met and to reduce risks of duplication of efforts.

As it has been more than two months since the floods, priority areas of intervention would need to factor in provisions for winterisation and sustenance through winter. Nevertheless, the resumption of this DREF operation would be timely as the initial tranche of humanitarian assistance provided by UN OCHA was expected to last for two months – activities to be resumed under this DREF operation would continue to provide life-saving assistance to households affected by the floods. Should upcoming assessments indicate the need for new areas of intervention, the operation will be revised accordingly to ensure life-saving aid and assistance is made available to the affected communities.

Operation risk assessment

With the newly established Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and with all territories of the country effectively now under the control of the interim government, there is easier access for most humanitarian actors to the floods-affected areas. However, elements of opposition have started to [form](#), like the High Council of National Resistance of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, challenging the IEA governance and threatening hostile actions if their demands are not met. As this group is newly formed, the credence of threat needs further assessments to ascertain potential impact to this DREF operation.

Another critical operational risk is the approach of winter and possible blockage of road accesses. As the affected districts are remote locations within a mountainous region, and with the possible need to distribute in-kind items rather than cash provision, road accesses would be critical. ARCS, with the support of IFRC, will continue to assess the situation in-country holistically and determine the most appropriate modality of assistance to the affected population. The deployment of relief teams would also take into consideration the need to factor in contingency plans like hunkering down in-situ during extended heavy snowfall periods, and to consider alternative modes of communication to ensure ARCS leadership remains in touch with operational elements in the affected areas. Transportation vehicles used for any relief distribution efforts should also be all-terrain vehicles to reduce risks related to weather and terrain conditions.

B. Operational strategy

Proposed strategy

Overall operational objective

The overall objective of this emergency operation remains unchanged: to provide lifesaving relief assistance to flood affected households addressing their immediate food and other basic needs (shelter, hygiene, household items, etc.) in Kamdesh district in Nuristan province in Afghanistan. The affected population have difficulties in coping with the current post-disaster situation, hence, ARCS with IFRC support is proposing to assist them with humanitarian interventions based on the needs prevailing in the affected communities.

Proposed strategy

The initial operational strategy was to provide multipurpose cash grant assistance to 600 target household. But due to recent changes and developments in Afghanistan and the disruption of banking systems in the country and its impacts on the operations of Financial Service Providers including the two mobile money companies, with whom ARCS has long-term framework agreements for its cash-based interventions, the cash response modality is not feasible for time being and until the banking system will be normal and fully operational.


To adapt with the ongoing situation and have short-term to mid-term solution, IFRC Country Delegation – in consultation with ARCS, and support from IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office and IFRC Pakistan Country Delegation – has established a Sourcing Hub in Islamabad. Different commodities (food and non-food items), required for multiple ongoing operations and programs of IFRC and ARCS in Afghanistan, are being procured from Islamabad using this sourcing hub.

Hence, the approach under this emergency operation is changed from 'cash-based intervention' to 'in-kind assistance'. Using the sourcing hub in Islamabad, IFRC will procure the required food and non-food items, which will be transported to the target province to distribute to target beneficiaries (600 households). All the procurements will be done in line with IFRC procurement policy and procedures.


Proposed interventions


- Distribution of unconditional nutrition-sensitive in-kind food assistance to 600 flood affected households. Each household will receive a monthly in-kind nutritionally balanced food basket.
- Distribution of household items and comprehensive hygiene kits to target households.
- Ensure protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability are mainstreamed and integrated throughout the operation.
- Implementation of post-distribution monitoring activities.
- Development and implementation of communication and visibility activities.
- Development and implementation of learning exercises e.g., lesson learned workshop.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter</p> <p>People reached: 1,631 (233 households)</p> <p>Male: TBC</p> <p>Female: TBC</p>	
<p>Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>The target communities and households have restored and strengthened their well-being through multi-sector interventions.</i>	Yes	Ongoing
<p>Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.</p>		
Indicators:	Target	Actual

# of impacted households have received cash for shelter repair assistance	200	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>On 9 August 2021, in coordination with ARCS, UNOCHA dispatched and distributed relief items to 1,631 people. These included shelter supplies, and tarpaulins for women and children.</p> <p>From its warehouses, ARCS has distributed the following items to each family from 233 households:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01 x tarpaulin; • 02 x jerry cans; • 01 x 1.5litre bottled mineral water. <p>In addition, 100 tents have been distributed to households that have been displaced or have severely damaged or destroyed residences that can no longer be used for accommodation.</p> <p>IFRC supported shelter assistance may not be required after the above and the country delegation together with ARCS is analyzing the needs to see how best to repurpose the support under this area of focus.</p>		

	<h3 style="color: red;">Livelihoods and basic needs</h3> <p>People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p>	
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods.		
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional food / cash grants to address their immediate food needs.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of flood affected households who receive adequate food response in a timely manner	600	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Using the sourcing hub established in Islamabad, Pakistan, IFRC country delegation has commenced the procurement process for food and non-food items. The procurement and transportation works will be completed in October and actual distribution will happen in November and December. The post distribution activities will be implemented in December 2021 and January 2022.</p>		

	<h3 style="color: red;">Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</h3> <p>People reached: 00 Male: 00 Female: 00</p>	
WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.		
WASH Output 1.5: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with hygiene kits	600 HHs	0
Progress towards outcomes		

Using the sourcing hub in Pakistan, IFRC will procure the planned hygiene kits and will import them to the target province. The procurement works will be completed in November and the actual distribution to target beneficiaries will happen in December 2021.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 0

Male: 0

Female: 0

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

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

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
NS ensures improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	Yes	Ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

Specific importance due to the change in governance is the perceived discrimination against females. ARCS and IFRC continue to engage governmental leaders and partners to advocate equal access to services and to reduce stigmatization based on gender and other considerations. ARCS will also seek to develop and maintain two-way communication channels with this group to ensure that needs are registered and addressed, and to inform enhancements in programming or distribution and relief activities.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of NS branch offices that are functioning well in the operation	1	Ongoing

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation who are insured	30	Ongoing

Progress towards outcomes

Regular communications with the branch office will be maintained to continually assess weather and terrain challenges, and to identify future capability interventions to better responses and to mitigate foreseen challenges.

International Disaster Response

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
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<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of effective and coordinated disaster response</i>	Yes	Ongoing
Output 2.1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS engages with other humanitarian actors (specifically, the Inter-Agency group) for coordinated humanitarian intervention</i>	Yes	Ongoing
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>IFRC and ARCS have close coordination and collaboration with other humanitarian actors such as UN agencies and (inter)national NGOs that are available in target province, region, and the national level. Specific to this emergency operation, IFRC and ARCS have been coordinating with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Cash and Voucher Working Group, International Organization for Migration, and UNOCHA. The programmatic coordination and collaboration will remain continuous during the entire period of field implementation.</p>		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Outcome 3.1: 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
<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	Yes	Ongoing
Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of Post Distribution Monitoring exercises implemented</i>	1	Nil
<i># of lessons learned workshop conducted</i>	1	Nil
Progress towards outcomes		
No updates are available at this time.		

D. Financial Report

Due to the non-availability of cash support for ARCS, activities planned for this DREF have not started, thus no expenses have been charged or incurred. The operating budget, published at the start of the DREF operation, remains unchanged except for dividing the cash grant budget line into separate in-kind lines.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [DREF Operation](#)

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

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How we work

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

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.