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Operations Update Report

Afghanistan: 2022 July Floods



DREF n° MDRAF011	GLIDE n° FL-2022-000262-AFG
Operation update n° 1; 19 September 2022	Timeframe covered by this update: 18 July – 31 August 2022
Operation start date: 18 July 2022	Operation timeframe: 6 months; end date: 31 January 2023
Funding requirements: CHF 749,984 (first allocation - CHF 499,996; second allocation - CHF 249,988)	
N° of people being assisted: 52,185 people / 7,455 households (revised from 21,700 people)¹	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: ARCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The four partner National Societies (PNS) with a presence in Afghanistan are the Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, and Turkish Red Crescent. The German Red Cross has offered bilateral support from its office based in Pakistan whilst it considers establishing presence in Afghanistan.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), CARE Afghanistan, IOM, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Food Programme (WFP), ACTED, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugee (DACAAR), UNICEF, and OCHA.	

Summary of major revisions made to the Emergency Plan of Action:

This operations update informs progress and achievements for the reporting period, as well as changes to ongoing operations, including the need to increase the initial Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation, revision of the response strategy and plan of action to include new provinces affected by flash floods in August 2022. On 21 August, the regional Operational Coordination Team (OCT) deployed inter-agency assessment teams across Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan and other impacted areas. The inter-agency assessment teams consisting agencies/humanitarian actors such as ARCS, IOM, WFP, UNHCR/WAW, and DACAAR, in close coordination with ANDMA and District Officials identified that affected families in more provinces need humanitarian assistance, including food, essential household items, emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and multi-purpose cash assistance. These revisions aim to better respond to the humanitarian needs of the flood-affected population, caused by the intensification of rains in more than 16 provinces between 16 and 31 August 2022.

In summary, this operations update highlights:

- **Extension of response area** to support families affected by the July - August heavy rains in Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Laghman, Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul provinces.
- **Increase of target provinces:** After the recurrence of flash floods in August 2022, the number of targeted provinces has increased from six to eight², with a few changes. For example, Ghazni is replaced by Nangarhar, and Paktia is replaced by Maidan Wardak as needs in those provinces were addressed by other in-country humanitarian actors. Two more provinces, Laghman and Logar, are now considered for assistance.
- **Change in aid modality:** ARCS formally requested to change the modality of aid from shelter and WASH to assistance via cash transfer. ARCS indicated that shelter and WASH needs have been met and the new request is for cash assistance as the proposed humanitarian assistance.
- **Increase of DREF allocation and number of people to be assisted:** As the assessment is ongoing and the floods are continuing, there was a request for a second DREF allocation and recategorization of the emergency to 'Orange'. With the second allocation of CHF 249,988, the total DREF budget has now increased to CHF 749,984. Accordingly, an additional 3,963 households will be targeted, bringing the total number to 7,455 households/52,185 people to be covered by this DREF operation - the number of people to be assisted increases

¹ The scope of the regions where the intervention is to take place has been enlarged due to size of damage and loss. Therefore, it recategorised into the orange level category based on the impact and capacity to respond (region and number of people to be assisted).

² Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kandahar, Urozgan, Zabul and Laghman

from 21,700 to 52,185. Specifically for the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) component of the operation, the target has been increased from 18,200 to 38,185 people.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the Disaster

The 2022 off-season rainfall in Afghanistan peaked between 5 and 6 July 2022, causing the country's rivers to swell. In less than 24 hours, the rains caused havoc in the provinces of Afghanistan, namely Ghazni, Logar, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Nooristan, Paktia, Parwan, and Maidan Wardak. The situation worsened, as rains continued to pound other provinces as well, such as Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul. As of 11 July 2022, flash floods had affected 16 provinces with various levels of severity in damages. As reported by OCHA, unexploded ordnances had also been dislocated due to the floods in Paktia which increased the risks of accidental explosions in the area³.

While ARCS was responding to the July floods, heavy rains hit most parts of the country, causing 2nd wave on 11 August 2022 and 3rd wave of flooding between 16 and 21 August, resulting in floods of varying severity in several provinces across the eastern, central, south-eastern, southern, and western regions of Afghanistan. Already affected by the July 2022 floods, Parwan, Nangarhar, Logar and Laghman were heavily afflicted. These provinces are more vulnerable due to their socio-economic situation compared to the other affected provinces. The most adverse damage of the recent wave of floods was recorded in Logar, followed by Nangarhar, Parwan, and Urozgan provinces. After a quick assessment on 21 August 2022, ARCS recorded more than 44 deaths, 54 injured, numerous damages, and material losses. ARCS started assisting affected families while requesting additional funds, by revision on the initial DREF.

In August, heavy rains and flash floods were reported in several provinces across the eastern, central, south-eastern, southern and western regions of Afghanistan. As of 28 August, 141 fatalities were reported: Khost (11), Zabul (7), Faryab (5), Farah (3), Kapisa (4), Kunar (12), Kunduz (6), Laghman (3), Logar (20), Maidan Wardak (3), Nangarhar (23), Nuristan (14), Paktia (6), Herat (5) and Parwan (19) provinces, and a further 124 injured, including women and children. Additionally, 44 people are reported missing: Logar (4), Maidan Wardak (15), and Parwan (11) provinces.

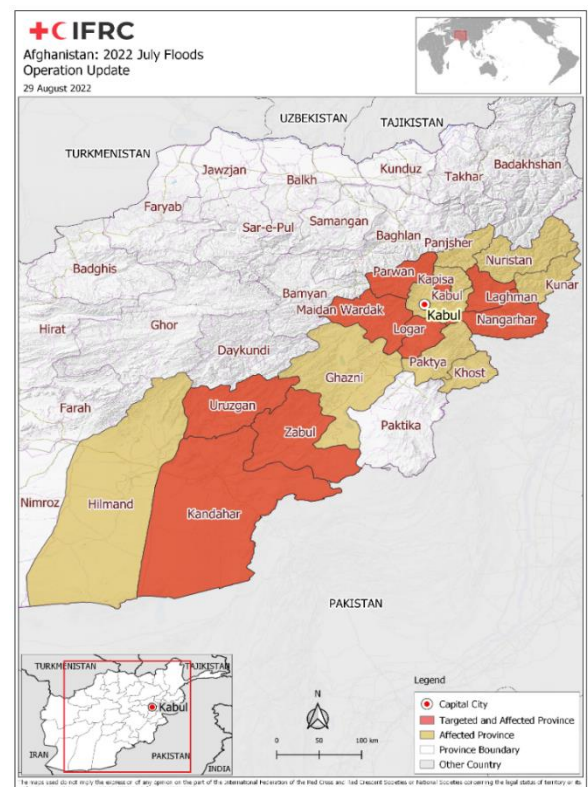
Based on the ANDMA update report on 1 September considered as the trigger for ARCS and IFRC country delegation for this second DREF allocation request, over 35,700 houses were affected (16,000 houses destroyed and 19,700 partially damaged), and **249,900 people** are affected in total. Thousands of acres of crops in farming fields were swept away and just hundreds of acres of farming fields have been devastated in Parwan province and the Parwan-Bamyan highway has been closed to traffic because of the flood. The Parwan province is one of the mountainous provinces in Afghanistan, home to the Hindu Kush Mountain range, and occasionally some of its districts experience flooding because of torrential rain. The new floods in August exacerbated the situation in 16 provinces.

In response to the latest floods, ARCS teams were mobilised simultaneously to assess needs and provide immediate assistance. In 2022, 256 fatalities have been reported because of floods, including the August count. This is a 75 per cent increase on those killed by floods in 2021.

The recent intensification and the recurrence of floods in more than 16 provinces have stretched ARCS' resources considering this is the second time in 2022 the country has been experiencing flooding, adding on to the other multiple crises that have affected Afghanistan

Summary of Current Response

On 8 July 2022, heavy off-season rains caused widespread flash flooding in several regions of Afghanistan. ARCS, supported by IFRC mobilized its resources to respond to the immediate needs of the affected population because of



³ Afghanistan: Flash Update #2 - Flash Flooding in Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Regions (13 July 2022)

floods. Staff and volunteers in ARCS provincial branches were robust in conducting a rapid assessment to provide initial information on the level of damage and urgent needs in all 13 provinces of Ghazni, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nooristan, Paktia, Parwan, Urozgan, and Zabul to respond to the disaster. Families assessed to date reported the need for emergency shelter, food, water, non-food items, health, sanitation, and hygiene support as an immediate priority. Supporting livelihoods recovery, and shelter repair and rebuilding were identified as medium-term needs.

On 14 July, IFRC activated the DREF to release a CHF 499,996 allocation which aims to address the needs of 21,700 people and support ARCS in their rescue and relief efforts, as well as addressing the urgent and early recovery humanitarian needs for six months in the areas affected by floods. The initial focus of the DREF operation was to provide food parcels to the affected people, safe water, conduct health/hygiene awareness in three provinces, as well as replenishing household kits which were released from preparedness stock. However, based on emerging needs from the detailed multi-sectoral assessment, ARCS proposed a change in operational strategy and modality. Cash modality was utilized to address the humanitarian needs instead of in-kind support. The cash assistance was done through financial services providers. Under the initial DREF, ARCS was able to cover the needs of 2,596 households (18,172 people) affected by the July floods via the cash transfer modality in three provinces - Urozgan, Kandahar and Zabul - and covers an expanded 896 households in Parwan province to reach the total target of 3,492 households (see the “Cash” section under Table 1 below). ARCS is using Redrose to ensure systematic collection and management of data.

Based on the latest operational strategy, out of the 16 provinces, eight provinces have now been prioritized by ARCS due to the intensity and scope of the disaster in these provinces: **Parwan, Nangarhar, Logar, Kandahar, Wardak, Urozgan, Zabul and Laghman** that are in need of emergency assistance for the affected population.

ARCS has been actively involved from the outset, working alongside ANDMA. ARCS teams continue to provide support to communities hit hard by these floods, providing relief supplies for affected families. Four trucks of food and household items have been dispatched from ARCS warehouse to Maidan Wardak, Parwan and Paktia to be distributed to the affected population. Staff and community-based volunteers in the affected provinces have been actively engaged in the direct distribution of essential relief items such as food, and non-food items including kitchen sets, jerry cans, tarpaulin sheets, and blankets, and the distribution of cash assistance.

Table 1: Summary of households supported by ARCS with Cash, food items and non-food items

Item	Location	# of households supported
Cash	Kandahar	800
	Urozgan	898
	Zabul	898
	Parwan	896
Food Items	Nangarhar	358
	Paktia	150
	Khost	322
	Logar	100
Non-Food Items	Nangarhar	358
	Parwan	100
	Paktia	111
	Khost	322
	Maidan Wardak	151
	Logar	84
Total		5,548

An Emergency Taskforce was established, and ARCS emergency operation centre has been activated to ensure a coordinated approach among in-country Movement partners. Technical coordination meetings on the disaster are regularly held with the National Society and the IFRC office in Kabul.

Overview of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actions in country

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to support ARCS with the following: humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in hard-to-reach areas; longer-term resilience-building programmes; coordinating support by IFRC membership to the ARCS; enhancing the organisational development of the ARCS; and representing the ARCS internationally. Participating National Societies (PNS) with a presence in Afghanistan are Danish Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent. The Turkish Red Crescent had provided support bilaterally to ARCS for this operation via the provision of essential household items (e.g. tents, jerry cans, etc.).

Besides this specific operation, ARCS has several other IFRC-supported operations and programmes ongoing in Afghanistan, notably the [Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal operation \(MDRAF007\)](#) which includes the earthquake

response in Paktika and Khost ([Operational Strategy for Earthquake Response](#)). In 2022, there was another DREF operation that was recently closed – [Afghanistan: Badghis Earthquake \(MDRAF010\)](#). The operational plan for 2022 can be accessed [here](#) of which the longer-term programmes are being operationalized.

DREF enables the ARCS, with the support of the IFRC, to scale up its operational capacity, continue with the immediate response and early recovery efforts and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to flood affected people.

The ICRC has been present in Afghanistan since 1986 and continues to be operational through its main delegation in Kabul, as well as through its field-based offices. The ICRC's key operating areas in responding to Afghanistan's protracted conflict include the promotion and respect of IHL, health services, for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitoring the treatment of detainees across the country, and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions.

Movement and Membership Coordination

Collectively, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the country has established coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored under the Movement Cooperation Agreement. The Movement Platform Meeting involves the ARCS, IFRC and ICRC leadership focusing on strategic level engagements. Movement Operational Coordination (MOC) meetings bring together the ARCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS currently present in Afghanistan.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

Many non-state actors in Afghanistan provide humanitarian aid to Afghans, working through clusters. The Clusters system was established as a sectoral coordination mechanism at the national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners, including non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings occur monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies such as shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition which is coordinated through OCHA.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum that guides principled humanitarian action in Afghanistan which IFRC attends weekly as a representative of the membership. The ARCS and IFRC are members and participate in the national-level monthly coordination meetings of the 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, and Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group. IFRC also attends the Inter-cluster Coordination Team meeting.

For this flood, multiple localised assessments and relief operations are ongoing. OCHA continues to coordinate the emergency response on behalf of humanitarian partners in all four regions affected – central, eastern, southern, and south-eastern – through regular information sharing and engagement with the Operational Coordination Teams (OCT), facilitating partners' meetings with the local disaster management authorities and coordinating response, and supporting IOM to coordinate rapid assessments with partners.

ARCS is auxiliary to local authorities and has a role to assist in reducing the impact of the disaster while functioning as per the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including impartiality, neutrality, and independence. Currently, the focus of the Movement is to ensure that the ARCS continues receiving support to carry on with its life-saving assistance across the country.

Needs Analysis and Scenario Planning

Needs Analysis

The floods displaced many people across the affected provinces and districts while seeking temporary accommodation in safe places. The public authorities, supported by local non-governmental and humanitarian organisations, have provided a range of services, such as food and household items to the affected people. Due to receding water, people are gradually returning home and/or to their neighbouring host homes. Therefore, ARCS will continue to provide support to the affected people upon return to their homes.

From the needs assessment data collected, the outcomes indicated that the immediate needs of the population were mostly food and household items, health and medical assistance, materials to repair their homes, access to financial service providers, cash assistance and livelihood recovery as most of the population rely on income from agriculture (small-holder farms), and small family-owned businesses.

Some provinces and districts are hard to reach, and others are inaccessible due to the destroyed infrastructure. The initial findings from ARCS reveal that the flash floods caused massive damage and destruction in these parts of the country. A substantial number of houses were flooded, with household items damaged. Several plots of farmland were swept away, and the flow of water cratered several roads. Many communities were left with inaccessible roads due to landslides. The damages and destruction are still being tallied.

ARCS undertook a rapid market assessment to ensure that markets were functional and essential items are available. Key highlights of the market assessment are:

- Essential commodities are available in the local markets, and people have access to them.
- During the peak of the flooding, the price of products increased; but commodity prices are now reasonable.
- The demand for essential commodities has decreased as most of the flood-torn people lack sufficient cash in the affected areas.
- Markets are functional and flood-affected people have access to markets to purchase essential commodities.

Anticipated extreme winter weather conditions (e.g., storms and snow), will be a great barrier to access to humanitarian assistance; hence, reaching the affected population through cash transfers is deemed as one of the best modalities that also preserves the dignity of the affected population.

Due to the remoteness of some of the affected areas, the onset of harsh winters will aggravate the already precarious situation of the affected population. The effects of COVID-19-induced livelihood loss are not over for the affected population.

Targeting

ARCS has prioritised the most vulnerable households amongst affected populations in the affected districts within targeted provinces. Selection, registration and cash distribution are carried out in close coordination with the local community and authorities in the provinces of Urozgan, Zabul and Kandahar as the initial response. Priority was given to those whose houses were damaged or destroyed. Short-term cash assistance (CHF 110/one time/2,600 HHs) provided to the affected population allowed them to cater immediate support for meeting their food needs as there are multipurpose needs in the provinces. Parwan province was also covered under the cash modality after continuous floods. In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, the vulnerability of families was determined using the listed attributes to receive one-off unconditional cash support;

- Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children.
- Pregnant and lactating women.
- Households with a chronically ill member.
- Households with a member with a disability.
- Older persons with responsibility for children in the household.
- Households without livestock.

During the reporting period, 2,600 households in Urozgan, Zabul and Kandahar provinces and 896 households in Parwan were reached through the cash assistance modality. ARCS is using Redrose to properly ensure systematic collection and management of data. To get feedback from targeted communities, ARCS organises separate meetings with local stakeholders including the district office, village leaders, village committee and community members. With the support from the IFRC, detailed interviews, and information-sharing sessions with the community members are organised to receive feedback from the communities and confirm the needs analysis. The revised DREF request is targeting 7,455 households from the worst affected provinces. The registered number of households in each province and district is as below:

Table 2: Summary of households registered for assistance in target provinces

Province	District	Target	# of households registered
Kandahar	Kandahar	30	36
	Maroof	280	277
	Spin Boldak	300	297
	Myanshin	190	190
	Total	800	800
Urozgan	Chora	300	304
	Center	150	183
	Khas Urozgan	300	301
	Khalach	150	110
	Total	900	898
Zabul	Arghandab	300	299
	Dai Chopan	300	300
	Shamalzai	300	300
	Total	900	899
Parwan	Syah Gerd	450	449
	Shinwari	450	451
	Total	900	900
Grand Total		3,500	3,497

Scenario Planning

Scenario	Humanitarian Consequence	Potential Response
Rainfall continues flash floods or floodings worsen and impact more provinces	<p>Increased damage, exacerbates poverty and loss of livelihood, impacts on mental health, and potential for larger displacement.</p> <p>More households suffer the loss of personal belongings (houses, household items, agricultural land, livestock) and more infrastructure gets damaged or destroyed.</p> <p>Households will need support with water and food as agricultural produce may become scarce and prices may rise steeply.</p>	<p>ARCS scales up assistance efforts with available resources,</p> <p>Request for increasing the DREF allocation to provide additional assistance and increase the number of targeted provinces.</p> <p>Increased early-warning early-action to the exposed population through campaign and awareness</p>
Rainfall stopped Drought worsens	<p>Households will need support with water and food as agricultural produce may become scarce and prices may rise steeply.</p> <p>Farmers whose crops were swept away will need support for inputs</p>	ARCS and IFRC will enhance the ongoing Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) to address the needs of the population which includes additional services and funding requests.
Increase in COVID-19 community transmission	As people lack access to masks and hygiene materials, the spread of the infection could be sparked by displacement.	<p>ARCS and IFRC will continue risk awareness education activities while adhering to safety protocols and scaling up response with preparedness actions to limit spread.</p> <p>ARCS and IFRC expand the COVID – 19 RCCE, vaccination programme and identification of patients for referral in the country and re-establishment of the COVID-19 hospital to manage the caseload.</p>
Extreme winter conditions during the winter season 2022/23.	The affected population will be exposed to extreme conditions and exacerbating their humanitarian needs.	<p>Winterization kits are being distributed in other ongoing interventions and/or by different partners too.</p> <p>ARCS will invite people to receive assistance to come to the distribution centres in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they must spend queuing outside.</p>
Secondary impact of disaster such as spread of communicable diseases or vaccine-preventable diseases.	Affected population may get communicable diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea (which is already starting to rise) or skin diseases or other water-borne diseases or vaccine-preventable diseases due to the low vaccination rate in the country.	IFRC will increase its health response capacity and do specific responses through ARCS health facilities which include additional services in these health facilities such as critical care for AWD cases. Health and hygiene education on household water treatment is expanded. Community-level clean water may also be provided.

Operation Risk Assessment

The overall security situation in the country is fragile but there is no major threat which may directly hinder the implementation of the planned activities. To ensure the safety and security of all people involved, adequate measures like staff tracking (e.g. via phone or Short Messages Service - SMS), pre-deployment security/safety briefs, situation monitoring, regular or ad hoc security/safety updates, contingency plans, WhatsApp group, and the completion of the respective IFRC e-learning courses (e.g. Personal Security, Security Management, Volunteer Security) are in place. Proper visibility of Red Cross and Red Crescent is maintained by the field teams. All the vehicles accommodated with the proper safety equipment such as life jackets and first aid kits.

There are also possibilities of constraints in the affected areas due to existing droughts and prevailing floods. Also, health of staff/volunteers can be at risk if the scale of operations demands more workload.

Risk Areas	Controls Management
Risks associated with community-based cash distribution activities.	ARCS will put in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres, and will mark queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centres.
The ARCS is involved in and responding to several crises (Earthquake, Droughts, recurring Floods, and winterisation)	If the scale of operation rises, the DREF will be adjusted to include short-term HR support.
Extreme winter conditions hinder and delay access and/or distributions.	To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC have been prepositioning supplies at the branch/community level and mapping for and modes of transportation and alternative road options for access.

Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	Ensuring the dissemination of ARCS operations, the activities, its approach, including the methodology of selecting people to receive assistance to all stakeholders. For community-based distribution activities, proper communication with the communities will be maintained. Sensitisation meetings with community elders and members will be used to manage crowd control. Sensitisation meetings will discuss the nature of the assistance, exact targeted locations, the type of assistance, time, date, and venue of distribution as well as the distribution process with beneficiaries. Beneficiary feedback was also incorporated.
Risks associated with displacement of unexploded ordnance	Ensuring up-to-date information is provided to field staff on possibility of UXO in areas of operation and staff to avoid areas with contamination until situation is contained.
Negative media coverage related to handling of the response operation.	Proactive communication with the media and stakeholders. Application of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).
Recurring floods	Disseminating early-warning early-action to communities to increase preparedness

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational Objective

The overall objective of this operation is to ensure appropriate assistance to assist 7,455 households (52,185 people) affected by the floods in the targeted eight provinces - Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kandahar, Urozgan, Zabul and Laghman - in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, supporting them to meet their basic livelihood needs through unconditional cash grants and WASH-related needs. Accordingly, ARCS with support from the IFRC Country Delegation has redesigned a new operational strategy focused on the following topics:

Proposed Strategy

Livelihoods and Basic Needs

CVA has been included in ARCS operational responses, such as the previous flood response, earthquakes, and droughts, among others. In most of the response operations, CVA has also been used to provide help to vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, people living with disabilities, and families with infants.

ARCS is in constant contact with the affected people and is assessing their needs. For the current operation, the implementation of CVA has been undertaken as the proposed intervention. In consideration of the market functionality and multipurpose needs of the affected population and access to flood-affected areas, CVA has been proposed by ARCS to promote the economic recovery of 5,455 households. This cash support will allow them to cover their access to food needs. Furthermore, cash assistance within the current operation will be harmonised with support provided by government authorities (i.e., ANDMA). The selection of benefitting families is based on agreed vulnerability criteria.

As of reporting period, ARCS has provided a one-time unconditional multi-purpose cash grant to the most vulnerable 3,492 households (out of 5,455 households targeted); each household received AFG 10,000 (CHF 110) in Urozgan, Zabul, Parwan and Kandahar provinces. Cash is being distributed by contracted Financial Service Providers. The 2nd DREF allocation will allow ARCS to reach an additional 1,963 affected households.

WASH

The presence of the winter season has already generated several floods in the provinces of Logar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Wardak, and increased the need for hygiene services for families in the rural and peripheral sectors of the cities. Therefore, it is imperative to work on promoting health and disease prevention with at least 2,000 families that have been affected by the first rains in these provinces. For this reason, the delivery of hygiene kits is necessary according to the ARCS request.

Furthermore, following the delivery of cash modality in the four targeted provinces, this component will be complemented in the provinces of Logar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Wardak. From these four provinces, 2,000 households will receive family hygiene kits and these hygiene kits will be distributed according to the request made by the ARCS. The hygiene kits will be procured, and the National Society will distribute items in four targeted provinces.

Before distribution, ARCS-trained volunteers will provide orientation to receivers on the proper use of hygiene kits. During the orientation, volunteers will provide information on proper handwashing, latrine maintenance, and menstrual

hygiene. ARCS female volunteers will also disseminate awareness messages regarding the use of sanitary pads, the preparation of sanitary pads using local resources, etc. This will be conducted separately with the female-targeted community members.

Shelter

ARCS has already distributed the 500 household kits to affected people as mentioned in the initial DREF Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). Although it was initially planned to replenish these 500 household kits (to be procured locally) through this DREF allocation, ARCS has complemented this flood response with other resources at their disposal to provide shelter assistance. With ARCS teams and branches responding in all affected areas since day one, the focus of this DREF operation will be on cash assistance in the most vulnerable districts hit by the floods. Based on the National Society's request, an adjustment will be made in the methodology of assistance provision, by focussing on cash distribution.

Health

The health intervention, which includes mobile health teams' deployment will be covered through longer-term programming (Country Operational Plan) as well as the ongoing Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007).

Operational support services

Human resources

As part of the implementation of this emergency operation, the IFRC and ARCS are mobilising the following resources:

IFRC:

- The Head of IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation will be accountable for the timely implementation, compliance, financial management, and reporting of the operations. This will be done with the support of the IFRC Operations Manager
- During the operation, IFRC will continue the technical support to ARCS through its staff from Afghanistan Country Delegation with Disaster Management, Livelihood, and Programme Quality and Accountability teams.
- The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation will provide technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Admin, HR, and Security departments.

ARCS:

- The ARCS Secretary General will be fully accountable for the management of the operations.
- At the regional, provincial level, the National Society will mobilise a response staff designated for the implementation of the planned activities.
- The disaster management, livelihood, gender, youth and volunteers, and the support service functions in ARCS headquarter office will provide technical and programmatic support to Branch Response Teams.
- At the level of the implementation areas, the National Society will deploy its response teams for operation and for the supervision of volunteers.

Administration and Finance

Through its financial and administrative team, the ARCS assigned an accountant to support the preparation of the budget, the allocation of funds, and the monitoring of expenses incurred during the execution of the plan and the preparation of the financial report. In addition, the financial officer of the IFRC is supporting the operation.

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

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

The logistics for the CVA component included bank transfers to contacted FSPs' accounts. Logistics and supply chain management is a key enabling action to support the delivery of operational priorities. In Afghanistan, utilisation of the Financial Service Provider (FSP) will ensure the immediate response by cash-based interventions. A key aspect is also the strengthening of the local market.

Communication and advocacy

The ARCS has a strong Public Relations Department which leads the communications in this operation. Since the onset of the flood, ARCS has been disseminating daily information for public awareness and information via its social media

platforms (Twitter, Instagram, and the official website). Maintaining a steady flow of timely and accurate public information focused on humanitarian needs and the ARCS response will be done to support humanitarian diplomacy and effective resource mobilization efforts.

Security

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

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

IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation Security Coordinator continues to actively support Afghanistan Delegation as well as National Society Security Managers and Focal Point through information gathering/sharing, providing security guidelines, security coordination, and cooperation within the Movement as well as with external partners and the humanitarian community. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel will be undertaken following the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19. ARCS and IFRC country delegation have dedicated trained security staff who will also regularly visit the target provinces to provide training and support to field staff.

Accountability and Quality Programming

PMER activities will be rolled out to ensure the quality of implementation throughout the operational management cycle. ARCS will be responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the operation, primarily at the branch level. ARCS and IFRC monitoring teams, including the volunteers, will visit operation sites on a regular basis to measure the progress of the implementation and provide support for the better accomplishment of the proposed actions in the intervention areas. After the encashment, a post-distribution survey has been conducted. The survey enabled the gathering of information about the impact of the assistance and other feedback from recipients of the cash support. An internal lesson learned workshop is planned under this DREF to reflect the achievements, challenges, and learnings from the operation.

There will be adherence to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) measures, the collection of sex-age and disability disaggregated data, and the application of Minimum Standards on PGI in Emergencies through the project cycle (including monitoring and reporting). There will be efforts made to ensure an equitable balance of male and female staff and volunteers; as well as consideration made to promote the participation of women, men, girls and boys of all ages and backgrounds in the affected population, and of people with disabilities.

For the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) data collection, planned under this emergency operation, ARCS is using the PDM tool created in collaboration with IFRC technical staff. The PDM data has been collected by ARCS PMER staff. PDM visits are conducted two weeks after the distribution. During implementation, in addition to submitting the progress status reports, PDM reports were developed and shared with relevant and concerned parties with successes and challenges shared based on the response received regularly. PDM activities enable ARCS to review key aspects of response quality and effectiveness, including the accessibility of the assistance to all target groups (irrespective of gender, age, or disability), satisfaction with the distribution process, timeliness of assistance provided, use of the cash assistance provided, to what extent assistance was adequate in meeting needs, perceptions on appropriateness and relevance of the assistance and record perceptions on treatment by transfer agents and staff.

Information Technology and Information Management

For accurate, reliable, and timely data collection, mobile data collection – kobo toolbox is used for the needs assessment. The same toolbox is used to collect information from the beneficiaries on post-distribution monitoring after the encashment. Technical support is provided by the IFRC Information Management (IM) personnel in the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation Office to enable ARCS to analyse data and evaluate actual beneficiaries required for assistance. IFRC APRO IT & Telecommunication team is in Kuala Lumpur is also providing technical support in any situation to the operation about any communication issues.

Internet connectivity is available in the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation Office. ARCS staff members and volunteers in the field operation will be supported by high-quality internet facilities and internet data packages on their smartphones which will enable them to communicate electronically with the provincial office to send reports and pictures. Red Rose will be used to collect and manage data and ensure data protection of people to be assisted.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)


Accountability requires that ARCS listen and take into account people in all humanitarian programming phases and use the feedback to design and adjust programming; to giving account by transparently and effectively communicating with

people using channels, formats and languages they prefer; and to being held to account for aid workers' conduct - respecting Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and for the quality, effectiveness and fairness of resources and programmes. CEA is amongst the core components of IFRC's and ARCS's humanitarian programming. Under this operation, IFRC and ARCS will ensure community engagement and accountability in all aspects of field implementation applying the Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for community engagement and accountability. Affected communities will continuously be engaged by ensuring that they are able to access humanitarian assistance as necessary, have the required information on the services available to them, and are involved in the planning and delivery of assistance, including beneficiary selection, distribution of cash assistance, and implementation of post-distribution monitoring activities.

The main operation activities are regularly accompanied by community-based information and sensitization sessions in the community. The community engagement is facilitated and supported by the pre-established community volunteers (consisting of both men and women), which played instrumental roles in facilitating the identification of vulnerable individuals and groups, and implementation of the planned activities. This is also to ensure meaningful integration of PGI and CEA in this operation.

The Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA are mainstreamed throughout operations as much as the context allows. For instance, this is done through building and strengthening CEA capacity, piloting and expanding a safe and inclusive feedback mechanism, collaborating with relevant inter-agency working groups and including CEA responsibilities throughout all sectors and operations (i.e., adding CEA questions into all assessments).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Water, sanitation and hygiene People reached: 0 Male: 0 Female: 0</p>		
Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of households reached with WASH assistance</i>	2,000	0
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
<i># of households provided with hygiene kits</i>	2,000	0
<i># of people reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period</i>	14,000	0
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>The most needs for water and sanitation of 15,000 people in the affected areas will be addressed through the emergency appeal. This may include hardware for household water treatment and community water treatment facilities. Based on the second allocation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 2,000 households will be targeted by ARCS. The National Society proposes to support them with hygiene kits. ARCS volunteers will design and Print IEC materials and distribute them through hygiene promotion activities. Information and awareness-raising sessions will be held until January 2023 by trained volunteers in Logar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Wardak amongst the target people. 		



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 24,444 (3,492 HHs)

Male: 13,444

Female: 11,000

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with basic needs assistance	38,185	24,444

Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants	5,455	3,492

Progress Towards Outcomes

The DREF was requested initially to provide food parcels to the people affected by the floods, provision safe water, conduct health/hygiene awareness in three provinces as well as replenish household kits that have been released from preparedness stocks. Based on the ARCS rapid assessment on 8 July 2022 and emerging needs from the detailed multi-sectoral assessment, findings showed that cash is still the most appropriate modality of assistance to meet the targeted population's most urgent food needs. In fact, rapid changes in prices of basic food commodities varied over the past three months. Furthermore, due to ARCS formal request for cash assistance and increasing needs in the fields, the operational strategy was changed to the cash transfer modality, targeting the provision of cash assistance to 5,455 households to address humanitarian needs.

The implementation of the DREF operation has so far reached 3,492 households with cash assistance in Parwan, Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul provinces.



Left: An affected person receiving cash assistance in Nangahar Province; Right: ARCS volunteer delivering cash to the recipient (Photo: ARCS)

Household recipient verification was done in mid-August to confirm that the target households in the list are residents of the affected districts and confirm personal details needed for cash assistance. ARCS personnel visited each household, selected as recipient, to verify ID, detail of the household, and update them as necessary, e.g., misspelled names. Any changes on crucial information such as the substitution of name or person and ID number due to divorce or husband migrating for work were updated, with agreements from the village head and the related households.

People's lives had been disrupted by the loss of their homes and livelihoods. The emergency response operations fulfilled immediate needs; however, the affected people still require further support. ARCS provincial branches in Parwan, Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul have provided cash assistance of AFN 10,000 (CHF 110) per family to help them cover their food needs.

Challenges: Ongoing seasonal rain and muddy roads. Some bridges collapse causing limited to no access to the affected areas. Rivers have swelled and there is a potential risk for more floods.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: tbc

Male:

Female:

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?	Yes	-
Output 1.1:		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of deployed staff and volunteers trained in PGI sensitization and minimum standards.	70%	-
Progress towards outcomes		
Details will be provided in the final report		

Strengthen National Society

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences, and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
ARCS capacity building and organisational development initiatives organized	Yes	Yes
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	100	34
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits by ARCS team	3	3
Progress towards outcomes		
Details will be provided in the final report		

International Disaster Response

Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
NS follows Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance	Yes	Yes
Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC coordinates with humanitarian agencies	Yes	Yes
Progress towards outcomes		
Details will be provided in the final report		

Influence others as leading strategic partner

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	0

Progress towards outcomes

The lessons learnt workshop is planned to be organised for three days in January 2023, including the staff and volunteers of branches and headquarters directly engaged in the operation. IFRC operation team will support the facilitation of the lessons learnt workshop.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility, and accountability

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC ensures the accountability of NS	Yes	Yes

Output S4.1.2: IFRC staff show proficient level of engagement and performance

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC ensures technical capacity provided to NS	Yes	Yes

Output S4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
ARCS compliance with financial procedures and reporting requirements improved	Yes	Yes

Output S4.1.4: Staff security is prioritised in all IFRC activities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
All staff briefed on security situation as needed	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

Since the beginning, including the planning process, IFRC Delegation in Afghanistan has been involved in the operation and has been active to support the ARCS response operations to devastating floods. ARCS has been working in close coordination with the IFRC and 6 Surge members who were deployed in the country. Two field coordinators for 3 months (one for flood and one for earthquake) were deployed in the country in July and August 2022 to support the operations. One Information Management Coordinator was deployed for a period of one month, one PMER Delegate for two months and two shelter delegates were deployed for a period of three months until October.

A WhatsApp group has been set up amongst the IFRC and ARCS operation teams for effective coordination of efforts.

D. Financial Report

The revised budget is shown below. The financial report will be shared in the final report, which will be published within three months after the operation ends.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRAF011 - AFGHANISTAN - JULY 2022 FLOODS

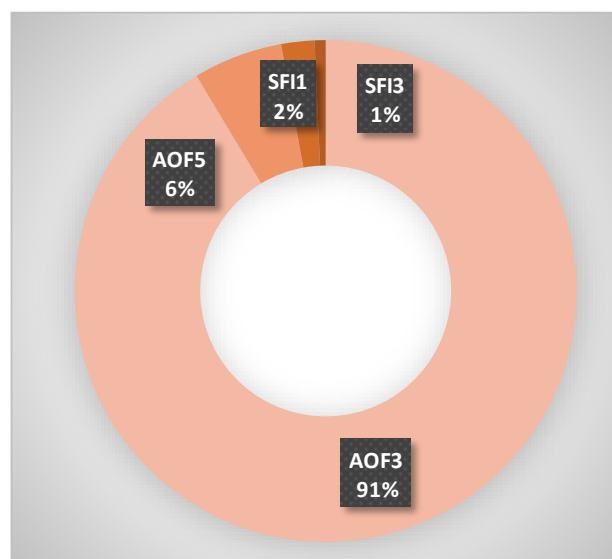
30/8/2022

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	0
Food	643,690
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	40,520
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	684,210
Volunteers	15,000
Personnel	15,000
Workshops & Training	5,000
Workshops & Training	5,000
DIRECT COSTS	704,210
INDIRECT COSTS	45,774
TOTAL BUDGET	749,984

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	685,530
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	43,154
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SF11	Strengthen National Societies	15,975
SF12	Effective International Disaster Management	
SF13	Influence others as leading strategic partners	5,325
SF14	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		749,984



Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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- Karla Morizzo, Senior Officer, DREF; email: karla.morizzo@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

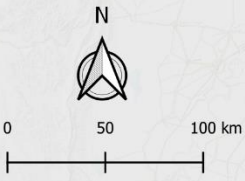
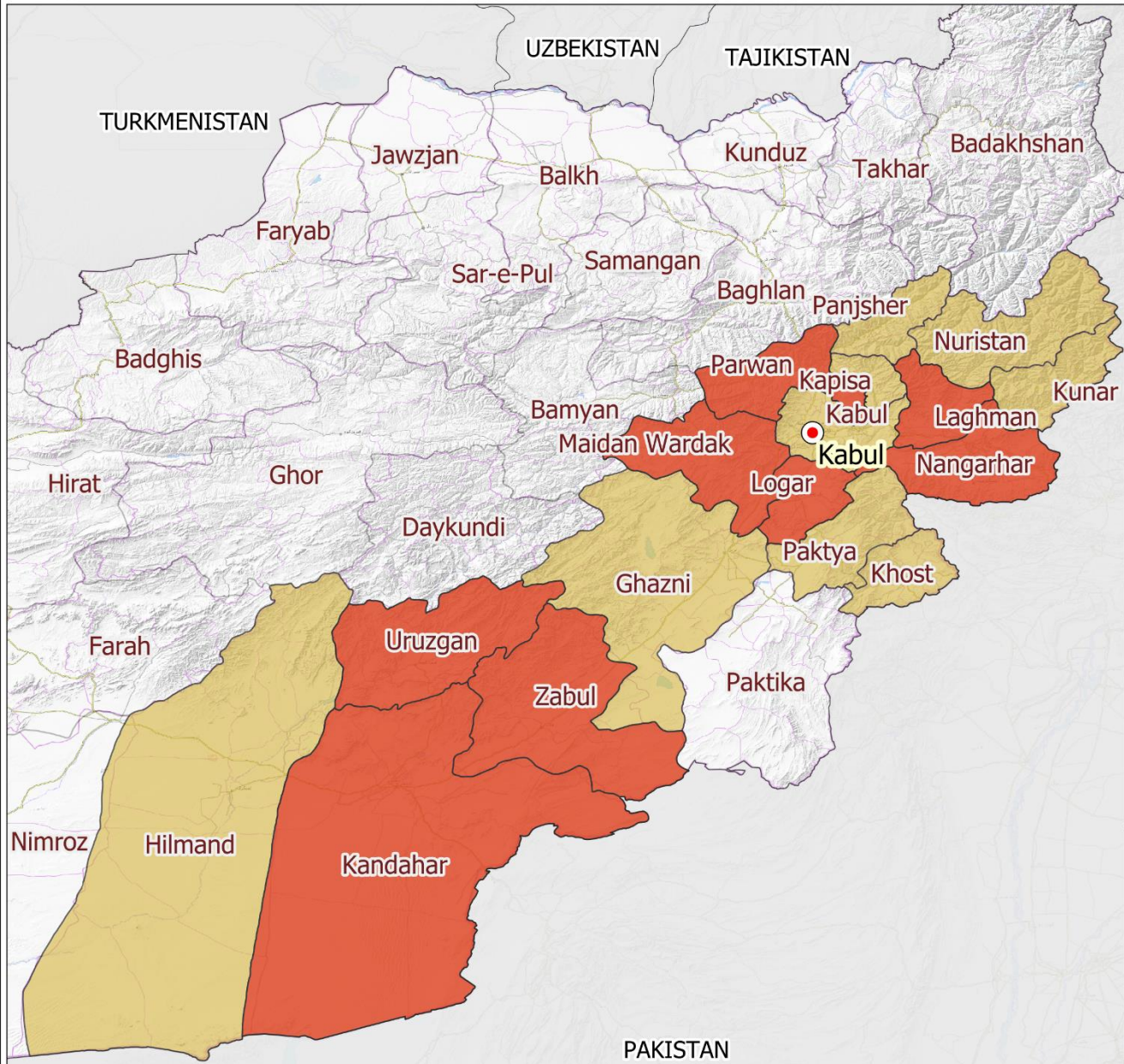
- Juliene de Bernard, Strategic Engagement and Partnership in Emergencies – Surge; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

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

- Mursidi Unir, interim PMER Coordinator; email: mursidi.unir@ifrc.org

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.



Legend

- Capital City
- Targeted and Affected Province
- Affected Province
- Province Boundary
- Other Country

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC.