



Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Afghanistan: Nuristan Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDRAF009	Glide n°:	FF-2021-000102-AFG
For DREF; Date of issue:	02/08/2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	30/11/2021
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 265,440			
Total number of people affected:	4,200 individuals (around 600 households)	Number of people to be assisted:	4,200 individuals (600 households)
Province affected:	Nuristan	Province targeted:	Nuristan Province
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has around 2,027 staff and 30,000 volunteers, 34 provincial branches and seven regional offices all over the country. There will be four regional Offices and six provincial branches involved in this operation.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: 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: as of the publication date of this Emergency Plan of Action, the following government and humanitarian actors are also involved in responding to this disaster.			
Government departments: 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.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

In late night of 28 July 2021 (Wednesday), massive flash floods, triggered by heavy rain, occurred in Mirdesh village in Kamdesh district in Nuristan province – eastern part of Afghanistan. As per the initial field reports, around 150 lives are lost with 113 dead bodies found as of 31 July 2021 – others were still missing. Around 300 residential houses are impacted with 200 houses fully damaged. One public bridge and four small bridges are also damaged. The water also swept away cattle, destroyed agricultural lands and also demolished a large part of a road in Kamdesh district.

A devastating flood has affected Afghanistan, in general, and Nuristan province in particular, is already grappling with complex humanitarian emergencies such as escalating conflict, a devastating new wave of COVID-19 and crippling poverty. COVID-19 cases in the country 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 ongoing peace talks, 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. Click [here](#) to see the map of affected area.



Floods affected areas, Mirdesh village, Kamdesh district, Nuristan province. (Photos: ARCS)

Summary of the current response

Overview of participating National Society response action

As an auxiliary to the government, ARCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country and facilitate disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS have a long history of providing life-saving assistance to people in need in Afghanistan. ARCS presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well established, which enables ARCS to reach vulnerable populations who are not served by other humanitarian actors, for instance in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas. ARCS have vast experience with different types of programming through multilateral projects supported by IFRC, as well as through bilateral programs with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and with ICRC. This includes youth development, disaster risk management, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), restoring family links, community resilience (including WASH and livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of humanitarian principles and Red Cross/Red Crescent principles, and rehabilitation for physically disabled people for IDPs.

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS's programme. This includes assessment, identification and registration of target communities and internally displaced populations. In addition, volunteers carry out hygiene promotion and community mobilization. Through nationwide coverage of 34 provincial branches and a network of 30,000 volunteers, ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programme in coordination with public authorities and across lines of conflict. Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys a high level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. The branches in targeted areas have teams of trained volunteers in disaster preparedness and response through established National and Branch Disaster Response Teams, Mobile Health Teams and community mobilizers as part of the CBHFA programme.

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 place 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 also distributed household items to 150 affected households.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement actions in country

The IFRC Afghanistan country delegation has setup a technical support platform for ARCS in addressing emergencies and longer-term programming while supporting ARCS organizational development at large. Across the emergency response, IFRC has supported ARCS disaster management teams and volunteers for needs assessments, resource mobilization and for the design and implementation of the emergency operation, in close coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent partners, IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and IFRC Headquarters in Geneva. With regards to longer terms programme, IFRC is supporting community resilience building as well as the 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. For emergency response operations, for instance, IFRC currently support three operations of ARCS including a) drought emergency operation, which targets 13 provinces, b) flood response operation, which targets six provinces – Nuristan is not included as it is impacted very recently, and c) COVID-19 response operation, which covers the whole country. Financial contributions to these operations are provided to ARCS through IFRC.

Since July 2020, IFRC has been supporting ARCS in implementing a 'Red Ready Programme' whose key focus is on enhancing response preparedness at headquarter and branch levels. In addition, in Samangan Province, IFRC is supporting ARCS in implementing a Community Resilience Building Project (CRBP). The project, supported financially by the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS), has components on community-based disaster risk reduction and livelihoods activities.

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.

Other Participating National Societies

For this current response, only IFRC and ICRC are supporting ARCS to date with ICRC indirectly providing security management support through strengthening of capacities under the safe access framework. However, the following participating national societies are also in country and supporting ARCS in general.

- The Norwegian Red Cross has in-country presence and strongly support the ARCS network of 45 clinics with health interventions, WASH and CBHFA activities across the country.
- The Canadian Red Cross has played a critical role over the past year to develop ARCS disaster management capabilities, including through Branch Disaster Management Teams.
- The Danish Red Cross extends its support to the ARCS in psychosocial support (PSS) together with ICRC, volunteers management and youth mobilization activities in Afghanistan.
- Qatar Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent have been working in Afghanistan on health and livelihoods programming and supported ARCS in the immediate response to drought and floods.
- Red Cross Red Crescent partners have established coordination and cooperation mechanisms via the Tripartite meetings where ARCS, ICRC and IFRC leads address strategic issues, the Movement Operational Coordination meetings which address operational issues and various technical coordination groups.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in 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 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 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 remain progressive during the entire period of this emergency operation.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

As per the initial report received from the field staff of ARCS, the immediate and key needs of the affected households are including food, water, household items, and shelter repair material and equipment. Further in-depth need

assessment report with full details for every sector noted above is not available at this stage. ARCS, therefore, before distributing the planned assistance, will implement detailed and house-to-house assessment in target communities.

Afghanistan is also currently facing a drought, which was officially declared by the President of the country on 22 June 2021. The country has been experiencing dry conditions since October 2020, which affected the winter season snow accumulation that is critical for water access during the spring and summer agricultural seasons. This is the second drought to impact Afghanistan in four years. The rain-fed and irrigated agriculture/livestock are impacted the most. Currently, around 11 million people are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity¹. This year, according to the government, the country's wheat crop will be reduced by nearly 2 million tons, and more than 3 million livestock are in danger of death due to lack of fodder and water. Nuristan, where the residents are mainly relying on agriculture and livestock for their primary livelihood means, has also been affected by drought and experience acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3). Nuristan province has seven districts. The drought emergency operation of ARCS will be implemented in one or two other districts of this province. Hence, there will be no duplication of locations and beneficiaries under this emergency operation and the drought response operation that is not yet commenced in Nuristan province.

The ongoing COVID-19 outbreak has made the already worse situation of the country more deteriorating. The shocks and stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic has been having a much broader impact on the socio-economic of the vulnerable households and has not only diminished the well-being and livelihoods of people, but also undermined the markets and food security on which life depends. The shocks of COVID-19 have also impacted the labour markets, purchasing power and lost productivity – all of which are significant factors for Afghanistan, not least because few Afghans have access to productive or sustainable remunerative employment.

The intervention, under this DREF Operation, will be intended to provide short-term, immediate relief to flood-affected households who are unable to recuperate lost incomes and rehabilitate their shelters. Providing multipurpose cash grants and cash for shelter repair assistance will enable the target households to meet their immediate food and other basic needs, for instance, shelter, basic healthcare, hygiene kits, and household items, and decrease the use of negative coping mechanisms to gain income and increasing their prospects for early recovery. However, it will only be with longer-term interventions that a longer-term, sustainable solution to communities' vulnerability to natural hazards, climate change, and the reoccurring problem of the disasters will be significantly reduced.

Targeting

The targeting process and criteria are designed to include vulnerability and needs based on findings from the initial rapid need assessment report produced by the ARCS response team. Considering the absolute vulnerability of the poorest households, IFRC and ARCS will focus on mitigating the ongoing risk of the use of destructive coping strategies by ensuring minimum income security.

By means of conducting community socialization meetings, ARCS's response team will meet with the respective community members and will provide them with beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring that the wider community will understand the purpose of the aid distribution in their communities. Following the finalization of the criteria, the community-based committees will provide ARCS with a list of all households meeting the criteria. ARCS will immediately assess all proposed households using its household emergency assessment tool and individual interview approach. All data will then be entered, and household information will be verified. The final lists will then be produced to eligible participants and will be shared and verified with the local stakeholders and the community representatives.

The following mandatory/eligibility criteria are anticipated: 1) Households that have been highly affected by floods; and 2) Households that are having unstable and/or no income generation opportunities. Within this, 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 disabled members who are unable to work; 6) Pregnant and lactating women.

Out of the 600 households targeted under this emergency operation, 200 households will receive both the multipurpose cash grant assistance and the cash for shelter repair assistance. This is mainly around 200 residential houses are affected. Therefore, those households also require some cash assistance to repair their houses in addition to receiving the multipurpose cash grant assistance.

Because Nuristan is amongst the provinces with crises or emergency level of food insecurity situations, this province is also targeted under the drought emergency operation of ARCS. The field implementation under drought emergency operation is not commenced in Nuristan province yet, but when commenced, ARCS intends to provide food security, livelihood, DRR, health, and WASH related assistance to households affected by drought. Having said that, the

¹ [Afghanistan: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Report \(Mar - Nov 2021\)](#)

Kamadesh district – impacted by recent floods and targeted under this DREF operation – will not be part of the areas which will be covered by drought emergency operation. Nuristan province has seven districts. The drought emergency operation will be implemented in one or two other districts of the province. Hence, there will be no duplication of locations and beneficiaries under the two emergency operations.

Scenario planning

The situation may worsen in case of more rainfall. However, since ARCS has branch office in Nuristan Province and the neighboring provinces such as Kunar and Nangarhar with trained staff and volunteers, ARCS can deliver timely assistance to the affected population. With the changing situation, the needs of the affected population might also change. Below are some of the most likely scenarios that can be predicted at this stage. To overcome these, there are certain risk mitigation efforts in place in ARCS. Specifically in the light of ever-deteriorating security and increase in conflicts across the province, to mitigate the risks to IFRC and ARCS programme and staff, IFRC and ARCS are continuing to work on a complex approach of acceptance by engagement with all parties and stakeholders, clear and strict security protocols and procedures as well as to continue to extend its partner's engagement and capacity. This is in combination with continued analysis and a low-profile approach. IFRC and ARCS have dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting ARCS impact areas to provide training and support to field staff to enable them to safely deliver project activities while ensuring community engagement and accountability (CEA) as well as protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) at all times. Timely sharing of security information is ensured among all staff.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Impacts of livelihoods (Most likely)	The affected community may adopt negative coping mechanisms in case their needs are not met in a timely way.	ARCS will conduct in-depth needs assessment in the target province, and if the situation prevails, ARCS will seek support from other partners in the country or ask for a second allocation of the DREF operation.
Deterioration of security situations (likely)	Further deterioration of security situations may affect the implementation of the planned activities and may cause displacement.	<p>IFRC and ARCS will maintain the standard monitoring system for security. IFRC and ARCS will also ensure participation in distributions and awareness-raising initiatives as well as ensuring commitment by all stakeholders from the project's start-up. Government, staff, communities and financial service providers will maintain good relations in local communities and will participate in planning and monitoring activities.</p> <p>IFRC and ARCS will continuously monitor the situation and in case of any huge conflict-induced displacement, appropriate responses will be implemented.</p>

Operation risk assessment

ARCS has good access and acceptance 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 resulted in numerous operations successfully finished or 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 programme incorporates acceptance as a core approach to gain safe access in the communities in both emergency humanitarian relief and development contexts.
- All components of IFRC's Principles and Rules for Red Cross Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance are fully integrated into the programme design and implementation and adopted by all staff.
- Coordination with Red Cross Red Crescent partners, public authorities and existing cluster coordination system is ensured regularly at national, regional and provincial levels. This also means, depending on change in context and needs, that in coordination with partners, ARCS will be willing to address the most lifesaving needs even if that may require a change in the implementation plan.
- Community engagement will be fostered in the target areas by having regular consultation meetings, gatherings with key influential stakeholders explaining the impartiality, neutrality, transparency of ARCS, and information about programme goals, timeline, and other relevant programme information before starting the programme.
- Inclusion of complaints and feedback mechanism, as part of community engagement and accountability (CEA), will allow those who receive assistance as well as those who do not receive assistance to provide direct feedback and make complaints about the delivery of programme interventions and receive answers. This can serve as an early warning mechanism for issues that could pose bigger challenges if not addressed.

To mitigate the risks to ARCS and IFRC programmes and personnel, ARCS and IFRC are continuing to work on a complex approach of acceptance by engagement with all parties and stakeholders, clear and strict security protocols and procedures as well as to continue to extend its partner's engagement and capacity. This is in combination with

continued analysis and a low-profile approach. ARCS and IFRC have dedicated trained security staff regularly visiting affected areas to provide training and support to field staff on safe delivery of project activities. IFRC also coordinates security arrangements with the ICRC, including in sharing of security information.

The table below includes some potential risks anticipated and the mitigation measures ARCS and IFRC will operationalize.

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Injuries or loss of life	Ensure availability of first aid kit in vehicles, first aid-trained staff, keep distance from potential targets, do not drive on roads where there is IED threat, real-time monitoring of the situation and advising staff and volunteers, communication of activities and movement with all stakeholders, use of protective emblem, Critical Incident Management and Emergency plans in place, movement monitoring.
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 operation, 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 and was duly incorporated their feedback.
Abductions	a) Awareness sessions of staff and volunteers, clear communication of neutral, independent, and impartial humanitarian action (NIHA) nature of the organization to all stakeholders, monitoring of the situation, daily communication with all stakeholders, training of the staff and volunteers on actions in critical situations, avoiding of disputed areas, movement monitoring.
Extortion or robbery	Advise staff and volunteers not to carry valuables and to comply with requests, use of protective emblem, real-time communication with all stakeholders, monitoring of the situation, and releasing advisories to staff and volunteers accordingly.
Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind 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. 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.
COVID-19 context	To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of the people receiving assistance and the staff who will be involved in distributions, the COVID-19 SOP will be followed, and physical distance maintained. Moreover, masks, handwashing facilities, and sanitisers will be available in distribution sites.

B. Operational strategy

Overall operational objective

The overall objective of this emergency operation is 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 proposed strategy and plan of this DREF operation will seek to reduce the vulnerability of 4,200 people (male 2,142, and female 2,058), approximately 600 households, affected by the floods within four months. By means of providing multipurpose cash grant assistance and cash for shelter repair, this emergency operation will address the food and other basic needs of the affected households. The chosen cash delivery mechanism under this emergency operation will be “direct cash/cash in envelop”. ARCS will not use digitalized delivery options because the network connection in target district does not work properly. ARCS already has long-term framework agreement signed with financial service providers (FSPs). The FSP will be involved in and support ARCS in implementing the planned activities under this operation.

Proposed interventions

- Distribution of multipurpose cash grant assistance to 600 impact households. Each household will receive one-off CHF 230.

- Distribution of cash assistance for shelter repair to 200 households whose houses are significantly damaged. Each household will receive one-off CHF 270. In addition to the cash assistance, ARCS response team also includes a construction engineer who will work with these 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.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): CEA is amongst the core components of IFRC's and ARCS's humanitarian programming. Under this DREF 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.

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 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 will regularly be accompanied by community-based information and sensitization sessions in the community. 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. To ensure meaningful integration of PGI and CEA in this operation, ARCS, at the community level, will also select train volunteers from affected groups who will then be engaged and support the implementation of the operation in their respective communities. Community elders/representatives will take an active role in beneficiary assessment and selection along with certain members of the community that are part of CDC/shuras. For instance, once the implementation communities will be mapped out, the ARCS team will meet with the respective community members and will provide them with beneficiary selection criteria, ensuring that the wider community understands the response, and the criteria are finalized in coordination with the community leaders. The process will be documented and shared with sector colleagues to impact their activities too. The process will provide an opportunity to answer questions and share information with communities as well as listen and document their inputs.

Following the finalization of the criteria, the community leaders will provide the ARCS staff with a list of all households meeting the criteria. ARCS staff will then assess all proposed households using ARCS's beneficiary assessment tool and by conducting household level interviews. The community members will also support the implementation of the activities in their respective communities and then in conducting monitoring visits. In group discussions/meetings with diverse groups of community members, normally held at the community level, the community members will also share their thoughts and feedback on the activities that will happen in their villages. ARCS staff, normally the PMER team, will share the feedbacks with the Disaster Management team ensuring that immediate and appropriate actions are taken, and the issues (if any) are addressed timely.

Inclusion of a complaints and feedback mechanism, which will develop into a more organised one as a part of activities in this operation, will leverage upon existing face to face ad hoc mechanisms. This, as part of CEA, will allow those who receive assistance as well as those who do not receive assistance to provide direct feedback and make complaints about the delivery of programme interventions. CEA is the recognition of people's dignity, expertise, and abilities. This has ranged from the provision of life-saving information by volunteers in face-to-face interactions to the inclusion of feedback and complaints systems by a hotline that was established during the COVID-19 response but was partly useful. It has also involved combining the power of Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers' outreach work with innovative social media and mass communication technology, such as SMS, in few programs in the past, to help foster dialogue with communities.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI): ARCS is a co-lead of the Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) Working Group's Communications with Communities (CWC) subgroup and the Feedback Response Mechanism (FRM). This role presents a valuable opportunity to contribute to building systems to strengthen participatory information provision with communities and obtaining their feedback in Afghanistan, , with a special focus on more vulnerable individuals. This will help develop ARCS in achieving vital minimum standards for protection, gender, and inclusion of (PGI) in emergencies to provide dignity, access, participation and safety for all people affected by disasters and crises.

Operational Support Services

Human resources

As part of the implementation of this operation, the IFRC and ARCS will mobilize the following resources:

IFRC

- The Head of IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan will be ultimately accountable for timely implementation, compliance, financial management, and reporting of the operation.
- During the operation, IFRC will continue the technical support to ARCS through its staff from Afghanistan Country Delegation with Disaster Risk Management, and Programme Quality and Accountability teams.
- The IFRC Country Delegation will provide technical support through its Logistics, Finance, Administration, HR, and Security departments.
- When and where required, remote surge supports will also be available to assist the operationalization of this DREF Operation.

ARCS

- At the provincial level, the National Society will mobilize the designated BDRT for implementing the planned activities.
- The National Society will also commit National Disaster Response Team (NDRTs) for operation and for the supervision of volunteers.
- ARCS Cash and Market technical staff will be involved in and support implementation of this operation.
- ARCS has also long-term framework agreement signed with the FSPs. The FSP will support ARCS implement the planned cash transfer activities.

Information Technology

Internet connectivity is available in the IFRC Country 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.

Communications and advocacy

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

Materials will be developed and shared, including high-quality photos and key messages to guide partner communications and social media posts. Spokespeople will be identified, supported, and pitched to the media. Coverage will be monitored. Where possible, journalists and others will be supported to visit Red Crescent activities.

All communication products will preserve the dignity of people and promote diversity, gender inclusion and respect.

In coordination with the ICRC, IFRC will support the ARCS communications team to communicate with external audiences with a focus on the floods and the Red Cross and Red Crescent humanitarian actions assisting the affected people. The communications will generate visibility and support for the humanitarian needs and the Red Cross Red Crescent response. Close collaboration will be maintained between the Asia Pacific IFRC regional communications unit, IFRC Country Delegation, the ICRC, and the National Society to ensure a coherent and coordinated communications approach.

Communications content will be promoted on national, regional and global IFRC channels and shared with National Societies in the IFRC network. Media and social media scanning will aim to increase effectiveness and contribute to assessing and managing risks.

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 RC/RC 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 National Security Manager continues to actively support Afghanistan Delegation as well as National Society's Security Managers and Focal Point through information gathering/sharing, providing security guidelines, security coordination, and cooperation within the RC Movement as well as with external partners and the humanitarian community. 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.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

ARCS with IFRC supports has progressively innovated, streamlined, and enriched its PMER system to improve the quality of any emergency operation delivery. In addition to regular monitoring and evaluation, the PMER system of ARCS promotes accountability by ensuring access of target communities to detailed information on the quality standards of programme activities. ARCS implements the Community Engagement and Accountability approach in its all-humanitarian programme which ensures the participation of project beneficiaries and wider communities in programmes.

For the post distribution monitoring (PDM) data collection, planned under this emergency operation, ARCS will use the PDM tool created in collaboration with IFRC DRM technical staff. The PDM data will be collected by ARCS PMER staff and if required by external enumerators but will not be collected by ARCS project staff involved in the distribution of cash assistance to project beneficiaries. PDM visits will be conducted two weeks after the distribution. During implementation, in addition to submitting the progress status reports, PDM reports will be developed and shared with relevant and concerned parties with successes and challenges shared based on the response experiences regularly. PDM activities will 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 and 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.

A lesson learned workshop shall also be conducted at the end of the operation to allow ARCS and IFRC country teams to deeply look into the response operational and service delivery rationality and what could be further enhanced into the quality implementation.

Administration and finance

A Project Grant Agreement will be signed between the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation and the ARCS. The operation will rely on existing financial management and administration systems in ARCS and IFRC. 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 justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoice.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 1,400

Male: 714

Female: 686

Requirements (CHF): 73,080

Needs analysis: The floods have damaged the infrastructure including equipment and amenities which led to the disruption of the routine functioning of these facilities in the affected areas. Several residential houses were damaged during this disaster. Nuristan province is already categorized as IPC (Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification) Phase 3 province and also affected by drought therefore the community members have already been experiencing no / limited basic service and livelihood challenges. Together with some public assets, more than hundreds of houses in the flood affected areas have been completely or partially damaged and leaving people homeless. These homeless people have been accommodated in schools, and other public buildings which survived this disaster in and around their villages.

Population to be assisted: 200 households, whose houses are significantly damaged by recent floods, will be provided with one-off cash for shelter repair assistance. Each household will be eligible to receive CHF 270. The transfer value is in line with standard response package of Afghanistan Emergency Shelter and household items cluster. The response team of ARCS also includes a construction engineer who will work with the beneficiary households under this component and provide them with technical assistance in repairing their houses.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The planned shelter intervention endeavours to meet the minimum standards (planning, covered living space and environmental impact) as set out in the Sphere standards for Shelter and Settlements.

P&B Output Code	Shelter 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								The target communities and households have restored and strengthened their well-being through shelter interventions. Target: Yes									
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.								Number of impact households have received cash for shelter repair assistance. Target: 200 households									
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
AP005	Implementation of detailed assessment in impact villages to assess and identify households to receive cash for shelter repair assistance.			x	x													
AP005	Distribution of one-off cash for shelter repair assistance.				x	x	x	x										

AP005	Dissemination of messages related to safe shelter to the recipients of cash for shelter repair assistance.				x	x	x	x	x									
AP005	Monitoring of the use of distributed cash assistance for shelter repair.			x	x	x	x	x	x									



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 4,200

Male: 2,142

Female: 12,058

Requirements (CHF): 167,567

Needs analysis: As per the initial report received from field, the immediate and key needs of the affected households are including food, water, household items, and shelter repair material and equipment. Further in-depth need assessment report with full details for every sector noted above is not available at this stage. ARCS, therefore, before distributing the planned assistance, will implement detailed and house-to-house assessment in target communities and rapid assessment for market in target district (Kamdesh).

Population to be assisted: A total of 600 households, affected by floods, will be provided with one-off multipurpose cash grant assistance. Each beneficiary household will be eligible to receive one-off CHF230 (USD255). The transfer value under this sector is in line with standard response package of Afghanistan Emergency Shelter and NFI and the Cash and Voucher Working Group. The U\$ 255 package is including: food (90 U\$), NFI/Kitchen Kits (60 U\$), Shelter/WASH (shelter with access to WASH, 30 U\$), fuel (30 U\$), Health expenditures (30 U\$) and Transport (15 U\$).

Programme standards/benchmarks: All the planned activities under this component are designed and will be implemented in line with Sphere standards and the quality benchmarks defined by relevant technical working groups and clusters in the country.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	Impact communities and households have restored and met their 230 relief and early recovery needs. (Target: Yes)																
		Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Coordination and collaboration with local stakeholders.		x	x														
AP081	Implementation of community mobilization and socialization activities.		x	x														
AP081	Implementation of rapid market assessment in target district.			x	x	x												
AP081	Beneficiary assessment and selection.			x	x													
AP081	Distribution of one-off multipurpose cash grant to impact households.				x	x	x	x										



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 4,200

Male: 2,142

Female: 2,058

Requirements (CHF): 5,006

Needs analysis: Emergencies exacerbate existing gender inequalities, and the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), violence against children and trafficking in human beings often increase during and after emergencies. Multiple forms of gender-based violence, particularly, early and forced marriage, domestic, psychological and sexual abuse are reported, affecting individuals in hosting and displaced communities alike. Holistic approaches aimed at improving the resilience and self-reliance of affected households, as well as enhancing positive engagement of governance structures are needed to reduce vulnerabilities and to mitigate short and longer-term protection risks. Timely identification of protection risks and violations through systematic and coordinated protection monitoring and analysis will inform preventative, responsive, and remedial interventions, as well as enhance accountability. This includes evidence-based advocacy, protection specific service delivery, and community-based mobilization, mitigation, and prevention activities creating a protection-conducive environment.

Risk analysis: During disasters, affected people are made more vulnerable by housing and economic insecurity. Vulnerable groups in Afghanistan such as children, elderly, persons with disabilities, women, IDPs, and returnees are at higher risk of exploitation. There is a need to protect these groups and incorporate their different needs into the programming. Protection needs in the complex emergency such as the current floods superimposed with poverty issues and Covid-19 socio and economic impact in Afghanistan are mainly related to the deteriorating security situation, involuntarily population movements and current flooding situations affected most of the population in country.

Population to be assisted: ARCS aims to reach 600 households (4,200 individuals) who are severely impacted by floods, in Kamdesh district in Nuristan province. ARCS will target the most vulnerable people, including female-headed households and children from socially and economically disadvantaged households. ARCS will seek support from IFRC along with its members in technical and coordination support to promote the integration of community engagement, based on IFRC and AAP standards, and develop the two-way communication/feedback response mechanism loop between people and program responsible in all phases of programming.

Program standards/benchmarks: The AAP WG, of which IFRC/ARCS are core members, emphasis on localization, and the energy for better accountability offers a significant opportunity for ARCS to play a leading role in AAP even as it, with the support of IFRC, improves its own internal systems. ARCS is a co-lead of the AAP Working Group's Communications with Communities (CWC) subgroup and the feedback and response subgroup (FRM). Other than which standards laid down within Inter-Agency Standing Committee Commitments on Inclusion and Accountability and IFRC Accountability to Affected People and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), will be consulted; Movement Policy on Internal Displacement (2009); IFRC Policy on Migration (2009).

P&B Output Code	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services. (Target: Yes)</i>
	Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	<i>NS ensures improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. (Target: Yes)</i>

	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Conduct an assessment of specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.		x	x	x													
AP031	Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including people with disabilities) in their planning		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x								
AP031	Hold basic ½ day training with NS staff and volunteers on the Minimum Standards (or integrate a session on Minimum Standards in standard/sectorial trainings).		x	x														
AP031	Support sectoral teams to ensure collection and analysis of sex-age and disability-disaggregated data (see guidance in Minimum Standards)		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 19,788

P&B Output Code	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.	<i>Number of NS branch office that are well functioning in the operation. (Target: 1)</i>																
	Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i>Number of volunteers involved in the operation who are insured. (Target: 30)</i>																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP048	Provide complete briefings and orientation to volunteers in disaster response, data collection and information management.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AP048	Volunteers working with NS have insurance coverage for accidents and death.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of effective and coordinated disaster response. (Target: Yes)</i>																
	Output S2.1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced	<i>ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention. (Target: Yes - Inter Agency group)</i>																
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP049	IFRC CD supports ARCS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors and relevant clusters on a regular basis.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.	<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues. (Target: Yes)</i>																

	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming	Number of PDM exercise implemented. (Target: 1) Number of lessons learned workshop conducted. (Target: 1)																	
		Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP048	Implementation of post distribution monitoring activities.											x	x	x					
AP048	Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation.																		x

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)*

DREF OPERATION

MDRAF009 – AFGHANISTAN – NURISTAN FLOODS

3/8/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	3,000
Utensils & Tools	9,000
Cash Disbursement	197,760
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	209,760
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,200
Logistics, Transport & Storage	3,200
National Staff	6,500
National Society Staff	7,050
Volunteers	30
Personnel	13,580
Workshops & Training	3,700
Workshops & Training	3,700
Travel	17,000
Information & Public Relations	2,000
General Expenditure	19,000
DIRECT COSTS	249,240
INDIRECT COSTS	16,201
TOTAL BUDGET	265,441

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

- Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

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

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How we work

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

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.

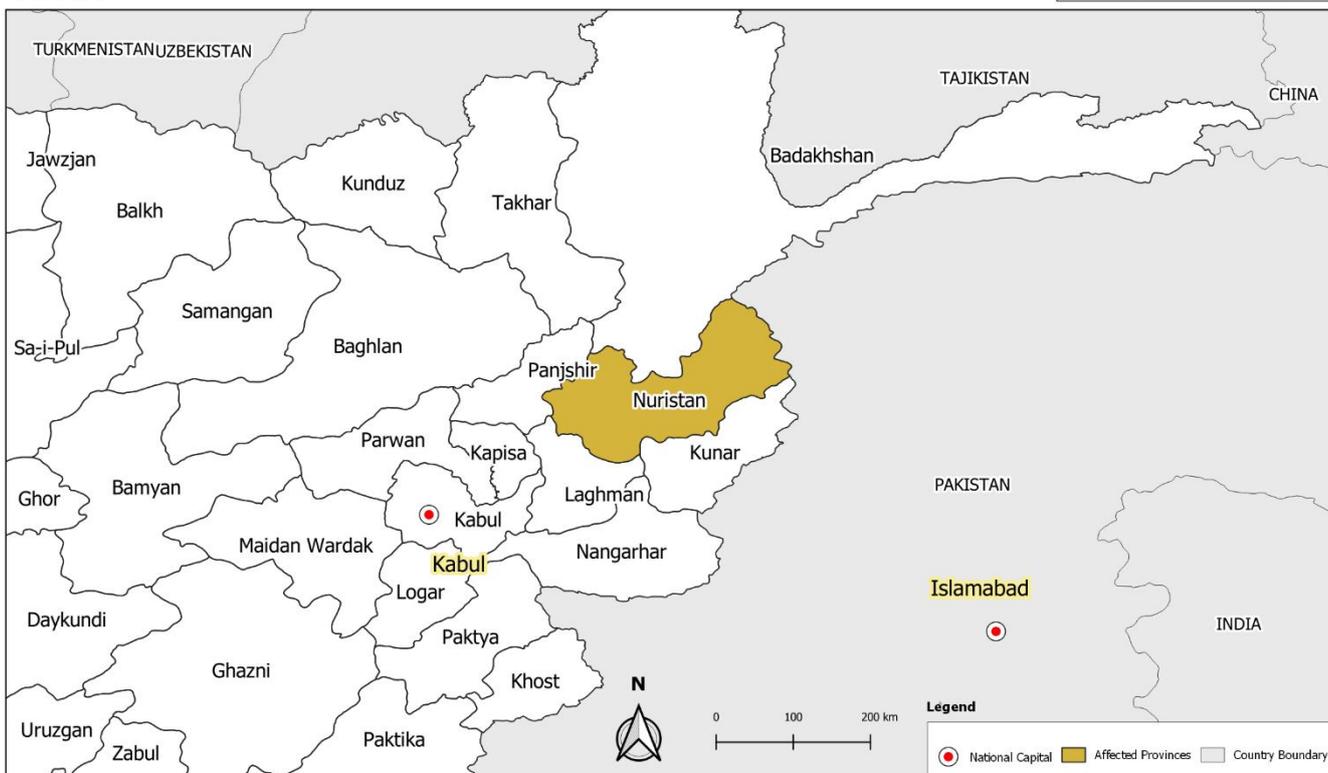


Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.



**Afghanistan: Flash Floods
Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)**

1 August 2021



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, IGRC, IFRC.