

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## AFGHANISTAN

12 December 2004

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### In Brief

**Appeal No. 01.55/2004; Programme Update no. 3, Period covered: 1 July to 31 September 2004; Appeal coverage: 48 %; Outstanding needs: CHF 5,734,035 (USD 5,007,980, or EUR 3,781,098).**

*(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List (also available on the website).*

**Appeal target: CHF 11,090,663 (USD 8,494,084 or EUR 7,180,746)**

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: N/A**

**Programme summary:** An amount totalling 108 percent of the funds available has been spent; underlining the status of the programme as implementers look forward to the materialisation of existing pledges and potential new ones. The state of affairs with the funding has necessitated a cautious approach towards implementation, limiting activities to the bare essential and earmarked. If the current trend persists, there is a high likelihood of the operation running into a deficit.

Despite the funding constraints progress has been made in many programme areas. The Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) with the Ministry of Health (MOH) supported by the Federation, jointly developed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the way forward for clinics owned by the society. Through its network of branches and volunteers, ARCS assisted 9,138 individuals in nine provinces affected by floods, landslides and earth tremors. Some 450 (182 female and 268 male) youth volunteers from 14 provinces of five regions of the Afghan participated in first ever ARCS national youth camp that took place from 16 to 19 September. A decision was made for five branches to pilot the membership organisation. A working meeting hosted by Norcross in Oslo with key participating national society (PNS) desk officers, to develop participatory approaches and commitment to the 2005 funding plan took place in September.

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

- **In Afghanistan:** Alhaj Qrabic Izidiyar, President and Secretary General, ARCS Society; Phone + 9370258222
- **In Afghanistan:** Jamila Ibrohim, Head of Delegation, Afghanistan; email [hod.kabuldel@wireless.ifrc.org](mailto:hod.kabuldel@wireless.ifrc.org); Phone mobile + 9370278372 or +923008506861 and + 873382280530(sat phone); fax + 873382280534
- **In Geneva:** Jagan Chapagain, Regional Officer; email [jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org](mailto:jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org); Phone + 41227304316; fax + 41227330395

*This Programme Update reflects activities to be implemented over a one-year period. This forms part of, and is based on, longer-term, multi-year planning. All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

## Operational developments

As it drew closer to the presidential elections held in October, there was a general deterioration in the security situation, with much more concern on Kabul and the related political positioning. There was increased threat posed to the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), military and government. In the north ongoing tensions in Mazar continued between two rival groups. Voter registration sites were particularly targeted, reflecting the gravity of the situation as the elections approached and the heightened vulnerability of UN personnel in general. The humanitarian sector was not directly/specifically targeted, although two national staff working for the German Malteser NGO were killed in Ghazni Province. UNHCR and some NGOs have started to reduce expatriate postings and scale down their operations in some parts of the country.

Serious fighting erupted between the private militia of the powerful ex-governor of Herat Province and militants of local commanders. The fighting advanced to the outskirts of Herat city and the situation was only brought under control by the intervention of coalition and Afghan National Army (ANA) forces. This was followed by significant tensions in Herat City following President Karzai's move to replace the governor Ishmael Khan. UN compounds were burned as violent demonstrations ensued. Calm returned to city as the new governor took charge. This change of leadership was an important development of the transitional government of Afghanistan in disarming warlords while ensuring the extension of the central government writ as well as the flow of customs and tax income to the central bank.

No further updates were received on the arrival of 3,500 ISAF troops committed by NATO. However, NATO has also indicated an interest to provide more Provision Reconstruction Teams (PRTs), which may create further problems for humanitarian organisations as they criticise increasingly the ambiguity of humanitarian and military assistance, referring in particular to the confusing situation of the civil military work of PRTs, where the "true" humanitarian space seems to be shrinking in the country.

A religious decree (*fatwah*) from the Afghanistan Council of Ulemas has declared that poppy production, even for consumption elsewhere, is illegal in Islam. Coalition Forces agreed to utilise heavy-handed tactics when dealing with the fight on drugs.

A decree on the acceleration of the struggle against child abduction was approved by the state president following the discovery of a shocking trade in child abduction for money, organs and the use of corpses to smuggle drugs out of the country. Some 57 percent of girls are married while still under legal age of 16 (the age is 18 for boys). Around 12,000 families returned to Afghanistan via Herat, and an expected 500,000 more is anticipated before the end of the year. An estimated 180,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are still living in camps in Afghanistan, but if rural-urban migration is also taken into account, the number could reach 1.3 million; according to UNHCR, more than 240,000 have returned from Iran and 210,000 from Pakistan this year; 3.5 million have returned since 2002.

Afghanistan continued to forge good and meaningful relationships with its neighbours. A water treaty with Pakistan concerning the sharing of water from Kabul and Kunar rivers is expected to be signed soon, a regional conference was held in Kabul on campaign against narcotics, a cooperation agreement was signed with Uzbekistan covering construction, energy production, water provision, and a visit by the minister of foreign affairs to Pakistan is also in the offing.

ARCS, despite security concerns continued its operations to provide assistance to most vulnerable Afghans.

## Health and Care

**Overall goal:** Vulnerability to health hazards and emergencies in Afghanistan is further reduced.

**Programme objective:** To strengthen the capacity of ARCS to contribute to the improvement of the health status of vulnerable people and to respond effectively to disasters through health interventions in Afghanistan.

**Basic health centres project objectives:** To provide healthcare services to the vulnerable people of Afghanistan through ARCS health facilities.

### Progress/Achievement

As reported in the previous programme update, ARCS, assisted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) initiated a programme to engage the MOH and the community on the way forward for clinics owned by the national society. A draft MoU was jointly developed by the MOH and ARCS, supported by the Federation.

During the reporting period, over 156,000 patients with various diseases were treated in the ARCS clinics, while close to 34,000 people received individual health education and over 160,000 people attended group health education sessions. Some 8,852 women received antenatal services, 2,000 women received postnatal services and around 11,000 children took part in growth monitoring. Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) conducted over 10,000 home visits to pregnant and lactating women and performed 2,836 deliveries. A total of 10,000 couples received family planning advice and kits.

The table below indicates the cumulative figures of attendances and different services to the vulnerable communities during the reporting period:

Categories	July	August	September	Total
Patients seen	53,699	52,476	50,088	156,263
Laboratory tests	3,400	3,171	3,441	10,012
Group health education	51,375	57,197	52,112	160,684
Individual health education	11,140	12,462	10,982	34,584
Antenatal visits	3,132	3,441	2,279	8,852
Postnatal visits	805	506	861	2,172
Children growth monitoring	3,519	4,273	4,083	11,875
BCG	3,000	2,942	3,458	9,400
DPT and polio	10,526	10,268	12,365	33,159
DPT and polio (3 <sup>rd</sup> dose)	2,923	3,381	3,875	10,179
Measles	2,727	2,964	3,370	9,061
Tetanus (women)	8,828	8,180	7,968	24,976
Family planning clients	2,635	3,209	4,083	9,927
TBA deliveries	840	1,047	949	2,836
TBA home visits	4,677	3,380	2,363	10,420
Totals	163,226	168,897	162,277	494,400

As the introduction of the BPHS is imminent, ARCS took advantage of the training offered by the MOH and World Health Organisation by training three doctors in integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI). Further, training of ARCS clinic staff in tuberculosis (TB) directly observed treatment short-course (DOTS) is also intended to take place in the future. The goal for the next three years is to have all ARCS clinics offering IMCI, DOTS and malaria control programmes in line with BPHS standards.

Due to funding constraints, training of TBAs was slowed down considerably and only one of the clinics in Ghazni (Shams ARCS clinic) trained 20 new attendants in the month of July.

Regular supervision and monitoring of the clinics continued in spite of a surge in security incidences in the run up to the first presidential elections. Branch presidents were encouraged to get further involved in the clinics' activities and ensure better integration with ARCS community-based first aid (CBFA) volunteers.

### Impact

The third quarter was not spared from funding constraints; the implementation of the first phase of BPHS focussing on the rural and most under-served areas was proceeding slowly. Efforts to secure more funding have been intensified so that the first phase is completed in time to gain the benefits of standardising all ARCS clinics to the BPHS, and so that the remaining phases can be implemented over the three-year period of this programme.

Significantly, the majority of ARCS clinics are located in urban areas, and while the implementation of the BHPS is in the initial stages, these clinics will continue to provide the sole access to medical care for many of the communities in which they exist.

From the table above and the second programme update (June 2004), a slight change is observed in the number of patients visiting the ARCS clinics. It was reported that the number of patients visiting the ARCS clinics has gone down by four percent, indicating that a limited health care system was functioning properly. In particular, the health education offered at the basic health centres has greatly contributed to the reduction of patients.

However, many of the ARCS clinics provide the sole access to healthcare for vulnerable people. There is confidence in the community that national society clinics will provide consultation by qualified and dedicated doctors and that appropriate drugs will be available free of charge. Health education is one of the most important health activities advising and teaching people on how to prevent ill health and when to seek medical attention urgently. There is an increased emphasis on nutritional education in 2004 – crucial in the country where the under-five mortality is 257 per 1,000 live births and stunting from chronic malnutrition is estimated to affect up to 59 percent of Afghan children (source MOH/UNICEF/CDC 2002).

Despite various interventions and reforms in the country by the Ministry of Public Health and other players in the health sector, indicators remain in the four-digit figure as reported in the second programme update. During the period under review ARCS continued to provide healthcare services to disadvantaged communities in the 50 clinics it operates. An area showing immediate impact is the child growth monitoring which has become very popular with most of the mothers in the rural areas. The health centres are able to offer the above services to the community and this is deeply appreciated by them as it is important to the children's wellbeing. Once children are brought to the health centres, doctors can detect children with signs of malnutrition and advise the mothers accordingly. This situation is quite common due to the high rate of chronic malnutrition in the country, more so in the peri-urban and rural settings where households are struggling to cope with poor diet and levels of poverty are extremely high.

Another alarming condition is the lack of health education in the communities. In response to this, ARCS clinics have included a health education package combined with the growth monitoring of children. This combination offers a greater opportunity to tackle most of the problems at once as opposed to separate interventions. The consolidated effect has had a greater impact on the lives of mothers and children in the rural areas as it offers the added benefit of monitoring child growth as well as blending in changes to hygienic behaviour in their day-to-day lives.

Closer links have been forged with the CBFA volunteers who continue to work with the basic health centres in immunisation and follow-up on patients, particularly the poor. The forging of links with CBFA has added value to the function of basic health centres as resources are shared through integration, delivering the combined benefits of both programmes to disadvantaged communities at once.



The Afghan Red Crescent health centres provide space for health education sessions where first aid volunteers in the community disseminate important health messages. Here, a volunteer in the Abu Bakr Sidiqui Clinic uses a flipchart to help visualise the health topic.

### **Constraints**

A lack of funds has affected the planned sustainability exercises for the ARCS clinics. The plan was to have paved the way for the restructuring of the clinics and adjustment of the current ARCS clinics to basic health centres (BHCs). The restructuring of ARCS clinics is the only feasible way of sustaining them. Currently the clinics are

supported by the Federation and its partners but a solution is needed so that local funding can be harnessed to maintain the clinics, reducing their reliance on external support.

Poor response to the ARCS clinics' sustainability proposal translated to a lack of funds needed for the progress of the sustainability plan while discussions with MOH continued and a MoU was drafted by MOH and ARCS with support from the Federation delegation. Based on this MoU a joint assessment of ARCS clinics was agreed by the parties to determine the needs and demands for these clinics. The second phase will be the conversion of ARCS clinics into BHCs under the BPHS but insufficient funding will make the clinic assessment impossible. This assessment is a precondition (the base) for the adjustment.

During the period under review the clinics faced shortages of reproductive health kits. UNFPA could not source enough supplies of reproductive health kits. Consequently, they could only provide 20 percent of the normal requirements.

Another obstacle is the lack of suitably-qualified women staff towards the successful implementation of the programme where most of its beneficiaries are women and children. Moreover, the staff turnover affected the programme in many provinces.

### **Emergency Mobile Units (EMU) Project**

**Objective:** To respond to disasters and emergencies through mobile medical units in coordination with the ARCS disaster response unit and in close collaboration with other partners, and also provide community outreach services to under-served communities.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

The ARCS mobile health teams actively participated in the polio immunisation campaign conducted during the quarter under review. The teams mainly took part in social mobilisation as well as vaccination itself and monitoring of the junior vaccination teams of other organisations.

The Baghlan mobile team travelled to Badakhshan province in July where they took part in the response to the floods in Jorm district.

One of the Herat mobile teams took part in the response to an earthquake in Gulran district of Herat province. Several villages close to Iran border were affected by this earthquake; there were no casualties but the houses were damaged and people were terrified. They moved out from their houses and many of them were affected by stress. The mobile team treated 110 people affected by common diseases and stress.

During the reporting period, the mobile teams treated over 14,800 patients in remote areas without access to primary healthcare facilities. They also provided health education to most of these people individually or in group sessions.

The figures below show the monthly attendance breakdown:

	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Total</b>
Patients seen	4,747	5,920	4,225	14,892

#### **Impact**

Active participation of mobile teams in the response to disasters and other emergencies has proven to be a very effective way of assisting the most vulnerable communities and support in resuming their normal lives.

The mobile teams work in the remote areas where they provide health services to the most vulnerable people who cannot otherwise have any access to health services in their areas. The ARCS volunteers trained in CBFA cooperate with the mobile teams to help villagers utilise the teams effectively.

### **Constraints**

Deteriorating security in recent months is one of the main constraints which in some circumstances limits the mobility and deployment of the units. Staff turnover is another constraint which affects the quality of work; ARCS is trying hard to compensate this with timely provision of training to the new staff.

In Kandahar and Herat, the mobile teams, despite many contacts and discussions with MOH and UNICEF, are still not able to establish a cold chain for the immunisation programme in remote areas.

### **Environmental Health (Water and Sanitation) Project**

**Objective:** To supply clean water to vulnerable populations and increase the availability of sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion, integrated with community-based health and disaster management programmes.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

During the period under review, security restrictions and the unfavourable funding environment forced the project to drastically reduce activities. However, it was able to take advantage of the willingness of communities to participate in community projects. During the course of implementation, there was mutual cooperation between the project managers and the CBFA volunteer teams, whose efforts were of significant importance on the hygiene promotion aspect.

Due to funding constraints, hygiene promotion was the only major activity of the project during the quarter under review. Kandahar region continued with the training of women volunteers involved in the house-to-house hygiene promotion while Herat engaged the newly trained hygiene promoters in both the house-to-house visits and public awareness campaigns. A total of 2,207 women and children benefited from hygiene sessions conducted by the teams in Kandahar and Herat.

The programme was involved in assisting the families in latrine construction by providing them with latrine slabs. During this period 150 latrine slabs were distributed in Kandahar.

#### **Impact**

As highlighted above the only activity which took place during the period under review was the hygiene promotion. As reported in the previous programme update, there are visible improvements in hygiene in the targeted communities as preliminary data from the health centres indicate a drastic decrease in diarrhoeal diseases.

### **Constraints**

The major constraint is the lack of funding and commitment from donors to support the project; this has led to the suspension of activities except for hygiene promotion. Environmental health activities are ideal for prevention of outbreak of diseases and also promote the health and wellbeing of the targeted communities.

### **CBFA Project**

**Objective:** To deliver preventive health services such as first aid, health education, HIV awareness, participation in immunisation campaigns - particularly in rural communities - through community-based volunteers linked to branches and health centres; and to continue to provide timely responses to disasters and disease outbreaks.

#### **Progress/Achievements**

After reorganising trained volunteers in the central and eastern regions during the past year, the focus has been shifted to the western and northern areas. In the first quarter most of the groups have been reorganised. Several remained in some districts expecting to be reorganised but have not been through the process yet due to environmental circumstances.

The programme is now active in 25 out of 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Since 4 August ARCS could not implement the training programmes according to the setup plan for 2004 in each of the provinces. Based on the plan for 2004 the programme was to be expanded to four new provinces. Apart from province of Jawzjan, work could not begin in Paktika, Kundoz and Bamyān due to lack of funding.

During the third quarter a total of 171 volunteers covering 7 villages (comprising 146 men and 25 women volunteers) have been trained. This brings the total number of CBFA volunteers to 17,083 across the country, organised in 805 groups in 166 districts, covering 13,800 villages of 25 provinces. Most of the trained volunteers have received first aid kits with material.

Over 13,700 volunteers were targeted by team leaders and trainers for follow-up sessions. To date more than 11,000 have participated in these. The active volunteers have provided first aid or advice to almost 94,500 people and provided health education, and mine and disaster awareness to over 198,300 individuals.

In an effort to increase sustainability, the CBFA staff and volunteers endeavour to mobilise communities to contribute towards supporting the volunteer groups in their localities. The goal this year is to double the current number of 71 such corners but due to the socioeconomic and environmental situation no progress has been made in the third quarter of this year.

The CBFA volunteers have commenced raising awareness on HIV/AIDS in their respective areas. The volunteers of Charkh and Baraky districts of Logar provinces conducted a large campaign on HIV/AIDS, disseminating prime messages on ways of transmission, signs and symptoms and prevention in order to sensitise and familiarise the community with HIV/ AIDS.

### **Impact**

With the reorganisation of volunteers into teams of 5-10 members, their profile and visibility is on the rise in the covered areas, improving the scope for passing health messages. The continued provision of timely first aid, coupled with relevant health messages will in the long term contribute to increasing the coping capacities of the vulnerable in the country.

Communities are placing more trust in volunteers. As a result, the public more readily utilise the community corners to access first aid or health advice. This in turn leads to offers of resources such as dressings and supportive activities from members of public.

Remote communities are benefiting from the health education activities of CBFA volunteers, gaining knowledge and building their capacity to protect themselves from common diseases and especially conditions such as diarrhoea, malaria and other preventable diseases. There has also been a heightened awareness of the importance and benefits of immunisation for children and mothers. Communities have received timely first aid for basic injuries/illnesses. Mine awareness education is providing valuable knowledge for a country that has been caught up in armed conflict for more than 25 years.

Good integration has been created between volunteers and the emergency mobile units in the central as well as in northern region where the inhabitants are benefiting their high performance rates. The joint action in Dehsabz and Qarabagh districts of Kabul province is a good example of this impact.

Women volunteers are having significant impact as they are able to reach the women in their families and share health messages on topics ranging from mother and child health to reproductive health. It is also notable that the women volunteers are taking a more proactive role and are able to deliver health education to men in some instances.

Knowledge of HIV/ AIDS is very limited in many areas with low literacy rates and lack of media. Based on the circumstances a wide and continued dissemination work on HIV/AIDS is being conducted at village level where CBFA volunteers have been trained.

### **Constraints**

Instability, poor roads, an insecure working environment, high rate of transportation cost, and lack of adequate funding for follow-up activities (only 10 percent of the need is being covered) are the major constraints. Trainers cannot reach all team leaders monthly and they cannot conduct group meetings with all trained volunteers.

Provision of dressing materials to the districts for refilling of volunteers' first aid kits has also been stopped due to the lack of budget for transportation.

Security problems (robbery, armed theft and antigovernment elements) are an additional burden for communities who are already affected by unemployment and poverty. Many of the more able communities' members, who could have assisted volunteers on the way to self-sustainability, have left, and thus mobilising local resources to ensure sustainability and improve coping mechanisms remains a slow and difficult process.

## Disaster Management

**Programme goal:** Vulnerability of communities to natural and technological disasters is reduced.

**Programme objective:** Reduce impact of disasters on vulnerable communities in disaster prone areas by strengthening their disaster preparedness and raising community awareness through a well structured ARCS disaster management department.

### Progress/achievements

Despite funding constraints, the ARCS-DM staff, supported by the Federation, were actively involved in various disaster management activities including participation in coordination and information sharing meetings, training and disaster response activities to some local emergencies that took place during the reporting period.

Following heavy rainfalls from 13-16 July that resulted in flash floods across the country leading to 13 deaths and affecting hundreds of families, ARCS through its network of branches and volunteers has been at the forefront of disaster response activities and assisted 1,448 families in nine provinces affected by floods, landslides and earth tremors. Some 9,138 victims received the much-needed assistance through ARCS's disaster response mechanism. More than 150 volunteers (community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) and CBFA teams) at district and branch level took part in these operations with first aid, rapid assessment and emergency relief distribution. During the operations, ARCS's national headquarters utilised its own and joint Federation pre-positioned stocks and were supported by ICRC and the World Food Programme (WFP). Outlined below are some of the response activities in the various affected provinces.

### ARCS Disaster Response Activities July – September 2004 supported by the Federation, ICRC and WFP

Affected Provinces	Type of disaster	Time	No of beneficiaries	Type of Assistance
Badakhshan	Floods	July	150 families	assessment, first aid, EMU Relief distribution
Samangan	Floods	July	250 families	assessment, first aid, EMU Relief distribution
Baghlan	Floods	July	103 families	assessment, first aid, EMU Relief distribution
Herat	Earthquake	July	650 families	needs assessment, first aid, EMU, non-food items and food by WFP
Kunar	Floods	August	135 families	needs assessment non-food items plus food items by ICRC
Paktia	Earth tremors	July	20 families	needs assessment food and non-food items
Logar	Floods	July	55 families	needs assessment, food and non-food items
Bamyan	Floods	July	85 families	needs assessment, food and non-food items
Nooristan	Floods	July	75 families	needs assessment food and non-food items

After the completion of the above operations, the ARCS/Federation national emergency was partially replenished with 7,700 pieces of blankets and 3,700 kitchen sets. This ensured that ARCS/Federation maintained propositioned stocks to cater for up to 10,000 families countrywide.

The ARCS organised a second round of the local disaster emergency fund (Charity Box) in August in two districts of Jalalabad province where the local community cash contribution reached AFS 35,000 (approx USD 750) in addition to a significant amount of food and non-food items.

Four community-based disaster preparedness training workshops were organised by ARCS in five branches where a total of 149 CBDP volunteers have been trained. This brings the total number trained to 250. Most of the volunteers have received uniforms and identification cards.

In coordination with government department of disaster preparedness (DDP), joint vulnerability capacity assessments (VCA) were conducted in the central provinces of Logar and Kapisa. VCAs were also conducted in provinces of Laghman and Nangarhar in the eastern region and in three districts (Panjwai, Khakrez and Spenboldak) of Kandahar province. Evaluation and analysis of the reports are in progress.

The ARCS participated in a ten-day Inter-agency assessment mission coordinated by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation. The mission visited Paktia, Khost and Paktika province. The main objective was to assess the situation of more than 20,000 people reported to have been deported recently by the Pakistani government. The feedback received from both government and UNHCR regarding ARCS participation and contribution was again quite positive and in line with population movement activities outlined in the Manila Action Plan.

Additionally, ARCS organised a rolling out workshop on the population movement programme for key stakeholders in July. The workshop drew a total of 26 national society staff and stakeholders (UNHCR, Ministry of Refugees, DPP and ICRC) working in area of moving population. It focussed on the need for regular networking, exchange of information as well as positioning of the national society in the population movement activities.

### **Impact**

The founding of the Charity Box is boosting community participation in disaster risk reduction provided by the national society which will, in the long run, improve the level of community preparedness as well as the sustainability of CBDP programmes at local level.

Recruited and trained volunteers/communities will enable the national society to approach communities and implement successful risk reduction measures involving the direct participation of people most likely to be exposed to hazards. Greater sustainability will come about if communities are involved in planning, decision-making and operational activities at all levels of responsibilities. This is an ongoing process and the real impact will be measurable in the longer term.

There is an obvious increase in the ARCS ability and capacity to respond to local disasters.

More than 9,138 people in nine provinces, affected by floods, landslides, earth tremors and other local emergencies benefited directly from ARCS's emergency response activities during this quarter. This can be seen as a direct result of the ongoing capacity building programme at various levels.

### **Constraints**

No particular constraints during the reporting period apart from facing inadequate funding and lack of qualified human resources in the ARCS's disaster management department. The national society human resource management remain problematic throughout the year, with the erratic recruitment and dismissal of trained staff. Funding focussed on maintaining the new disaster management structure, replenishing stock and undertaking VCAs.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal:** The ARCS humanitarian message contributes to reduced vulnerability of Afghans to violence and intolerance.

**Objective:** The capacity of ARCS to advocate and act for tolerance and humanitarian values among the community is increased.

## **Progress/Achievements**

The ARCS successfully conducted the first ever national youth camp from 16-19 September where 501 participants took part. They comprised 51 teacher volunteers and family members of female volunteers while 450 were youth volunteers from five regions (14 provinces) of the country.

The main goal of the camp was to bring children from different parts of the country together in order to reduce discrimination and to build peace and co-existence among them. The camp was officially opened with a message from the state president which was read by his representative. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of government representatives, NGOs and members of journalist fraternity. Former state president of Afghanistan Mr. Mujadidi, ARCS president and the head of Federation delegation in Afghanistan delivered speeches on the importance of the youth gathering (camp).

During this four-day camp, trainings on Humanitarian Values, Movement history, HIV/AIDS and mine awareness were facilitated by the ICRC, ARCS and Federation concerned teams. These were complemented by sports competitions, first aid exercises and disaster simulations. Outings to Kabul Zoo and some historical places were also part of the programme. At the end of the camp, prizes, cups and awards were presented to the youth groups and youth officers. When time came to part and say goodbye at the close of the camp, there were high emotions including tears among the youth as departed to their respective homes.

To emphasise the importance of the ARCS youth programme in schools, an agreement was signed with the minister of education and ARCS president which allows the ARCS youth staff to continue working in the schools all over the country. The ministry's department of education and scouts were appointed as a counterpart for the programme.

During the period, a humanitarian values session was facilitated by the Federation Humanitarian Values team in a training workshop which was organised by ICRC. The participants of this training workshop were 15 ARCS disseminators from the central region.

The ARCS youth celebrated the International Peace Day in Kabul on 30 August. The main purpose was to express commitment of ARCS youth in advocating for peace and anti-discrimination to the public. The ceremony was attended by a special assistant to the minister of education, the head of government education department of Kabul, the ARCS president, high ranking officials, and a representative from a human rights organisation who made presentations. One teacher and a youth volunteer also made speeches on the topic of peace, and anti-discrimination and their need for it in the Afghan community. This occasion was attended by 440 youth volunteers, 25 teacher volunteers and a number of guests. A theatre show by the youth volunteers and some actors of Afghan TV, focussing on humanitarian values messages, was among the highlights of the day.

Youth leaders' leadership workshops were organised for 163 new youth volunteers from Herat and Kabul city schools. The session facilitated by ICRC, ARCS and Federation covered a variety of topics ranging from the review of the Red Cross and Red Crescent history, Humanitarian Values and the role of youth leaders in society. Some 30 teacher volunteers with the assistance of 300 youth leaders in Herat were also involved in similar training in the respective schools aimed at influencing behavioural change of the youth. Youth leaders in Herat and Kabul have also started disseminating messages on Humanitarian Values out of their schools; these sessions have been well received by district leaders and community elders.

In Mazar the youth theatre groups have performed shows in five schools of Mazar city centred on the Humanitarian Values messages.

In pursuit of good coordination and to avoid duplication, the ARCS youth officers in Kabul and Herat held meetings with their ICRC counterparts from the dissemination departments. The youth officers of Jalalabad and Kandahar will soon follow suit.

The ARCS youth officers in regions continued monitoring youth activities in all the schools where the programme is active. During these visits the youth are encouraged to participate in cleaning their schools, organise shows on healthy environment and practise non-discrimination/tolerance. At the same time they met with school principles

and headmasters to garner support for the programme. The youth officers also conducted monthly meetings with the teacher volunteers in all regions. In these meetings reports are collected and views for improvement of the programme shared. To date, the programme is active in 268 schools and is comprised of 543 teacher volunteers and 19,043 youth, amongst which 2680 are youth leaders.

A seminar on malaria and leishmaniasis was organised for 39 teacher volunteers in Mazar city by an NGO, Health-net. A three-day workshop on mine awareness was also organised by the ICRC for a number of teacher and youth volunteers in the city. In sports, a volleyball competition took place between two youth girl teams of two schools of Mazar. During the same period, 96 teacher volunteers and six youth volunteers were involved in the national immunisation days (NIDs) campaign in Mazar city.

In Herat about 2,100 youth entered the Red Cross and Red Crescent crossword puzzle competition. After judging, the names were announced and winners were presented with prizes in the schools.

The Kabul and Mazar youth clubs have been functional during the period under review. The availability of transportation (ARCS youth mini bus) has enabled youth volunteers from different parts of the cities to participate in the activities of the youth clubs. While some families do not allow girls to participate in public activities, it is different for the ARCS youth programme as parents are pleased with the programme especially the transport facility of the programme. The youth clubs run courses on Red Cross and Red Crescent topics, Humanitarian Values, English, computer, tailoring, writing and drawing. Competition and sport activities are also part of the attractions.

In improving and enhancing the managerial aspects and promoting ownership, the youth staff from the regions and national headquarters jointly participated in the 2004 programme review and the 2005 appeal process.

### **Impact**

The importance of ARCS youth programme continued to be highly valued by the Ministry of Education which has manifested in the signing of the agreement.

The youth camp brought together youth from different ethnicities, cultures and places across Afghanistan which has helped to augment further among the youth the understanding of peace in a society which has been dominated by years of conflict. In addition, it has also increased the resolve to advocate tolerance and coexistence and disseminate positive messages of peace among the Afghans as the country moves forward to rebuild its society.

The programme continued to enhance the image and profile of the ARCS through participation in public celebration of important days and at the same time enhancing the Humanitarian Value messages to authorities, partners and the public at large.

Activities of the youth clubs and the youth camp are attracting more youth as evidenced by the numerous letters from parents received by the schools and the ARCS youth department requesting for their children to be enrolled in the youth programme. This implies that the messages and the importance of the programme is being understood by the public. Furthermore, the clubs keep the youth occupied in constructive activities who would otherwise be idle and be tempted in the many vices affecting the Afghan youth like drugs and crime.

Coordination and cooperation with ICRC is significant in that the Humanitarian Values topic is becoming an integral part of the ICRC's dissemination workshops ongoing in the regions.

Participating in the joint appeal process by staff from the branches assures ownership at the branches level.

### **Constraints**

Programme still suffers from lack of funding. A focal point to coordinate the Humanitarian Value activities is required in the national society. This will be considered in the 2005 plans.

As the concept of Humanitarian Values is very new to ARCS staff and volunteers, more teaching materials, exercises and simple teaching tools are required.

The youth programme of the national society has now grown quite substantially and will be significantly affected if the funding situation does not improve. Pilot fundraising activities by the youth volunteers are also envisaged in the coming year.

The understanding of the Humanitarian Values concept in the national society is still low; more effort is being made to increase the knowledge of the programme within the ARCS.

## **Organisational Development**

**Overall Goal:** ARCS has improved its capacity in service delivery to vulnerable people.

**Programme Objective:** The capacity of ARCS to implement sustainable programmes has been increased.

### **Progress/Achievements**

The period was mainly dominated by the process of planning and writing the Afghanistan 2005 appeal. This effectively commenced in August, and was completed at the end of September. Because of the importance of this process, the strategic planning process was temporarily halted at the end of July. The national society programme coordinators, closely assisted by their counterpart delegates, had nevertheless been developing an improved second draft of the first year (2005) section of the strategic plan.

In further continuation of the delegation effort to promote financial sustainability and self reliance in the national society, the Federation has engaged a fundraising and finance development officer in July. This came after a four-month effort failed to attract qualified external candidates. With the arrival of the officer, work has commenced with the implementation of the second phase of the fundraising development plan at ARCS headquarters and selected branches. Among the planned preparations are related policy guidelines for the national society management, 2005/8 fundraising plans of action and budget, and a summary review of the finance management position in the ARCS headquarters and selected branches. Terms of Reference have also been drawn in consultation with the ARCS and an external consultant for the process to be undertaken in November.

The membership organisation process continued during the period. Two meetings of the ARCS membership committee were held and decisions were taken for five branches (Kapisa, Parwan, Laghman, Badghis and Baghlan) to pilot the membership organisation. Agreement was also reached on branch development and governance initiatives, membership card format, and criteria for selection of CBFA/youth programme volunteers to assist with community sensitisation, recruitment and organisation of the new members in the branches. Training of the selected volunteers and the pilot branches leadership would take place in November. Community sensitisation activities would follow in November, whilst actual recruitment and organisation of the members is expected to commence in January of 2005.

There was however no significant progress on the ARCS constitutional review process during the period. Meetings of the ARCS committee set up for the purpose were not regular. A fifth draft document was still being prepared for discussion by the end of September.

After formal planning processes were undertaken in July and August, construction of three ARCS branch offices in Khost, Paktika and Kapisa commenced in September. Funding is being jointly provided by the Federation and ICRC. The construction exercises are expected to be completed in January, 2005.

Funding was provided to the ARCS headquarters for setting up of three new provincial branches in the provinces of Panshir, Kabul and Daikundi. With the setting up of these branches, ARCS is now represented in all 34 provinces of the country. Activity plans and budgets for the rest of 2004 were provided by the branches during the period. The ICRC and the Federation are jointly funding these activities.

Planning for the transfer from ICRC to Federation of the Marastoon programme continued during the period. It included preparation of the budget for 2005, which is part of the Federation appeal 2005, advertising of the position of delegate for the programme through Geneva, and discussions with the outgoing related ICRC delegate and the ARCS field officer. The ICRC –Marastoon field officer will transfer to the Federation delegation.

The Federation organised an organisational development workshop in September. Participants were drawn from both ARCS and the delegation Kabul and field personnel. Subjects addressed focussed on the Federation Capacity Building Framework, national society ownership, sustainability, and capacity building in relation to programming. The regional organisational development delegate assisted the team from the national society and programming delegates with facilitation of sessions. The formal evaluation by participants indicated that the objectives were well achieved.

### **Impact**

The period marked a continuation of the planning and preparation process for organisational development in ARCS. Implementation of the fundraising and financial management, the membership and branch development plans now being prepared, are all expected to take off in 2005. While it is difficult to assess any meaningful impact now, financial development through fundraising and sound financial management enables the national society to have a sound resource base and gain more confidence of partners. The same is also true of the emphasis and good progress on the membership organisation.

Longer-term planning will help ARCS to prioritise its own objectives to serve the vulnerable in a more sustainable and systematic manner.

### **Constraints**

Some ARCS headquarters and field personnel continued to show a high sense of commitment in relation to ownership of programme activities, and capacity building of the society. However, this can improve within the national society. There is a need for committed ARCS leadership at headquarters and branch levels.

The ARCS human resource system continues to be problematic, with erratic dismissals, transfer and recruitment of staff. Through constant dialogue with the ARCS management, coupled with the delegation support towards a review of the NS HR department in 2005, some improvement is hoped for.

The national society constitutional review process did not make any headway for yet another quarter. It seems some stronger decisions should be taken by the Movement if 2004 ends without a draft suitable recommendation to the South Asia regional delegation. A good constitution and membership system is prerequisite for the national society to define the roles of governance and management.

## **Representation, Management and Implementation**

### **Progress/Achievements**

#### **Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships**

A Movement tripartite meeting consisting of the heads of ICRC/Federation and the president of ARCS took place in August and covered security/access issues (led by ICRC) and further strengthening of national society (led by Federation) which resulted in new commitment from ARCS president/secretary-general to revitalise the constitution process. Concerns of the national society to forge closer links with Federation/ICRC support to branches were also articulated by ARCS president/ secretary-general. This is already being addressed in the current review of structure and function of the delegation, linked to the needs for the 2005 appeal.

The German Red Cross (GRC) South Asia regional delegate was in-country for two weeks. Joint meetings were held, discussing the ICRC plan for the handover of the Marastoons project from ICRC to Federation for the beginning of January 2005, to include provision of GRC-supported organisational development delegate to cover the Marastoons and branch development, position opened in August.

A working meeting with key PNS desk officers to develop participatory approaches and commitment to the 2005 funding plan took place in September. The meeting hosted by Norcross was attended by the head of delegation and programme coordinator accompanied by the ARCS president/secretary-general, and head of international relations. Seven PNS - British, Danish, German, Netherlands, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross participated in the meeting. They expressed confidence in delegation, but nevertheless pointed out challenges for ARCS to overcome

to improve its image. However, there were good indications of interest in support for Afghanistan operation for next year. Separate visit/meetings with Norcross and Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also made.

The head of delegation, the ARCS president and the head international relations proceeded to Castilla La Mancha from Oslo for meetings with the Spanish Red Cross. Again, they are interested to support the Afghanistan operation, but have yet to identify confirmed funding sources and will require considerable information/details/reporting. Further meetings were held with the Spanish Red Cross National Headquarters, one Branch (Toledo) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The disaster management delegate attended regular meetings with key stakeholders; UNAMA, Government Department for Disaster Preparedness(DDP), Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR) and Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation Development.

In order to ensure better coordination with MOH and other organisations involved in health and to build the capacity of ARCS in delivering quality service, the ARCS and Federation headquarters staff regularly attend the Consultative Group on Health and Nutrition meetings and taskforce meetings on health emergency preparedness and response, Health Management Information System (HMIS) and the expanded programme on immunisation.

The delegation continues to attend regular bi-weekly ICRC, ACBAR coordination meetings, and weekly UNAMA security and emergency taskforce meetings. Representation/coordination meetings with local authorities, ICRC, security officers, other NGOs and UN are ongoing in sub-delegations.

### **Effective representation and advocacy**

Representation and advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable through the ARCS programme continues to be a priority of the Federation in Afghanistan. In the past three months; three articles were written for the South Asia Regional Delegation Newsletter and Federation website respectively.

A brochure highlighting the Federation support to ARCS programme was distributed to ARCS branches, sub-delegations, UN and other agencies. Similarly, over 1000 copies of People Priorities Programme containing a magazine presentation for the ARCS programmes in Afghan was widely circulated to the donor community representatives in Afghanistan, government ministries, NGOs, UN agencies, ICRC and ARCS at both Kabul, regional and branch levels.

### **Governance support**

The Federation continues to advise the ARCS leadership on key issues related to the importance of having a good constitution, integrity and profile, financial management and sustainability of the national society. The appointment of the ARCS programme coordinator in July further strengthened the coordination and bodes well for the future strategic development of the national society.

The delegation in cooperation with the ICRC also assisted the ARCS to establish three new branches in Panshir, Daikundi and Kabul.

### **Delegation management**

Preparations are under way as part of the appeal process for reduction in national and delegate numbers in 2005, plus a strategic reorientation plan to operate the sub-delegations in a different placing, focussing on programme support and coordination, rather than management.

### **Impact**

Continued dialogue within the Movement continues to increase the national society's understanding of management and integrity issues including ownership, sustainability and programme priorities.

Various processes including constitution review, reintroduction of the membership system, financial development, and promotion materials contribute to lifting up the profile and credibility of the national society.

Engaging PNSs in its planning will enhance understanding of the programme aims of ARCS and ensure continued support to the society. It will constitute a basis for long- and medium-term planning and help the Federation define the support and resources required to the national society.

The appointment of the an ARCS programme coordinator is a positive development in the long-term strategic setup as well as on national society capacity to address key issues such as the constitution, sustainability, integration and impact of programmes, as well as improved cost-effectiveness.

In the changing Afghanistan context and dispensation role, the Federation is crucial in providing appropriate support, enabling the ARCS to develop as a key and consistent stakeholder in providing services to the vulnerable community.

### **Constraints**

Effective networking with the national authorities and other stakeholders is still weak in the national society.

The Federation continues to encourage the ARCS through various approaches to take ownership of participation in different forums, in order to position itself as a major stakeholder serving the vulnerable Afghan communities.

The ARCS still needs support to demonstrate strongly its commitment to implementing change management and developing appropriate strategies in changing country context and display the added value of its unique role as an auxiliary to the public authorities and to secure the government's support in order to fulfil its role in the humanitarian challenge facing the country.

The national society relies heavily on Federation and ICRC support for its programmes and core structure. In the coming year, the delegation will place more emphasis on the national society managing better its own resources and having more ownership. The delegation will only provide resources and structures suitable to implement the activities addressed in the appeal.

**[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)**

APPEAL No. 01.55/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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## CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				11,090,663	TOTAL COVERAGE 46.9%	
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				2,068,525		
AMERICAN - RC				132,700	23.01.04	HEALTH COORDINATOR
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR				127	04.10.04	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID GRANT 2004				50,000	29.01.04	
BRITISH - RC				50,000	18.10.04	COMMUNICATION NETWORK
BRITISH - RC				25,879	24.11.04	HEALTH SUSTAINABILITY STUDY
BRITISH - RC				50,000	02.12.04	HEALTH BUDGET
DANISH - RC				120,000	22.01.04	TRAINING OF TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS
DANISH - RC				100,000	01.06.04	HEALTH & CARE, HEALTH CLINICS & CBFA
DANISH - RC				45,360	02.11.04	HEALTH PROGRAMME
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				100,000	03.03.04	
FINNISH - RC	20,000	EUR		31,510	19.03.04	CBFA PROGRAM IN JWAZJAN PROVINCE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC	50,000	EUR		76,475	23.04.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT/VCA
GERMAN - GOVT/RC	198,625	EUR		308,365	16.09.04	HEALTH - MEDICAL KITS & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KITS
CHINA - HONG KONG - RC	20,693	HKD		3,348	02.07.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
ICELANDIC - RC	500,000	ISK		8,750	08.06.04	CLOTHES OPERATION
ICELANDIC - RC	49,529	ISK		867	08.06.04	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
JAPANESE - RC	60,776	USD		76,973	17.03.04	INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP
NETHERLANDS - RC	102,496	EUR		161,483	17.03.04	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT IN HERAT
NEW ZEALAND RC	5,000	NZD		3,975	30.06.04	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	754,000	NOK		137,605	22.07.04	BRANCH DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	2,079,800	NOK		379,564	22.07.04	EMU PROJECT, & HEALTH ACTIVITIES
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC	530,000	NOK		99,110	30.11.04	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
PRIVATE DONORS ON LINE				110	04.10.04	
SWEDISH - GOVT	1,900,000	SEK		320,150	06.04.04	HEALTH, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC	1,500,000	SEK		252,750	16.04.04	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT	300,000	SEK		50,250	08.10.04	HEALTH DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC	500,000	SEK		83,750	14.10.04	HEALTH CLINICS
SWISS - RC				50,000	02.11.04	

# Afghanistan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.55/2004

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

23/12/2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4,787,626	CHF	43.2%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DENMARK	DELEGATES			70,000		
CANADA	DELEGATES			107,000		
FINLAND	DELEGATES			73,200		
GERMANY	DELEGATES			3,600		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATES			72,000		
JAPAN	DELEGATES			23,400		
NORWAY	DELEGATES			54,800		
ICELANDIC - RC		799,688	ISK	13,995	08.06.04	9517 KGS SECOND HAND CLOTHES
Note: due to systems upgrades in process, contributions in kind and services may be incomplete.						
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				417,995	CHF	3.8%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	