



DREF Operation-Final Report

Afghanistan | July 2022 Floods

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRAF011
Date of Issue: 30 April 2023	Glide number: FL-2022-000262-AFG
Operation start date: 18 July 2022	Operation end date: 31 January 2023
Host National Society: Afghan Red Crescent Society	Operation budget: CHF 749,984 (first allocation - CHF 499,996; second allocation - CHF 249,988 ¹)
Number of people affected: 249,900	Number of people assisted: 52,185 people / 7,455 households (revised from 21,700 people)
Number of people reached:	49,228
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: ARCS is working with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The four partner National Societies (PNS) with a presence in Afghanistan are the Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, and Turkish Red Crescent. The German Red Cross has offered bilateral support from its office based in Pakistan whilst it considers establishing presence in Afghanistan.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), CARE Afghanistan, IOM, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Food Programme (WFP), ACTED, Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR), UNICEF, and OCHA.	

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

This report informs achievements under the July Floods Operation, as well as changes to operations, including the increase in the initial Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation, revision of the response strategy and plan of action to include new provinces affected by flash floods in August 2022.

Major changes include:

Extension of response area to support families affected by the July - August heavy rains in Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Laghman, Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul provinces.

Increase of target provinces: After the recurrence of flash floods in August 2022, the number of targeted provinces was increased from six to eight (Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kandahar, Urozgan, Zabul and Laghman) with a few changes. For example, Ghazni was replaced by Nangarhar, and Paktia was replaced by Maidan Wardak as needs in those provinces were addressed by other in-country humanitarian actors. Two more provinces, Laghman and Logar, are now considered for assistance. - Change in aid modality:

ARCS formally requested to **change the modality of aid** from shelter and WASH to assistance via cash transfer. ARCS indicated that shelter and WASH needs were met, and the new request was for cash assistance as the proposed humanitarian assistance.

Increase of DREF allocation and number of people to be assisted: As the flood was continuing, there was a request for a second DREF allocation and recategorization of the emergency to 'Orange'. With the second allocation of CHF 249,988, the total DREF budget was increased to CHF 749,984. Accordingly, an additional 3,963 households was targeted, bringing the total number to 7,455 households/52,185 people to be covered by this DREF operation. Specifically for the cash and voucher assistance (CVA) component of the operation, the target has been increased from 18,200 to 38,185 people.

The scope of the intervention regions was expanded due to the extensive damage and loss assessed, leading to recategorization into the orange level based on the severity of impact and capacity to respond (region and number of people to be assisted).

¹ The scope of the regions where the intervention was to take place had been enlarged due to size of damage and loss. Therefore, it recategorised into the orange level category based on the impact and capacity to respond (region and number of people to be assisted). Parwan, Logar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kandahar, Urozgan, Zabul and Laghman

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

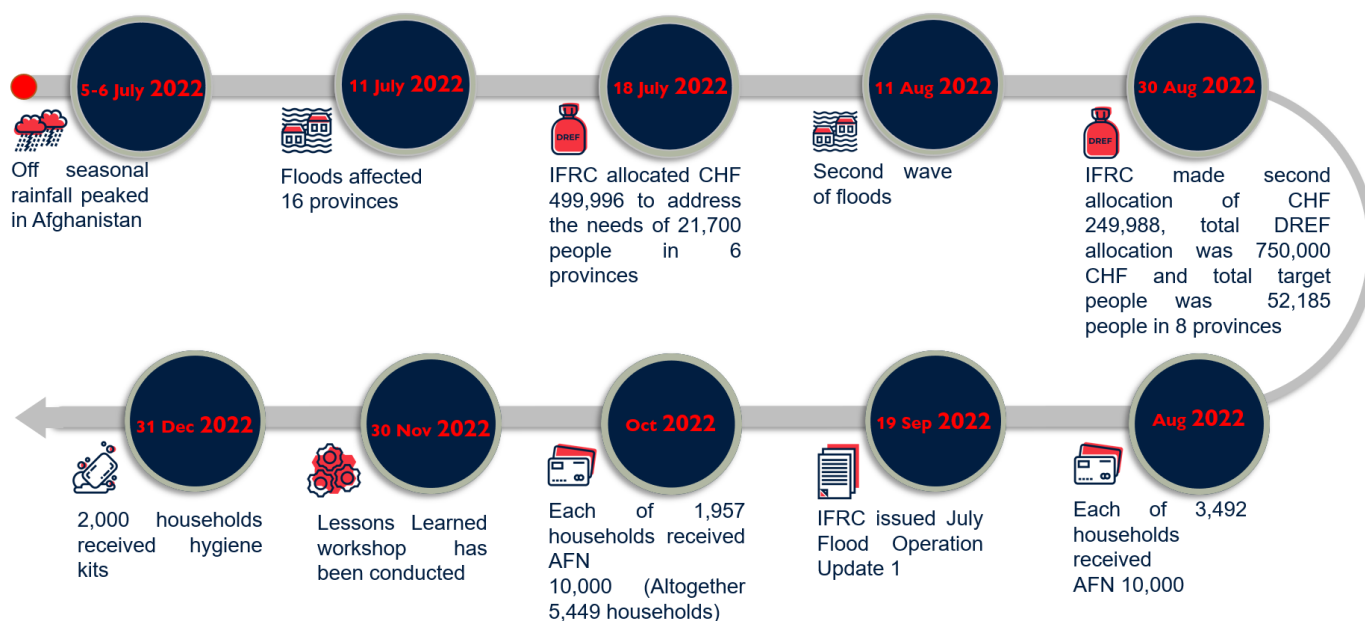
Off-seasonal rainfall peaked between July and August 2022 in Afghanistan, causing the country's rivers to overflow. The flood affected 16 provinces, out of which 13 provinces (Ghazni, Kandahar, Kunar, Logar, Laghman, Maidan, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia, Parwan, Wardak, Urozgan, and Zabul) were severely affected. A total of 156 people lost their lives and 124 people were injured, including women and children due to the floods. Over 35,700 houses were affected (16,000 houses destroyed and 19,700 partially damaged) which affected 249,900 people in the area. Thousands of acres of crops in farming fields were destroyed.



ARCS volunteer conducting assessment of the damages caused by the floods in Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar. (Photo: Meer Abdulla Rasikh, IFRC)

The rapid assessment conducted by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) revealed that the flash floods caused massive damage and destruction in these parts of the country. A substantial number of houses were flooded, with household items damaged. Several plots of farmland were swept away, and the flow of water cratered several roads. Many communities were left with inaccessible roads due to landslides. Because of the remoteness of some of the affected areas, the onset of harsh winters would aggravate the already precarious situation of the affected population.

Flood incidents and highlights of response



On 21 August, the regional Operational Coordination Team (OCT) deployed inter-agency assessment teams across Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan and other impacted areas. The inter-agency assessment teams consisting of agencies/humanitarian actors such as ARCS, International Organization for Migration, World Food Programme, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees/Women for Afghan Women, and Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees in close coordination with Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority and District Officials identified that affected families in more provinces need humanitarian assistance, including food, essential household items, emergency shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and multipurpose cash assistance. These revisions aim to better respond to the humanitarian needs of the flood-affected population, caused by the intensification of rains in more than 16 provinces between 16 and 31 August 2022.

The IFRC allocated nearly CHF 750,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support ARCS in delivering humanitarian assistance in response to off seasonal floods (MDRAF011).

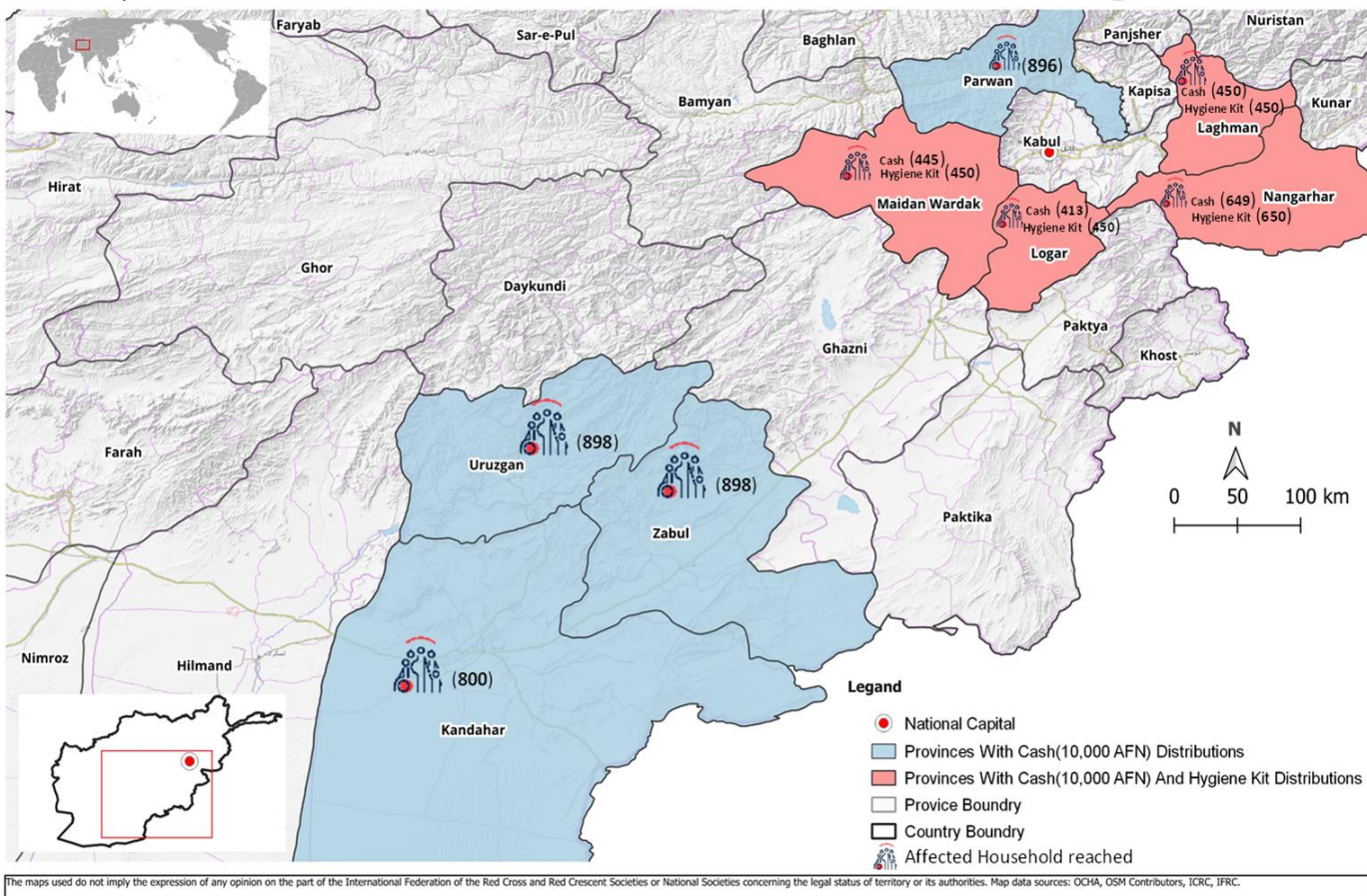
Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) with the support of IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) covered immediate needs of 5,449 households affected by floods in eight provinces (Kandahar, Laghman, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Parwan, Uruzgan and Zabul) through multi-purpose cash, each household received AFN 10,000. In addition, 2,000 households received hygiene kit in Maidan Wardak, Logar, Laghman and Nangarhar provinces.

Afghanistan July Floods Response

As of 31 January 2023



To ensure the quality of the activities, the ARCS PMER team conducted post distribution monitoring (PDM) of cash distribution. The PDM revealed that the top three expenses of the cash by the target households were on food (73 per cent), house repair (14 per cent), and medical expenses (7 per cent). While other expenses included paying debts, clothes, transportation and agricultural input.

Likewise, a lessons learned workshop was organized in November 2022. Key objectives of the workshop were to review what went well, what did not work and collect feedback for future operations. The workshop was participated by 40 people (38 male and 2 female) including ARCS management, operation team, PMER, finance, financial service provider and the representatives of the ARCS seven regional offices, provincial managers from Kunar, Khost, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces, and the representatives of the operation, finance and PMER department of IFRC country delegation. The workshop's main objective was to discuss challenges, capture learning and provide recommendations for future distribution.

ARCS has ensured close coordination and collaboration with public authorities and other humanitarian actors from the first day when the flooding happened. The coordination and collaboration with government departments, and other stakeholders in target/affected areas was maintained throughout the entire period of this emergency operation.



More than 5,400 households affected by floods received cash assistance from ARCS with the support of IFRC which help them to meet emergency needs. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC allocated about CHF 750,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support ARCS in delivering humanitarian assistance in response to off seasonal floods (MDRAF011).

During the reporting period, the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation engaged and collaborated with multiple government and non-governmental actors and continues to coordinate and collaborate with the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) and the IFRC Geneva headquarters on mitigating the challenges on accessing funds in-country.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in its role as the lead agency in the movement, 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 International Humanitarian Laws (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 Partner National Societies (PNS) like Norwegian Red Cross (NRC), Danish Red Cross (DRC) (under IFRC umbrella), Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) are present in country and provide multiple assistance to the Affected people through ARCS.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Cluster system is established as sectoral coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including non-governmental organizations, UN agencies, public authorities and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings occur monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies coordinated through UNOCHA and covering shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition. Meetings are attended by cluster partners, members and observers to share information, coordinate humanitarian interventions at cluster or multi-cluster levels, address operational challenges and feed into funding instruments such as the Afghan Humanitarian Fund. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum. ARCS and IFRC are the members of and participate in the national level monthly coordination meetings of Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Cash and Voucher Working Group, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, Accountability to Affected Population Working Group, Health Cluster, WASH Cluster, Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The 2022 July flood was one of the severe floods witnessed in Afghanistan after decades which had major and serious effect on the lives of people. The floods displaced many people across the affected provinces and districts while seeking temporary accommodation in safe places. The public authorities, supported by local non-governmental and humanitarian organisations, have provided a range of services, such as food and household items to the affected people. Because of receding water, people are gradually returning home and/or to their neighbouring host homes. ARCS provided support to the affected people upon return to their homes.

Rapid assessment conducted by ARCS in August 2022 indicated that the immediate needs of the population were mostly related to:

- Food and household items,
- Health and medical assistance,
- Materials to repair their homes,
- Access to financial service providers,
- Cash assistance and livelihood recovery as most of the population rely on income from agriculture (small-holder farms), and small family-owned businesses.

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

- Essential commodities were available in the local markets, and people had access to them.
- Although the price of products increased during the peak of the flooding, commodity prices were reasonable during the market assessment time.
- The demand for essential commodities decreased as most of the flood-torn people lacked sufficient cash in the affected areas.
- Markets were functional and people affected by floods had access to markets to purchase essential commodities.

Extreme winter weather conditions (e.g., storms and snow), were anticipated as a great barrier to access humanitarian assistance; hence, reaching the affected population through cash transfers was deemed as one of the best modalities that also preserved the dignity of the affected population.

The effects of COVID-19-induced livelihood loss are not over for the affected population.

The DREF operation provided immediate support to the affected population in eight provinces: Kandahar, Urozgan and Zabul in the south, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Parwan in the central regions, and Laghman and Nangarhar in the east region of the country. Based on the ARCS needs assessment and analysis, multi-purpose cash was distributed to 5,449 households and hygiene kit to 2,000 households in four out of eight provinces. The multipurpose cash assistance allowed opportunity to the target population to fulfil their needs based on their priority.

Close coordination with governmental authorities and humanitarian partners was conducted to ensure the needs of the affected population are met and risks of duplication of efforts is reduced.

Operation Risk Assessment

The main risk and challenge faced during the response operation was logistical access to the flood affected locations such as, damage of roads and flood. One of the Financial Service Providers (FSP) spent the night in Zabul province waiting to cross the flood to reach the cash distribution point. Likewise, the continuation of flood for over two weeks led to changes in the situation and analysis, resulting in revision of the DREF request.

Risk	Mitigation Measures
Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensured dissemination of ARCS operation, the activities, its approach, including the methodology of selecting people to receive assistance to all stakeholders.• Maintained proper communication with the communities for community-based distribution activities.• Conducted sensitization meetings with community elders and members to manage crowd control.• Discussed 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 targeted population during sensitization meetings and duly incorporated their feedback.

Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put crowd control mechanisms in place, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres, and marked queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centres. Invited people to receive assistance to come to the distribution centres in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they must spend queuing outside.
Risks associated with displacement of unexploded ordnance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensured up-to-date information was provided to field staff on the possibility of unexploded ordnance in areas of operation and staff to avoid areas with contamination until decontamination is contained.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The initial operation strategy was to provide in-kind assistance, clean water, other household items and food in three provinces including Kandahar, Zabul and Urozgan, as well as replenishing distributed items in Ghazni, Paktia and Parwan.

However, based on the ARCS need assessment and analysis, the modality of intervention was changed to multi-purpose cash distribution in four provinces in the first phase of the operation including Kandahar, Urozgan, Zabul and Parwan, and in the revised phase, four other affected provinces were added where multi-purpose cash, hygiene kits and information education communication (IEC) materials were distributed. These provinces are Maidan Wardak, Logar, Laghman and Nangarhar. The health intervention was covered through deployment of Mobile Health Team (MHTs) part of wider Humanitarian Crises Operation.

Livelihoods and basic needs

In consideration of the market functionality and multipurpose needs of the affected population and access to flood-affected areas, cash-based assistance (CVA) was proposed by ARCS to promote the economic recovery of 5,455 households. The cash assistance was harmonised with support provided by government authorities (i.e., ANDMA). The selection of benefitting families was based on the following agreed vulnerability criteria:

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

The ARCS has provided a one-time unconditional multi-purpose cash grant to the most vulnerable 5,449 households; each household received AFN 10,000 (CHF 110) in the eight targeted provinces. The cash was provided to the targeted households by the FSPs who were contracted by IFRC.

WASH

Following the floods, there was increased need for hygiene services for families in the rural and peripheral sectors of the cities. It was imperative to work on promoting health and disease prevention with at least 2,000 households that were affected by the first rains in Logar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Maidan Wardak provinces.

Before distribution, ARCS-trained volunteers provided orientation to recipients on the proper use of hygiene kits including information on proper handwashing, latrine maintenance, and menstrual hygiene. ARCS female volunteers also disseminated awareness messages regarding the use of sanitary pads, the preparation of sanitary pads using local resources along with other related information. This was conducted separately with the female-targeted community members.

Shelter

ARCS distributed the 500 household kits to affected people as mentioned in the initial DREF Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA). Although it was initially planned to replenish these 500 household kits (to be procured locally) through this DREF allocation, ARCS complemented this flood response with other resources at their disposal to provide shelter assistance.

The focus of this DREF operation remained on cash assistance in the most vulnerable districts hit by the floods.

Health

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

Operational support services

Human resources

- The ARCS Secretary General was fully accountable for the management of the operations.
- National Society mobilized its staff and volunteers from headquarters and regional offices for assessment, targeted household registration and delivery of services planned under the operation.
- Head of IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation was accountable for the timely implementation, compliance, financial management, and reporting of the operations with support IFRC operation, PMER and finance team.
- The IFRC provided technical support to the ARCS in registration of targeted households, distribution of cash and hygiene kits.

Administration and Finance

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

A Project Grant Agreement was signed between the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation and the ARCS for this operation. The IFRC, through the finance department, provided the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for the justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management

The logistics for the CVA component included bank transfers to contracted two FSPs' accounts. Logistics and supply chain management was a key enabling action to support the delivery of operational priorities. The FSP was mobilized to ensure the immediate response by cash-based interventions in a transparent and efficient way. A key aspect was also the strengthening of the local market.

Communication and advocacy

The ARCS has a strong Public Relations Department who led the communications in this operation. ARCS disseminated daily information for public awareness and information via its social media platforms (Twitter, Instagram, and the official website).

Security

Rapid security assessments and analyses were carried out to ensure that the security risk register as well as mitigating measures implemented and updated in security plans across the operational areas.

All IFRC must, and RedCross Red Crescent staff and volunteers were encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses. Staff and volunteers were briefed on reactions in an emergency before deployment to the area of operations.

IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation Security team continued to actively support Afghanistan Delegation as well as National Society Security Managers and Focal Point through information gathering/sharing, providing security guidelines, security coordination, and cooperation within the Movement as well as with external partners and the humanitarian community.

Accountability and Quality Programming

ARCS was responsible for the day-to-day monitoring of the operation, primarily at the branch level. After the encashment, a post-distribution survey was conducted. The survey enabled the gathering of information about the use of the cash and other feedback from recipients of the cash support. An internal lesson learned workshop was conducted to reflect the achievements, challenges, and learnings from the operation.

There was adherence to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) measures, the collection of sex-age and disability disaggregated data, and the application of Minimum Standards on PGI in Emergencies through the project cycle (including monitoring and reporting).

Information Technology and Information Management

For accurate, reliable, and timely data collection, mobile data collection – kobo toolbox was used for the needs assessment. The same toolbox was used to collect information from the recipients during post-distribution monitoring after the encashment. Technical support was provided by the IFRC Information Management (IM) personnel in the IFRC

Afghanistan Delegation Office to enable ARCS to analyse data and evaluate actual beneficiaries required for assistance. IFRC APRO IT & Telecommunication team in Kuala Lumpur is also providing technical support in any situation to the operation about any communication issues.


Internet connectivity was available in the IFRC Afghanistan Delegation. ARCS staff members and volunteers in the field operation was supported by internet facilities and internet data packages on their smartphones which enabled them to communicate electronically with the provincial office to send reports and pictures. Furthermore, Red Rose system was used to manage the data related to the cash and hygiene kit distribution.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Under this operation, IFRC and ARCS incorporated community engagement and accountability in all aspects of field implementation applying the Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for community engagement and accountability. Affected communities engaged during assessments, during and after cash distribution. Community-based information and sensitization sessions were conducted before distributing cash and hygiene kits. The community engagement was facilitated and supported by the pre-established community volunteers (consisting of both men and women), which played instrumental roles in facilitating the identification of vulnerable individuals and groups, and implementation of the planned activities.

The Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA are mainstreamed throughout operations as much as the context allowed. For instance, this was done through building and strengthening CEA capacity, collaborating with relevant inter-agency working groups and including CEA responsibilities throughout all sectors and operations (i.e., adding CEA questions into all assessments). During post distribution monitoring, majority of the respondents (62 percent) said that they preferred cash followed by 36 per cent of respondents preferring combination of cash and in-kind assistance and only 2 percent respondents said in-kind assistance only. Therefore, the programme focus changed from food distribution to cash. In addition, due to community feedback the location of the distribution was changed as people with disabilities were not able to access it easily. The banner with clear information about the selection criteria implemented in the distribution sites as result of community feedback.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 49,228 Male: 24,750 Female: 24,478		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with basic needs assistance	38,185	49,228
Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with food parcels	5,455	5,449
Narrative description of achievements		
Market assessment ARCS undertook a rapid market assessment to ensure that markets were functional and essential items were available. The assessment revealed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential commodities were available in the local markets in reasonable price after the peak of the flooding. Most of the flood-torn people did not have sufficient cash for purchasing food and basic items in the affected areas. 		
Cash distribution Under this DREF fund, the ARCS/IFRC distributed multi-purpose cash to 5,449 households benefiting over 49,228 people (24,750 male and 24,478 female) . Out of which, 177 households were headed by female.		



More than 5,400 households affected by floods received cash assistance from ARCS with the support of IFRC which help them to meet emergency needs. **Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC.**

Refer to Table 1 for number of households reached per province.

Table 1: Number of households reached per province

Name of province	Number of households targeted	Number of households reached	Number of people reached			Number of women headed households
			Male	Female	Total	
Kandahar	800	800	3,608	3,301	6,909	6
Laghman	450	450	1,855	1,618	3,473	10
Logar	413	413	1,674	1,531	3,205	33
Maidan Wardak	450	445	1,781	2,056	3,837	12
Nangarhar	650	649	2,559	2,893	5,452	87
Parwan	900	896	3,724	3,311	7,035	14
Uruzgan	898	898	5,500	5,897	11,397	13
Zabul	899	898	4,049	3,871	7,920	2
Total	5,460	5,449	24,750	24,478	49,228	177

Table 1 shows that nearly 50 per cent of households members reached are female. However, only 3 per cent of the females registered as household head. This disparity could be attributable to patriarchal social norms and cultural barriers that hinder women from assuming leadership roles within households.

Post Distribution monitoring (PDM)

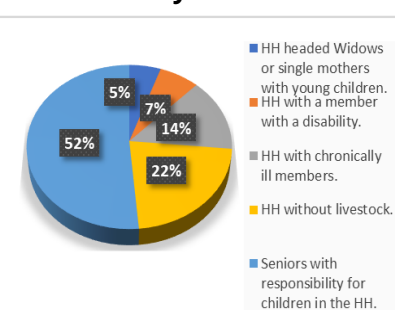
Post Distribution Monitoring was conducted by the ARCS PMER team in the above targeted provinces.

ARCS conducted PDM of cash assistance, in Zabul, Urozgan, Panjsher, Paktika, Nangarhar, Wardak, Logar, Laghman, Khost, Kandahar, and Kabul provinces. A total of **1,544** people (male 1,444 and female 100) were interviewed during the PDM surveys.

Regarding the residence status of the respondents, **68** per cent were host residents, **21** per cent temporary residents, **9** per cent IDPs, **1** per cent returnees, and **1** per cent were refugees at the time of cash distribution.

When asked which ARCS/IFRC selection criteria the respondents had met to receive the cash assistance, **54** per cent said that they were selected due to having rain-fed lands of less than three jeribs, **34** per cent engaged in highly destructive food-related coping strategies, and **12** per cent had two or more children under the age of five, who were unable to meet their basic food needs. In regard to vulnerability criteria, **52** per cent were seniors with responsibility for children in the household, and **22** per cent were without livestock.

Vulnerability criteria



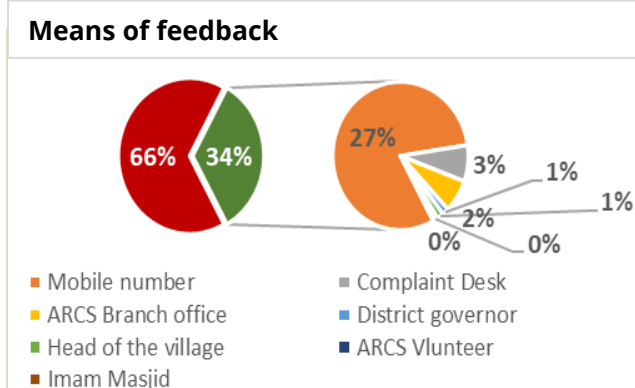
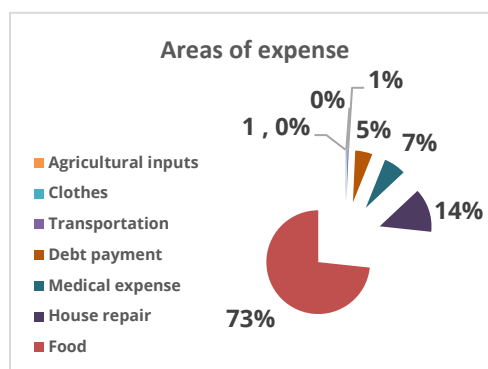
When the enumerator asked, “Did the ARCS staff conduct a sensitization session before cash distribution?” **90** per cent said Yes, **6** per cent No, and **4** per cent did not have information about the sensitization meeting.

Furthermore, almost **99** per cent of the respondents felt safe on the day of cash distribution, keeping cash at home, and traveling with cash to the market. All the respondents were satisfied with the ARCS selection process and the information provided about the place, time, and cash distribution.

The top three areas which respondents reported spent the received cash on are food (73 per cent), house repair (14 per cent), and medical expense of their family members (7 per cent). Only one respondent said the amount was also used for the agricultural input.

Regarding the feedback mechanism, **34** per cent of respondents understood how to reach ARCS for feedback and complaint, while **66** per cent did not understand. The PMER team shared these findings with the CEA and operation team. The ARCS operation team will systemize the community sensitization meetings before any distribution to provide awareness about existing feedback response channels and explain how the community can reach ARCS for any feedback and grievance.

Out of **34** per cent who understood how to register their feedback and complaints, **27** per cent mentioned they informed via mobile number provided on flyers on the day of distribution, **3** per cent highlighted through complaint box and **2** per cent by reaching out to ARCS branch offices in the provinces. Moreover, **97** per cent of the respondents indicated that cash assistance received was extremely useful in covering their household's immediate needs, however, **3** per cent mentioned the amount of cash received was insufficient and suggested ARCS/IFRC should continue providing assistance to the affected communities.



Challenges

The July 2022 flood was one of the most devastating natural disasters in the history of the country. Adding to that, the change in government and international sanctions further magnified challenges to implement the response activities smoothly. The destruction of roads in the urban areas limited access to the targeted communities. Additionally, the newly recruitment staff by the ARCS was also a main challenge as they are unfamiliar with the response operation. As a mitigation measure, ARCS and IFRC agreed to change the modality of intervention to multipurpose assistance which enabled reaching to the vulnerable community in the first weeks of the disaster.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 16,448

Male: 8,106

Female: 8,342

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Continuous assessment conducted	Yes	Yes
Coordination with other actors	Yes	Yes

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people who have been supplied with protected source of drinking water (according to WHO and Sphere standards) (Target: 15,000)	15,000	As requested by ARCS, DREF operation plan was revised and focused on multipurpose cash assistance and hygiene kit distribution.

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with hygiene kits	2,000	2,000
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period	14,000	16,448

Narrative description of achievements

With the support of this DREF, the ARCS provided hygiene kits with IEC materials with key health and hygiene messages to 2,000 households affected by flood in July 2022. Main objective of the kit distribution was to support personal hygiene practices as their household items including hygiene materials were either swept away or damaged by the floods. The key messages included importance and method of storing water properly, filtering water, proper hand washing technique and preparation and use of oral rehydration solution.

Table 2: Number of households reached by hygiene kits per province.

Name of province	Number of households targeted	Number of households reached	Number of people reached			Number of women headed households
			Male	Female	Total	
Laghman	450	450	1,855	1,618	3,473	10
Logar	450	450	1,911	1,775	3,686	34
Maidan Wardak	450	450	1,781	2,056	3,837	12
Nangarhar	650	650	2,559	2,893	5,452	87
Total	2,000	2,000	8,106	8,342	16,448	143

Each hygiene kit comprised of 13 items necessary for maintenance of personal hygiene and household sanitation. Refer to Table 3 for detail of the items in the hygiene kit.

Table 3. Composition of the hygiene kit

SN.	Item	Description	Quantity
1	Handwashing soap - 140gm	For hand washing, bathing	7 bars
2	Plastic soap case	for 250gm soap - 13.5*8.5*5cm	1 pc
3	Laundry soap (220-230 gm)	For washing clothes	7 bars
4	Plastic jerry can (20 liters)	For water storage or transportation	2
5	Plastic bucket (20 liters)	Bucket with lid, 710gm - 34.5*32cm	1
6	Plastic mug	Handling of water 66.8gm - 14*12.5cm	1
7	Soft cotton cloth (2 m ² piece)	Dark color cotton cloth	2 pcs
8	Toothbrush soft quality	Standard quality	7 pcs
9	Toothpaste (130 gm)	Standard quality	2 tubes
10	Towel (40 x 70 cm) 100% cotton	Standard cotton towels - 160gm	5 pcs
11	Shampoo	Bottle 250 ml	2 Piece
12	sanitary pad (box of 10 pcs)	Standard quality with wings	2 boxes
13	Bag 94*43*38cm	With ARCS logo kitting and sealing with plastic ties	1
14	Hygiene promotion IEC materials with key messages	Few most essential messages - 3 pages, both side printed	2 sheets

Challenges

The procurement and delivery of the hygiene kit items to the targeted provinces took five months to be completed, which subsequently led to a delay in distribution of the kits.



Protection Gender and Inclusion

People reached:

Male:

Female:

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?</i>	Yes	Yes
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>% of deployed staff and volunteers trained in PGI sensitization and minimum standards.</i>	70%	35%

Narrative description of achievements

Since the change in the governance and takeover of power by Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), women's access to basic right such as employment and education has been severely limited. Except for the health staff, all ARCS female staff are currently working from home and not allowed to attend the office. ARCS and IFRC have been engaging with governmental leaders and partners to advocate for equal access to services and to reduce gender-based discrimination and other considerations. Although 50 per cent of the people reached through this DREF are female among the target households, only 3 per cent percentage of registered household heads are female.

Strengthen National Society

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS capacity building and organisational development initiatives organized</i>	Yes	Yes
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i>National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</i>	100	34
Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place		
Indicators	Target	Actual
<i># of monitoring visits by ARCS team</i>	3	3

Narrative description of achievements

Under this operation:

- 34 volunteers were insured.
- Provided briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they would face before their deployment.

ARCS team carried out monitoring field visits during household registration and distribution for cash and hygiene kit. Likewise, with the support of IFRC, ARCS conducted post distribution mentoring of the cash support. Key findings of the monitoring have been presented in the livelihoods and basic needs section of this report.

International Disaster Response

Output S2.1.3: ARCS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improve

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS follows Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance</i>	Yes	Yes

Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
IFRC coordinates with humanitarian agencies	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		
Both the ARCS and IFRC had close coordination and collaboration with national and international stakeholders including the UN agencies and Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority ANDMA at headquarters, region, and branch level. The ARCS and IFRC cash team regularly participated in the Cash and Voucher Working Group CVWG.		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>ARCS PMER department with technical support of IFRC conducted two-day lessons learned workshop of multipurpose cash intervention in November 2022. The workshop's main objective was to discuss challenges, capture learning and provide recommendations for future distribution.</p> <p>The workshop was attended by 40 people (male 38 and female 2) including ARCS management, operation, PMER, Finance, and the representatives of the ARCS seven regional offices, provincial managers from Kunar, Khost, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces, and the representatives of the operation, finance and PMER department of IFRC country delegation. The workshop was held at ARCS headquarters, and it was facilitated by ARCS and IFRC PMER team.</p> <p>Key lessons learned from the multipurpose cash programme captured in the workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination mechanism should further be enhanced among the ARCS branch offices, regional offices, ARCS headquarters and IFRC country delegation. • During the selection and registration process of deserving communities, the names and numbers of the identification cards should be written correctly. • After the completion of each assessment or distribution, the report should be prepared and shared with ARCS headquarters. • In the distribution plan, one day should be allocated for those who were absent on the distribution day so that they would be able to collect their cash/food assistance on the other day. • The selection and vulnerability criteria should be prepared in advance and shared at different levels so that everyone is well-informed and can act accordingly. • A survey should be carried out based on the vulnerability criteria of each project to identify and register the most deserving people. • The monitoring visits during and after the distribution were very effective, it led the staff to rectify the findings and convert the implementation gaps into strengths in future interventions. • According to the interview conducted by the monitoring team with the aid recipients, it indicated that the demand for unconditional cash distribution is greater than for food because the aid recipients can prioritize their needs effectively. • The list of eligible people should be classified based on the village names with allocated time, then the eligible people should be invited to collect their assistance within the specified time frame to avoid overcrowding and long waiting time on the distribution day. • Complete information must be provided during the initial assessment and registration survey regarding the selection and vulnerability criteria of the deserving households to be registered to the local communities to avoid misunderstandings and local disputes. • As much as possible, the selected distribution point should be a central point that the community people of all villages have easy and low-cost access to the location. <p>ARCS will consider these points in future distribution while IFRC will provide needful support.</p>		

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC ensures the accountability of NS</i>	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC ensures technical capacity provided to NS</i>	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>ARCS compliance with financial procedures and reporting requirements improved</i>	Yes	Yes

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

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

Narrative description of achievements

- IFRC Afghanistan country delegation was actively involved in the operation in supporting ARCS response operations to devastating floods since the beginning of the operations.
- ARCS worked in close coordination with the IFRC country delegation and surge members who were deployed in the country. A field coordinator was deployed for three months in the country in July and August 2022 to support the operations. One Information management coordinator was deployed for a period of one month, one PMER Delegate for two months and two shelter delegates were deployed for a period of six months until January 2023.
- A WhatsApp group was set up amongst the IFRC and ARCS operation teams for effective coordination of efforts. The IFRC along with the ARCS teams shared information about the activities and assistance with stakeholders and communities. In all distribution points, there was banner with contact details of ARCS and IFRC focal person for feedback and information about the distribution.

D. THE BUDGET

The total budget of DREF for July floods were CHF749,984 with expenditures incurred CHF749,602 leaving a minor balance of CHF382 only.

At the time of writing, there are material variances identified between budget lines in the financial report which are the result of transposition errors that were detected after closure of the financial period. These variances will be rectified in the next period (May 2023). The total expenditure will remain unchanged, only coding of expenditure per budget line will be corrected. Expenditure variances against the budget will stay within 10 per cent of the budget.

The financial report will be published once the error above has been rectified and expenditure amounts finalised.

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

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

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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.