



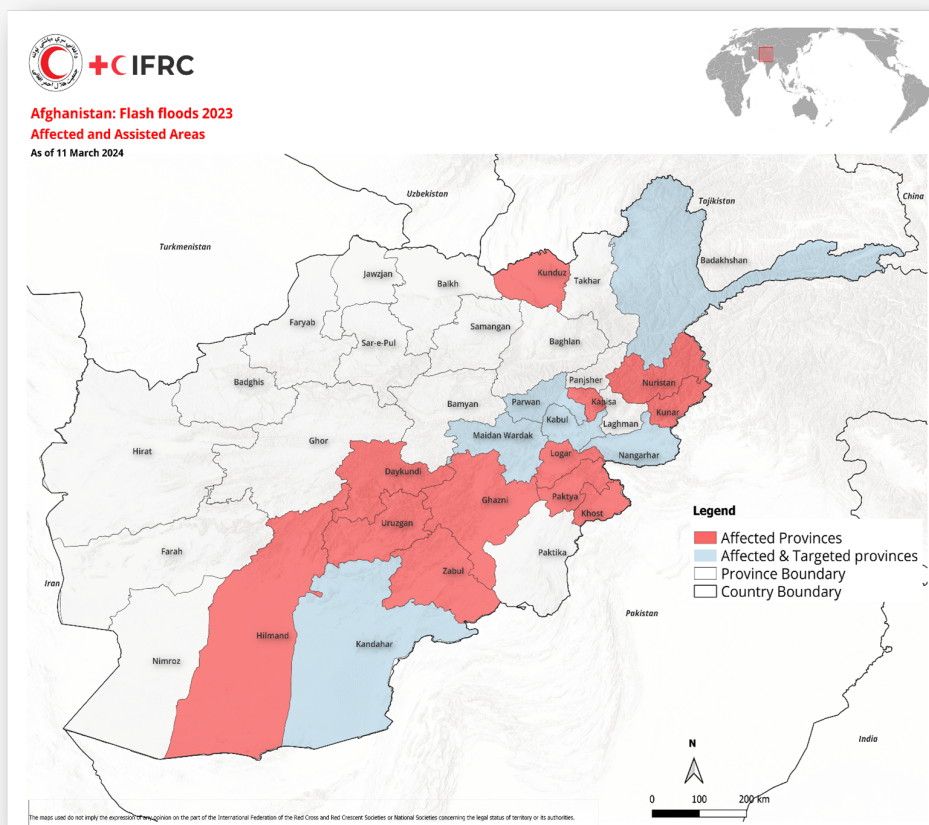
ARCS provided cash assistance to 2,000 flood-affected households across six provinces, to meet their emergency needs. (Photo: Meer Abdulla Rasikh, IFRC)

Appeal: MDRAF012	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 448,578	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FF-2023-000133-AFG	People Affected: 126,000 people	People Targeted: 28,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 05-08-2023	Operational End Date: 31-12-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 4 months

Targeted Areas: **Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maydan Wardak, Nangarhar, Parwan**

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, 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.

Description of the Event



Map highlighting the targeted areas of the operation. (Map: IFRC, IM)

Date of event

2023-07-24

What happened, where and when?

The occurrence of off-seasonal rain triggered flash floods in 18 provinces of Afghanistan in the fourth week of July 2023. These provinces included Badakhshan, Daikundi, Ghazni, Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Logar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia, Parwan, Uruzgan, and Zabol. The affected regions were already facing significant challenges due to prolonged conflicts, droughts, and financial instability, resulting in acute humanitarian needs. The floods exacerbated the situation of the communities in these provinces.





Supported by IFRC, ARCS distributed shelter kits to targeted households across Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, and Maidan Wardak provinces. (Photo: IFRC)



ARCS, supported by IFRC, delivered one-time multi-purpose cash assistance to targeted households across six targeted provinces. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

Scope and Scale

According to the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) assessment in August 2023, the off-seasonal floods in Afghanistan resulted in a loss of 61 lives, with 24 injured and six missing. Maidan Wardak province was the hardest hit, accounting for 37 of the fatalities. Approximately 126,000 individuals were affected across 18 provinces, with 1,360 houses damaged, 13,023 hectares of agricultural land washed away, and at least 1,128 livestock perished.

The floods were unprecedented in several provinces, including Badakhshan, Maidan Wardak, and Nangarhar. The aridity caused rainwater to be unable to penetrate the dry ground, resulting in floods.

The affected communities, already facing multiple challenges such as drought, extreme climate, and limited access to financial services, were ill-prepared to manage such large-scale events. Hence, the unprecedented floods further worsened the vulnerability of the communities in the affected provinces.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Afghan Red Crescent Society	https://www.arcs.af/en

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<p>ARCS, through the IFRC Emergency Appeal, conducted the following activities:</p> <p>(a) Cash for work programme:</p> <p>Under Emergency Appeal MDRAF007, a total of 500 individuals benefited from cash-for-work programmes in flood-affected areas across two provinces: Badakhshan (300 people) and Maidan Wardak (200 people). The project's objective was to provide temporary employment opportunities to people affected by the floods in 2023. Participants were provided with AFN 400 per day for 52 working days until December 2023.</p> <p>The scope of work encompassed repairing infrastructure and renovating facilities within their communities. Selection criteria for participants included being directly impacted by</p>



the floods, lacking employment opportunities, serving as breadwinners for their households, and expressing interest in the project. Local community committees were established to prioritize projects, select participants, and monitor the programme's implementation.

(b) Distribution of hygiene kits:

ARCS distributed hygiene kits to 1,440 households, benefiting a total of 10,708 individuals (5,498 male and 5,210 female) across five provinces: Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, and Nangarhar.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to provide extensive support to ARCS, encompassing various areas:

- (a) Humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards.
- (b) Provision of health services in hard-to-reach areas.
- (c) Implementation of longer-term resilience-building programmes.
- (d) Coordination of support by IFRC membership to the ARCS.
- (e) Enhancement of the organizational development of the ARCS.
- (f) Representation of the ARCS internationally.

Throughout the monitoring, assessment, early action, and early response to the floods, IFRC has been working closely alongside ARCS. Immediately following the floods, IFRC swiftly released essential relief items, including 6,000 blankets, 1,000 hygiene kits, 2,000 jerry cans, 2,000 tarpaulins, and 540 shelter kits. These items were distributed in the most affected provinces, including Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, and Parwan, in collaboration with ARCS.

To replenish the relief items and further support ARCS in their response efforts, IFRC allocated CHF 448,578 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF). Additionally, the IFRC-DREF was utilized to provide multi-purpose cash assistance to 2,000 households. Each household received AFN 10,500 (equivalent to USD 110) to address their essential emergency needs. Furthermore, IFRC assisted ARCS in mobilizing staff and volunteers to ensure effective response and assistance to affected communities.

Participating National Societies

Participating National Societies (PNS) with a presence in Afghanistan are Danish Red Cross (DRC), Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). The ARCS deployed MHTs, with support of the IFRC and NorCross, to address immediate health needs in Jalrez and Di-Merdad districts of Maidan Wardak, Siagird district of Parwan, and Paghman district of Kabul province.

Participating National Societies (PNS) with a presence in Afghanistan include the Danish Red Cross (DRC), the Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS), and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

In response to the flooding, the ARCS deployed Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) to address immediate health needs in several affected districts. This deployment was made possible with the support of both the IFRC and NorCross.

The MHTs were dispatched to Jalrez and Di-Merdad districts in Maidan Wardak, Siagird district in Parwan, and Paghman district in Kabul province. These teams provided crucial medical assistance and healthcare services to the affected populations in these areas, ensuring that those impacted by the disaster received timely and essential support.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has been present in Afghanistan since 1986 and continues to be operational through its main delegation in Kabul, as well as through its field-based offices. The ICRC's key operating areas in responding to Afghanistan's protracted conflict include the promotion and respect of International Humanitarian Law, health services, for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitoring the treatment of detainees across the country, and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions. There was no overlap between the support provided by the ICRC and that provided by the IFRC network. There was complementarity and close cooperation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Afghan National Disaster Management Authority
UN or other actors	The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continued to coordinate emergency response in the affected regions, sharing information, engaging with Operational Coordination Teams (OCTs), facilitating meetings with local authorities, and supporting the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to coordinate rapid assessments with partners. Cluster members ensured coordination, avoided duplication, and met people's needs efficiently. The World Food Programme (WFP) addressed food needs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided drinking water, and People in Need (PIN) offered rental support (USD 165 or equivalent to CHF 145) for three months in select districts in Maidan Wardak and Kabul.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) guides humanitarian action in Afghanistan and holds weekly meetings, with IFRC representing its membership. The ARCS and IFRC participate in monthly coordination meetings of various clusters and working groups, including Food Security and Agriculture, Cash and Voucher, Emergency Shelter, Accountability to Affected Population, Health, WASH, and Gender in Humanitarian Action. IFRC also attends the Inter-cluster Coordination Team meeting.

The Clusters system was established to coordinate sectoral efforts at national and regional levels, involving non-government organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Monthly cluster meetings, led by respective agencies, cover areas such as shelter, food security, agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition, coordinated by OCHA.

During the disaster, the Cash and Voucher Working Group recommended CHF 165 per household for emergency shelter assistance over three months. IFRC/ARCS works closely with cluster members at national and sub-regional levels to ensure a coordinated and timely response that meets people's needs while avoiding duplication.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The rapid assessment conducted by the ARCS indicates that more than 1,360 residential houses in Afghanistan sustained damage as a result of the 2023 floods. The immediate needs of the affected households included shelter and essential household items, as the floods washed away or damaged their belongings. In response to the disaster, ARCS distributed emergency shelter and household items such as shelter kits, tarpaulins, blankets, and jerry cans. This swift action aimed to address the urgent needs of those impacted by the floods, ensuring they received necessary assistance to cope with the aftermath of the disaster.





Health

The loss of homes, livestock, farms, and family members caused severe psychological trauma to the residents of the affected area. Some individuals also sustained injuries.

Access to basic health services and health promotion was identified as a gap in the affected area. To address these needs, ARCS, supported by IFRC, mobilized existing health capacities, including MHT, in all the flood-affected provinces.

This ensured a coordinated and synergized response to the humanitarian needs of the country.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

In affected communities, floods caused disruptions to the sanitation and water supply systems, thereby increasing the risk of contamination and epidemics. Exposure to floodwater could result in skin infections, wounds, and the transmission of diseases such as acute watery diarrhea and cholera.

To address water-related diseases and basic sanitation, it was crucial to strengthen measures such as promoting handwashing, disinfecting drinking water, providing hygiene kits and water storage containers, and addressing special needs like menstrual hygiene kits.

These measures were implemented to mitigate the health risks posed by the aftermath of the flooding, ensuring the well-being of the affected individuals and communities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

ARCS employed a community engagement and accountability (CEA) strategy in the flood response operation. This involved working closely with the local community, ensuring their participation in all stages of the response operation, and incorporating their views and preferences collected through assessments.

ARCS, supported by IFRC, conducted an orientation for at least 10 volunteers on the importance of CEA and PGI, including community feedback mechanisms in each province before the distribution of cash and relief items. The volunteers were part of the ARCS field team and were mobilized in six provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, and Parwan).

These volunteers played a crucial role in transparent communication with flood-affected communities, providing information on hygiene promotion and disease prevention.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aimed to address the needs of approximately 32,000 people from 4,000 vulnerable households in six provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, and Parwan) whose houses were severely damaged and livelihood security compromised because of heavy rain.

In the prioritized provinces, the IFRC-DREF operation sought to offer immediate humanitarian aid in the form of cash assistance and household necessities to populations affected by flash floods. The operation replenished the items that were distributed during the emergency phase. ARCS focused on the provision of immediate assistance based on the findings of the needs assessment. Key priorities of the operation included:

- Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) targeting 2,000 households for meeting multisector basic needs.
- Replenishment for 500 shelter kits
- Provision household kits (kitchen sets) to 1,000 households (ideally to same households who received tarpaulins, blankets and jerrycans earlier).
- Distribution and replenishment for essential household items (6,000 blankets, 2,000 tarpaulins and 2,000 jerrycans)
- Undertake hygiene promotion (since there is distribution of hygiene kits and water storage containers)



- Mainstreaming of CEA and PGI

The ongoing Emergency Appeal successfully complemented the planned activities under DREF and contributed to covering part of the essential needs of affected communities, prioritizing their humanitarian well-being over the specific items delivered. This encompassed the provision of hygiene kits, food packages, and livelihood activities such as cash-for-work initiatives.

Experience from this response complemented the health emergency preparedness and response plan under the new revised operation strategy under Humanitarian Protracted Crises Appeal. ARCS first aid volunteers, for instance branch disaster response team (BDRTs) were also trained in psychological first aid (PFA) who have been able to support the affected population.

During the floods, ARCS activated its EOC and deployed its BDRT as well as the five MHTs to the field to respond while conducting field assessments.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy prioritized prompt response to the needs of approximately 4,000 affected households based on rapid needs assessments. These households faced increased vulnerability due to the severe consequences of heavy rain and flooding. ARCS staff and volunteers reached communities on foot, transported aid to affected areas, and established a camp in Maidan Wardak province.

Collaborative efforts with public authorities, NGOs, and the ARCS/IFRC network addressed community needs and avoided duplication. Coordination with partners ensured resources reached the most affected provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nangahar, and Parwan).

Furthermore, the ongoing Afghanistan-Humanitarian Crisis Appeal (MDRAF007) enhanced support for food, livelihoods, health, shelter, water, and sanitation assistance in all flood-affected provinces, ensuring a coordinated response to the country's humanitarian needs.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

A total of 4,000 households whose houses had been severely damaged and livelihood security compromised by the current floods were targeted through the operation in six provinces (Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak Nangahar and Parwan).

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria were finalized in consultation with the flood-affected community. The following criteria were used and verified throughout the recipient registration processes:

- Households whose houses were destroyed or damaged by the floods.
- Households that have engaged in negative food-related coping mechanisms.
- Households with two or more children under the age of five who are unable to meet their basic needs.

Within this framework, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritize selection:

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



Total Targeted Population

Women	7,400	Rural	90%
Girls (under 18)	6,300	Urban	10%
Men	7,720	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	6,580		
Total targeted population	28,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Perception issues related to the 'Conduct of the Operation' or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	<p>The dissemination of the ARCS operation and operational activities, including the recipient selection process, was ensured. For community-based distributions, proper communication was maintained with the communities. Sensitization meetings with community elders and members were utilized to manage crowds at the distribution site.</p> <p>During these meetings, discussions covered the nature of the assistance, exact targeted locations, the type of assistance, time, date, and venue of distribution, as well as the distribution process. This approach facilitated transparency and understanding among the affected communities regarding the assistance they would receive and how it would be distributed.</p>
Extreme weather conditions hinder and delay access and/or distributions.	To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC prepositioned supplies at the branch/community level and mapped alternative road options for access. This proactive approach ensures essential supplies are readily available and accessible, minimizing potential disruptions in delivering aid to affected areas during an emergency.
Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities	ARCS established crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centers. Inside the distribution centers, queues were marked using hazard tape. Additionally, ARCS invited people to receive assistance in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they must spend queuing outside. This approach aimed to streamline the distribution process and ensure a more organized and efficient operation.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

IFRC and ARCS ensured that field staff were provided with updated information about the presence of unexploded ordnance in operational areas. They were advised to avoid contaminated areas until decontamination measures were in place. Additionally, the National Society's security framework was implemented to ensure the safety of their staff and volunteers throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 128,865

Targeted Persons: 7,000

Assisted Persons: 16,727

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households receiving shelter kit	500	540
# of household provided with adequate household needs assistance (tarpaulin, jerry can, blanket and kitchen set)	1,000	1,000
# of household items package (tarpaulin, jerry can and blankets) replenished	1,000	1,000
# shelter kit replenished	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

Supported by IFRC, ARCS reached over 16,000 people through emergency shelter and essential household items assistance in the targeted provinces.

(a) Provision of emergency shelter and essential household items:

ARCS, supported by IFRC, distributed 540 shelter boxes/kits, 2,000 tarpaulins, 6,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen sets, and 6,000 jerry cans to 1,540 households affected by floods.

In Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, and Parwan provinces, each of the 540 households received a shelter kit/box, and each of the 1,000 households received an emergency shelter and household item package consisting of 2 tarpaulins, 6 blankets, and 6 jerry cans. Each shelter box/kit includes tents, mosquito nets, water filters, water carriers, solar lights, cooking sets, blankets, and mats. Detailed composition of a shelter box is available at <https://www.shelterboxusa.org/home-page/welcome/>. ARCS conducted orientation sessions about the relief items before their distribution at each distribution point.

Main highlights:

- Immediately after the floods, IFRC dispatched 2,000 tarpaulins, 6,000 blankets, 540 shelter boxes, 1,440 hygiene kits, and 6,000 jerry cans to support ARCS in responding to the households affected by floods.
- With the IFRC-DREF budget, IFRC procured 5,317 blankets, 2,000 tarpaulins, 1,000 kitchen sets, 2,000 jerry cans, and 500 shelter kits to replenish the items distributed in the flood response.

Additionally, the IFRC operation and communication team visited operation Puli –e- Charkhi district of Kabul to monitor relief items distribution in August 2023. Key findings of the monitoring visit:

- Installation of banner with project information at distribution points
- Establishment of separate desk for recipient verification, cash distribution and feedback
- Distribution of business card with information on how to register complaints about the distribution and other ARCS services. The information was written in local language.
- ARCS staff were supportive and friendly to the recipients and providing necessary support to them such taking them to the recipient verification desk.



The operation surpassed the initial target of reaching 7,000 people. Initially, targeting was established based on an average household size of 7 for 1,000 households. However, this calculation did not account for the number of people targeted by the 540 shelter kits/boxes. Additionally, the actual household size in flood-affected areas exceeded 7. Consequently, the 1,000 households that received 2,000 tarpaulins, 6,000 blankets, 100 kitchen sets, and 6,000 jerry cans comprised a total of 10,632 members. Similarly, the 540 households that received shelter kits/boxes accounted for 6,095 members. Overall, the relief items reached a total of 16,727 people from 1,540 households.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 248,358

Targeted Persons: 14,000

Assisted Persons: 20,150

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households reached with MPCA in targeted provinces	2,000	2,000
#of people reached with MPCA in targeted provinces	14,000	20,150

Narrative description of achievements

Supported by IFRC, ARCS reached over 20,000 people through MPCA in the targeted provinces.

(a) Household Selection:

ARCS, in consultation with public authorities and community leaders, selected households based on specific selection and vulnerability criteria for MPCA in six targeted provinces:

- Households whose houses were destroyed or damaged by the floods.
- Households engaged in negative food-related coping mechanisms.
- Households with two or more children under five who are unable to meet their basic needs.
- Elderly individuals responsible for children in the household.
- Households without livestock.
- Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children.
- Households with chronically ill members.
- Households with a member with a disability.
- Households with pregnant and lactating women.

The selected households were then registered in the Red Rose system.

(b) Distribution of MPCA:

ARCS, supported by IFRC, provided one-time MPCA with a cash transfer value of AFN 10,500, equivalent to USD 110, to each of 2,000 households in six targeted provinces (Badakhshan - 400, Kabul - 250, Kandahar - 400, Maidan Wardak - 250, Nangarhar - 400, and Parwan - 300 households) using appointed financial service providers (FSPs) in September 2023. The primary objective of the MPCA was to support households affected by floods in meeting their essential emergency needs.

(c) Monitoring FSPs Performance:

ARCS received commendable and well-coordinated services in accordance with humanitarian principles under the framework agreement with the FSPs. The service providers consistently exhibited dedication to efficiency and professionalism, ensuring prompt and accurate disbursement of funds. Their profound grasp of humanitarian principles promoted transparency and integrity in financial transactions, thereby fostering trust and instilling confidence.

(d) Conducting Post-distribution Monitoring (PDM):



In November 2023, ARCS's PMER department carried out PDM of MPCA in Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces. A total of 158 respondents (154 male; 4 female) were interviewed during the survey. Regarding the age of the respondents, 63 per cent were 18-50 years old, 32 per cent were more than 50 years old, and 5 per cent were under 18 years old. As for their residence status, 98 per cent were host residents, while two per cent were internally displaced persons (IDPs). Key findings of the PDM included:

- **Expenditure Priorities and Purchasing Decisions:** The top four priority areas where the cash was spent by respondents included food, house repair, debt payment, and medical expenses. Some 49 per cent of respondents said the husband decided what to purchase with the cash, 46 per cent said both husband and wife, and 5 per cent said wife.
- **Protection:** 100 per cent felt safe on the day of cash distribution, keeping cash at home, and traveling with cash to the market; 81 per cent of the respondents indicated that the cash assistance received was useful to cover their most important family needs, while 19 per cent mentioned that the amount of cash received was not sufficient to cover their family needs; 100 per cent of the respondents indicated that they never paid money or other benefits to somebody to receive the assistance.
- **Preferred Assistance Type:** 53 per cent of respondents preferred cash, 40 per cent preferred combinations of cash and food, and the remaining 7 per cent preferred food, livestock, and agriculture support. Furthermore, all respondents were aware of the distributed amount of cash.
- **Community Engagement and Accountability:** All respondents said that they did not observe any form of abuse (sexual, verbal, insult, physical assault) or discrimination by Red Cross Red Crescent staff or volunteers and staff; 32 per cent of respondents said that ARCS staff conducted a sensitization session before cash distribution, while 68 per cent said 'No'; 100 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the ARCS' selection process, and 98 per cent were satisfied with the information provided about the place, times, and cash distribution.
- **Waiting Time and Transportation Cost:** 25 per cent of respondents said that they waited more than one hour, 22 percent less than 15 minutes, 22 per cent 30-44 minutes, and the remaining 33 per cent waited 15-29 minutes and 45 minutes-1 hour to receive their cash at the distribution point. 44 per cent of respondents said that they spent AFN 0-200, followed by 43 per cent spending AFN 201-400, and the remaining 13 per cent spent AFN 401-1,000 as two-way transportation cost to receive the cash.

Overall, the findings suggest a generally positive perception of ARCS's cash assistance programme, with room for improvement in ensuring adequacy of assistance, reducing waiting times, and enhancing community engagement efforts.

According to MEB guidance as of 17 October 2023, the transfer value is USD 140. However, ARCS decided to transfer USD 110 as ARCS provided WASH items (in-kind distribution). Therefore, the calculation of the MPCA would be $USD\ 140 - USD\ 25.17 = USD\ 114.83$ (rounded down to USD 110).

Key findings of the PDM were shared with relevant departments for their consideration in future distributions.

Summary of the PDM is also available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kW4PYITZitBcRrOqkDvak44lgBjwuLa4/view>

(e) Participation in CVWG meetings:

ARCS/IFRC response team actively participated in CVWG meetings to foster harmonization and cooperation among the CVWG members, ensuring effective collaboration and synergy.

Lessons Learnt

- Conducting awareness and information sessions prior to distribution proves to be beneficial in ensuring that the target population has accurate information regarding the distribution process.
- Accurate and verified identity card numbers are essential for efficient validation and distribution processes.
- The registration of target households or individuals should be conducted based on Tazkira (citizenship card or other valid documents) to prevent tensions at distribution points.

Challenges

- The validation process during distribution was delayed due to the registration of someone else's phone number and the insertion of incorrect identity card numbers of recipients in the RedRose system.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 1,065

Targeted Persons: 7,000

Assisted Persons: 10,708

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	4,000	10,708

Narrative description of achievements

ARCS reached over 10,000 people in the targeted provinces through WASH interventions including the provision of hygiene kits and awareness session.

(a) Distribution of hygiene kits:

ARCS, supported by IFRC Emergency Appeal, provided hygiene kits to 1,440 households across five provinces: Badakhshan, Kabul, Kandahar, Maidan Wardak, and Nangarhar. Each kit contained the following items:

1. Antiseptic soap (Dettol) 25gm - 7 bars
2. Plastic soap case (for 250gm soap) - 1 piece
3. Laundry soap (200gm) - 7 bars
4. Plastic jerry can (10-20 litre) - 2 pieces
5. Plastic bucket (10-20 litre) - 1 piece
6. Plastic mug (2 litre size) - 1 piece
7. Soft cotton cloth (2 m) - 2 pieces
8. Toothbrush - adult - 3 pieces
9. Toothbrush – child - 4 pieces (small-size)
10. Toothpaste (125gm) - 2 tubes
11. Towel (40 x 70 cm) - 5 pieces
12. Shampoo - 2 bottles
13. Sanitary pad (normal size) (box of 12 pieces) - 2 boxes
14. Bag - 1 piece
15. Hygiene promotion IEC materials with key messages - 5 sheets

(b) Hygiene Promotion:

Before distributing the hygiene kits to the affected households, ARCS conducted awareness sessions on their use and importance, including key messages for the targeted communities. To further promote the significance of hygiene within communities, ARCS utilized its community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) volunteers to distribute essential hygiene messages and facilitate informative orientations in specific provinces. A total of 10,708 people (5,498 male and 5,210 female) were reached through hygiene promotion orientations in the flood-affected provinces.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 28,000

Assisted Persons: 36,900



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of deployed staff and volunteers trained in PGI sensitization and minimum standards	70	100

Narrative description of achievements

ARCS, with support from IFRC, conducted a three-day PGI, safeguarding, and CEA training for 25 ARCS staff (male staff from different departments including the gender department) in Kabul through IFRC Emergency Appeal resources. Key content of the training included IFRC PGI policy and PGI minimum standards Dignity Access Participation Safety (DAPS), safeguarding, and CEA introduction and feedback mechanisms, including collecting sensitive feedback, which was also discussed with staff and volunteers. ARCS is planning to conduct similar training for female staff and volunteers in April 2024.

Additionally, ARCS/IFRC developed a checklist to ensure minimum standards of PGI for health interventions. They also integrated cross-cutting issues such as PGI, CEA, safeguarding, and planning monitoring evaluation and reporting (PMER) into community-based health and first aid and national disaster response training courses. A PGI shelter checklist was also drafted and shared with ARCS headquarters for their review and inputs. The child safeguarding risk analysis was discussed with the team and will be conducted and implemented in 2024.

Lessons Learnt

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Challenges

- The mobilization of female staff and volunteers posed a challenge due to the culturally sensitive context in Afghanistan. However, ARCS managed to mobilize female volunteers at distribution points where the target recipients were female.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 4,000

Assisted Persons: 4,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of people satisfied with receiving distributions in good quality and with dignity	85	100
# of people reached through dissemination of key information and messages	4,000	4,000

Narrative description of achievements

ARCS conducted various community mobilization and sensitization meetings with affected community leaders and vulnerable people through its volunteer network to ensure accountability. Recipient selection criteria were prepared for different sectors during these meetings and shared with the affected communities for further consideration.

Furthermore, ARCS engaged communities throughout the assessment, planning, implementation, and regularly updated them through community meetings. ARCS volunteers ensured that all information related to the intervention was shared with target communities, including detailed sectoral plans, progress made, ongoing activities, distribution processes, any delays or challenges encountered, and



importantly, the rights and entitlements of the people being assisted. This ensured that target communities were well-informed and empowered to make informed decisions and effectively access the assistance they were entitled to.

Communities were also briefed on receiving aid and ARCS took measures to minimize risks, including:

- Briefing communities on the mandate of ARCS/IFRC and its free services during assessments, surveys, community meetings, and visits.
- Distributing hotline numbers among target communities for sharing feedback with ARCS/IFRC.
- Conducting interviews with beneficiaries after receiving aid to inquire if they were asked for any exchange for aid.

Likewise, ARCS oriented its volunteers and staff on question and answer (Q&A) sheets to respond to questions commonly asked by community members during assessments, implementation, and program conclusion.

ARCS, supported by IFRC, provided CEA orientation/training to staff and volunteers involved in the operation. This training equipped volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills for community engagement and accountability, covering CEA principles, effective communication, meaningful participation, active listening, and feedback mechanisms. The aim was to empower volunteers to engage respectfully and inclusively with affected communities and integrate CEA into the project cycle.

Moreover, ARCS implemented various measures to utilize existing community feedback mechanisms and incorporate community feedback data for informed decision-making. This included distributing hotline numbers to beneficiaries for questions, suggestions, and feedback. A help desk was also set up during distribution to collect complaints or concerns from the community. Data collected was analyzed to identify areas requiring improvement and make informed decisions based on community needs and feedback, ensuring program responsiveness.

ARCS, with IFRC support also developed a comprehensive cash distribution plan prioritizing vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, and women-headed households. Efforts were made to accommodate their needs and provide necessary assistance to ensure they could access cash support.

It is worth highlighting that during project socialization and community organization activities, ARCS recognized the importance of providing separate sessions for women and men. To ensure inclusivity and address the specific needs of women, separate sessions were organized and conducted by female volunteers of ARCS, creating a safe and comfortable environment for women to actively engage and participate in project activities.

Challenges

- Due to funding limitations within this operation, it was not possible to cover the expenses associated with mahram arrangements for female recipients. In the context of Afghanistan, women are generally required to be accompanied by a male relative, known as a mahram, when moving in public spaces.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of financial reporting compliance to IFRC procedures	100	100

Narrative description of achievements

IFRC provided technical and management support for the operation, utilizing existing capacities in the country supported under the Emergency Appeal.

(a) Security:



The National Society's security framework applied throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. While the IFRC country security framework was applied for the deployment of personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS.

(b) Reporting:

ARCS/IFRC established regular reporting and field update mechanisms to monitor the flood operation. Likewise, key progress and challenges were discussed in the weekly technical lead meetings.

(c) Communication:

ARCS/IFRC's communication department provided a comprehensive and compelling overview of the flood impact in affected regions. Through on-the-ground interviews, testimonials, and audio-visual documentation, they created a vivid narrative highlighting the gravity of the situation and the resilience of affected communities. Real-time updates and insights were shared on Twitter.

(d) Resource Mobilisation:

IFRC utilized funds from Emergency Appeal MDRAF007 to support ARCS in providing temporary employment to 500 individuals through cash-for-work programmes in flood-affected areas. The project targeted two provinces, with 300 individuals in Badakhshan and 200 individuals in Maidan Wardak.

The objective of the initiative was to offer temporary employment to those affected by flash floods in July 2023, providing AFN 400 (approx. CHF 80) per day for 52 working days until December 2023. The activities included repairing infrastructure and renovating community facilities. The project focused on vulnerable households, including female/child-headed households, people with disabilities, and households with pregnant/lactating mothers. A community committee was formed to select participants and monitor the project. Selection criteria included being affected by the floods, unemployed, serving as the breadwinner, and expressing interest in the cash-for-work project.



Budget: CHF 4,000
Targeted Persons: 30
Assisted Persons: 30

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of volunteers insured	100	100
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

(a) Volunteer Insurance and Support:

ARCS provided insurance coverage to 53 volunteers and mobilized them in assessment and relief distribution in the flood response operation. Additionally, ARCS appreciated volunteers by providing a field allowance, covering expenses like transportation and communication. These measures highlight ARCS's commitment to recognizing volunteers' contributions and prioritizing their well-being in humanitarian responses.

(b) Movement Coordination Mechanisms:

ARCS collaborated with multiple organizations to carry out its mission, including the IFRC, ICRC, and PNS such as the DRC, NorCross, QRCS, and TRC. As an auxiliary to public authorities, ARCS maintained strong coordination with national and sub-national entities, including ANDMA and Provincial Disaster Management Committees. ARCS and IFRC actively participated in Cluster and Inter-Agency



Working Group meetings and forums for coordinating the flood response operation.

(c) Deployment of Trained Staff and Volunteers in the Affected Areas:

ARCS deployed branch disaster response teams, along with other trained volunteers, to deliver humanitarian assistance in affected areas. They jointly conducted assessments, gathered accurate information about the needs and requirements of the affected population, and were involved in relief distributions.

(d) Lessons Learned Workshop:

ARCS's PMER department conducted a lessons learned workshop on 27 November 2023 to discuss challenges and learnings, capture good practices, and draw recommendations from the cash-based intervention in flood operations. A total of 27 people (all males), including leadership, operational team members, and PMER team from ARCS headquarters, disaster management managers from ARCS branches, and IFRC operation and PMER-IM team, participated in the meeting. The workshop provided participants with a deeper understanding of effective disaster relief practices. It emphasized the importance of transparency, accountability, and professional adaptation in future programs. Key challenges and learnings captured in the workshop have been incorporated under the relevant sectors of this report.

Lessons Learnt

- Monitoring activities should be conducted more frequently to ensure program effectiveness.
- Enhancing supervision during operations is key to ensuring transparency.
- Acknowledging the crucial role of female volunteers in humanitarian response is essential, as their involvement significantly enhances the effectiveness and inclusivity of response efforts.

Challenges

- Limited female representation in humanitarian response hinders the effectiveness and inclusivity of the overall response efforts.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRAF012 - Afghanistan - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 05 Aug 2023 to 31 Dec 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/8-2024/2	Operation	MDRAF012
Budget Timeframe	2023/8-12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29/Mar/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	448,578
DREF Response Pillar	448,578
Expenditure	-448,501
Closing Balance	77

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	128,865	63,951	64,914
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	248,358	303,111	-54,753
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,065		1,065
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	70,290	67,660	2,630
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	448,578	434,722	13,856
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships		2,325	-2,325
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening		11,453	-11,453
Enabling Approaches Total		13,779	-13,779
Grand Total	448,578	448,501	77

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 448,578 was allocated to support ARCS in assisting 28,000 people affected by floods in 2023. These funds were utilized to provide emergency support in terms of health, WASH, MPC CEA, and PGI. The total expenditure recorded at the end of the operation amounted to CHF 448,501, which represents almost 100 per cent of the budget. This leaves a balance of CHF 77 which will be returned to the DREF pool.

Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

