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Afghanistan

Mid-Year Report against Long Term Planning Framework

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001

21 September 2012

**This report covers
the period 1 January 2012
to 30 June 2012.**

*Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS)
and International Federation of Red
Cross and Red Crescent Societies
(IFRC) personnel visiting the flood
affected spots in Sar-e-Pul province,
Northern Afghanistan.*

Photo: Ali Hakimi/IFRC



Overview

Disaster management (DM):

- Twenty-two staff and volunteers from the Afghan Red Crescent Society's (ARCS) Balkh, Kunduz and Faryab branches participated in assessment and registration coordination meeting, followed-up in January 2012 with assessment and registration activities in drought-affected areas of these provinces. Two food distributions followed from 21 February to 1 March 2012 in Balkh, and from 11 to 28 April 2012 in Kunduz reaching 11,938 drought-affected families (83,566 people). Each food parcel contained 75kg rice, 5kg sugar, 15kg cooking oil, 25kg beans, 2kg salt and 2kg tea. In addition, beneficiary registration of 6,330 drought-affected families (44,310 people) was conducted in 111 villages of Qaisar district in the northern province of Faryab in March 2012. The Faryab food distributions, however, have been postponed due to security constraints and poor accessibility to the area.
- In the Western region, food distributions were completed for 14,000 beneficiaries (2,000 families) in Farsi district, Herat province in the period 26 June to 5 July 2012. A further 6,000 food parcels are to be distributed in Ghor and Baghdis provinces, reaching 42,000 beneficiaries in September 2012.
- In the period January to June 2012, a total of 4,404 disaster-affected families, as well as internally displaced persons, received food and non-food assistance from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.
- From January to June 2012, 150 new community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) volunteers, of which 127 are females, were trained in CBDP to improve disaster preparedness capacity in their community. A seven-day vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) 'learning by doing' training workshop was conducted from 26 May to 1 June 2012 in Herat. Through this process community vulnerabilities such as susceptibility to flood, epidemics, drug addiction, and lack of health clinics in three communities in Herat region were uncovered.
- Construction of two warehouses was completed in April 2012 for storage of disaster preparedness supplies, one each at the ARCS provincial branches in Kapisa and Kunar.

Health and care:

- ARCS primary health in emergencies (PHiE) training was conducted from 30 April to 03 May 2012, and focussed on cholera and shigellosis, with ARCS mobile health team doctors and nurses participating. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of ARCS in preparedness and response to public health emergencies. By the end of the training 25 ARCS mobile health team doctors and nurses, along with managerial staff, had learned about conducting emergency assessments, response planning, and the importance of coordination during emergencies.
- Construction of six new clinic buildings commenced in Balkh, Laghman, Paktya, Nimroz, Panjsheer and Kapisa provinces.
- The comprehensive community-based health intervention programme (CCBHI) expanded to six new villages of Balkh province at the beginning of May 2012.
- The IFRC country office standardized its health programming by formally introducing community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) as an integrated approach for health programming, and supported the ARCS in a CBHFA conceptualization workshop for supervisors across Afghanistan's CBHFA programmes.
- The conceptualization workshop held 17-19 March 2012 included review of the mid-term evaluation recommendations; the recommendations were discussed in detail with focus on incorporating them into future planning.
- On 25 April 2012 ARCS received a letter of approval from the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Public Health for implementation of its HIV/AIDS youth peer education programme in schools in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar cities. Fifty youth peer educators (YPE) and YPE trainers of ARCS conducted orientation sessions in May 2012 on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, and voluntary blood donation in 19 schools in Jalalabad, Mazar and Kabul city for 12,000 students.

Organisational development (OD):

- The ARCS governance board approved ARCS's revised constitution during the first quarter of 2012. This approval is temporary until the first general assembly of the ARCS, scheduled for 16-17 October 2012. ARCS senior management finalized the National Society's organizational structure for the Afghan New Solar Year 1391 (2012). ARCS law and emblem law were also developed.
- In this reporting period, 3,900 volunteers participated in various activities such as immunization campaign, providing training to other volunteers on first aid, and blood donation for victims of war. A volunteer registration process commenced in two regions that involves nine branches registering new volunteers and re-registering existing volunteers in a newly developed database; 780 new youth volunteers were registered. In excess of 10,000 youth volunteers are attending youth clubs and youth corners, and along with school subjects, they are learning about ARCS programmes and Movement principles.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

- A three-day workshop on programme and project planning (PPP), based on the IFRC courses and tailored to the Afghanistan context, was delivered for ARCS disaster management, health and care, and IFRC sub-office programme officers from Eastern and Western regions as well as ARCS staff, from 15 to 17 May and 12 to 14 June respectively.
- The IFRC PMER team has translated the programme and project planning (PPP) manual into Pashto and Dari languages for ARCS use, and has commenced PPP workshops at branch level.
- In the period 25 to 28 June 2012, a four-day PMER workshop was held in Kabul with 25 ARCS headquarters and regional programme staff attending. The participants were drawn from the health and disaster management programmes, with IFRC sub-office programme officers also joining the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by PMER officers from the IFRC's Asia and Pacific Zone.
- The ARCS PMER plan of action for 2012 was developed with the support of IFRC PMER unit. IFRC programme departments were also technically supported, and reports on mobile health teams, CBHFA facilitators, information transfer in ARCS and CBHFA teams were developed and shared with respective departments.

Country context

- The security situation remained volatile across the country. As examples, serious attacks occurred across cities in Afghanistan, including three prominent targets in Kabul, in a rare coordinated attack spanning some of the country's most important urban centres. In central Kabul, insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades and rifles from an unfinished eight-story commercial building in the direction of the German Embassy and NATO's military headquarters, both of which were just a few hundred yards from the attack position. Two large blast holes were visible in the facade of the Kabul Star Hotel, frequented by westerners and wealthier Afghans, located just across the street from where the insurgents were firing. A

few miles away, another group of insurgents occupied a building across from the Afghan parliament, as well as another unfinished construction site, from which they targeted nearby Western military installations.

- Improved health care and an increase in the number of girls attending school has seen Afghanistan move up from its position as the worst place on earth to be a mother, according to the Save the Children 'Mothers' Index'. Influencing factors included the number of births attended by trained professionals in Afghanistan rising from 14 per cent to 24 per cent between 2003 and 2008, and girls in formal education, which rose from zero in 2001 to 2.5 million today.
- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says the number of people fleeing Afghanistan has dropped significantly in the past decade, noting the controlling influence of the Kazai government. Despite this, there are signs of a recent increase in the number of Afghans leaving for Pakistan, a trend likely to complicate efforts by Afghanistan and its international partners to sustainably repatriate refugees currently outside the country.

Working in partnership

ARCS and IFRC partners for 2012 include Australian, British, Canadian, Danish, Finnish, German, Japanese, Icelandic, Netherlands, Norwegian and Spanish Red Cross Societies. ARCS and IFRC also have partnerships with Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Italian Development organisation and the Japanese Government.

Operational Partners	Agreement
Afghan Red Crescent Society	Annual programme agreement
Ministry of Public Health (BHC&HIV/AIDS)	Memorandum of Understanding
Ministry of Education (HIV/AIDS)	Memorandum of Understanding
Communities committee (CCBHI)	At local level
International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)	Integrated project

Progress towards outcomes

Business Line 2 – “To grow Red Cross Red Crescent services for vulnerable people”

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
Outcome 1 (DM): The ARCS is better organisationally prepared to respond to and cope with a rising number of natural disasters.				
Output 1.1: ARCS standard operation procedures, contingency plans, relief management guidelines and systems of disaster response are in collaboration with partners improved; standardized and enforced.				
Output 1.2: Adequate trained human and logistic resources of ARCS are available at all levels in addition to a systemic pre-positioning of relief supplies in all ARCS branches.				
Indicators Output 1.1				
• ARCS Standard Operating Procedures; relief and recovery guidelines are standardised disseminated and enforced throughout the National Society's 34 branches.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
• Senior management of the ARCS at headquarters and regional level are conversant with their provisions and ability to take appropriate decisions to guide efficient response.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
Output 1.2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two hundreds staff and 800 volunteers have received relief management, logistics, disaster response unit (DRU), national disaster response team (NDRT) and regional disaster response team (RDRT) training. 	N/A	200 800	0 0	0 0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected disaster prone communities are better prepared for emergency response through training and mobilisation of ARCS volunteers. 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outcome 2 (Health): Health emergency preparedness and response capacity of ARCS is enhanced.				
Output 2.1: ARCS preparedness capacity and ability to respond to the most common and frequent health emergencies is enhanced, including prepositioning of contingency stocks of essential supplies as preparation for early action.				
Output 2.2: Through community assessments and consultations, communities are better prepared for health emergency response.				
Indicators				
Output 2:1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In all regions ARCS will have procured watsan kit # 2 and all emergency health unit (EMU) staff members have received training on various emergency health topics (PSP, watsan and vaccine preventable disease) and PhiE. 	5 25	5 100	0 25	0 25
Output 2:2				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CBHFA trained volunteers have conducted community need assessment in their respective areas including in specific areas also in collaboration with CBDRR volunteers. 	12	96	0	0

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Disaster management:

- Implementation of vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in the Western region strengthens ARCS's readiness to effectively and efficiently respond to disasters and emergencies. Orientation, training on assessment and distribution of food assistance to drought affected people in the Northern and Western regions, increased ARCS staff and volunteers' knowledge and skills for carrying out distributions.

Health and care:

- The epidemic control for volunteers (ECV)/household water treatment and safe storage in emergency (HWTS) training of trainers (ToT) training was in time training as exactly three days after a serious flood occurred in Sar-e-Pul province, so the trained trainers could replicate the learned knowledge by training a group volunteers to assist the affected communities in household water treatment and safe storage. It indicates that the similar trainings should be planned and implemented in time.
- The field-based mission training (FBMT) is a good capacity building for ARCS/IFRC and communities towards preparing for health emergencies. For instance, the Hazarnaw village of Mohmandara district of Nanagarhar province, where the 2011 FBMT took place, did not report any outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases after the exercise. It is anticipated that the FBMT training, to be held in Samangan in July 2012, will similarly contribute to positive health outcomes in the participating communities.
- Following the mid-term evaluation of the comprehensive community-based health intervention programme (CCBHI) in 2010, it was highlighted that the CCBHI has made a significant contribution in the knowledge, attitude and practices of communities in regards to health and hygiene. Consequently more partner National Societies are interested to support similar projects using the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA)

approach. The ARCS with the support of Swedish Red Cross has expanded the project to Nangarhar province in Eastern Afghanistan.

- Psychosocial support training will be conducted in September 2012.

Business Line 3: “To strengthen the specific Red Cross Red Crescent contribution to development”

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
Outcome 1 (DM): Through close work with communities and relevant institutions, the ARCS is increasing community resilience in selected areas.				
Output 1.1: A context-specific disaster risk reduction (DRR) approach complete with a community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) training curriculum, and aligned, where relevant, with the CBHFA approach, is prepared, and a pool of minimum 4 ARCS master trainers is achieved.				
Output 1.2: Vulnerability assessments and sensitisation of communities are initiated in at least two regions under the guidance of the regional CBDRR/ CBHFA trainers.				
Output 1.3: Targeted ARCS branches disseminate risk reduction awareness session through schools.				
Indicators				
Output 1.1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBDRR training materials in local language has been distributed to all ARCS branches and relevant communities. 	N/A	34	0	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four trainers of trainers in CBDRR and CBHFA have each undertaken one regional training session to more than 20 relevant ARCS staff per region. 	N/A	80 people	0	0
Output 1.2.				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two risk reduction projects per region have been identified and initiated with relevant community (ies). 	N/A	14 projects	0	0
Output 1.3				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 15 schools will be involved with organising risk reduction awareness session. 	N/A	15	0	0
Outcome 2 (Health): Increased access to improved curative and preventive health services at community level.				
Output 2.1: Greater equity and access for mothers and pregnant women to essential health services is achieved to ensure reduction in maternal and child-mortality.				
Output 2.2: ARCS health care service delivery is improved through scaling up the knowledge and skills of its health professionals, including at community primary health care level.				
Output 2.3: Increased life skills and knowledge amongst youth in terms of sexual & reproductive health, safe health behaviour and practices.				
Output 2.4: The capacity of communities to cope with communal diseases is enhanced – especially through provision of water and sanitation (WatSan) and CBHFA activities.				
Indicators				
Output 2.1				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve new clinics buildings with delivery rooms have been constructed in remote areas increasing vulnerable mothers/ pregnant women’s access to good quality health care services. • ARCS clinics have increasingly undertaken 	N/A	12	6	6

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<p><i>immunization activities in close coordination with Ministry of Public Health.</i></p> <p>Output 2.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Clinic staffs (doctors and nurses) have on a yearly basis received basic /refresher trainings on IMCI, emergency obstetric centre (EoC), infection prevention (IP) and mother, newborn and child health (MNCH) secessions.</i> <i>Comprehensive community-based health interventions have been expanded to three new target areas, where 750 sanitary latrines and 600 wells have been dug in the target communities.</i> <p>Output 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>80 per cent of the young mothers attending ARCS clinics for antenatal care have knowledge about sexual and reproductive health.</i> <i>One hundred youth peer education sessions on sexual and reproductive health (S&RH) held across Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif.</i> <p>Output 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Male and female volunteers have received specialized training on specific communal diseases as per specific community assessments - and health committees (Shora) in all target areas have been established.</i> <i>Volunteers have been trained on hygiene promotion and campaigns in all target areas.</i> 	<p>Children vaccination (BCG, Dpt/polio/measles) 254,104</p> <p>EoC- 22 IP- 80 MICH- 45 HMIS- 80</p> <p>9 villages</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>2,477 YPE</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>360</p>	<p>20 % increased from 2011</p> <p>328 clinic staffs</p> <p>18 villages</p> <p>80%</p> <p>2,400</p> <p>1,920</p> <p>1,440</p>	<p>Children vaccination (BCG, Dpt/polio/measles) 304,925</p> <p>227 clinic staffs</p> <p>9 villages</p> <p>0</p> <p>800</p> <p>400</p> <p>80</p>	<p>304,925</p> <p>227 clinic staff</p> <p>9 villages</p> <p>0</p> <p>800</p> <p>400</p> <p>80</p>
<p>Outcome 3 (OD): <i>The institutional capacities of ARCS is enhanced at all levels to achieve a stronger and more sustainable National Society able to provide effective and higher quality services in keeping with broader levels of acceptance countrywide.</i></p>				
<p>Output 3.1: <i>Updated statutes, Red Crescent - and Emblem Law are developed and enforced; governance board at all levels are put in place and discharging their duties, roles and responsibilities accordingly.</i></p> <p>Output 3.2: <i>Policies, procedures, guidelines and systems on management and skills building of Afghan Red Crescent are developed in line with Strategy 2020.</i></p> <p>Output 3.3: <i>The financial management capacity of ARCS is strengthened at all levels through the installation of an enhanced computerized accounting and updating of financial regulations and procedures.</i></p> <p>Output 3.4: <i>The functional capacity of branches has been strengthened – leading to improved services and response to emergencies in line with its strategic and operational plan.</i></p>				
<p>Indicators</p> <p>Output 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The legal and constitutional base of the ARCS is strengthened confirming the independence of the National Society and governance and management functions are separated for good.</i> <p>Output 3.2.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most ARCS policies and guidelines on staff management and skills building are put into effect at all levels of the National Society. 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Output 3.3 The ARCS will have consolidated its computerised financial management capacity both at head quarter and regional level.</p>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<p>Output 3.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 per cent of ARCS branches are better functioning according to the well- functioning branch standard. 	5%	40%	10%	10%
<p>Outcome 4: Youth programme of ARCS in youth clubs and schools is strengthened and expanded to promote youth's skills development and ensuring that youth becomes a relevant contributor to positive social development including promotion of tolerance in the community.</p>				
<p>Output 4.1: Youth policy; guidelines and training curriculums have been developed including plans for youth programmes in schools and communities.</p> <p>Output 4.2: Red Cross Red Crescent Movement knowledge, humanitarian values and social development issues are disseminated to youth in schools and communities enabling them to become proactively engaged in community development, awareness raising and service delivery for the community.</p> <p>Output 4.3: The ARCS volunteering management system is improved and better harmonized ensuring a trained pool of volunteers capable at producing solutions and participating in efforts to reduce risk and vulnerability at all levels.</p>				
<p>Indicators</p>				
<p>Output 4.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 30 per cent increase in the volunteer base has been achieved, and through a systematic volunteer training, 40 per cent of all youth volunteers take part in dissemination of principles and values in their communities. 	10%	40%	15%	15%
<p>Output 4.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 per cent of volunteers are youth, trained and made aware to disseminate the fundamental principles of the movement and contribute to promoting tolerance in their communities. 	5%	40%	10%	10%
<p>Output 4.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer's management and retaining systems with policy, guidelines and structures for promotion, recognition and protection of volunteers are integrated and enforced. 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteering management policies and guidelines, hereunder with clear indication of retaining activities for volunteers have been applied in 60 per cent of ARCS branches. 	10%	60%	15%	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A well-functioning ARCS youth and volunteering department administers all relevant training of volunteers throughout the National Society. 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Disaster management:

- Conducting community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training for 205 new volunteers including 75 women in different provinces of the country, conducting of VCA training and participation of ARCS and IFRC staff in stockholders meetings and stimulation exercises has contributed to the development of organisational capacities.
- The CBDRR programme commenced in July 2012, although a CBDRR training of trainers was held prior to July.

Health and care:

- Training of CBHFA volunteers in a range of programme interventions such as CCBHI, epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), household water treatment and safe storage in emergency (HWTS) and contribution of volunteers in natural disasters and national immunisation days (NIDs) to directly increase community resilience capacity.
- Training of men and women volunteers in reproductive health care has a definite impact on mother and child health, especially in a country such as Afghanistan where the mortality and mobility rates of women and child is amongst the highest in the world.
- Provision of safe drinking water and improving sanitary conditions through the CCBHI programme make a positive impact on community health and reduces vulnerability to disease outbreaks.
- Outcomes will remain unchanged for the remainder of 2012, though there is likely to be some amendments at the activity level, and the budget shall be adjustment accordingly

Organisational development (OD):

- Revision of the ARCS constitution and drafting of the National Society emblem law are significant steps forward in strengthening the ARCS legal base.
- Recruitment of more ARCS members was another significant contribution in progressing and conducting provincial assemblies across the country, and in preparation for the ARCS General Assembly, scheduled for October 2012.
- Training of 10,000 youth volunteers and expansion of the programme can be considered as a significant achievement towards the outcome set in the ARCS youth and volunteer department, an objective of which is to promote peace and friendship among the youth and volunteer peers in communities. Moreover, youth and volunteer knowledge of the ARCS and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement activities will be developed, and through these volunteers more vulnerable families shall be reached.
- Finance development is another key activity that is enhancing the capacity of ARCS to manage funds and report to stakeholders transparently. The process started at the headquarters level and finance staff members have been trained to develop financial systems. Progress was also made in the installation of new and advanced software, that will have the capacity to be linked to logistics, procurement, property and human resources. The software will be expanded to ARCS regional and provincial branches in a later phase.
- Advances in branch development is centred on the leading role they are demonstrating in the ARCS planning process. Branches are planning for their communities and people, management and leadership training is conducted for the head of branches and provincial offices.

Business Line 4: "To heighten Red Cross Red Crescent influence and support for our work"

Measurement				
Outcome/output/indicators	Baseline (where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to date
Outcome 1: Knowledge on neutral humanitarian action and humanitarian principles is strengthened and extended through institutional structures promoting better humanitarian access and raised respect of the Red Cross Movement activities.				
Output 1.1: Dissemination and communication workshops are implemented with other Red Cross Partners to promote respect for the movement and increased acceptance for ARCS activities.				
Output 1.2: Improved interaction is achieved between ARCS communication department and school corners and clubs as well as between IFRC and International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to better support and enable youth and volunteers to promote respect for humanitarian values and positive social change.				

Indicators				
Output 1.1: At least six regional IFRC Communication and Key Messages workshops have taken place in collaboration with ICRC.	N/A	6	3	3
Output 1.2: More than 40 per cent of ARCS members are youth and IFRC has contributed with relevant technical support towards ICRC dissemination / tracing events in the country.	N/A	40%	N/A	N/A
Outcome 2: The capacities among young people and especially youth volunteers in the ARCS to actively engage with civil society on humanitarian action and promotion of humanitarian access in Afghanistan have been strengthened.				
Output 2.1: ARCS staff capacity to educate youth and volunteers in the 'understanding humanitarian law' learning package; Humanitarian principles and psycho social support has been strengthened and integrated.				
The ARCS youth and volunteer department has developed a universal curriculum for the general training of youth and volunteers.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Disaster management:

- With IFRC technical support, the ARCS provided timely response to drought-affected families as well as communities affected by floods, landslides, and avalanches.

Organisational development:

- Five workshops on humanitarian principles and values were conducted in five provincial branches.
- Documents on psychosocial support (PSS) have been translated into local languages.
- More than 10,000 youth volunteers attend youth clubs and youth corners, and participate in sessions on Red Cross Red Crescent Movement principles and values, along with access to school subject tuition.
- The IFRC's organization development manager, together with the ARCS's humanitarian diplomacy focal person, attended a humanitarian diplomacy workshop in India, and also prepared a report on humanitarian diplomacy in Afghanistan.

Business Line 5 "To deepen our tradition of togetherness through joint working and accountability"

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
Outcome 1: Quality and overall impact of ARCS programmes is improved at community level by setting up a planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit.				
Output 1.1 The planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting of ARCS programmes is improved, standardised and implemented by a dedicated PMER support unit at ARCS Headquarters (HQ) and through procedures embedded within programme departments at HQ, Regional and Branch level.				

Measurement				
Outcome/Output/Indicators	Baseline (Where available)	LTPF 4-year target	Actual this report period	Actual to Date
<p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Feedback mechanisms from communities to HQ are improved, allowing programmes to be reviewed and modified to reflect changes in community needs and ARCS's capacity to meet those needs.</i> <i>Programme managers are better able to develop programmes that have measureable goals relating to quantity, quality and impact of work, and monitor, evaluate and report on these programmes.</i> 	N/A	See target	See below	See below
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Outcome 2: PMER capacity of programmes strengthened across the organisation.				
Output 2.1 Training of PMER and programme staff is enhanced and crosscut to enable better co-operation between programme and support staff and integration between ARCS programme departments.				
<p><i>Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Coherence between departments in the implementation of programmes/interventions is improved by developing a unified approach to the planning, monitoring and evaluating of training programmes for ARCS staff and volunteers across departments, and through common systems for reporting on these programmes/interventions.</i> 	N/A	See target	See below	See below
Outcome 3: Programme coordination and management strengthened across the organisation				
Output 3.1 Coordination of program departments has been strengthened alongside cooperation with internal as well as external partners.				
<p><i>Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Strong coordination between programmes has ensured integrated program initiatives increasing also cross-cutting objectives.</i> <i>The delegation has in close coordination with the National Society, ICRC and other partners ensured a strongly harmonised approach, which increases the efficiency of ARCS to reach its longer term objectives.</i> 	N/A	See target	See below	See below
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Comments on progress towards outcomes

Outcome 1

The IFRC PMER unit was formed in the first quarter of 2012, with the arrival of a PMER delegate and integration of the IFRC's reporting and communications officer into the team. In alignment with the PMER programme plan, the PMER unit commenced the following activities:

- Support and capacity building of the IFRC PMER officer by the delegate.
- Capacity building of ARCS PMER and programme staff.

Attention was also given to addressing PMER-related activities within the IFRC country office, including:

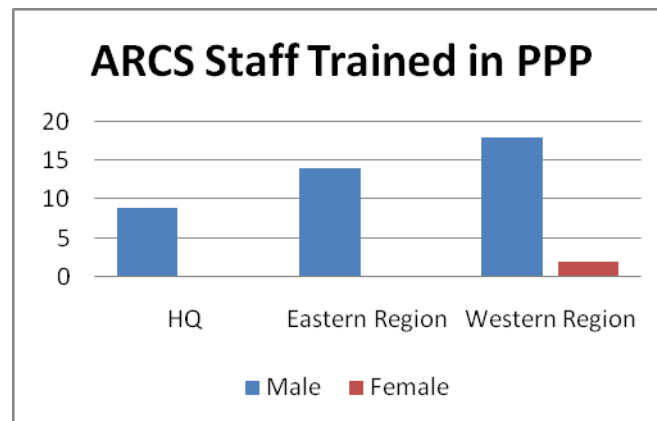
- Monthly (now quarterly) reporting.
- Identifying areas where PMER systems are required i.e. programme areas that typically require monitoring and evaluation systems.

Outcome 2

A three-day programme and project planning (PPP) workshop was designed based on the IFRC course and tailored to the Afghan context. This was aimed to:

- Identify staff in the ARCS PMER unit able to undertake PMER duties within ARCS.
- Train the IFRC PMER officer to better understand programme and project planning and to become a facilitator at PPP workshops.
- Train two ARCS PMER staff in activities, through a train-the-trainer process as the PPP course is rolled out for ARCS regional and branch level staff in all seven regions across Afghanistan.
- Sensitize ARCS regional and branch level staff and IFRC sub-delegation programme officers to potential changes in planning, monitoring, data collection and evaluating progress of projects.
- Train and assess the capacity of ARCS regional and branch staff and IFRC sub-delegation programme officers in PPP.
- Encourage integration between ARCS health and disaster management staff.

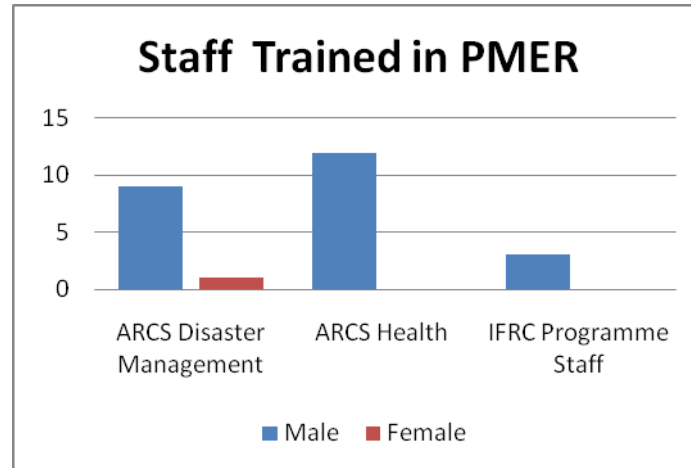
In addition to the workshop run at headquarters to identify potential ARCS PMER staff, this workshop has also been conducted in the Eastern and Western regions of Afghanistan on 15 to 17 May and 12 to 14 June respectively. The graph below shows the total numbers trained, disaggregated by region and gender.



A four-day PMER workshop was organized for ARCS headquarters and regional programme staff (as well as IFRC sub-delegation programme officers) using external facilitators from IFRC AP Zone. This was aimed to:

- Sensitize ARCS headquarters and regional level staff and IFRC sub-delegation programme officers to potential changes in the way PMER is included in their programmes.
- Train ARCS headquarters and regional programme staff and IFRC sub-delegation programme officers in PMER.
- Encourage integration between ARCS health and disaster management staff.
- Prepare ARCS regional staff and IFRC sub-delegation programme officers to support the subsequent cascading of this workshop from regional and branch level staff.
- Train (with support from the PMER delegate) the IFRC PMER officer and the ARCS PMER staff to adapt these generic materials to an Afghan context, and to develop a workshop that can be cascaded at regional and branch level.
- Develop a PMER workshop that can accompany a short introduction to data analysis for branch level staff, that can be rolled out with any monitoring and evaluation changes agreed with ARCS headquarters programme departments (focusing specifically on community-based programmes)

The graph below shows the total numbers trained in PMER, disaggregated by affiliation and gender.



The IFRC PMER delegate and officer supported ARCS PMER unit members to develop their plan of action for 2012¹. Job descriptions which complemented this term of reference were also developed for the PMER manager and officers and waiting for approval of ARS secretary general. A plan to second the IFRC PMER officer to the ARCS PMER is under negotiation with ARCS leadership.

Support for IFRC programme departments included:

1. Direct involvement

- Disaster management has been supported with reporting disaster management information system (DMIS) reports, creating timelines to analyze past and current disasters (e.g. drought, flood responses) as well as supporting the planning of projects (e.g. CBDRR). The PMER unit has also been involved in the assessment of templates for VCA.
- A new template was introduced that related activities directly to targets in the Plan of Action in order to improve data collection from the programme departments. Initiating such changes into the reporting system (e.g. monthly management reports) have met with some challenges due to uncertainty regarding new reporting formats and their requirements, and these are being addressed through consultation with programme coordinators.

2. Support through data evaluation analysis

- Several PMER reports were produced to raise awareness of issues within specific key programmes. These reports were developed specifically for IFRC programme coordinators to assist in monitoring and reporting systems. The reports produced included:
 - i. Emergency Mobile Units
 - ii. Community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) facilitators
 - iii. Information transfer in ARCS
 - iv. CBHFA teams

These reports were written to highlight that strategic decisions need to be made before the introduction of new M&E systems.

Stakeholder participation and feedback

Tripartite meetings between the three Movement components (ARCS, ICRC and IFRC) are a proper and useful platform for sharing information and exchanging solutions. In one of the major agreement the Movement have agreed to work together in responding to the humanitarian needs of the severely 22,500 drought affected families in the country.

The affected communities leaders, elderly people, local councils and government authorities were involved in the assessment and distribution operations.

¹. The ARCS follow Afghan Solar year which starts in March, although it will change to January in 2013

IFRC health programme also has its regular meetings at least once in a month, since CBHFA became part of ARCS health department.

The village committees in CCBHI and CBHFA programme areas were instrumental in programme implementation. During this period six new village committees were established in new programme areas. The follow up visits from ARCS programme staff were coordinated with these committees and they were part of regular monitoring of activities implementation.

The OD key stakeholders are ARCS staff, branches, volunteers, members, youth volunteers and communities and they were involved in developing OD plan of action.

The feedback received from stakeholders was positive; they were involved during the planning process and contributed to the plan, highlighting their needs and priorities at their communities and branches.

Positive and negative feedback was addressed at the programme level by ARCS staff and reported to headquarters where there was need from support from this level.

Key Risks or Positive Factors

Further destabilisation of the conflict; continued lacking separation between ARCS governance and management responsibilities; lacking official recognition of the legal independence of the National Society; donor fatigue /reduced funding for Afghanistan; lacking enforcement of ARCS strategic plan as well as policies and procedures at all levels.

Risk Monitoring: Shared context analysis with ICRC; improved PMER capacity of IFRC and ARCS; increasingly shared monitoring between ARCS and IFRC on operational implementation and impact.

Lessons learned and looking ahead

Cooperation and coordination with Movement partners on programme activities should be enhanced. Sometimes it is also needed to have a very good coordination with other stakeholders such as government ministries and departments. Planning on various trainings programmes should be done timely and properly. Selection of villages for conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs) must be done based on specified criteria.

The ARCS staff and volunteers require further trainings in the areas of community-based disaster risk reduction, disaster management planning, monitoring, evaluation as well as reporting to improve quality services, programming, implementation and accountability.

The experience gained during this integrated community-based programme has provided impetus to the National Society to plan for more areas in other provinces to meet diverse needs of communities. The skills and knowledge gained has contributed in the National Society long term strategic plan 2012 – 2015.

Drought conditions and food security are most frequently occurring disasters in the Afghanistan, building community's capacity to reduce risks of droughts and food shortages, ARCS community-based programmes will integrate disaster risk reduction activities focusing food insecurity during 2012 and beyond. Activities like kitchen gardens, household livestock and knowledge dissemination on drought resistant crops will be piloted in CBHFA programme areas in addition to safe water and improved sanitation.

The ARCS plan will contribute to the future of Afghanistan through acknowledgement, ongoing investment and commitment towards the significant role they play and support at national, regional and local levels in carrying out the key humanitarian activities set in the plan.

Finance development is a key project that need to continue and will be technically and financially supported by IFRC. Branches capacity will be enhanced and strengthened to deliver services through better planning monitoring evaluation and reporting mechanism in place.

Recruiting more members and working towards the establishment of provincial level governance board and facilitate to conduct the ARCS general assembly. Provision of some dissemination materials and technical guidance and support to the membership project would be crucial. Continue in providing training for youth

volunteers through the youth clubs and recruitment of more youth volunteers in the schools and communities; and establishment of more youth clubs and expanding of youth corners in more schools will be also another focus area of work. Registration of the volunteers in all branches will be continued and volunteer's database will be developed. Focussing and supporting Movement coordination meetings at both headquarters and regional level. Branch development programme will be continued and various training will be conducted for all ARCS staff, volunteers, youth and members. Provision of orientation training for the ARCS governance board and implementation of volunteer's policy.

Financial situation

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

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 Organisations](#) (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on www.ifrc.org

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