

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

AFGHANISTAN

19 January 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA045; Programme Update no. 3, Period covered: 1 July to 31 October 2005; Appeal coverage: 58.5%; Outstanding needs: CHF 3,757,834 (USD 2,928,715 or EUR 2,421,737).
(Click here to go to the attached Contributions List) (Click here for live Contributions List on the website)

Appeal target: CHF 9,055,022 (USD 7,575,389 or EUR 5,863,397)

Related emergency appeals: [Severe winter emergency appeal 05EA003](#); [Spring floods emergency appeal 05EA005](#); [South Asia Regional Annual Appeal 05AA051](#).

Programme summary:

Despite the security constraints and concerns in the run-up to the September parliamentary elections, all programmes and activities continued to progress and develop as planned. There were various human and financial resource constraints, including the temporary relocation/redeployment of most delegates for varying lengths of time over the election period as part of the planned security measures. Throughout the reporting period, there was ongoing support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) for two emergency appeals – the severe winter (05EA003) and the spring floods (05EA005) – as well as for the planned activities covered in the annual appeal. Through the health and disaster management programmes, the national society has further strengthened its working relationships with the relevant authorities and other stakeholders.

The revised draft constitution was reviewed by the Joint Commission for National Society Statutes in Geneva and after further minor adjustments, was submitted to the government for due consideration. The change/restructuring process within ARCS continues to be actively discussed and a specific plan of action is expected to be developed during the next quarter. There is clear consensus and agreement within the senior leadership of ARCS, the Federation and the ICRC that this process is essential for the increased impact, transparency, cost-effectiveness, profile and sustainability of the national society.

At the invitation of the national society, the Federation delegation moved its working offices to the ARCS national headquarters, while retaining a small formal delegation office in the same area of Kabul as the previous site. The longer-term objective is to relocate the delegation fully to the ARCS compound, but there is already an immediate and visible improvement in the way in which the Federation and national society colleagues are working together.

In summary, the quarter was characterized by ongoing operational and funding challenges, but increasing capacity and ownership within the national society, and a clear commitment of significant change within the ARCS.

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

Operational developments

The period was marked by ongoing and, in some areas, increasing anti-government element activities, including serious suicide bombing and kidnapping threats. The violence was related in part to the parliamentary election process, but also to military and insurgent operations, tribal and personal enmities, and drug-related issues, as well as a general rise in armed criminality linked to a still-developing law and order system, although improvements have been seen in this regard. Coalition forces activities were ongoing, especially in the south and east, as was the new Disarmament of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) process targeting around 100,000 people, but the increasing seizures of arms, ammunition and explosives only served to highlight the enormity of the problem. There is debate as to how the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) mandate next spring will affect the nature of the security situation, and so far analysts differ on the likely outcomes. However, it is clear that there is no immediate end in sight to the current level of security concerns, although traditionally there is usually a reduction in the winter months.

Despite all the concerns, the parliamentary elections passed off remarkably well and were generally deemed to have been successful.

The general humanitarian situation remains very grave, although crops and harvests were better this year after the worst of the drought seemed to be over, with heavy snow and rains earlier in the year. There was increasing concern and debate about opium/heroin production and eradication, but this is a very complex issue with serious livelihood, economic and security implications which will take time to resolve.

The tough operating environment remains a challenge for the national society and the delegation to support, but it will be seen that most of the planned activities and related expenditures are on target for this time of the year. The period also included the provision of support for the two ongoing emergency appeals. The funding situation continued to be challenging, with around 60 per cent of the appeal budget secured, but expenditure was maintained in line with available funding, and it is anticipated that the deficit which had to be carried over from 2004 will be greatly reduced by the end of this year.

Health and Care

Background

The ministry of public health (MOPH) has accepted the ARCS plan to close the ten Kabul city clinics and relocate two of them to the outskirts of the capital. The new clinic sites have been chosen, surveyed, and accepted by the MOPH, the ARCS and the Federation.

The sustainability of the clinics within Afghanistan continues to be one of the major focuses for the health team this quarter. The site selection for the two clinics to be relocated in rural areas has been undertaken. Following negotiations, the MOPH will take over the Kabul city clinics and pay rent to the ARCS for use of the nine properties owned by the national society. A non-government organization, Care for Afghan Families (CAF), is keen to be involved in eight of these clinics and would employ ARCS medical staff made redundant as a result of the national society pullout.

The Federation moved its offices to ARCS headquarters and now all of the health departments are on the same floor. This quarter, the ARCS has taken over responsibility for paying clinic staff transport and clinic rents (previously funded by the Federation). This is a small step towards the ARCS accepting more responsibility.

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

Programme objective: The capacity of the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society to improve the status of vulnerable people and respond effectively to disaster through health interventions in Afghanistan is increased.

Expected result 1: ARCS has the capacity to provide more effective, integrated and sustained health services including HIV/AIDS awareness through its clinics to reduce morbidity and mortality among vulnerable people.

Progress/achievement

Following meetings with the heads of the policy and planning department, the health management information system (HMIS) department, and the provincial health departments of MOPH, a steering committee was created for the selection of the two new clinic sites. The chosen sites fit the selection criteria of both the basic package of health services (BPHS) and ARCS.

The new clinics will be situated at Mussa-ei (Dehkelan district) and Shakardara (Danishment district), which are on the outskirts of Kabul. Community support in both districts has been offered and the land will be donated to the ARCS. At one of the sites there is a pre-existing building, but the other clinic will need to be constructed. This will be built by an NGO and then donated to the ARCS. Finalization of these sites is still pending because of objections by the provincial health coordination committee.

During the third quarter, patients with common diseases were continued to be seen and treated by the ARCS clinics and received individual and group health education sessions. Women received antenatal and postnatal services while children attended growth monitoring sessions. Traditional birth attendants (TBAs) services were removed from the BPHS from 1 July as the result of an adjustment made by the Federation health. As the TBAs are no longer part of the BPHS, their activities are not reflected in this update.

The table below lists the cumulative figures of attendance and different services provided to communities received (the number of patients reduced in September is due to the closure of five clinics.)

Category	Jan - June	July	August	September	3rd quarter total	Total
Patient/clients seen	382,571	59,125	54,240	49,000	162,365	544,936
Group health education	331,466	6,000	58,000	52,000	170,000	501,466
Individual health education	86,013	11,917	10,150	6,700	28,767	114,780
Antenatal visit	24,332	3,500	3,670	3,302	10,472	34,804
Postnatal visit	5,304	560	750	340	1,650	6,954
Children growth monitoring	23,508	4,215	2,521	2,100	8,836	32,344
BCG	22,101	4,150	3,700	3,000	10,850	32,951
DPT / polio	26,068	4,600	4,000	3,500	12,100	38,168
DPT ₃ / polio ₃	28,124	4,500	3,800	3,330	11,630	39,754
Measles	24,460	3,750	3,350	3,000	20,200	44,660
Tetanus Toxoid (women)	62,734	9,578	10,727	10,000	30,305	93,039
Family planning clients	15,183	3,000	2,992	2,400	8,392	23,575

ARCS and Federation health officers attended all health coordination meetings, including the monthly coordination meetings at the MOPH departments in each region. They also attended other relevant ad hoc meetings. The ARCS health department continued to submit clinic data to the MOPH. ARCS and senior Federation health managers participated in a large consultative group as part of a health and nutrition meeting in the MOPH

Kandahar ARCS clinic staff participated in the monitoring of the sub-national immunization days campaign conducted from 11-13 July by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Impact

The health education component is vital given the low literacy rates in Afghanistan (men: 49 percent, women: 20 percent according to a 2003 UNICEF survey). All health education is given verbally with supporting

graphics/pictures. Communities are receiving information on illnesses and how to prevent them while mothers get information on the benefits of breast feeding and when to supplement etc.

Maternal mortality is a very high in Afghanistan (a UNICEF/MOPH survey of four provinces revealed a rate of 1,600 per 100,000 live births). The antenatal services being provided are vital in addressing this alarming statistic. This is especially in view of the majority of women deliver with no trained health personnel in attendance. When mothers bring their children for growth monitoring, they also receive advice on nutrition and other important health issues. Children showing signs of malnutrition are seen by doctors in order to treat any medical problem and then refer them to nutrition centres where available.

Preventable diseases are still the main focus and major problem to address for the MOPH and UNICEF in Afghanistan. This is due to poor environmental conditions and poverty. Poor water supply increases the prevalence of disease. Immunization is one of the most effective preventable measures. Children can be protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, polio, measles and tuberculosis, while pregnant women who have received the tetanus vaccine not only protect themselves but also their unborn child. Family planning services have had a positive impact on the health of families as they are able to space their children.

Constraints

Staff turnover continues to be an ongoing issue which affects the implementation of the related plan. Low incentives and the lack of ARCS clinic staff in some clinics have contributed to the challenges. The Afghanistan Federation delegation and Kandahar sub-delegation health officers as well as the Federation health department administrator have resigned and joined other organizations.

Security continues to be an issue which hampers monitoring and supervision of the some ARCS clinics in rural areas. During the election period, movement was kept to a minimum within the country for Federation and ARCS national staff, while the majority of the expatriate staff were deployed elsewhere in the region.

Expected result 2: ARCS has the capacity to respond to emergency health needs of people affected by disease outbreaks and/or natural disasters in all regions of Afghanistan, and provide mobile clinic services in disadvantaged areas.

Progress/achievements

The ARCS mobile teams continued to provide health services to the most vulnerable people in remote areas. During the quarter under review, the Mazar mobile team operated in the flood-affected area in Badakhshan province and a total number of 330 patients were seen. Additionally, in the northern region, mobile teams were busy with providing health services in response to the gastroenteritis outbreak in Baghlan and Mazar districts, where over 500 patients were treated.

The Kabul emergency mobile unit (EMU) teams provided services at events such as the youth camp, national Independence Day and provided medical check-ups for the Afghanistan Paralympics team.

	Total to June	July	August	September	3 rd qtr total	Total
Patients seen	31,599	5,500	5,200	4,250	14,950	46,549

ARCS and Federation health officers coordinated regularly with the health emergency preparedness and response directorate of the MOPH as well as the WHO in each region.

Impact

Saving lives in Afghanistan depends on having health workers in the field as well as sufficient medical supplies. The mobile teams work in remote areas where they provide health services to the most vulnerable people who otherwise would not have any access to such services. The mobile medical teams also provide medical support for major events in all regions.

Constraints

Security is the major constraint, especially in south and south-eastern areas. There are issues of the willingness of staff to go to the field for longer than 15 days related to remuneration and other employment conditions. Staff who are women are reluctant to spend too much time away from their families.

Expected result 3: ARCS has increased capacity to delivery community-based first aid (CBFA) and related public education and to take part in immunisation campaigns and disaster response operations through a network of community-based volunteers.

Progress/achievements

The programme is active in 25 out of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Based on the plan for 2005, the programme was to be expanded into other provinces (Bamyan, Khost, Kunduz, Paktia), but because of security problems and limited resources, this has not been accomplished yet.

Over 12,000 volunteers were targeted by team leaders and trainers in five regions of the country for the follow-up session. These active volunteers provided first aid to the public. They also provided general health education, disaster and HIV/AIDS awareness sessions to targeted groups. (Exact figures in each province are not available at this time.)

In an endeavour to mobilize communities to contribute and support the CBFA volunteers, national society 'CBFA corners' are being established in the Mazar region. A CBFA corner is an area designated by the community where it can receive information on hygiene, HIV/AIDS, and receive first aid. If first aid stocks are low, the community is encouraged to donate these at CBFA corners to tide the volunteers over until new supplies arrive.

Impact

Communities are slowly placing more trust in volunteers than in previous years. This is evidenced by the increasing willingness to donate first aid supplies and utilization of services.

Remote communities are benefiting from the health education activities of CBFA volunteers by gaining knowledge and capacity to protect themselves/mitigate the effects from common diseases and conditions such as diarrhoea and malaria.

The most vital impact is probably in HIV/AIDS awareness within the communities, especially in a country with a high level of illiteracy and often little or no access to the media.

Constraints

Poor communications has contributed to poor monitoring and reporting. To address this issue, an emergency centre radio is being provided for the head of CBFA to allow him to directly contact regions. This is being trialled for three months to see if this improves reporting and whether other resources are required.

Instability, poor roads, an insecure working environment, high transportation costs, and a lack of adequate funding for follow-up activities are the major constraints. Trainers cannot reach all team leaders monthly nor conduct group meetings with all trained volunteers. Provision of dressing material for the refilling of volunteers' first aid kits has also been slowed down.

Security constraints such as robbery, armed theft and anti-government elements are additional burdens for communities which are already affected by unemployment and poverty. Many of the more able community members, who assist the volunteers, have left, and mobilizing local resources to ensure sustainability and improved coping mechanisms, remain slow and difficult.

The workshop planned for supervisors has been delayed because of the election period. This will take place in the next quarter and the issues of communication and lack of reporting will be addressed. These issues will be addressed again at the supervisors' workshop.

Expected result 4: ARCS has increased capacity to promote environmental health by linking all components of the health programme (community-based first aid, basic health centres and emergency response)

Progress/achievements

The drilling of 50 wells has started in Enjil district of Herat province. Five wells out of 50 were completed in the month of September. The rest are under process of being installed.

During August and September, the construction of 300 family latrines started. Half of them are being constructed in Kabul and the other half in Herat province. Some 150 latrines have been completed in District 10 of Kabul province while a further 450 latrines are still under construction.

Hygiene education is conducted by ARCS women volunteers in Herat region and a total number of 1,379 people have received hygiene messages. Some 250 people also received hygiene education in Kabul province. To support the hygiene education programme, the preparation of 1,400 hygiene kits is under process and will be distributed to the families where the hygiene programme is implemented.

The water and sanitation team regularly participate in the monthly water and sanitation coordination meeting, which is conducted by the ministry of rural and rehabilitation development in Kabul and Herat cities.

Impact

The introduction of women volunteers conducting hygiene sessions has greatly contributed to the improved well-being of the targeted communities. It is a well-known fact that women and children are catalysts in the family for behavioural change related to hygiene. Environmental health activities are ideal for prevention of outbreak of diseases and additionally promote the health well-being of the targeted communities.

Constraints

Security continues to be a problem, limiting the amount of monitoring and supervision that can be undertaken. Due to the lack of capacity at ARCS and that other NGOs have larger programmes, it has been decided this project will not be continued in 2006.

Disaster management

Background

During the reporting period, the ARCS disaster management department was involved in various activities in the different regions of Afghanistan, in response to various disaster scenarios. These included severe winter conditions and floods. The northern, eastern and central parts of the country were affected by flooding in July 2005. Over 4,200 families were severely affected, and around 8,000 acres of agriculture land were destroyed in three provinces. The disaster manager department also responded to the needs of over 1,300 refugees returning from the Fatah camp in Pakistan, providing food and non-food items.

The major response operations took place in the northern and central parts of Afghanistan. The national society's main activities centred on assessment and response operations coordinated by the central government commission (key ministries), particularly the ministry of rural and rehabilitation development at regional and provincial levels with technical support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

A second quarterly disaster management coordination meeting was held in August in Kabul. The Federation disaster management team continued to have regular meetings with ARCS counterparts concerning the planning process for 2006 – 2007, budget revision, implementation, and monitoring. Additionally, the Federation disaster management department has finalized the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) severe winter update and preliminary-final report as well as the spring floods updates in various activities.

Goal: Vulnerability of communities in targeted areas of Afghanistan to natural and man-made disasters is reduced.

Objective: Reduce the impact of disasters on vulnerable communities in disaster-prone areas by strengthening their disaster preparedness and raising community awareness through well-structured ARCS disaster management at all levels.

Expected result 1: Capacities of ARCS in terms of human resources, material resources, systems and procedures are improved at all levels.

Progress/Achievements

ARCS disaster management staff and trained volunteers completed a number of response operations in central, northern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, assisting over 4,200 flood-affected families as well as 1,363 returned families from Pakistan. All activities were coordinated with the government's department for disaster preparedness

(DDP), the ministry for repatriation and refugees and ministry of rural and rehabilitation development. This coordination was facilitated through meetings organized by the DDP and involving other aid agencies and key ministries, where the national society participates as a key actor in the national disaster response system.

The second quarter disaster management coordination meeting was held during August. All regional disaster management supervisors and national headquarters key staff participated. The meeting reviewed disaster management activities undertaken and outlined the remaining activities for 2005. Guiding policies and directions for the development of the programme for 2006 – 2007 have been provided to participants. In addition, upon the completion of the severe winter relief operation, a one-day evaluation (lesson learned session) was held with all involved field staff. The session focused on relief activities and gave significant feedback for the development of the present procedure and guidelines for future relief operations.

During the reporting period, two disaster management training workshops were held in Herat province in the western region and Kunar province in the eastern region. In total, 52 volunteers/branch staff members and education department staff members were trained. Similarly, a community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training workshop was held for 25 newly-recruited volunteers in Badakhshan province in the north region.

The Federation delegation and the ARCS disaster management department participated in the western regional cooperation meeting from 27 – 28 September 2005, organized by the ICRC cooperation department. The main objective was programme updates, knowledge sharing on disaster management in branches, especially the disaster response capacity for mutual support.

The Federation delegation is providing continued technical support to ARCS at all levels. The Federation has also been communicating and corresponding with the South Asia regional delegation's disaster management coordinator, discussing the preparation and facilitating of the national disaster response team training workshop in Kabul as well as other related issues. Based on the regional delegation's recommendation, a training coordinator from the Sustainable Environmental and Ecological Society (SEEDS) from India was identified to help the ARCS disaster management department. A SEEDS training coordinator worked for three days with the disaster management department in August to strengthen and develop the following: national disaster response team (NDRT) training including the preparation of a training manual; disaster response plan for the ARCS; and the creation of information, education and communication materials for school children.

ARCS disaster response activities during the reporting period supported by the Federation and UN agencies:

Province	Date	No. families assisted	Type and source of assistance
Balkh	11-13 July	529	130 tents, 450 blankets, 530 tarpaulins, 149 kitchen sets, 149 hygiene kits by ARCS
Samangan	11-13 July	703	750 blankets, 500 tarpaulins, 200 kitchen sets, food rations – World Food Programme (WFP)
Kunar	3 – 7 July	2,350	400 tarpaulins, 400 tents, 34.5 MT food WFP
Kandahar	01-30 August	2,000	Food items from ARCS branch: stock rice, oil, flour
Total		5,582 families	

ARCS disaster management stocks across country

Item	Unit	Kabul	Mazar	Herat	Kandahar	Jalalabad	Total
Blankets	Pcs	12,682	10,545	1,110	7,680	6,536	38,553
Cooking sets	Pcs	2,763	0	0	385	0	3,148
Jerry cans	Pcs	1,293	1,505	2,306	0	1,134	6,238
Plastic sheets	Pcs	31	0	5,164	0	0	5,195
Pressure cooker	Pcs	0	0	4,571	0	0	4,571
Tarpaulin	Pcs	0	0	0	82	0	82
Plastic roll	Roll	1,467	720	0	445	118	2,750
Tents	Pcs	382	122	386	3	57	950
Kitchen sets	Pcs	1,402	3,378	715	1,048	634	7,177

Expected Result 2: Targeted communities are knowledgeable and better prepared to assess and respond to the eventuality of natural disasters.

Volunteers trained in CBDP disseminated information on disaster management to 15,000 individuals in communities and schools, particularly in disaster-prone areas. The topics shared were the importance of disaster preparedness, including fundraising and community participation. In Herat city, students in eight schools had weekly awareness sessions. CBDP-trained volunteers are proving to be an effective and valuable resource, strengthening local coping mechanisms.

The fundraising system of donation boxes facilitated by the ARCS disaster management department in the Herat region is working well. This initiative has been warmly accepted by the local communities at district levels. To date, 28 donation boxes have been set up in three districts (Enjil, Ghuryan and Zandajan) and schools in the centre of Herat city where individuals have voluntarily contributed cash and in-kind services. Approximately USD 22,000 (CHF 28,909) has been collected for use in building the local response capacity. Similar fundraising (donation boxes) activities are ongoing in other regions in the country, except the central region.

Expected result 3: ARCS cooperation, coordination and networking with key stakeholders and within the Movement is improved.

For the last three months of the spring floods operation, the disaster management team participated in regular coordination meetings with the national flood task force at national headquarters and provincial levels. The national society has been given responsibility for the coordination of the distribution of the relief effort, particularly in the central and northern regions.

The emergency operation centres both at national and regional levels play a key role in coordinating emergencies throughout the country. The Movement partners, ARCS and the Federation disaster management department attended a two-day cooperation meeting hosted by the ICRC cooperation department in Herat. The Federation disaster management manager gave a presentation on the needs in a disaster. The presentation stressed that the most important areas of need after disaster are human resources, assessment, response, coordination, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation. An evaluation session was conducted with all participants focussing on the relief operation for the winter and spring flood activities. Feedback will be utilized for the development of procedures and guidelines for future preparedness and relief operations.

The situation of flood-affected communities and the state of the flood damage in the various regions is assessed in the flood coordination meetings, jointly organized by the ARCS, the Federation and ICRC on a weekly basis. During these meetings, the current status of the relief stocks in the regions, flood information and different aspects of the contingency plan are discussed by all Movement partners and shared at national headquarters and sub-delegation levels.

Expected result 4: ARCS has a better understanding/policy regarding population movement and has initiated a pilot project in population movement based on the *Manila Action Plan*.

A one-day population movement coordination meeting was held by the ARCS disaster management department. It was attended by representatives from the Federation, ICRC, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Governmental Population Movement Department. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the current status of the internally displaced persons (IDP)/returnees and their needs. Following that meeting, the disaster management department surveyed the new returnees and vulnerable families, who had returned from the Fata camp on the instructions of the Pakistan government. The survey revealed 1,000 families returned to Khost province, while 364 to the Char Asyab district of Kabul. The following food and non-food items were distributed by the ARCS disaster response team. Additionally, ARCS provided safe drinking water for the following families for the first ten days for the beneficiaries, in the two camps.

District/Province	Number of families	Distributed items
Khost province in central region	1,000	40,000 kg flour, 5,000 kg oil, 1,000 food kits
Char Asyab district of Kabul	364	364 tents

The ARCS also provided safe drinking water for the above families for ten days.

Constraints

A comprehensive training for NDRT staff members has not been organized yet due to staff being involved in various other activities across the country. The security situation, particularly around the time of the parliamentary elections was another reason for the delay. The training is now planned for the fourth quarter.

The lack of adequate human resources in the disaster management unit has severely constrained the implementation of the programme. Also the lack of good communication systems has impeded the flow of information between the provincial offices and the National Society headquarters.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The programme focuses on promoting the fundamental principles of the Movement, targeting young people both in and out of school. To ensure the messages are reaching their targets, a follow-up mechanism has been put in place. The two youth clubs in Kabul established under the programme have proven to be a success, and have helped facilitate the gathering and exchange of views of the youth volunteers in the area. The ARCS national youth camp promoted the messages of anti-discrimination, peace and co-existence.

Overall goal: The ARCS' humanitarian values message contributes to reduced vulnerability of Afghans to violence and intolerance.

Objective: Capacity of ARCS to promote the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through all programmes in the community is increased.

Expected result 1: ARCS staff, youth, volunteers and members of the Movement components have a better understanding of the humanitarian values concepts and act to disseminate and influence the behaviour in the community.

Progress/Achievements

The ARCS youth department in Mazar organized a three-day special mine awareness programme, in which 50 teacher volunteers participated. Seventy newly-recruited youth volunteers in the Mazar youth club were trained on the principles and mandate of the Movement while another 100 youth volunteers (50 boys, 50 girls) in Herat were given first aid training by qualified ARCS CBFA trainers.

The government's youth minister made a visit to the Herat ARCS branch and was welcomed by 60 youth volunteers. The Herat branch youth officer met with the minister and briefed her on ARCS youth activities. The minister showed a personal interest to cooperate and coordinate with the ARCS youth department.

Coordination meetings were held between the ARCS youth and dissemination departments and the ICRC in Kabul and Mazar cities. The responsibilities of the youth volunteers during the ARCS 'special week' were identified. During the special week, staged in October, youth volunteers sold fundraising tickets to the public.

The head of the ARCS youth department had meetings with the Herat and Jalalabad ARCS branch presidents. They discussed the construction of the youth clubs in Herat and Jalalabad cities. The branch presidents gave assurances the construction stage would be completed in 2005.

Expected result 2: ARCS has a strong youth organization motivated by the humanitarian mission with a better countrywide network, with increased visibility and credibility among the community, thereby strengthening the future of the National Society and inspiring others to join the ARCS, as well as being effective vehicles for spreading the message of consistency, tolerance and non-discrimination.

Progress/Achievements

During the reporting period, five girl youth volunteers participated in the polio vaccination campaign for three days in Herat city and their efforts were appreciated by the government health officials.

The ARCS youth volunteers in Kabul, Herat and Mazar provided first aid services on polling day of the parliamentary elections in September. The volunteers assisted national society mobile health teams.

The Herat branch youth officer and youth volunteers participated in celebrations marking international peace day organized by a local high school in September. The volunteers performed role plays focusing on peace.

The Kabul youth department assisted in the Afghanistan special Olympics event held in Kabul. A total of 114 youth volunteers participated in the distribution of food and water and in welcome services.

Expected result 3 ARCS has developed a strategic plan for a refocus of the humanitarian values programme on anti-discrimination agenda

Progress/Achievements

The second youth camp of the year took place on 7-11 August 2005 in Kabul with the theme of 'reducing discrimination and building peace and co-existence among Afghan youth. More than 250 youth volunteers and teacher volunteers from all over the country participated. The second state vice president as well as two ministers, the ARCS president and the Federation head of delegation gave speeches during the opening ceremony.

The youth clubs have continued to operate in Kabul and Mazar. The clubs have theatre groups which put on regular performances. The Kabul youth club performed in the Kabul University theatre festival, promoting the anti-discrimination theme. The theatre groups also performed at the youth camp, promoting the themes of anti-discrimination, peace-building, reconciliation and co-existence.

The youth clubs also provide English language and computer classes, and tailoring training. Members also participate in sports and games. The Herat and Jalalabad youth clubs are still being constructed and this is expected to be completed in 2005.

The youth programme was followed up and monitored by the youth officers in Kabul, Herat and Mazar zones on a monthly basis, while in Jalalabad and Kandahar, the programme was only monitored twice during the reporting period. Youth officers visited principals and headmasters of the schools where the youth programme is active. During the meetings, teacher volunteer are given suggestions on how to improve the programme and are also reminded on the importance of monitoring and reporting of activities.

The government head of education paid a visit to youth programme activities in Mazar and praised the efforts of the national society and pledged further cooperation and support.

Impact

The national youth camp in Kabul brought together young people from different ethnic groups and gave them the opportunity to share their thoughts and work for the agenda of anti-discrimination. These are very effective events as they lead to the interaction of different ethnic groups and motivate youth volunteers to promote the humanitarian values agenda in their communities.

The youth clubs in Kabul and Mazar cities provide venues where youth volunteers from different ethnic groups meet and socially interact.

Constraints

Low funding continued to be a constraint and restricted planned activities. Available funding was utilized for the running and maintenance of the two youth clubs and the follow-up and monitoring of programme activities.

There have been delays in finalizing the construction of the two new youth clubs in Herat and Jalalabad cities but these were expected to be completed by the end of 2005.

Organizational Development

Background

It is a busy and exciting period for the organizational development department. The national society has committed to organizational and management changes to be rolled out first at national headquarters level and then

at branch level. The department received the headquarters' human resources review report in July which was conducted by an external consultant (with support from the British Red Cross). The report identifies areas for change, recommendations and the assignment of a joint commission. The joint commission would consist of representatives from the ARCS, Federation and the ICRC and these representatives would work on the restructuring and adoption of the comments from the review. The review concludes that the ARCS is now in the position to commit and adopt positive changes.

It is also encouraging that the national society is committed to implementation of the membership development programme. This is acknowledged as a vital tool for better recognition and identification of needs in the community.

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

Objective: To assist ARCS in improving its capacities towards becoming a well-functioning national society.

Expected result 1: An ARCS constitution, as per Movement standards and guidelines.

Progress/Achievements

The draft constitution completed in May was received back from the Geneva Joint Commission for National Society Statutes with useful comments to be further considered and developed by the ARCS. The document was redrafted taking into consideration the comments from the Joint Commission.

The final document has been translated into Dari and has been shared with the ministry of justice to be ready for the approval of the state president.

Expected result 2: Further development of organizational capacities at ARCS headquarters and branch levels.

Progress/achievements

Discussions have been ongoing concerning the initiation of the change process with the ARCS top management. It has been decided to start the process through a joint commission of the ARCS, the Federation and the ICRC. Based on a separate meeting with the ARCS head of organizational development, the process will include the development of four specific areas in the national society - restructuring, financial development, strategic planning and resource mobilization (assets management).

The ARCS secretary-general attended the secretary generals meeting in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The pilot phase of the membership development programme has been finalized in the branches of Badghis, Laghman, Logar and Parwan. The final review of the process in pilot branches was done through a lessons learned meeting in Kabul in August. The participants from the branches (the administrator, a volunteer and two members – one man and one woman – from each branch) pointed out the strengths, weaknesses and threats towards the process during the implementation. To follow up and further develop the process, a plan of action has been developed in consultation with the participants to identify the possible future tasks of the ARCS headquarters, the branches and the members. According to the prepared plan of action, the groups would be organized and identified for vulnerability and capability assessment (VCA) training and start practical involvement at grass-root level in their communities. After the groups are organized, the branches would be encouraged to involve the identified members in the decision making procedure of the branches.

A further six branches have been identified for implementing the membership development system. Considering the lesson learned from the pilot branches, the six new branches (five of which are in urban locations) identified are Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Jalalabad and Herat and the Baghlan branch in the northern part of the country.

The process of implementing the system in the new branches was commenced with a meeting held in September at the national society headquarters. An administrator and one volunteer from each of the branches attended. The lessons learned from the four pilot branches were explained to the participants and they were trained on how to start and follow up the process. The preliminary process would begin in October 2005.

Considering the lessons learned from the pilot phase, it has been decided to make some changes in the membership registration documents such as the card, registration and control sheets. The revision of the documents is under process and will be printed for the new six branches as soon as possible.

Expected result 3: Establishment of standardized and cost-effective human resource systems in ARCS headquarters in 2005 and in branches in 2006.

Progress/achievements

With support from the British Red Cross, a consultant was appointed to conduct a human resource review. The consultant conducted a one week study of the national headquarters and made various recommendations. The consultant had several meetings with the management, including the president and the secretary-general.

The report has been shared with ARCS management and a joint ARCS, Federation and ICRC commission has been assigned to follow up the process.

Expected result 4: Increased fundraising by the national society, to enhance self-reliance and sustainability in the longer-term.

Progress/achievements

After the consultancy process, ideas on how to develop fundraising in the national society have been shared with the ARCS management. Considering the importance of fundraising in relation to the image of the national society, it has been decided to develop systems, procedures and a strategy for this purpose. The documents have been shared with the ARCS and have already been followed up.

The ARCS head of organizational development and the Federation organizational development officer were to attend the fundraising skill share meeting in the Netherlands in October to improve their technical capacity.

Expected result 5: Residents of the five ARCS marastoons (home for the underprivileged) received regular humanitarian assistance and technical training support that prepares them for a return to life in their original communities.

Progress/achievements

There are five marastoons with a total of 404 residents - 215 in Kabul, 35 in Herat, 72 in Jalalabad, 30 in Kandahar and 52 in Mazar-i-Sharif.

During the reporting period, there was a resettlement of a family from the marastoon in Jalalabad to the community. The mother from this seven-member family had learned tailoring while living in the facility. Using the skills gained she was able to return to the community and earn a living by sewing clothes and support her family independently. To ensure she would be able to adapt to living independently, the marastoon is supporting the mother for three months, providing her and her family with food until they are reintegrated back into the community.

Coordination meetings on the management of the marastoons were held between the marastoons department, the ARCS and the Federation. Monitoring visits were made to Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif to ensure good financial management systems were in place and to develop a closer working relationship with the Marastoons authorities and state branches to guarantee a proper working system is in place in all the facilities.

Impact

Finalizing the constitution after adopting the comments from the Joint Commission in Geneva and its submission to the ministry of justice has been an important output in this quarter. The completion of the ARCS human resource review and the assignment of a commission for implementation of the recommendations, especially in relation to restructuring, is another major achievement.

Ending the pilot phase of the membership development programme and commencing the second practical phase through the extension of the process from four to a total of ten branches another important accomplishment. A total of 1,400 members have already been recruited in the four pilot branches and follow up and provision of a plan of action has been achieved.

Most importantly, the impact of ARCS activities on vulnerable families is clear and concrete. Based on the case study found under expected result 5, underprivileged families learn new income generation skills and receive ongoing support from the national society until they achieve independence and are reintegrated back into the local community.

Constraints

The finalization of the constitution by the national society took longer than expected. Security has been the main constraint, slowing down the programme, especially the recruitment of members, and the monitoring and supervision process.

Implementation and management

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

The donor base continued to grow during 2005, with at least 12 partner national societies now supporting Afghanistan, along with several other partners. However, there is still very little humanitarian funding available in-country as most assistance continues to be through government to government channels. Funding was secured from ECHO for both the emergency appeals, and regular meetings and discussions were maintained with the Kabul ECHO office throughout the period.

During the third quarter, the delegation received visits from three partner national societies: the British Red Cross technical support visit to advise on the change process, the German Red Cross desk officer and the Norwegian Red Cross desk officer. Close coordination was maintained with the British Red Cross in particular to plan for the partners meeting scheduled for late November 2005, to be hosted by the British Red Cross Society in London. However, this meeting had been deferred until mid-February 2006 to allow more time for partners to handle their response to the Pakistan earthquake disaster.

There were no technical support visits from the South Asia regional delegation during the reporting period, but the head of delegation attended the regional meeting in Delhi in August. The Geneva desk officer and the Kuala Lumpur regional finance unit analyst both visited Kabul in July. Visits were also received from the German Red Cross South Asia representative and the person responsible regionally for IT technical support.

The head of delegation met with colleagues in the fleet base in Dubai to resolve various outstanding issues concerning overall fleet management and the delegation's transition to the new vehicle rental programme.

A close working relationship with ICRC has been ongoing, with regular meetings held between the two heads of delegation, plus trilateral meetings with the national society. The Federation head of delegation holds regular meetings with the ICRC deputy head of delegation regarding security matters and, of course, various colleagues within the Federation delegation have an ongoing working relationship with the ICRC cooperation delegate, in areas which include overall and joint support to the national society leadership and core costs, as well as in health and disaster management, where areas of joint cooperation and support are currently being explored.

Effective representation and advocacy

The Federation delegation representatives met regularly with various government and NGOs, such as the ministry for rural rehabilitation and development, the department for disaster management, ministry of public health, various health NGOs, ECHO, UNHCR, UNAMA, UN security briefings, the Afghanistan NGO security organization and the international security assistance force (ISAF) civil/military cooperation representative. The head of delegation attended a lunch hosted by the Afghanistan president to celebrate the ARCS national youth camp, and the ARCS president is in regular contact with the country's president, other senior government representatives and various ambassadors. The head of delegation did not undertake any visits to embassies during this period, due to the heavy managerial workload linked to the relocation of delegates and the security situation in the run-up to the elections.

Delegation management

During the quarter, the delegation comprised nine expatriate delegates and around 100 national staff in the main Kabul delegation and the four sub-delegations, which are in the process of a planned downsizing and which will be referred to in future as field offices. The plan is for all four field offices to be relocated to the host branches of

the national society in Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif. This process will be complete in Kandahar and Jalalabad by the end of 2005, with the other two relocations due to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2006. The overall staff numbers for 2006 are projected to be around six expatriate delegates and 80 national personnel, reflecting the ongoing efforts to realign the delegation to better respond to the needs of the national society as well as to be much more cost-effective. In this regard, the core costs were again reduced as the year progressed. The realignment of the delegation also included the return to the fleet base of five vehicles which will be sold, after which the delegation will be credited with the income.

As indicated above, the operating environment remained challenging, but nevertheless the donor base has again been broadened in 2005 and expenditures remained on target, within the funding limitations. It is anticipated that the deficit will be greatly reduced by year-end, possibly with no overall deficit and a significant reduction in the health programme deficit which had to be carried forward from 2004.

A key highlight of this period was the successful move of the Federation's working offices to the main ARCS headquarters compound, at the specific invitation of the national society. For the moment, a small formal delegation is maintained on the same side of Kabul as the previous delegation, but the long-term hope is that the delegation can be fully located with the national society. There was an immediate improvement in the working relations between and among national society and Federation colleagues as a result of this move, which seems to have been well-received by all. Most Federation personnel are now permanently based at the ARCS compound, with delegates moving to that location daily. There is still some refurbishment work to be completed at the ARCS site, but this process has really contributed to a closer working relationship of trust and confidence, and was undertaken with no significant additional core costs incurred.

There was a continuing heavy reporting burden throughout as the year progressed. This required the additional cost of a reporting delegate for most of the year and is mainly related to pledge-based reporting requirements, although there is also additional reporting associated with the two emergency appeals as well as the regular institutional reporting. Nevertheless, the delegation very much hopes that pledge-based reporting requirements (especially narrative reports) can be greatly reduced in 2006, as confidence in the delegation and the national society continues to grow.

The small team in the Peshawar office continued to provide support to the Kabul delegation as needed. There are no plans to close this office as it is clear that with the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, back-up support from Pakistan will still be needed.

Finally, as indicated above, the security situation continues to require close and careful management. This was set against increasing threats of suicide bombings and kidnapping in particular, and the general concerns relating to the election process and the ongoing activities of both the coalition forces and the anti-government elements in various parts of the country. It became clear that while there was no direct threat to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, there were heightened threats against international non-government organizations and NGOs, as well as the United Nations organizations. Security measures were adjusted when necessary, and there was a planned relocation of delegates during the election period. This included the provision of support to the Sri Lanka delegation for the development of the basic training course required there, plus the health coordinator paid an extended visit to the regional delegation. The organizational development/marastoon delegate received briefing in the Asia Pacific Service Centre in Kuala Lumpur, and other delegates took leave during this period. As it turned out, the elections passed off relatively quietly, but it was reassuring to know that the delegation's security measure had clearly been adequate. The Geneva security adviser is expected to visit in the next quarter.

In summary, this was a successful quarter for the Afghanistan delegation, despite the security and operational challenges. In particular, the tight financial management and the ongoing realignment of the delegation should be noted, together with the shift of the working office to the ARCS compound.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA045

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				9,055,922	TOTAL COVERAGE 58.5%	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		500,000	AUD	441,250	25.05.05	50 HEALTH CARE CLINICS
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		68,040	AUD	60,045	25.05.05	HEALTH COORDINATOR
BRITISH - RC		90,217	GBP	196,763	06.04.05	HEALTH
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				106,000	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC				13,048	24.11.05	DELEGATE
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				75,000	18.01.05	BRANCH DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
GERMANY - RC		100,000	EUR	153,950	17.02.05	HEALTH AND DM
GERMANY - RC				128,342	11.08.05	DELEGATE
GERMANY - RC		213,000	EUR	332,387	11.08.05	MARSTOONS RUNNING COSTS
GERMANY - RC		80,000	EUR	124,840	11.08.05	MARSTOONS SPECIAL COSTS
GERMANY - RC		26,520	EUR	41,040	17.11.05	MARSTOONS & ARCS STAFF TRAINING WORKSHOPS
GERMAN - RC		60,000	EUR	92,850	17.11.05	MARSTOONS, HUMANITARIAN VALUE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		40,000	EUR	61,760	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
FINNISH - RC		40,000	EUR	61,960	22.03.05	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
FINNISH - RC		80,000	EUR	123,920	22.03.05	CBFA
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		50,000	EUR	77,375	21.12.05	HEALTH & CARE, CBFA
HELLENIC - GOVT		27,000	EUR	41,809	28.02.05	ADRASKAN CLINIC
ICELANDIC - RC		2,000,000	ISK	42,400	30.12.05	HEALTH
JAPANESE - RC		66,212	USD	82,480	30.05.05	INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROJECT
JAPANESE - RC		175,193	USD	226,699	29.09.05	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
NEW ZEALAND - RC		70,000	NZD	62,720	19.10.05	HEALTH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				165,900	17.03.05	DELEGATE COSTS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,835,400	NOK	550,068	13.06.05	HEALTH, CBFA, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
OPEC FUND F. INTERN. DEVELOPMENT		200,000	USD	256,100	13.10.05	RELIEF SUPPLIES
SPANISH - RC		229,031	EUR	354,541	15.07.05	
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	171,000	18.04.05	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT		3,400,000	SEK	581,400	18.04.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT		450,000	SEK	76,950	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS
SWEDISH - RC		840,000	SEK	139,440	16.09.05	HEALTH CLINICS
USA - PRIVATE DONOR		2,000	USD	2,264	20.05.05	

Afghanistan

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 05AA045

PLEDGES RECEIVED

19/01/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4,844,301	CHF	53.5%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			57,200		
CANADA	DELEGATE(S)			65,400		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			3,200		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			11,800		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
GERMAN - RC		40,000	EUR	61,900	17.11.05	160 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH KITS
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			73,000		
GREECE	DELEGATE(S)			34,000		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			71,200		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				450,700	CHF	5.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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