

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Afghanistan

Appeal No. MAAAF001

17 December 2008

This report covers the period 1 July 2008 to 31 December 2008



The Afghan Red Crescent Society emergency mobile unit teams assisting 2,200 internally displaced families (13,200 individuals) in northern Afghanistan. More than 2,976 patients have been treated by the emergency mobile unit teams. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

In brief

Programme purpose:

- The health status of vulnerable people in targeted areas is improved.
- The preparedness capacity of community and institutional levels to provide quality response to common disasters facing in the country is strengthened.
- Raising awareness of humanitarian values and Fundamental Principles in the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and targeted communities and reducing discrimination.
- The service delivery capacity of ARCS is enhanced at all levels.

Programme(s) summary: The major activities during reporting period included the ARCS health programme conducting three baseline studies that contained two knowledge and attitude surveys on HIV and AIDS in Mazar and Herat.

In the last six months, the ARCS community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) programme was expanded in two provinces (Punshir and Deh-kundi); the earthquake and floods contingency plans were finalized; assessments and relief distributions for the affected communities were completed; and the national vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training workshop conducted. Humanitarian values (HV) focused on its concept as a cross-cutting issue into the ARCS programmes. The organizational development department finalized the ARCS constitution; the harmonized operational plan was developed and implementation started; and technical and financial support from the Kuala Lumpur zone office has been provided for the new ARCS financial development system. An agreement was signed with an external auditor to audit the ARCS finance department. Two youth clubs will be established by end of January 2009.

Financial situation: The total 2008 revised budget is CHF 4,593,458 (USD 4.01 million or EUR 3.15 million), of which 91 per cent is covered. Expenditure overall was 55 per cent as of 31 October 2008.

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

No. of people we help:

Reporting Period	Programme title	Total number of beneficiaries		
		Male	Female	Total
1 July to 31 December 2008	Health and Care	110,008	215,477	325,485
	DM	20,142	16,476	36,618
	OD	14,300	4,200	18,500
	HV	27,449	35,701	63,150

Our partners: Twenty partners including the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, key government ministries, United Nations agencies organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) recognized under the government's national disaster management plan.

Context

Security remains volatile and unstable during the reporting period, with international military and civilian casualties remaining at an all time high. High profile abductions and spectacular suicide attacks dominated the period as routine attacks continued across the country. On 30 October, a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the Information and Culture Ministry in Kabul, the first time an attack ever took place inside a government ministry.

In a countrywide survey by the Asia Foundation, an international non-government organization, in which more than 6,500 Afghans were interviewed from all 34 provinces, it was found that more Afghans were negative about their country's future as compared to two years ago, with poor security being the main factor behind the growing pessimism. The biggest problems faced by Afghanistan as a whole were identified as security (36%); economic issues, including unemployment (31%); high prices (22%); weak economy (17%); and corruption (14%).

The government of Afghanistan and the UN launched a joint emergency appeal for over US\$404 million (approximately CHF 486 million or EUR 311 million) to provide an emergency safety-net for 4.5 million vulnerable Afghans who have been pushed into the "high-risk" group regarding food insecurity. This significant portion of Afghanistan's total estimated population of 26.6 million has fallen into the "high risk" category due to high food prices, drought and a sharp decrease in domestic agricultural production.

Due to the security situation, the Movement partners were restrained from conducting monitoring and evaluation visits in the field. To rectify this problem, the International Federation programmes relied heavily on the reports and evaluations conducted by the national society managers and volunteers.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Disaster preparedness (DP)	Communities in target areas are aware of disaster hazards and well-prepared to effectively cope with localized disasters.
2. Disaster response (DR)	The impact of disasters in affected areas on people's lives is reduced through effective and timely emergency response.

Achievements

Expected Outcome 1



The second phase of the earthquake and floods contingency planning workshop, conducted for 20 key staff members of the ARCS programmes, International Federation and government departments, including the Afghan National Disaster Management Authorities. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The International Federation Secretariat's vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) training guide (class room training and learning by doing) was translated from English to Dari. Five thousand copies were distributed to 34 ARCS branches as well as to other partners.

The ARCS, with support from the International Federation, conducted a national VCA training workshop in Kabul. Thirty participants from the ARCS headquarters and five regions of Afghanistan, community members, International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation as well as Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA) took part. The workshop was facilitated by South Asia regional office disaster management team together with trained staff of the International Federation and ARCS DM departments in the country.

In order to strengthen the ARCS's response capacity, a refresher training workshop was conducted on 24-26 November in Kabul. Twenty-five staff members from the ARCS headquarters, provincial branches, the International Federation sub-offices and ICRC participated.

A commission of ARCS, International Federation country and regional offices and an external consultant as a team leader conducted a comprehensive disaster management/disaster risk reduction review in Afghanistan from 14 to 18 December. The purpose was to map the current disaster management/disaster risk reduction approaches and programmes in Afghanistan and make recommendations for further programming as well as develop processes, including action. The review team's report will be submitted to the concerned committee in the near future.

Expected result 2

The National Society, with support of the International Federation, translated the International Federation Secretariat's disaster response and contingency planning guideline into Dari. Following the first phase of the earthquake contingency planning process workshop during June in Kabul, the second phase was conducted for 20 key staff of the ARCS programmes, International Federation and government departments, including ANDMA. The workshop was facilitated by the South Asia regional office with the cooperation of the Asia Pacific Zone disaster management unit from 11-13 November 2008.

During the reporting period, the earthquake contingency plan for Kabul and floods contingency plan for 21 disaster-prone provinces were developed. After conducting simulation exercises, both contingency plans will be updated accordingly.

Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training was conducted for 159 volunteers in six prioritized disaster-prone provinces (Laghman, Kunar, Nagarhar, Herat, Punjshir and Kunduz). CBDP refresher workshops were also conducted for 761 trained volunteers, including 55 female members in 13 provinces of Afghanistan.

To increase the level of awareness of the targeted communities in disaster-prone areas, the ARCS and International Federation disaster management departments have published comprehensive awareness materials, such as brochures on earthquake, floods, fire, cold waves, landslides and general disaster management activities.

In order to increase visibility within the community, 350 CBDP volunteers were provided with uniforms by the ARCS.

The earthquake and floods contingency planning workshop was followed by a one-day stakeholders' meeting. The objective of the meeting was to share and provide updated information on the contingency planning process.

The third disaster response unit team was trained in June 2008 and equipped with basic first aid, administrative and operational kits in Herat.

The ARCS, with support from the International Federation and ICRC, provided relief assistance of food and non-food items for more than 6,000 families (approximately 42,000 individuals) affected mainly in the eastern and northern regions due to the different types of disasters, such as drought, floods, fires and internally displaced persons as well as conflicts during the period under review.

The terms of reference for the Red Cross Red Crescent disaster management coordination unit in Afghanistan was developed in May 2008 to strengthen the existing internal Movement coordination mechanism. The terms of reference have been finalized and signed by IFRC, ICRC and ARCS for effective mobilization and deployment of the Movement's resources to address humanitarian needs across the country.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to the engagement of the key national society disaster management staff members at headquarter and regional levels in response to the drought and winter activities and the resignation of the disaster management officer in the north region, the timely implementation of planned activities were hampered. Some of the activities, such as exchange visits in the regions, establishment of charity boxes and local committees, and the finalization of the basic disaster management training manual were not done or completed as planned during the reporting period.

Volatile security situation in the country is another factor which prevented the ARCS and Movement to implement the planned activities.

Working in partnership

Implementation of the various disaster management activities, including response to frequent disasters, were achieved by building partnership and collaboration with government bodies, UN agencies, Movement components, partner National Societies and Non governmental organizations. The ARCS worked closely with ANDMA and key ministries to assist the most affected people across the country.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Newly recruited and trained CDBP volunteers in targeted disaster-prone communities were able to provide timely action to those in need and the volunteers were able to build community capacity with the available resources.

Earthquake and floods contingency planning process workshop in November is influencing the disaster management strategies. The technical support was provided by the external consultant, the International Federation, South Asia regional office and Asia Pacific Zone disaster management unit in the on-going contingency planning process in Afghanistan to assist the National Society formulate a new comprehensive operational contingency plan for earthquakes and floods.

Looking ahead

The ARCS and International Federation's response to frequent disasters and assisting thousands of needy and affected families is appreciated by the Afghan government's ANDMA, whose mandate is to coordinate all humanitarian relief assistance. It has a positive image and is perceived as one of the main humanitarian actors to respond to emergency relief situations among the existing partners.

Health and care

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Community-based first aid	Health awareness, promotion and first aid services at the community level are improved.

2. Public health in emergencies	Level of adequate response to health needs in disasters and in normal situation is improved.
3. Basic health centres	Access to quality preventative, promotional and curative health services is enhanced.
4. HIV and AIDS	Youth in targeted areas have improved knowledge on preventive measures of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and practice less risky behaviour.

Achievements

Expected Outcome 1

During the reporting period, 130 community-based first aid (CBFA) volunteers, including 12 females, participated in awareness campaigns on Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever disease in Herat province. The Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever outbreak occurred in August-September, affecting 30 people and killing seven. The volunteers were organized in groups of two volunteers (total 65 groups) in the affected areas. Each group trained and oriented a group of 15-30 people. The volunteers distributed information, education and communication (IEC) material. The campaigns covered five districts, including Herat, covering 692 villages and 177,924 individuals in almost three weeks and utilizing a budget of USD 38,429 (CHF 46,228 or EUR 29,657).

Twenty-five CBFA team leaders and volunteers actively participated in response interventions of a semi-cholera outbreak in the northern region (Samangan and Faryab provinces) through chlorination of wells and other water resources as well as dissemination of awareness messages to the communities with the technical support of the ministry of public health and UNICEF. At the same time six CBFA teams (each with two members) were appointed by the Samangag MoPH to deliver house-to-house health education services in the villages in addition to the chlorination of their water sources. Similarly, the CBFA volunteers assisted the emergency mobile unit (EMU) teams to provide emergency health services to the victims of acute watery diarrhoea in Achin district of Nangarhar.

In an attempt to keep a proper record and to update the ARCS CBFA volunteers, the volunteers' department of the National Society, with the support of the Movement partners, developed a volunteers' profile format. The format is used for recording all vital information of the CBFA volunteers. The CBFA regional offices have been doing an assessment of the existing CBFA volunteers. The assessment will highlight the number of existing volunteers and resources (first aid bag, bicycle, etc).

A total of 635 volunteers, including 45 females, were trained in five provinces in the northern and central regions. All the newly trained volunteers were provided with first aid kits and previously existing volunteers were distributed refilling dressing materials.

The International Peace Day was celebrated by 150 youth/ CBFA volunteers in Herat through a gathering with speeches followed by a rally and the establishment of CBFA corners in popular spots of the city to provide first aid services.

The three ARCS CBFA members (general director and supervisors), the IFRC health delegate and the ICRC programme officer from cooperation/ health department participated in the "CBFA in action" master facilitators' training course in Sri Lanka. The ARCS will reform its CBFA programme based on the new approach.

The ARCS, ICRC and International Federation health teams conducted a joint monitoring visit on CBFA activities in Kapisa province. The purpose of the visit was to observe the health activities at field level as well as finding the gaps and how the Movement partners can provide more support in a standard manner for betterment of the ARCS health services. This was the first joint monitoring visit paid by the Movement partners. The CBFA programme was monitored and supervised by the CBFA trainers and regional CBFA supervisors. The International Federation health team, together with the ARCS health department, paid visits to the ARCS branches where security was not an issue. (Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Jalalabad, Balkh, Badakshan)

The table below shows the total achievement of the CBFA volunteers in the 12 International Federation-supported ARCS branches.

Activities	Period				
	July	August	September	October	Total
Patients Seen	2,916	5,129	5,664	5,649	19,358
First Aid Applied	1,207	4,645	3,980	3,808	13,640
Patients Referred to Health Facilities	145	221	481	415	1,262
Health Education	11,451	9,119	13,454	6,923	40,947
Grand Total					75,207

Expected Outcome 2

The Herat teams responded to the Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever that affected 30 people and killed seven of them. The patients were hospitalized in an isolated hospital approximately 7km away from the Herat regional hospital where both the ARCS EMU teams were deployed and worked for 10 days (1-10 September) to give MoPH time to find staff to work there. After that the EMU teams joined the CBFA volunteers doing dissemination and case finding in the effected villages in Herat province.

The EMU teams responded to the semi-Cholera outbreak in Achin district of Nangarhar province (in August) and in Samanagan and Faryab provinces (in Sep-Oct). The teams provided emergency medical services to 2,976 dehydrated patients. The operation was followed by awareness campaigns' and chlorination of water resources by CBFA volunteers in the affected places. The Jalalabad mobile team operated in the refugees' camp in Kunar for five days and covered the most urgent cases.

The three ARCS health members (public health in emergencies focal point, central and eastern regions health officers and one EMU team doctor) participated in the public health in emergencies training workshop in Pakistan. The International Federation health officer participated in the regional disaster response team-public health in emergencies induction course in Singapore and the Federation health manager with ARCS director of the health participated in RDRT Induction training in Sri Lanka.

The EMU teams in all regions were monitored and supervised by the ARCS regional health officers. The International Federation health officer together with the ARCS eastern regional health officer visited a refugee settlement in Kunar conducting a rapid health needs assessment.

In general, nine out of 10 emergency mobile units (EMUs) operated in all five regions. (One EMU team has no doctor)

The table below shows the total achievements of the nine EMU teams.

ARCS Emergency Mobile Units Achievement during July-October 2008					
Activity	Time Frame				
Outpatient	July	August	September	October	
Under 5 male	1,076	1,251	1,391	3,718	
Under 5 female	1,315	1,355	1,749	4,419	
Over 5 male	1,280	1,258	1,409	3,947	
Over 5 female	2,448	2,087	2,084	6,619	
Sub-Total	6,119	5,951	6,633	18,703	
Dressing	313	339	571	1,223	
Health Education Group	6,265	5,631	6,677	18,573	
Health Education Individual	1,731	1,327	1,497	4,555	
Sub-Total	7,996	6,958	8,174	23,128	
Grand Total	<i>(individual health education has been not counted in the total</i>				41,201

The ARCS appeal for the Avian Influenza preparedness and response activities for 2008 was approved during August 08. The ARCS/ Federation health teams had field visit of Jalalabad and Kabul region assessing the needs on Avian Influenza issues. The training of trainer (ToT) workshop was conducted with MoPH to the CBFA trainers, supervisors and team leaders EMU teams' doctors and regional health officers. They will train volunteers and organize campaigns in targeted areas. Health education material has been designed, printed and distributed

Expected Outcome 3

The comprehensive community-based health intervention (CCBHI) project started. A baseline study on knowledge, attitude and practice was conducted in the six targeted sites by the Humanitarian Assistance Society. Prior to the study, the ARCS had already recruited staff members for the project including project manager, water and sanitation engineer and hygiene promotion officers. The staff members have been provided with all the necessary office equipment, including computers, printer and office furniture.

The ARCS has involved local people in the implementation of the project through the establishment of health committees in targeted villages. The committee assisted the ARCS during the site selection of water points and waste disposal pits. A total of 40 male volunteers were trained in CBFA in two villages. These volunteers will be used for disseminating hygiene promotion and health education in the community, which is the main part of the CCBHI project.

As per the plan, the ARCS has started the renovation of five clinics in the northern region which will be completed before the end of the year.

During the reporting period, the ARCS organized a direct observe treatment short course (DOTS) and malaria training workshop facilitated by the national tuberculosis programme trainers for 30 clinics' staff.

Regular monthly tripartite meetings between the Movement partners took place during the period under review that has greatly improved cooperation and coordination to support the implementation of the ARCS's health activities which are part of the 2008 of harmonized plan.

The regional health officers participated in all emergency task force committee and provincial health coordination committee meetings. Similarly the ARCS/ Federation health team participated monthly health cluster meeting which is being led by WHO.

The 102 medical kits, which were abducted by some people on the way from Herat to Kabul in the spring, were found. The 78 medical kits were distributed to the clinics after they were received by the Federation sub-office Herat. 34 kits got lost by the transporter.

All 34 International Federation-supported clinics were functional and provided health and care services to sick people in their catchments areas. ICRC has opened a sub-office in Farah province, so since November, the ARCS Farah clinic is supported by the ICRC.

The following table shows the services provided by the 34 International Federation-supported clinics of the National Society:

Category	July	August	September	October	Total
Category 1:					
OPD activities					
OPD visit under five years male	4,228	4,130	3,530	3,136	15,024
OPD visit under five years Female	4,131	3,949	3,302	2,765	14,147
OPD visit over five male	6,853	5,861	5,455	5,394	23,563
OPD visit over five female	13,914	11,961	9,587	9,563	45,025
Re-attendance	2,900	2,486	2,652	2,286	10,324
Sub- Total					108,083
Category 2					
Immunization					
BCG	1,662	1,635	1,662	1,479	6,438
DPT / Polio	2,087	2,205	2,348	1,809	8,449

DPT2 / Polio2	2,173	2,124	2,488	1,741	8,526
DPT3/Polio3	2,074	1,932	2,392	1,887	8,285
Measles	1,527	1,556	1,661	1,566	6,310
TT women	7,646	7,227	6,120	5,256	26,249
Sub- Total					64,257
Category 3					
Mother and child health activities					
Family planning	1,423	1,806	1,678	1,373	6,280
Antenatal care	4,374	3,921	3,384	2,641	14,320
Postnatal care	979	749	715	512	2,955
Children growth monitoring	728	1,535	1,018	738	4,019
Sub- Total					27,574
Grand Total					199,914
Health Education					
Group health education	13,199	10,150	11,015	9,209	
Individual health education	4,200	4,036	3,809	2,191	
Note: Health education has been a part of the other activities such as outpatient department, mother and child health and vaccination, so it is not counted in the total beneficiaries.					

Expected Outcome 4

The ARCS conducted two knowledge and attitude baseline studies among students from grade 9-12, (age 15-24 years) of 36 targeted high schools (18 in Mazar city and 18 in Herat city). The study in Mazar was conducted by Hope Worldwide (a firm contracted by the ARCS/International Federation as consultants) and the ARCS HIV/AIDS coordinator was a part of the study team. However, the survey in Herat city was done by the ARCS itself, while the consulting firm assisted the ARCS as an advisor and data analyst. The Mazar knowledge and attitude study was conducted among a sample population of 396, while the sample size for Herat was 461.

The ARCS trained 40 youth peer education master trainers (20 in each city) in addition to training the 203 new youth peer educators in life skills-based youth peer education on HIV and AIDS and other sexually transmitted infectious diseases as well as adolescent reproductive health in Kabul, Mazar and Herat. The 175 previously trained youth peer educators were provided with a three-day refresher course in Kabul. As of November, a total of 6,120 peers in 306 groups in 50 schools have been trained by existing youth peer educators. A total of 1,190 teachers in 40 sessions were also sensitized on HIV facts and other related issues.

The ARCS youth peer educators and four HIV staff members participated actively in the first gender, reproductive health and HIV symposium in Afghanistan organized by the national aid coordination programme (NACP).

Two symposiums on HIV facts and stigma discrimination related to HIV and AIDS were organized through 12 youth peer educators (conducted by males and females) of two high schools targeting 250 students in each symposium.

Youth peer educator trainers (local coordinator and youth peer educators) of Mazar contributed in a two-day capacity building conference, organized by UNICEF for teachers. Similarly, two local HIV coordinators with the support of the International Federation participated in the monitoring and evaluation training workshop conducted by Bangladesh Rural Advanced Community (BRAC) from 9 to 14 August in Kabul.

The HIV team regularly participated in all coordination meetings held at the ministry of public health, central blood bank and the ministry of education.

The programme was regularly monitored by the ARCS HIV/AIDS training officer and district coordinators.

Constraints or Challenges

The volatile security situation, especially in Kandahar, affected the EMU activities. Additionally, one EMU still does not have a doctor and nurses. Meanwhile, due to the tense security situation in the western region (Herat), the ARCS regional health officer could not follow up with the remote clinics.

Working in partnership

The ARCS is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, supported by ICRC and the International Federation. The National Society is a member of the inter-agency emergency task force, which consists of the World Health Organization, UN agencies and government ministries for emergency preparedness and response.

The National Society is also a member of the HIV and AIDS coordination committee for Afghanistan, and regularly participates in coordination meetings with the ministry of public health, UNICEF, World Health Organization, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and other stakeholders. This helps the ARCS to properly manage its health intervention and to avoid duplication of services.

The response to the semi-cholera outbreaks in Mazar and Nangarhar provinces and the Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever was a great example of partnership with the ministry of public health, as they requested the ARCS to take the lead in response to the mentioned outbreaks.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ARCS, through its health projects, has contributed to the decreasing number of deaths and illness. As an example, the response to the semi-cholera outbreaks (September-October) in northern region and Nangarhar province saw the EMU, with the support of CBFA volunteers, treat 2,976 cases. Similarly, the response to the Crimea Congo hemorrhagic fever outbreak, which occurred in August-September, affecting around 30 people and killing seven of them, had a good impact on decreasing the number of mortality and morbidity.

The antenatal, postnatal and family planning services of the clinics have greatly increased the awareness of mothers on pregnancy-related complications

Through the HIV and AIDS prevention project, the ARCS has significantly contributed to create a positive attitude among parents, school authorities and school students, where the ARCS has been training and utilizing youth peer educators as disseminators of HIV and AIDS issues at school level. As a result, the ARCS was able to train more than 6,120 peers in 306 groups during the reporting period.

Looking ahead

The strategic plan and the planning process 2009 and 2010 will be guiding the ARCS carry on its programmes. The ARCS has initiated integrated comprehensive community-based health services based on its strategic directions, so the project has been started in Mazar province as pilot and will be expanded to other areas in the next five years. The strengthening of mother and child health care services will be next task in the clinics. The evaluation of the CBFA programme will bring information how to strengthen the volunteers' capacity and improve the training and management.

Organizational Development

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Human resource development	Capacity of human resources is improved
2. Finance development	ARCS financial independence has improved
3. General capacity building	Financial and administrative management is improved
4. Development of ARCS legislation	National Society legal base is strengthened
5. Branch development	ARCS branch functional capacity has improved
6. Development of youth and membership	Volunteer, youth and membership management system is improved.

Achievements

Expected outcome 1

The ARCS human resource commission conducted a needs assessment to identify the capacities and gaps of the ARCS female staff at headquarters. Based on results, the National Society organized relevant training for their female staff. Job descriptions for some key positions of the ARCS at headquarters are developed. To enhance the skills and capacities of the ARCS staff, 60 of them have been sent to an institute to receive three months computer and English language courses.

Functional facilities of the ARCS organizational development department are enhanced by providing necessary office equipments, computers and furniture. The ARCS has signed an agreement with an independent organization which provides various trainings to government and 60 staff of the ARCS have received free training.

Expected outcome 2

A three-day training was organized for all admin and finance staff of the ARCS branches to get familiarized with the new developed finance system. Twenty ARCS finance staff received training on basics of finance, computer and English.

A 21 March 2009 deadline has been fixed for the transformation of the new financial management system. The South Asia regional office financial development delegate reviewed the on-going process and suggested recommendations and a plan for the gradual transformation (how the developed finance system can replace the old one).

The ARCS leadership decided to hire an external audit commission to conduct auditing of the ARCS accounts for the last three years (March 2005 to 2007 and January to March 2008) and the International Federation will provide the necessary financial support. It is expected that the ARCS audit will be completed in mid-January 2009.

Expected outcome 3

The ARCS harmonized operational plan has been finalized and translated into Dari and circulated for implementation. A commission is formed from the ARCS, the International Federation and ICRC, with terms of reference to monitor the implementation of the ARCS operational and strategic plan.

The International Federation and ICRC joint harmonized team from the South Asia regional office and Asia Pacific Zone office in Kuala Lumpur paid a follow-up visit to Afghanistan. The main purpose of the visit was reviewing the implementation progress, cooperation and coordination among the Movement partners. Movement partners will address the concern, recommendations made by the harmonized team in their mission report. Formulation of the second 2009-2010 harmonized plan and the follow-up of a participatory process is on-going.

A set of reporting format have been developed; it is a common reporting format to be used by all departments. An orientation training for the key managers of the ARCS on the reporting format has taken place while a comprehensive training for the key managers and head of departments on reporting is planned for mid-December.

The new accounting forms and finance manual is translated into the local language. The new forms and finance manual are approved by the leadership and have been used by the ARCS departments. The new financial management system has been introduced to the ARCS staff.

A six-month English and computer training course for the staff working in the new finance system has started by the external facilitators at ARCS headquarters. A basic finance training course has started for the selected ARCS finance staff at headquarters.

The ARCS organizational development and finance departments are working on a plan to provide necessary trainings to develop a finance system for the ARCS branch administrators. The newly-developed accounting system and forms were introduced to the branch presidents in the annual branch presidents' meeting.

An audit team will review and examine the existing ARCS financial management system and administration work, including their filling system. Results and recommendations will be shared for further

development to find out how the ARCS can be more effective and could efficiently use the resources and financial management by showing the proper ways to avoid delay in this key department.

Expected outcome 4

Communications regarding the ARCS constitution were initiated with the ministry of justice for the final comments and references. There is a revision in the ARCS constitution Article 40, point two. The revised constitution was placed to the office of the State President for the approval. Subsequently, based on the request of the ARCS president, the constitution was not signed by the State President and returned to the ARCS. Presently, the previous constitution is in practise, which was signed by the State President in 2006.

A letter signed on 16 April by the State President and sent to the ARCS through the administration department of the State, describes that the ARCS is an independent organization. In the same letter, the State President instructed the ministries of interior, agriculture and water, urban development and justice to study, investigate and return to the ARCS all properties misused by the people and government organizations.

Expected outcome 5

Three regional Movement branch coordination meetings were conducted in Herat, Jalalabad and Kabul. The meeting led the components of the Movement for better co-ordination of the activities, sharing the experiences, solving problems and addressing the needs assistance. Many Movement issues have been discussed with the head of provincial branches; they are the direct implementers in the field through the ARCS volunteers, youth, members and staff.

From July to November, a total of 246 new members are recruited in the ARCS branches; out of that figure 49 are female. By the end of December, the number of new members in the ARCS branches will be at least 300.

A three-day annual branch presidents' meeting was held in Kabul. One of the major issues discussed in the meeting was to bear in mind the Movement's Fundamental Principles, especially the impartiality, neutrality and independence components while carrying out humanitarian activities. Guidance and clear directions were given by the leadership to the branch presidents to work accordingly. Discussions were on the implementation of planned activities, various challenges faced by the branches and the solutions to overcome all these obstacles, roles and responsibilities regarding the harmonized plan, branch development, membership and volunteering management, coordination and financial and narrative and reporting system.

A workshop on elaborating membership guidelines was held for 15 branches. A total of AFA 16,730 (approximately CHF 410) is collected from the members as monthly subscription and admission fees. The ARCS leadership decided to decrease the membership admission fee from AFA 50 to AFA 20 and monthly subscription from AFA 30 to AFA 10. This decision will help the National Society membership programme to recruit more members from poorer sections of the community.

A needs assessment for five disaster-prone areas was completed. This assessment will help the ARCS to pay more attention and enhance these five branches' capacity against disasters.

Two training sessions were conducted to enhance the coordination, cooperation, communication and capacity of the ARCS branches. Twelve branches and one representative from each department at the headquarters level participated. The trainings were facilitated by an external private institute. A three-day leadership training session was conducted for the team leaders in various districts of Takhar, Jalalabad and Herat provinces. The workshops are the first step towards the establishment of the governance board at the branch level.

Expected outcome 6

Approximately 3,000 youth volunteers were taught on school curriculum, English language, computer skills and arts in five youth clubs in Kandahar, Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad and Herat. A total of 40 per cent of youth club participants are females. This gives them a good opportunity to build their capacity and to avoid addiction to drugs and other socially undesirable and criminal behaviour.

Female youth volunteer students graduated from computer class (office programmes) in the Jalalabad youth club.



Youth exchange visit, organized by the Afghan Red Crescent Society youth department in Mazar-e-Sharif. Sixty volunteers from the Afghan Red Crescent Society branches in Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif participated in the exchange visit. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Youth exchange visit was conducted by the ARCS youth department in Mazar-e-Sharif, in which 60 volunteers from the Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif branches participated. The aim of the visit was to promote friendship, peace and understanding between different languages, traditions and tribes of Afghan people. Training courses were held for 400 youth volunteers in four districts of Herat province and 50 per cent are female.

Youth volunteers in Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Jalalabad have participated in the national vaccination day. Meanwhile, most of these youth volunteers participated in cleaning their city and public places for the demonstration of hygiene. Dressing of more than 300 common wounds has been one of the activities carried out by youth volunteers.

Sports matches were organized between different youth volunteer teams in the regional branches to introduce the ARCS to the public and promote friendship between different levels of youth.

Construction and furnishing work were completed in the ARCS youth clubs in Herat, Jalalabad and Mazar-e-Sharif. This can facilitate the youth programme of the National Society to render better services for breeding the youth, build their personal capacity and involve them more in the ARCS activities.

Youth teachers were trained in Kunduz and Laghman provinces; 50 per cent of these youth teachers were female. Three new youth clubs were established in the ARCS branches at Kundus, Laghman and Kapisa. Necessary furniture and fixture, educational and office equipments were provided to the newly established youth clubs.

A national disaster response team training workshop was held in Kabul for youth volunteers. More than 200 youth female and male took part in the dissemination sessions organized by ICRC Herat sub-delegation.

Constraints or Challenges

Human resource is a big challenge for the ARCS. Majority of the staff who are working in the National Society are unskilled and unqualified; there is lack of systematic coordination and cooperation between the ARCS programmes and branches. There is no proper communication and reporting systems between management and leadership, as well as between programmes and branches. The ARCS governance and management (President and Secretary General) roles and responsibilities are not defined and separated, therefore, most of the time they are interfering in each others' responsibilities which affect the ARCS's plan and programmes implementation.

Security constraints are another key element which hampers the programmes' implementation in the branch level. Due to the high level of security threat at branch level, monitoring and evaluation is a challenge for all programmes. The International Federation is dependent on ICRC for travelling to the field and accommodation arrangements. However, the programme has been monitored by colleagues from the National Society and the International Federation teams, as well as some branches.

Working in partnership

The ARCS has been working with several ministries of the Afghan government to run its programmes smoothly in their territory. The National Society has its youth programme in more than 200 schools which is under the control of the ministry of education and a bilateral agreement is signed. The National Society has developed a good working relationship with the community elders' and school headmasters to run its

membership and volunteers' programmes in the communities, which give the ARCS a widespread working energy.

The ARCS organizational development and capacity building programme is supported by the National Societies of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway and Sweden and the Greek government, through the International Federation and ICRC.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The ARCS, ICRC and International Federation joint harmonized plan, which was developed based on the ARCS five-year strategic plan, will assist the National Society in the long-term to achieve its set objectives. Revision of the ARCS constitution is given legal authority to the National Society to develop its policies and procedures. Development of the ARCS financial management system will assist the National Society in the long-term to centralize its resources and assets towards a strong and self-sufficient National Society with huge resources of its own income.

Recruitment of members is an important step towards the establishment of grassroots organizations with governance bodies at branch levels, which will be gradually extended to the headquarters. Gathering youth from different social and ethnic groups can be measured as a constructive step towards unity and decreasing discrimination. This encourages the spirit of ownership of youth towards the National Society and volunteers programmes. The establishment of two new youth clubs has given the chance to youth volunteers to learn more and to take part in the National Society day-to-day activities.

Considering the fact that the impact measurement in the organizational development programme, which is always dealing with a large-scale change, is directly linked with the nature of activities implemented. However, what have been implemented in the reporting period has direct or indirect contribution to the overall objective of the programme.

Looking ahead

According to the 2008 organizational development action plan, the ARCS harmonized plan will be reviewed, the necessary steps will be taken to develop the 2009 harmonized operational plan. The ARCS finance department will be audited by an external audit company and will provide the final report plus the recommendations to the ARCS leadership (president).

Two more youth clubs will be established and equipped in Kunduz and Laghaman branches of the ARCS, two buses will be purchased for the youth programme and dissemination materials will be printed. Recruitment of 50 more members in all 34 branches of the ARCS and conducting two more training workshops to the members' team leaders is planned.

The decision is made for the development of the new ARCS financial, administration, logistics and procurement systems; establishment of provincial governance board in at least one branch; conducting a leadership and management workshop for the membership team leaders and branch staff; and the establishment of a governance board in one of the regions.

The outstanding issues within the organizational development programme are as follows: to support the ARCS logistics project development jointly with partner National Societies and ICRC, development of the detail plans of action and budget on the basis of the 2009-2010 International Federation plan and the ARCS strategic plan and to strengthen the functional capacity of the ARCS provincial branches.

Humanitarian Values

Outcome(s)/Expected result(s)

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Humanitarian values	All ARCS core programmes practice a component of HV while carrying out their activities in the field
2. Anti-discrimination	Discrimination, violence and intolerance and stigma are reduced in the targeted communities

Achievements

Expected outcome 1

Most of the ARCS operational programme included the humanitarian values component whilst carrying out their activities. More than 5,000 of male and female youth volunteers were involved in the National Society activities regardless of sex, religion and tribe.

Service delivery of disaster management and health indicates more incorporation of humanitarian values, such as the involvement of female volunteers and staff members and expanding their activities to the most vulnerable with respect to their dignity. HIV/AIDS peer education and campaigns have remarkably contributed to the gender balance and anti-stigmatization.

Expected outcome 2

The dissemination of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values and the traditional humanitarian values by 50 volunteers in schools and mosques have increased the awareness of the public and community.

Constraints or Challenges

Lack of technical knowledge on the humanitarian values concept was one of the challenges slowing down the progress of the humanitarian values components into all programmes. At the same time, humanitarian values is lacking a clear policy to outline its cross-cutting nature into all ARCS activities. Presently, the ARCS humanitarian values and dissemination staff are working to create a guideline and, at a later stage, a policy. The ARCS leadership has also decided to send two humanitarian values staff members to the Iranian Red Crescent Society in order to gain knowledge and experience.

Working in partnership

The ministries of religious scholars and education of the government are good partners for the ARCS to disseminate the Movement's Fundamental Principles and values. The collaboration of the community is also very remarkable for the application of the humanitarian values components for anti-discrimination, anti-violence and anti-stigmatization.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Application of the humanitarian values components gives the ARCS a chance to enhance its reputation and trust throughout a well-mannered service delivery. Vulnerable people and the community in the field incorporate the best examples of the ARCS staff and volunteers' behaviour into their lives and eventually it helps co-existence, peace, tolerance and equality among the people.

Looking ahead

There is a need to give more awareness to the ARCS staff and volunteers to merge the components into the programmes. The ARCS humanitarian values programme staff will be given more trainings to enhance their capacity to conduct sessions on humanitarian values in all workshops and seminars and to have the ability to discuss more with all operational programmes to find gaps. The humanitarian values policy and guidelines will be developed to define the role of the programme as an important and vital component into all affairs of the National Society.

How we work

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - Afghanistan

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/1-2008/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/1-2008/12
Appeal	MAAAF001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,035,743	2,296,981	769,502	229,125	262,107	4,593,458
B. Opening Balance	281,797	764,078	67,583	198,730	57,590	1,369,778
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	20,738	20,738	27,651			69,127
<i>British Red Cross</i>		79,275				79,275
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	19,748					19,748
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)</i>	82,196		123,294			205,490
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Denmark - Private Donors)</i>	32,530		-32,530			0
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	14,091	9,750	9,394		39,149	72,383
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	79,847	55,250	53,231			188,328
<i>Greek Government</i>	72,450	24,150	48,300	16,100		161,000
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	100,000	100,000	96,784			296,784
<i>Norwegian Red Cross</i>		0				0
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>		0				0
<i>Saudi Arabia Government</i>		1,089				1,089
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>		72,694				72,694
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		460,620	170,670			631,290
C1. Cash contributions	421,599	823,566	496,793	16,100	39,149	1,797,208
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Denmark - Private Donors)</i>	-40,097		30,561			-9,536
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		9,750			-39,149	-29,399
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>		55,250				55,250
<i>OPEC Fund For International Developm</i>	2,500					2,500
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>			6			6
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-37,597	65,000	30,567		-39,149	18,821
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		22,000			44,000	66,000
C4. Inkind Personnel		22,000			44,000	66,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	384,003	910,566	527,361	16,100	44,000	1,882,029
D. Total Funding = B + C	665,799	1,674,645	594,944	214,830	101,590	3,251,807
Appeal Coverage	64%	73%	77%	94%	39%	71%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	281,797	764,078	67,583	198,730	57,590	1,369,778
C. Income	384,003	910,566	527,361	16,100	44,000	1,882,029
E. Expenditure	-523,908	-1,385,525	-286,182	-212,430	-100,992	-2,509,037
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	141,891	289,120	308,762	2,400	597	742,770

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,035,743	2,296,981	769,502	229,125	262,107	4,593,458	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	285,250	263,608					263,608	21,642
Construction - Housing					56,745		56,745	-56,745
Construction - Facilities/Infrastruc					2,974		2,974	-2,974
Construction Materials					624		624	-624
Clothing & textiles	50,000		70		15,021		15,090	34,910
Water & Sanitation	100,000							100,000
Medical & First Aid	568,000		219,886				219,886	348,114
Teaching Materials	6,500	50	149	2,828			3,028	3,472
Utensils & Tools	42,000		13				13	41,987
Other Supplies & Services	179,117	43	38,809	5	102,933		141,791	37,327
Total Supplies	1,230,867	263,702	258,928	2,833	178,297		703,760	527,108
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	9,500							9,500
Computers & Telecom	114,200	4,275	7,380	3,323	11,035	3,371	29,385	84,815
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	40,000							40,000
Others Machinery & Equipment		808	1,726	808		-3,371	-28	28
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	163,700	5,083	9,106	4,132	11,035	0	29,357	134,343
Transport & Storage								
Storage	20,050	7,227	2,803	155		77	10,262	9,788
Distribution & Monitoring		5,571	40,386	3,825		7,692	57,474	-57,474
Transport & Vehicle Costs	172,500	19,378	94,694	12,085	41	-2,051	124,147	48,353
Total Transport & Storage	192,550	32,176	137,882	16,066	41	5,718	191,883	667
Personnel								
International Staff	612,015	14,959	154,421	76,625		73,380	319,385	292,630
National Staff	825,586	79,987	253,357	82,210	7,727	2,444	425,725	399,861
National Society Staff	63,756	6,445	110,238	12,282	1,582		130,547	-66,791
Consultants	35,490		8,650				8,650	26,840
Total Personnel	1,536,847	101,391	526,666	171,117	9,309	75,824	884,307	652,540
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	486,446	32,350	72,916	14,091		769	120,127	366,320
Total Workshops & Training	486,446	32,350	72,916	14,091		769	120,127	366,320
General Expenditure								
Travel	271,918	3,389	19,961	11,770		7,715	42,835	229,083
Information & Public Relation	113,070	1,789	130,736	880			133,405	-20,335
Office Costs	177,855	9,447	33,167	12,523		28,932	84,069	93,787
Communications	78,430	3,088	17,629	5,391	558	17,280	43,945	34,485
Professional Fees			-211			776	565	-565
Financial Charges	24,000	699	1,764	606		53,048	56,117	-32,117
Other General Expenses		24,225	57,857	25,696		-99,572	8,206	-8,206
Total General Expenditure	665,273	42,636	260,904	56,865	558	8,179	369,141	296,132
Depreciation								
Depreciation	19,200		-260				-260	19,460
Total Depreciation	19,200		-260				-260	19,460
Programme Support								
Program Support	298,575	34,197	89,586	19,125	13,808	3,347	160,063	138,512
Total Programme Support	298,575	34,197	89,586	19,125	13,808	3,347	160,063	138,512
Services								
Services & Recoveries		10,421	5,170				15,591	-15,591
Total Services		10,421	5,170				15,591	-15,591

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - Afghanistan

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Budget	APPEAL

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination			
A		B						A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1,035,743	2,296,981	769,502	229,125	262,107	4,593,458		
Operational Provisions									
Operational Provisions		1,952	24,627	1,952	-618	1,653	29,566	-29,566	
Operational forecasting						5,503	5,503	-5,503	
Total Operational Provisions		1,952	24,627	1,952	-618	7,156	35,069	-35,069	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	4,593,458	523,908	1,385,525	286,182	212,430	100,992	2,509,037	2,084,421	
VARIANCE (C - D)		511,835	911,456	483,321	16,695	161,114	2,084,421		