

Programme Update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Afghanistan

Appeal No. MAAAF001

This report covers the period 01 July to
31 December 2009.

24 December 2009



The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and International Federation have implemented an assessment and relief operation, distributing food items to 20,898 individuals, including women and children in Herat and Farah provinces of western Afghanistan. The operation was funded by the Italian Government through the Italian Red Cross. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

In brief

Programme purpose:

- Improve the health status of vulnerable people in targeted areas.
- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.
- Enhance the service delivery capacity of Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) at all levels.

Programmes summary:

The major activities during the reporting period include the following:

Disaster management: The disaster management programme of the ARCS strengthened the coping capacities of the populations living in targeted disaster prone areas of the country by establishing and training five local disaster committees, 438 volunteers (including 13 women) and raising their awareness of the most common hazards in 13 provinces. The ARCS, with support of the International Federation, provided food and non-food assistance to 7,037 families considered most vulnerable through the effects of drought and other natural and man-made disasters across the country over the reporting period.

The ARCS has significantly enhanced its response capacities by establishing an emergency operation centre (EOC) at headquarter level, increasing its response mechanisms by establishing and training a fourth disaster response unit (DRU) in the eastern region, building a regional disaster preparedness warehouse in Herat and improving staff and volunteers' skills in disaster management areas. This capacity building initiative was

funded by Danish Red Cross.

Through these activities, the ARCS's partnership with the public government authorities, Movement partners and other national and international stakeholders has been improved.

Health and care: A major impact on the ARCS health programme was the successful completion of two external evaluations of its major health projects which include basic health centres (BHCs) or clinics, and community-based first aid (CBFA) programmes. The evaluations were undertaken by external consultants with the support of the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) country offices. Both evaluations identified key recommendations for ARCS to take forward for the future direction and sustainability of the projects.

The issue of Influenza A (H1N1) was a major public health emergency affecting 843 people (including 16 deaths) throughout the country. Of those affected, 332 were foreign military. In response to the global pandemic and the evolving situation within Afghanistan, ARCS, with the support of the International Federation, rapidly mobilized both human and material resources in order to implement preparedness and response activities on the ground. The successful submission of a proposal developed by ARCS with the support of International Federation under the humanitarian pandemic preparedness (H2P) programme was instrumental in ARCS being able to be prepared well in advance.

To date, ARCS has trained 30 master trainers and more than 800 CBFA and youth peer educators on the basic facts of H1N1. In the central and northern regions, 200 existing volunteers were trained in Avian Influenza in addition to 415 new volunteers.

The emergency mobile units (EMUs) were actively involved in response activities to the public health emergency situations in Afghanistan. In Herat the EMU teams established a camp alongside the district hospital situated in Herat city, taking care of acute respiratory infection patients and probable H1N1 cases. In addition, EMU teams in the central, northern and eastern regions were active providing emergency medical services in response to an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea, floods in Nangahar and Jawzjan, and an earthquake in Nangahar. In response to these emergencies, CBFA volunteers were mobilized and worked in close coordination with the EMU teams in carrying out prevention activities including assessment, chlorination of water sources as well as health education and hygiene promotion campaigns.

The HIV and AIDS prevention project was successfully expanded to Jalalabad city where the ARCS will soon be conducting a baseline study on knowledge and attitudes in regard to HIV and AIDS among school students.

The comprehensive community-based health intervention (CCBHI) project has been successful in constructing 77 latrines and 20 wells which currently benefit approximately 10,000 people within the project areas of the northern region. Within the targeted populations, community members were also trained in community-based disaster preparedness in addition to hygiene promotion and first aid.

Organizational development: Organizational development has continued its focus on the critical development areas of human resources, finance and logistics during the reporting period. Of significance has been the recent linkage between the ARCS and the Bakhtar University with a possibility of a strategic alliance being established through which the University will be engaged to assist the national society to develop policy in human resource and finance areas. The University has also been engaged on staff development programmes that seek to develop and strengthen management within the ARCS and emphasise the programme performance, monitoring and evaluation and reporting as critical skills.

Governance is an area that has also been addressed in the reporting period, but progress has been slow due to the presidential election process that occurred over a three-month period. Plans have been made to strengthen the membership base at branch level so that branch boards are then viable and the process of working towards convening a national general assembly can move forward with a degree of confidence.

The five regional offices that were established in the previous reporting period have not been a success largely due to the way in which they were imposed on the organization. While the rationale was sound, the subsequent implementation was poor, particularly as a change of such magnitude required careful management over a period of time. This intermediate line of decentralized management needs an appropriate level of authority, resources and support to succeed and branches need to understand the benefits to the organization of a much more manageable link with the field. Currently it is viewed by the branches as an

unnecessary imposition on a functioning system.

Youth, volunteers and membership is an area of the ARCS that is important, demonstrating growth and progress that are indicative of a positive and strong future for the national society. Volunteering policy is under development under the auspices of the integrated programme project and the activities of the youth groups take the messages of the Movement into the community. Youth involvement in programme areas of the national society also ensures growth and continuity in health and disaster preparedness.

The harmonized planning approach is now well established with the ARCS and good progress is being made on the development of the 2010 plan with branches now included in the process. Movement coordination meetings have been conducted at regional level to better engage the field in the harmonization process and provide a greater degree of transparency and collaboration in planning.

Humanitarian values: The ARCS maintains humanitarian values as one of the key elements to be incorporated into the action and behaviour of its staff and volunteers. In doing so, humanitarian values remains as a cross cutting issue in all ARCS operational programmes. Through the application of humanitarian values, ARCS demonstrates its credibility to the community and gives it better access to the most vulnerable in remote areas. It also helps the ARCS to better gain the involvement and co-operation from the community and other stakeholders during normal situations but more importantly during emergencies.

Financial situation: The total 2009 budget has been revised down from CHF 7,343,281 (USD7,083,471 or EUR 4,929,507) to CHF 5,791,886 (USD 5,566,979 or EUR 3,822,269). The budget has been decreased as some activities planned for 2009 will take place during the first quarter of 2010. This is due to the fact that the ARCS plan for the current year is based on the solar calendar, meaning their year end is 21 March 2010 and not 31 December 2009. The overfunding is due to the fact that part of the funding received in 2009 is dedicated for 2010 activities. Coverage is 117 per cent while expenditure from January to October 2009 is 74.7 per cent of the total 2009 budget (see [attached financial report](#)). The financial report from January to December 2009 will be issued with the 2009 annual report by April 2010.

No. of people we help:

Programme title	Total number of beneficiaries		
	Male	Female	Total
Health and Care	286,234	377,746	663,980
DM	12,667	29,555	42,222
OD	12,000	5,500	17,500
HV	1,650	1,350	3,000

Our partners: 20 partners, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, key government ministries, United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are recognized under the government's national disaster management plan.

Contributors to this appeal include the Australian, British, Danish, Finnish, German, Japanese, New Zealand, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies and the Italian Government.

Also contributing to the work of the national society on a bilateral basis is the Canadian Red Cross Society.

On behalf of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, the International Federation would like to thank all partners and contributors for their response to this appeal.

Context

During the reporting period, the security situation has remained volatile due mainly to the lead up to the presidential election which was held on 20 August. Following several challenging months of campaigning, not only for the involved parties and individuals but also for the people of Afghanistan, the incumbent Hamid Karzai was controversially selected for a second five-year term as president. The election period was accompanied with various attacks and explosions resulting in many casualties in Kabul and throughout Afghanistan.

On 8 October in a bold attack on the Indian embassy, the second in as many years, a suicide car bomb exploded outside the heavily guarded compound in downtown Kabul, killing at least 17 and injuring 84. A

nearby resident said that the blast felt five times stronger than the car bomb that last hit the Indian Embassy in July 2008, killing nearly 60 people.

In a serious incident at one of the commercial guesthouses used by the United Nations in the heart of the Afghan capital on 28 October, a group of suicide bombers gained entry to the compound killing security guards and five UN expatriate staff. While the Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and stated that they had clearly targeted the United Nations, it prompted a relocation of some 600-700 UN personnel out of the country or to safer locations in Afghanistan until such time as the security arrangements had been improved. Other humanitarian organizations have been forced to undertake similar reviews and it is likely that there will be an impact on the continuation of their operations in Afghanistan.

At least 17 people have died from the H1N1 virus in Afghanistan. In response to a rapid increase in confirmed cases, the government has declared a national emergency and launched an education campaign. Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health authorized the shutting down of schools, universities and public restrooms for three weeks. Sports clubs and wedding halls also have also closed their doors and people wearing blue surgical masks are now everywhere in Kabul: in bazaars, on bicycles, in tea shops and taxis. Of the 853 cases confirmed so far, 508 are Afghans, with the remainder being foreigners, almost all military personnel. Although the national death toll of 16 is a fraction of the more than 6,000 recorded worldwide by the World Health Organization, officials in Kabul think there is reason to be concerned given the vulnerable condition of much of its population.

Due to the deteriorating security situation highlighted by attacks in Kabul and numerous others around the country, Movement partners were restrained from conducting monitoring and evaluation visits to the field. Although the International Federation programme managers have visited the field occasionally, they still rely heavily on the programme monitoring and evaluation conducted by the national society that enables the International Federation to produce the reports required describing the results of programme implementation for the many donors who contribute to the appeal.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Outcome
1. Building safer communities	The resilience and self-reliance of individuals and communities are increased and the impact of disasters in targeted disaster prone areas is reduced.
2. Strengthening disaster response and preparedness for responses	The capacity of the ARCS in human and material resources, systems and procedures to enable a more effective response to meet the needs of those people affected by disasters is improved.

Achievements

Expected result 1

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) disaster management department organized 18 community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training courses for 450 volunteers in the second half of the year in 15 out of 34 branches in all five regions of Afghanistan. Additionally, 227 trained CBDP and community-based first aid (CBFA) volunteers have received CBDP refresher workshops in different disaster prone areas. As a result, their upgraded knowledge and skills have contributed in reducing the impact of disasters on affected populations as well as reducing vulnerability by increasing capacity in targeted communities at branch level. This in turn has the effect of enhancing community resilience and strengthening both ARCS and community preparedness to cope with small scale disasters.

The ARCS has continued empowering the communities in targeted disaster prone areas across the country by establishing and training local disaster committees and disseminating awareness against such common hazards as earthquake, floods, avalanches and landslide that affect thousands of people each year. In the second half of the year, five local disaster committees, each consisting of 10-11 community elders, were established in five provinces.

The ARCS has established stronger links with the broader community because of its extensive network of trained youth and volunteers who have implemented successful risk reduction and response measures at community level. The methodology learnt by the ARCS during various workshops will be used for the development of different training manuals for the national society staff, volunteers and communities. Preparation for this approach is in process, with a plan for seven volumes of disaster risk reduction training materials and Emergency Assessment Guidelines being translated into Dari and printed in 2010.

Three ARCS headquarter staff and two from the International Federation have participated in a regional disaster response training (RDRT) refresher course. Further, regional logistics and induction to water and sanitation training workshops were organized separately by the South Asia regional office in Delhi and the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur to strengthen the ARCS human resource capacity. Additionally, in order to provide practical support to the ARCS disaster management department, the International Federation initiated the secondment of the ARCS CDBP assistant as a staff on loan with the country office disaster management unit for a period of six months (1 April -30 September). The staff member on loan resumed his appointment with the ARCS on 1 October. The ARCS staff member has acquired sufficient knowledge and experience with the International Federation working system and procedures, policies and activities to better assist the ARCS in disaster management programme activities.

Following a joint ARCS and International Federation participatory planning workshop, the disaster management logical framework and budgets for 2010-2011 were prepared and finalized.

The ARCS and the International Federation regularly participated in disaster management coordination meetings with the Government of Afghanistan, other national and international stakeholders as well as members of the various clusters which are coordinated under UN auspices. This helps avoid duplication of service provision and assists the national society in particular to better manage its disaster management emergency response interventions.

Expected result 2

Food items for 3,483 families (20,898 individuals) affected by floods, landslide and drought as well as conflict-affected displaced person and returnees in Herat and Farah provinces were distributed following an assessment against the Italian Government food contribution project. An Italian government follow-up project proposal valued at EUR 600,000 (CHF 906,776) for the emergency winterization response and capacity building at community level for Badghis, Herat and Farah provinces is unlikely to be accepted by the ARCS due to major complexities associated with the project implementation.

A regional disaster preparedness warehouse with the capacity of 300 square metres is under construction in the ARCS Herat branch. This capacity is sufficient to store non-food items for over 3,000 families and will further improve the logistics capacity of the ARCS in the western region and enable it to more effectively respond to frequent disasters with financial and technical support from the International Federation.

The five-day disaster response unit training workshop was completed in September and one operational disaster response team consisting of 12 staff and volunteers is now established in Jalalabad for the eastern region. A trained disaster response unit is equipped with a standard operational kit along with one stand-by vehicle. Similarly resourced disaster response units operate from the central (Kabul), northern (Mazar-e-Sharif) and western (Herat) regions.

The International Federation replenished disaster preparedness stocks in eight ARCS provincial branches in Bamyan, Daikundi, Panjsher, Faryab, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunar and Ghor provinces. Non-food items (50 tents, 400 blankets, 100 kitchen sets, 100 tarpaulins, and 100 jerry cans) were distributed to each branch to enable them to be prepared and respond effectively and timely to disasters/emergencies in these provinces. Further, 1,000 tents, 8,000 blankets and 3,115 jerry cans were despatched from the main International Federation warehouse in Kabul to augment the Herat and Mazar sub-office stocks in the event of any emergency situation occurring. This gives a degree of flexibility and will enable these items to be distributed to the most affected beneficiaries through the ARCS branches in these regions.

In accordance with the ARCS harmonized plan, the disaster management department held two supervisory meetings to evaluate the on-going disaster management programme following the activities stated in the logical framework or plan of action for 2009. The aim of this process was to reinforce the communication and dialogue between the headquarters, regional offices and provincial branches, promote knowledge sharing, analyze the national and regional trends, share opportunities to work together, seek to

improve programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as enhance cooperation and coordination throughout the national society.

Constraints or Challenges

The unstable security environment especially in the eastern, western parts of the country has had a major impact on monitoring programme activities and reaching those affected by disasters to provide assistance.

Conflict situations have also had a significant impact on programme implementation and the provision of quality services to disaster affected people.

The frequent turnover and replacement of disaster management staff as well as the lack of proper human resource and financial management systems at the ARCS headquarters and branch levels has also impacted on the effectiveness of the disaster management department.

Health and care

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Component outcome
1. Community-based first aid	The health status and capacity of communities to cope with health and disaster challenges through integrated community-based health and first aid is improved.
2. Public health in emergencies	Access to curative and preventive health services in target areas during disasters and in normal situations is improved.
3. Basic health centres	Access to targeted vulnerable populations for curative and preventive health services is improved, particularly for maternal, newborn and child health care.
4. HIV and AIDS	Vulnerability to HIV and its impacts is reduced through the introduction of measures to prevent further infection, the reduction of stigma and discrimination and improved access to safe blood for children and mothers.

Achievements

Expected result 1

During the reporting period, CBFA volunteers were active in assisting the emergency medical unit teams in response activities to outbreaks of severe diarrhoea (semi-cholera) in Sar-i-Pul and Nangahar provinces. The CBFA volunteers were responsible for carrying out key preventative activities which included health education campaigns (raising awareness of communities), distribution of oral rehydration salts and chlorination of water sources. Additionally, around 800 CBFA team leaders, volunteers and youth peer educators were trained in Influenza A (H1N1) in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangahar and Mazar regions. A training of trainers was also conducted targeting 30 CBFA supervisors, trainers, regional health officers (RHO) and HIV/AIDS project staff members in the central region.

The external evaluation of the CBFA project was completed during the first half of the year highlighting key recommendations which have subsequently been reviewed and agreed by ARCS and Movement partners during tripartite meetings with recommendations being prioritized along with relevant actions required. The ARCS youth and volunteer department, with the support of Movement partners, has also been working on the development of a volunteering policy which will aim to set the foundation for the national society on volunteer management.

CBFA training and first aid materials have been agreed and standardized between ARCS and Movement partners as highlighted in a priority recommendation under the CBFA evaluation for 2009. Translation of the community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) manual into Dari is already complete while the Pashto version will be completed by the end of the year.

A total of 42 CBFA volunteers actively participated in national immunization day (NID) polio eradication campaign from 26-28 July in Kabul. They took part in the vaccination process as well as playing a monitoring role in the campaign. During 15-17 November, ARCS clinics, emergency medical unit teams, CBFA volunteers (including 12 women) took part in supervision and monitoring of the immunization campaign.



Doctors from the Afghan Red Crescent Society emergency mobile unit attending to patients during the H1N1 outbreak in Herat province. Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society.

In total, 415 new volunteers were trained in Kunduz, Sar-i-Pul, Panjsher, Bamyan and Parwan provinces. All the new volunteers were provided with first aid bags while existing trained volunteers have been provided with refilling materials. In addition, 200 volunteers were trained in Avian Influenza in Kabul province during the period under review.

The following chart shows the number of people assisted by the CBFA volunteers in the 11 International Federation-supported provinces:

ARCS CBFA programme achievements in 11 International Federation supported provinces							
May-Oct 2009							
Categories of service	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Total
Total First Aid Applied	4,977	3,870	4,787	3,336	2,938	2,365	22,273
No of referral cases	394	259	424	244	337	352	2,010
Health education	17,256	12,068	13,917	17,955	5,283	14,649	81,128
Grand Total							105,411

Expected result 2

The ARCS has played a proactive and supportive role to the Ministry of Public Health by utilizing its emergency medical unit teams and CBFA volunteers in response to the recent H1N1 public health emergency in Afghanistan which has affected 853 people (including 17 deaths) throughout the country. During the initial emergency task force at national level related to H1N1, ARCS committed to assist the Ministry of Public Health in preventive and response measures. They agreed to take the responsibility for:

- Comprehensive awareness (alongside other stakeholders).
- Non food assistance (alongside other stakeholders).
- Mobile hospitals.
- Preparing of 30 beds in the ARCS hospital.

For this half of the year, the emergency medical units were actively involved in a number of emergency health responses throughout the country. In response to the recent public health emergency of H1N1, the Herat emergency medical unit teams were active in diagnosis of suspected cases of H1N1, while assisting patients which presented with symptoms of acute respiratory infection. During their ten-day deployment, the emergency medical unit teams registered 663 cases of acute respiratory infection and of those 42 suspected cases of H1N1 were hospitalized. In addition, emergency medical unit teams in the central, northern and eastern regions were operational, providing emergency medical services in response to an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea, floods in Nangahar and Jawzjan and an earthquake in Nangahar.

As part of the prevention activities in response to H1N1, the ICRC after a coordination meeting between the Movement partners agreed to provide personal protective equipment to the staff of all 47 clinics.

A field visit to Kandahar was carried out collaboratively between the International Federation and ICRC health teams during October. The purpose of the field trip was to facilitate an emergency medical unit workshop which aimed at actively engaging and drawing on the knowledge and experience of the ARCS Kandahar emergency medical unit teams in order to provide Movement partners with greater insight into the reality on the ground in terms of achievements and challenges for the emergency medical unit teams currently working in one of the most insecure parts of the country. This is the first emergency medical unit workshop to be conducted by the International Federation, and plans to facilitate further emergency medical unit workshops for the remaining regions will be completed by late January 2010.

The following chart shows the overall achievement of the emergency medical unit teams during the reporting period:

ARCS Emergency Mobile Units Achievement during May-Oct 2009							
Activity	Timeframe						
	May	June	July	August	September	October	Totals
Out-Patient							
Under 5 male	1,023	1,487	1,251	1,118	488	1,47	6,614
Under 5 female	1,149	1,395	1,099	928	391	1,171	6,133
Over 5 male	1,844	1,256	1,023	814	122	930	5,989
Over 5 female	3,109	2,751	2,315	1,477	132	2,203	11,987
Sub-Total	7,125	6,889	5,688	4,337	1,133	5,551	30,723
Dressing	356	288	199	218	93	256	1,410
Health Education Individual	7,137	10,229	10,978	10,099	1,688	6,787	46,918
Health Education Group	1,367	1,668	1,539	1,382	213	866	7,035
Sub-Total	8,504	11,897	12,517	11,481	1,901	7,653	55,363
Immunization							
Children (DPT3)/BCG/Measles/Hpt	244		84	328	656	1,312	2,624
TT (women)	114		82	196	392	784	1,568
Sub-Total	358		166	524	1,048	2,096	4,192
Grand Total							90,278

Expected result 3

Basic health care (clinic) project:

An external evaluation of the basic health care (clinic) project was completed during the first half of the year, highlighting key recommendations which have subsequently been reviewed, agreed and prioritized by ARCS and Movement partners during regular Tripartite meetings together with implementation activities required.

The clinic evaluation acknowledged the benefits and positive outcomes of health services provided by the clinics to various the populations across the country, while at the same time highlighting for future learning and development, the need for ARCS to further focus resources towards improving the standard and quality of the health services currently provided by their clinics.

Another key recommendation highlighted in the clinic evaluation was the additional value ARCS emergency medical units provide in terms of both emergency health response, and during normal times through its curative, preventive and promotional services particularly those provided to remote populations.

In enhancing the quality of reproductive health services provided to pregnant women, four ARCS clinics in the northern region were renovated and equipped with essential medical delivery instruments and necessary medicine required to assist midwives perform safe deliveries.

Cooperation and coordination between ARCS and the Ministry of Public Health continues to be strengthened with representation and active participation of the national society regional health officers at monthly provincial health coordination committee meetings in their respective regions. During October, a monitoring visit of ARCS clinics supported by both the International Federation and ICRC was carried out collectively by all Movement partners in the south eastern region (Kandahar city), and by ARCS and the International Federation in the northern region (Samangan clinic), as a means to promote great cohesiveness and support to ARCS.

During the reporting period, all 37 International Federation-supported clinics were functional and provided health and care services to patients in their catchments areas.

Category	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Category 1:							
OPD activities							
OPD visit under five years Male	4,629	6,907	5,832	5,850	5,842	5,654	34,714
OPD visit under five years Female	4,129	6,446	5,534	5,361	4,826	5,371	31,667
OPD visit over five male	4,410	6,598	6,984	6,603	5,515	6,134	36,244
OPD visit over five female	11,517	17,516	16,084	15,094	12,482	14,420	87,113
Re-attendance	6,413	7,668	7,138	7,084	5,479	6,445	40,947
Sub-Total							230,685
Category 2							
Immunization							
BCG	1,404	1,333	1,478	1,570	1,283	1,710	8,778
DPT / Polio	1,645	2,346	1,812	1,943	1,591	2,004	11,341
DPT2 / Polio2	1,652	1,955	1,829	1,846	1,538	1,897	10,717
DPT3/Polio3	1,473	1,654	1,767	1,787	1,426	1,739	9,846
Measles	1,310	12,319	1,423	1,583	1,220	2,038	19,893
TT women	6,043	11,428	7,091	7,087	4,186	19,512	55,347
Sub-Total							115,922
Category 3							
MCH activities							
Family planning	1,557	2,261	1,786	1,441	1,718	2,008	10,771
Antenatal care	2,657	4,532	3,335	2,858	2,668	3,175	19,225
Postnatal care	567	913	880	743	743	797	4,643
Children growth monitoring	1,307	1,642	1,152	1,350	1,327	1,826	8,604
Deliveries		21	15	17	10	13	76

Sub-Total								43,319
Category 4								
Dressing	2,356	2,859	1,989	2,798	2,520	2,834		15,356
Grand Total								405,282
Health Education								
Group health education	14,127	13,153	15,071	12,167	10,341	9,349		74,208
Individual health education	4,088	29,819	16,677	14,065	9,976	11,721		86,346
Total Health Education								160,554

Comprehensive community-based health intervention (CCBHI) Project:

During the reporting period, 20 wells and 77 sanitary latrines were constructed within the targeted project areas (Balkh, Shortepa and Khulm districts). For latrine construction, ARCS provided materials and mechanics, while the labour was covered by local community members thus promoting greater community ownership of the project. However, construction of the wells was contracted out to a construction company due to the technical nature of the task at hand.

In building up the capacity of the local communities, 20 CBFA volunteers were trained in CDBP in one of the villages targeted under the project. The CDBP training will be conducted in the remaining villages and finalized by the end of 2010. Additionally, 40 community volunteers received training in hygiene promotion in Khulm and Balkh districts. In 2010 significant emphasis will be made in the training of local women and girls within the existing communities in order to promote better health and well-being of the communities.

Information, education and communication (IEC) materials have been disseminated to the communities as well as hygiene awareness sessions in their local language to both reinforce key messages and enhance knowledge and understanding of good health behaviour and practice among community members.

In terms of monitoring the progression of the project, regularly monitoring visits continue to be carried out by ARCS CCBHI project staff members, regional health officers and the International Federation sub-office manager and field officer. During the month of October, a monitoring visit was also carried out by the British Red Cross health advisor, along with the South Asia regional office health coordinator and the International Federation country office health team to the northern region of Afghanistan where the project is being carried out.

Expected result 4

HIV/AIDS Prevention project:

The HIV/AIDS project was further expanded to Jalalabad in 2009, taking the coverage area of the project to four regions in Afghanistan (Kabul, Mazar, Herat and now Jalalabad) with the south east region yet to be reached. Following the same approach taken in the other regions, the national society conducted a knowledge and attitude baseline study of school youth regarding HIV and AIDS. The findings and recommendations of the two previous baseline survey reports that were carried out in Herat and Mazar in late 2008 were presented by the ARCS HIV/AIDS coordinator in August to relevant ARCS staff and a wide range of external stakeholders at an official ceremony which was opened by the ARCS President.

To enhance the awareness of school students and school principals regarding the National Blood Bank Centre, a visit to the centre was organized by the HIV/AIDS coordinator and ARCS health department. senior students (both female and male) participated in the visit.

The ARCS HIV/AIDS coordinator and International Federation health officer participated in the ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) held in Bali Indonesia from 8 to 13 August.

During the reporting period, the national society has trained 40 trainers (25 women) and 430 youth peer educators (294 women), 75 of whom were trained free of cost. They have also sensitized 1,372 teachers, headmasters, school principals and parents (including 832 women) thus benefiting an expanded network

of 62,744 individuals. In addition, 435 women both literate and illiterate were oriented on the basic facts of HIV and AIDS and its related issues through Kabul-based youth peer educators using mosques, the Kabul Educational University, bakeries, tailor's shops, beauty parlours and other commercial outlets. Also targeted were some schools, family members and students undertaking private courses. Orientation sessions related to issues on HIV/AIDS and STI/STD were held by youth peer educator and youth peer educator trainers in 14 high schools and information, education and communication materials, including brochures and posters, were also distributed to 2,000 students during the various youth peer educator training sessions in Kabul and Mazar.

World AIDS day was observed on 1 December. The ARCS marked the day jointly with the Ministry of Public Health and other stakeholders by utilizing its youth peer educators to hold pre-event campaigns targeting barber shops, beauty parlours and the general public. In addition, they conducted stage dramas, distributed information, education and communication materials and received guests at the official function.

The HIV project coordinator attended a meeting with CONSTILA Future group with a view to considering involvement in the development of the youth network on AIDS at a national level. The network has been established under the leadership of the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) and is very much interested to learn from the work experience of ARCS.

Constraints or Challenges

The main constraint faced by ARCS as well as many other humanitarian organizations within Afghanistan continues to be the high levels of insecurity, which vary throughout the country. In some regions, the environments have changed from being considered stable to a situation where the level of insecurity continues to deteriorate on a daily basis. In other regions however, the high level of insecurity remains constant.

In such regions where insecurity is far greater, access to the field to enable the assessment process to occur in order to provide much needed assistance to the vulnerable population has been a major constraint faced by ARCS. This has been particularly evident in Kandahar where the emergency medical unit team activities have been limited due to poor access. Other ARCS staff functions such as regular visits to, and monitoring of remote areas where ARCS health projects are being carried out have also been restricted from time to time.

Organizational development

Outcomes/Expected results

Programme component	Programme outcome
1. Foundation and well- functioning organization	A well-functioning organization with strong legal base and sustainable systems, procedures and staff with the desired level of managerial and technical competencies is ensured.
2. Financial sustainability	Financial sustainability is ensured.
3. Leadership capacities	National society leadership capacities to develop and implement strategies, and ensure good performance and accountability at all levels are improved.
4. Programme development	Capacity for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting programme development and management is improved.
5. Grassroots' service	A nation-wide coverage of grassroots units and services (youth and volunteers) is developed.

Achievements

Expected result 1

For more than a year the ARCS has been seeking a local (Afghan) human resource professional who has a working knowledge of the government human resource policy, labour laws and human resource management systems applicable for application to international organizations. Subsequently, following

several meetings and discussions between Bakhtar University, the ARCS leadership and the International Federation organizational development department, the university submitted a proposal to the national society which is currently under review. The International Federation human resource department in the zone office in Kuala Lumpur provided feedback to the ARCS in this regard.

The ARCS leadership has received the International Federation and ICRC Joint Statutory Commission's (JSC) comments on the interim constitution. Discussion is ongoing with the ARCS leadership on this issue to accommodate the comments into a revised ARCS constitution.

For the first time in ARCS history, a draft of an ARCS gender policy has been developed. The draft policy is under review to make it more applicable in the Afghanistan context.

A committee has been assigned to work on the ARCS emblem law. The International Federation and ICRC have been included in order to provide the national society with technical assistance.

The ARCS President and head of international relations department attended the 17th session of the General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya, in November.

Regular meetings between the International Federation, ARCS organizational development department and ICRC cooperation took place on programme implementation issues as well as other issues relating to finance, human resources and logistics. In addition, the effects of the election, the security situation and slow implementation of the harmonized plan have been routinely raised and discussed.

Concept papers on three initiatives involving training and learning-by-doing have been submitted on policy development, project performance, monitoring, reporting and resource mobilization by an external consultant. All are under review and discussion. The consultant will then submit the final proposals with a plan of action and budget when the concept papers are approved by the national society and partners. The purpose of this project is to develop the skills and capacity of the relevant departments and senior staff of the ARCS on the subject matters.

Expected result 2

The last four years of accounts, the preparation of statements and the establishment of the opening and closing balances for the years 2005 to 2007 have been completed for the ARCS by Rifaqat Babar company. Due to improper maintenance of accounts, poor record keeping and lack of sufficient information in the finance department, the auditing of books and accounts has been delayed but will be completed soon. The ARCS has signed another agreement with the Rifaqat Babar company for the completion of a 2008 financial statement and balance sheet. The ARCS finance and organizational development departments are working on the system audit recommendations and these will be added to the outstanding works required to complete the finance development process and produce a definitive financial management system.

The ARCS deputy of finance and one finance officer attended the regional finance manager's meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

The ARCS shared its new finance manual with the Ministry of Finance for comments and recommendations for approval of the Controller of Audit Office, the highest finance-related authority in Afghanistan. Comments and advice have been sought from the Ministry of Finance for further necessary actions to be taken by the ARCS. This requirement for the approval from the Controller of Audit Office clearly demonstrates the lack of independence of the national society, particularly regarding financial matters.

The ARCS leadership has agreed to work with Bakhtar University to further develop the ARCS finance system. It is worth mentioning that several stages of the finance development process have been completed by Rifaqat Babar company; the remainder will now be completed by the university. Subsequently, Bakhtar University has submitted its proposal, a copy of which was shared with the International Federation and the South Asia regional office finance development delegate for his technical feedback. Following a visit to Afghanistan and meetings with the concerned people in October, the South Asia regional office finance development delegate has been able to provide sound feedback. The proposal is still under consideration and if/when approved by the ARCS senior leadership, then Bakhtar University will commence work on the second phase of the finance development system.

Various meetings were conducted to study the recommendations provided by the Norwegian Red Cross logistics delegate, in order to cross-check against the ARCS logistics and procurement policy/strategy to ensure that it is flexible, readily applicable and simple to use. The ARCS logistics department offices at the headquarters are now equipped with the necessary office equipment and items, hardware and software.

A training workshop on logistics, focussing on warehousing has been conducted by the Norwegian Red Cross. The logistics delegate from the zone office in Kuala Lumpur was invited to assist the facilitation of the workshop.

The ARCS has established a resource management unit under the organizational development department. The next step is to determine the roles and functions of the newly established unit and provide the required training for the staff.

Expected result 3

As a follow on from the two-day orientation workshop for the governance board members and senior management staff that took place earlier in the year, a second orientation workshop was planned for September. However, due to the presidential election process, it has been postponed indefinitely.

Four regional Movement coordination meetings took place in Kandahar (Southern), Kabul (Central), Herat (Western) and Mazar-e-Sharif (Northern) regions to gauge progress in the implementation of the harmonized plan, assess the levels of coordination among the Movement components, and determine the work of the newly established regional offices. This will include their responsibilities relating to work on the new plan for 2010. Minimum criteria for a well-functioning branch were presented at each meeting along with various Movement issues relevant to the regional context. All concerned ARCS regional offices and branches along with sub-offices of the International Federation and ICRC attended these meetings.

Several meetings were held with the ARCS youth and membership department to accelerate the membership programme and outline the criteria for the selection of members. The ARCS membership programme has agreed to focus on the quality of the membership rather than quantity. In total, 190 new members (34 female) in 29 ARCS branches were recruited. An amount of total AFA 5,700 (CHF 117 or USD 114) was collected as subscription and monthly fees during reporting period.

Discussions also took place between the ARCS, International Federation and ICRC on the formation of branch governing boards and the need to conduct a national general assembly. Reforms to the existing governing board at headquarter level, including strengthening its charter, were also discussed. At least one branch governance board is to be formed by the end of this year, probably in Panjsher.

Several meetings were held with the ARCS volunteering and membership department in order to intensify the process to increase and improve provincial membership and focus on the quality of activities at branch level. Those branches which are ready for the establishment of the local assemblies were identified and at least two branches will be in a position to conduct provincial assemblies by the end of 2009.

The branch capacity assessment process in six branches (Ghazni, Paktia, Panjsher, Baghlan, Balkh and Sar-i-Pul) has been completed. This assessment report will help the ARCS to work on its branch development strategy.

The ARCS organized two general management training workshops for its senior staff. One was a 60-hour course pitched at headquarter level (head of the department), and the other was a 48-hour long course for the heads of five ARCS regional offices and selected heads of 14 branches. Both training courses were designed and facilitated by Bakhtar University.

The ARCS celebrates 'Special Week' each year from 16 to 22 October to generate funds from the corporate and commercial sectors, government departments, the wealthy and the general public. This is a popular event and highlights the profile of the ARCS in the broader community. It also gives an opportunity for members and volunteers to flag the activities of the ARCS. This year, as of the end of December an amount of USD 65,800 (CHF 68,064) had been raised through ticket sales alone. Yet to be realised are the results of a scheme by government employees who voluntarily donate one day's salary to the ARCS as well as other initiatives.

Expected result 4

Two harmonized mission reports from the zone office in Kuala Lumpur have been translated into local language and submitted to the ARCS leadership and key line managers. They were also presented to the branches Movement coordination meetings.

A new planning format has been introduced to all 34 branches of the ARCS to help them plan their activities more efficiently. During the regional Movement coordination meeting in Kandahar, the harmonized plan, new designed reporting formats and a format for programme planning were presented to the heads of the branches.

The Afghanistan organizational development support plan, logical framework and budget for 2010 and 2011 were finalized and sent to the zone office. The organizational development logical framework was developed in close consultation with the ARCS organizational development department and a draft document has been shared with national society leadership, ICRC and partner national societies.

The ARCS, International Federation and ICRC have agreed to initiate the revision process for the ARCS strategic plan document. A planning meeting will be organized at the ARCS headquarters in December or early January.

A three-day planning workshop covering the project planning process and project cycle management (PPP and PCM) was conducted for key ARCS staff at headquarters level and International Federation programme staff. The workshop was inaugurated by the ARCS Secretary General and International Federation head of office while the workshop was facilitated by the International Federation organizational development delegate. This process will be repeated for other headquarters, regional and branch staff early in 2010. Several other training sessions have been provided to the ARCS headquarters departments and branches on planning and monitoring activities in the field.

The ARCS organizational development department has requested all 34 branches to submit their annual plan to headquarters so that the 2010 harmonized plan can be compiled and finalized. To date, 80 per cent of the ARCS branches have submitted their draft operational plans. The ARCS organizational development department will incorporate these plans into the master plan and the harmonization process to develop the plan further will then commence with technical support of International Federation and ICRC.

The implementation process of the ARCS operational harmonized plan has been reviewed twice in the last five months. In the review meetings, the respective heads of ARCS departments presented their programme activities highlighting their achievements and challenges. The review meetings were chaired by the ARCS secretary general demonstrating commitment to and ownership of the process, an initiative that was highly appreciated by the ARCS leadership. This process will be a feature of future operational planning development. According to the latest reports of the ARCS programmes, 75-80 per cent of the planned activities have been implemented, which is significant in terms of achieving the ARCS strategic objectives. International Federation and ICRC were present at these meetings.

Expected result 5

Around 4,500 youth members (45 per cent women) are regularly attending the nine youth clubs in nine ARCS branches. Activities include building personal capacity through self paced learning in a supportive environment, strengthening the volunteering ethos amongst youth circles of their respective communities, promoting friendship and co-existence, sporting activities, promoting humanitarian values and general awareness of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are the main focus of the ARCS youth programme. These all contribute to the capacity of the youth members to better serve their community and gainfully use their leisure time while supporting the broader ARCS programme activities.

Three youth members, one youth director and two youth volunteers (one boy and one girl), participated in the Third World Red Cross and Red Crescent Youth Meeting in Solferino, Italy. These included the journey on an idea and commemorative trip from Solferino to Geneva. The outcome of the event has been published in monthly newsletters and shared with youth and volunteers in various meetings and training sessions.

Several meetings were held with the ICRC integrated programme volunteer management delegate regarding the overall integrated programme project issues. The purpose of the meetings was to determine the existing challenges facing the ARCS in the management of volunteers and to enlist more

substantial contribution of the Movement partners to further develop volunteer management and related policy for the ARCS.

Following a three-month participatory process and joint efforts of the ARCS, ICRC and International Federation, the preliminary draft of the ARCS volunteering policy has been developed. After review and initial feedback from the members, the revised document will be shared with volunteers and volunteer managers in the field for comments, feedback and enrichment of the follow-on draft document.

The head of ARCS volunteering programme, head of ARCS organizational development and International Federation organizational development officer participated in the volunteering development workshop in Amman, Jordan.

More than 1,000 male and female youth volunteers took part in blood donation day in Kabul, Herat and Jalalabad. youth volunteers donated blood to the blood bank of the Nangahar public hospital.

A total of 150 male and female youth volunteers in Herat took part in celebration of 150th year anniversary of the Battle of Solferino. Also in Herat, hundreds more youth volunteers celebrated World Peace day which was observed on 21 September.

Around 500 new youth members (50 per cent women) were trained in Gulran, Obey and Ghuryan districts of Herat as well as Jawzjan, Paktia, Kunduz, Laghman and Kabul provinces. Some of these youth were given orientation by the youth supervisors and membership officers.

Twenty youth volunteers facilitated the polio vaccination for 2,000 children in Jalalabad and one youth volunteer attended the disaster response unit training organised by the ARCS disaster management department in Kabul.

A youth supervisor meeting was held at the ARCS headquarters for 18 youth supervisors and youth club managers. The purpose of the meeting was to provide guidance to the youth supervisors and managers to standardize youth activities throughout the national society. Challenges and problems encountered in the implementation of the youth programme were discussed and issues were addressed to assist in the development and management of future activities.

Finally, after a long and protracted process, the ARCS has purchased two mini-buses for the ARCS youth clubs with the support of the Japanese Red Cross and the International Federation.

Constraints or Challenges

Due to delays in engaging a human resource consultant, clear definition of job responsibilities within the ARCS and related constraints were not resolved. As a result, problems relating to positional authorities and delegations, as well as territorial boundaries between executive and operational levels and management at department and branch levels continued to hamper effective operations within the national society.

The ARCS is still struggling with the organizational restructure that saw the establishment of a regional level of management between the headquarters and branches earlier this year. Due to unclear job descriptions for regional coordinators, the deployment of personnel not acceptable to the branches and a lack of guidance on resource allocation, working relationships and delegated authority, the organization remains largely dysfunctional. As a result, delays in the provision of necessary funds to branches and programmes for the implementation, planned activities have been seriously hampered during the reporting period.

Lack of systematic coordination and cooperation between ARCS programmes and branches, lack of proper communication and reporting systems between management and leadership and between programmes and branches still remain as areas of concern that need to be addressed as a priority.

Concerns in connection with staff deployment/recruitment have not yet been resolved to meet the needs of the programmes and branches. This has created additional burdens on the organization, which in turn impacts on the programme implementation and programme effectiveness.

Increased tension between governance and management (president and secretary general) due to poorly defined roles and responsibilities and possibly including the impact of the Afghanistan presidential

election, has resulted in a difficult situation and some new challenges leading to further conflict which is affecting the ARCS plan and programme implementation. Pre- and post-election security constraints were another key factor which has slowed programme implementation at branch level. As a consequence of increased high level security threats at branch level, monitoring of the ongoing activities by the headquarters or the International Federation country office is a major challenge for all programmes. However, in most of the cases, activities/programmes are usually monitored by the ARCS branches and International Federation sub-offices, with very occasional visits by International Federation teams from Kabul where there were no security restriction for expatriates and local staff.

Humanitarian values

Outcomes/Expected results

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

Achievements

Expected result 1

Development of the gender policy which is under the organizational development department is very important for the ARCS. Consultants from the Ministry of Women's Affairs gave their views and generally assisted in the facilitation of the gender policy development. This policy will define the involvement of women in ARCS affairs and activities and will advocate for the gender balance.

An initial assessment of the ARCS Marastoon and centr for the collection of beggars has been conducted and a humanitarian values orientation has been provided for ARCS employees to emphasise that proper behaviour is applied and the dignity of beneficiaries is respected. The total number of beneficiaries in these centrs is approximately 500.

Expected result 2

The incorporation of humanitarian values into the youth and volunteers programme in youth clubs and schools has enhanced the understanding of youth about the Movement's principles and a greater awareness of its broader activities. The principles and values have been readily adopted into their behaviour and action as volunteers with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. Meanwhile, humanitarian valuesorientation has been delivered to 3,000 ARCS youth members.

Constraints or Challenges

The ongoing risks of insecurity coupled with the unstable political situation are clearly hampering the access of the ARCS programme staff to those volunteers living in remote and conflict areas. The lack of financial support to the programme area is also a concern. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crises which include the displacement of masses of people due to war, abject poverty, child abuse, deprivation of women from education and drug addiction, are certainly challenges for the ARCS and well beyond the capacity of the national society with the existing humanitarian values unit.

Working in partnership

The national society working in partnership and collaboration with the Movement components, the 12 key Ministries of the Afghan Government, other government departments and agencies, the UN including UNAMA, UNHCR, UNICEF and OCHA, and other key stakeholders and national and international non-governmental organizations, have managed to provide assistance to the most affected people countrywide through meetings and broader standing cooperation mechanisms.

At the national level, the ARCS has membership within the inter-agency standing committee arrangements of an emergency task force, comprising the World Health Organization, other UN agencies and government ministries for emergency preparedness and response. The national society has also participated in task force meetings on Influenza A (H1N1) and has been active in its auxiliary role to the government in this particular issue. The ARCS is currently a member of the HIV and AIDS coordination

committee for Afghanistan and participates in coordination meetings with the Ministry of Public Health, UNICEF, World Health Organization, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and other stakeholders. The national society participates in the World Health Organization-led health cluster meeting at country level.

The response to the flood and acute watery diarrhoea outbreaks in Nangahar and the H1N1 outbreak throughout the country were great examples of partnership with the Ministry of Public Health and other relevant stakeholders. Such active participation at various levels allows the national society to further continue to gain visibility and promote its expertise within the health sector in Afghanistan among other national and international stakeholders.

The ARCS programmes have been delivering adequate services to the most vulnerable people through good relations, cooperation, coordination and a harmonized approach with the Movement partners, government departments and national and international organizations and agencies. The support provided to ARCS is according to the Movement cooperation strategy and coordination mechanisms. Regular meetings took place at various levels between the three components of the Movement in Afghanistan, mainly to assist in achieving the national society's objectives set out in the strategic and harmonized plan. There are, however, several bilateral and multilateral projects that ARCS is implementing itself, including a bilateral partnership between the ARCS and the Canadian government in the area of a vocational training programme under the auspices of the disaster management department. The International Federation organizational development programme is involved in the logistics development project supported by the Norwegian Red Cross under the umbrella of International Federation and also support the ICRC-Swedish Red Cross-ARCS integrated programme project on a volunteer management system.

Several meetings between ARCS, International Federation and ICRC cooperation department took place to discuss the organization of various events and intervention mechanisms to support development strategies for human resource, property management and resource mobilization development. The Swedish Red Cross Asia Pacific regional coordinator visited Afghanistan in November, during which the current year's progress and challenges were discussed as well as possible future strategies and interventions. It is hoped that Swedish Red Cross will continue their support to the organizational development/community based intervention for the ARCS.

Currently the ARCS humanitarian values programme works in partnership with UNICEF in training its youth. It also maintains a partnership with ICRC for the implementation of humanitarian values into other areas of the ARCS.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The trained CDBP volunteers, local disaster committees in disaster-prone communities and regional disaster response units promote the image of the national society and have the ability to conduct rapid assessments to provide timely and effective harmonized humanitarian assistance to those affected communities and people in need. They established and built up community capacity with the resources available to them. The ARCS staff and volunteers, through the medium of internal and external training and workshops that have been provided for them, have acquired better knowledge and skills which have obviously resulted in an increase in the institutional capacity of the national society.

The long-term commitment of the ARCS to invest in the health and well-being of the population in Afghanistan can be seen through its strategic intention to focus on specific projects under its health programme which aim to promote a continuum of health care through a combination of preventive, promotional and curative activities.

With greater focus on services to mothers and children, vital curative and promotional services provided by the ARCS in 47 clinics continue to contribute to greater access for mothers and pregnant women to reproductive health services. It also increases their general knowledge and awareness on hygiene promotion and health education as well as influencing their long-term attitudes towards better hygiene practices.

Similarly the curative and promotional services provided through ARCS emergency mobile units have greatly assisted vulnerable and isolated populations to gain access to treatment for major acute and chronic diseases. Other services provided by the clinics such as antenatal, postnatal, delivery and family planning have been instrumental for women and expectant mothers in increasing their awareness around their reproductive health rights.

Regarded as the backbone of prevention, the presence of the ARCS CBFA volunteers within their communities places them in a unique position to ensure that key public health preventative messages are relevant and appropriate to the current context of the community as life evolves. Such community involvement, participation and ownership are critical to the long-term validation and endorsement of a preventive approach.

The HIV and AIDS youth peer education programme has contributed to change the behaviour of people towards HIV and AIDS as they have been regularly training their peers on the facts on HIV and AIDS and disseminating key messages. In addition, ARCS has been working with parents, teachers and principals of schools who are helping the national society to more easily work with students and youth out of schools.

Continued commitment by ARCS to retain a health programme which is centred around an amalgamation of health projects which focus on preventive, promotional and curative aspects will ultimately contribute in the long-term to the reduction in the number deaths and illness of targeted communities across Afghanistan.

The second ARCS harmonized operational plan will assist the national society and Movement partners to achieve the set objectives through harmonized support in the long-term. The ARCS strategic and operational harmonized plan has already given greater responsibilities to its branches. In the past, the ARCS headquarters was responsible for developing and approving the annual plans for its branches without consultation or involving them in the planning process. In future, greater responsibilities will be given to branches for planning and the implementation of activities. The branches are directly working with the membership, volunteers, youth and communities and they know and understand the needs in the field.

The ongoing finance development process will assist the national society to gain greater credibility and confidence in their financial management systems. It will enable them to adopt established financial accounting practices that will give greater transparency and reliability. This will, in turn, gain the trust of donors and ultimately lead to acceptance of the ARCS as a strong and self sufficient national society able to properly, reliably and confidently manage its own resources, both financial and material. The training which has been provided to the members of the ARCS governing board will assist them to direct the organization towards achieving its goals and help guide the ARCS leadership in setting new objectives and supporting them in their job definition and levels of authority. Members of the governing board would also fulfil the critical role of communicating with the government to help protect the organization's independence, neutrality and its auxiliary role status.

Recruitment of members to the national society is an essential step towards the establishment of provincial and district governing bodies at branch level. The development of policy on volunteers will enable the ARCS to organize and manage its network of volunteers and members in regions and branches in systematic way. Volunteers must know and understand their roles and responsibilities while working with the ARCS, as well as their rights and conditions of service. Bringing its youth members together from different social and ethnic backgrounds can also help the national society to reduce discrimination in the community and ultimately move towards national unity, peace and harmony. Furthermore it will also encourage the spirit of ownership by the youth members of the national society, of volunteerism in particular and to their communities in general. Establishment of two new youth clubs has given the chance to youth volunteers to learn and fully participate in the day to day activities of the national society. Also, formulation of a draft gender policy is indicative of the consideration that the ARCS is giving to gender diversity and gender sensitivity in issues relating to all activities of the national society.

In principle, the establishment of five new regional/zone offices will assist ARCS to better implement the harmonized operational plan, provide quality and timely reporting and provide a more efficient service delivery to the people at branch level. It will also assist the ARCS secretary general through greater delegation of responsibility and decentralization of power to the regional structures. This will in turn be expected to bring all Movement partners closer together and involve branches in programme development, planning and implementation.

The fact that various training has been conducted for the ARCS senior and middle managers at the headquarters and branch levels is indicative of a will to improve its situation and move towards 'well functioning' status. There is now a sense that tangible progress is being made within the national society where aspects of general management, planning, reporting, monitoring, staffing, budgeting and controlling have been covered to empower managers to better perform their roles and functions. The training that has

been delivered will help the ARCS senior staff in their future planning processes and reporting their activities and progress to their line managers.

Proper behaviour and respect for the diversity and human dignity enhances the credibility of the ARCS in the community. The ARCS supports and has access to the most vulnerable through the engagement of volunteers during disasters. Promotion of humanitarian values specifically against discrimination, intolerance and stigmatization is contributing to the restoration of peace and co-existence in the community.

Looking ahead

The ARCS, with the technical support and advice of the International Federation, will continue to cooperate and coordinate further with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Agency. It intends to incorporate the two contingency plans (earthquake for Kabul and flash flooding for 21 disaster prone provinces) into relevant local governmental planning templates to enable better decision making, more effective involvement of communities and other involved actors in disaster preparedness and disaster response activities.

The ARCS disaster management staff and volunteers require further training in planning, monitoring and evaluation and reporting to improve the quality of service delivery, programming, implementation and accountability. Accordingly, an International Federation presence is needed long-term to assist in building sustainable capacity within the ARCS to enable it to assume greater responsibility at all levels in order to function properly as a national society.

Moving ahead, the ARCS with the support of Movement partners will continue to contribute to the future of Afghanistan through recognition, ongoing investment and commitment towards the significant role and contribution it continues to make at national, regional and local levels in carrying out the key activities outlined in the ARCS strategic plan (2008-2012) and its harmonized operational plan.

Humanitarian values remains one of the strategic growth areas for the ARCS. In the coming years, humanitarian values will assume greater significance as competing priorities in a country recovering from decades of war leaves enormous scope for advocacy to decrease the negative impacts of discrimination, non-inclusion and a broad range of social issues. It is planned to engage more youth volunteers with humanitarian values orientation and establish a monitoring mechanism to overview the service delivery of the ARCS to the beneficiaries and establish new areas for intervention.

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.

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[<financial report below; click to return to title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - Afghanistan

Interim Financial Report Jan-Oct 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
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	2,133,140	2,682,833	835,326	0	140,586	5,791,886
B. Opening Balance	1,672,573	567,462	217,602	325	32,211	2,490,173
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government)</i>	0	416,584	0			416,584
<i>British Red Cross</i>		68,740	60,148		0	128,888
<i>Canadian Red Cross (from Canadian Government)</i>		17,265				17,265
<i>Danish Red Cross</i>	80,908					80,908
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Danish Government)</i>	384,340					384,340
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Denmark - Private Donors)</i>	91,054					91,054
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	45,099	30,152	10,911		1,224	87,387
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	255,562	170,863	61,830		6,937	495,192
<i>Germany Red Cross</i>			72,117			72,117
<i>Italian Government</i>	908,265					908,265
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	61,453	92,179	98,710			252,342
<i>New York Office</i>				2,911		2,911
<i>Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government)</i>	0	540,399	270,199			810,598
<i>OPEC Fund For Int-I Development</i>	280,507					280,507
<i>Sweden Red Cross</i>		13,620				13,620
<i>Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		323,355	84,537			407,892
<i>Unidentified donor</i>		2,500		-2,500		0
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>			0			0
C1. Cash contributions	2,107,188	1,675,657	658,452	411	8,161	4,449,870
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
<i>Danish Red Cross (from Denmark - Private Donors)</i>	-115,471					-115,471
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	-44,897	-9,750			-3,716	-58,363
<i>Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government)</i>	-254,415	-55,250			-21,059	-330,724
<i>New Zealand Red Cross</i>		74,267				74,267
<i>OPEC Fund For Int-I Development</i>	-263,685					-263,685
<i>Sweden Red Cross</i>		-13,589				-13,589
<i>Sweden Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		321,661	89,919			411,580
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>			-633			-633
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	-678,468	317,339	89,286		-24,775	-296,618
Inkind Personnel						
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>					85,000	85,000
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		22,147				22,147
C4. Inkind Personnel		22,147			85,000	107,147
Other Income						
<i>Services</i>					27,838	27,838
C5. Other Income					27,838	27,838
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	1,428,719	2,015,143	747,738	411	96,224	4,288,236
D. Total Funding = B + C	3,101,292	2,582,605	965,340	736	128,436	6,778,409
Appeal Coverage	145%	96%	116%	#DIV/0	91%	117%

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - Afghanistan

Interim Financial Report Jan-Oct 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAAAF001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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	1,672,573	567,462	217,602	325	32,211	2,490,173
C. Income	1,428,719	2,015,143	747,738	411	96,224	4,288,236
E. Expenditure	-1,775,568	-1,930,852	-499,885	510	-123,108	-4,328,903
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,325,723	651,754	465,455	1,246	5,328	2,449,506

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - Afghanistan

Interim Financial Report Jan-Oct 2009

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/1-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/1-2009/12
Appeal	MAAAF001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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)		2,133,140	2,682,833	835,326	0	140,586	5,791,886	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	160,340	160,340					160,340	-0
Construction Materials	189,801		75,691				75,691	114,110
Clothing & textiles	71,278	70,927	351				71,278	0
Food	865,219	865,219					865,219	0
Water & Sanitation	71,555		26,555				26,555	45,000
Medical & First Aid	1,024,423		541,361				541,361	483,062
Teaching Materials	6,000							6,000
Utensils & Tools	3,551		76	3,475			3,551	0
Other Supplies & Services	76,889	9,329	24,608	792			34,729	42,160
Total Supplies	2,469,056	1,105,815	668,641	4,267			1,778,723	690,333
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	73,582		2,353				2,353	71,229
Computers & Telecom	131,437	39,606	36,040	19,291		6,318	101,256	30,181
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	10,431		2,091			11	2,101	8,330
Others Machinery & Equipment	6,328	2,721	1,582	2,025		-6,329	-0	6,328
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	221,778	42,328	42,066	21,316		0	105,710	116,068
Transport & Storage								
Storage	53,528	12,664	3,217	347		1,118	17,345	36,183
Distribution & Monitoring	82,286	37,184	34,062	5,040		30,418	106,703	-24,417
Transport & Vehicle Costs	280,306	98,468	105,863	19,232		-31,826	191,737	88,569
Total Transport & Storage	416,120	148,316	143,141	24,619		-291	315,786	100,334
Personnel								
International Staff	459,602	36,102	144,168	126,583		91,571	398,425	61,177
National Staff	594,302	111,850	264,294	94,548		15,411	486,102	108,200
National Society Staff	213,519	3,932	135,724	2,255		155	142,065	71,454
Consultants	55,236		2,456	126			2,582	52,654
Total Personnel	1,322,659	151,884	546,642	223,512		107,137	1,029,174	293,485
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	231,789	37,315	83,327	54,554		221	175,417	56,372
Total Workshops & Training	231,789	37,315	83,327	54,554		221	175,417	56,372
General Expenditure								
Travel	69,085	13,764	28,689	15,227		341	58,021	11,064
Information & Public Relation	171,631	311	119,527	9,613		3	129,453	42,178
Office Costs	119,914	11,386	45,604	27,998		24,040	109,027	10,887
Communications	22,655	4,638	8,715	5,460		24,298	43,111	-20,456
Financial Charges	29,757	26,887	1,880	990		123,875	153,633	-123,876
Other General Expenses	209,563	81,835	63,106	37,540		-158,994	23,487	186,076
Total General Expenditure	622,605	138,820	267,521	96,829		13,563	516,733	105,872
Programme Support								
Program Support	376,473	119,684	132,430	35,805	-33	2,477	290,363	86,109
Total Programme Support	376,473	119,684	132,430	35,805	-33	2,477	290,363	86,109
Services								
Services & Recoveries	50,853	10,853	18,929				29,782	21,071
Total Services	50,853	10,853	18,929				29,782	21,071
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions	80,553	20,553	28,155	38,984	-477		87,216	-6,663
Total Operational Provisions	80,553	20,553	28,155	38,984	-477		87,216	-6,663
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	5,791,886	1,775,568	1,930,852	499,885	-510	123,108	4,328,903	1,462,983
VARIANCE (C - D)		357,572	751,982	335,442	510	17,478	1,462,983	