

Programme Update 2007



Afghanistan

Appeal no. MAAAF001
 Programme Update No. 5

This report covers the period of
 01/06/07 to 31/10/07.

In a world of global challenges, continued poverty, inequity, and increasing vulnerability to disasters and disease, the International Federation with its global network, works to accomplish its Global Agenda, partnering with local community and civil society to prevent and alleviate human suffering from disasters, diseases and public health emergencies.



An ARCS vaccinator at the ARCS basic health centre in Shakardara district of Kabul province, vaccinating a child against measles.

In brief

Programme Summary:

The implementation of the humanitarian programme in Afghanistan has become more difficult during this period due to deteriorating security in the field.

Within the health and care programme, all projects were run, monitored and supervised as planned. Disaster management capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was improved by the ECHO-supported pilot project, other disaster preparedness activities, and through successful flood response carried out by disaster response units in remote areas. In organizational development, major activities during the period include finalizing the strategic plan of 2008-2012, working on the ARCS constitution and emblem use regulations as well as creating a proper human resource system. Another major achievement was the positive team work between the ARCS and Federation to develop and finalize the programme support plan and budget for 2008-09.

Needs: Total 2006-07 budget has been revised down from CHF 11.95 million (USD 10.64 million or EUR 7.21 million) to CHF 9,606,168 (USD 8.56 million or EUR 5.8 million) early in this reporting period, out of which 88% is covered. Outstanding needs are CHF 1,167,388 (USD 1.04 million or EUR 705,037). The budget was revised due to delayed funding, which resulted in a revision of projects planned for the latter half of 2007. The budget adjustment affected disaster preparedness and response projects under the disaster management programme. The organizational development programme's projects were modified accordingly, except for the strategic plan and finance projects, and the health programme's minor budget revision did not result in a significant impact on the programme overall. [Click here to go directly to the attached financial report.](#)

	Health	DM	HV	OD	Total
Funding coverage of 2007 budget	93%	28%	77%	58%	62%
07 expenditure as % of total 07 funding	56%	69%	5%	72%	60%
07 expenditure as % of 07 budget	52%	19%	3%	42%	41%

No. of people we help:

Reporting period	Programme title	Total beneficiary numbers		
		Female	Males	Total
June – October	Disaster management	23,225	28,385	51,610
	Health and care	157,999	155,597	313,596
	Organizational development	3119	7675	10,794
	Humanitarian values	46,846	26,530	73,376

Our Partners: About 20 partners, including key government ministries, the United Nations, organizations recognized under the government's national disaster management plan, and partners within the Movement.

The main donors for 2007 so far include the Swedish, Finnish, Japanese, British, Hong Kong, Australian, American and Norwegian Red Cross Societies.

Health and Care

Objectives: ARCS capacity is enhanced to address public health issues in non-disaster and disaster situations, with focus on women and children in communities.

Progress towards objectives

June to October was a busy operational period for the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) health programme, with activities running smoothly as planned and monitored and supervised as needed. In addition to routine activities, trainings were conducted, especially in clinics, community-based first aid (CBFA) and HIV/AIDS aspects. A minor revision of the health budget was done, but did not impact the programme significantly overall.

Project 1: Community health

Project objective: The ARCS have the capacity to implement community based health care services in non-emergency and in emergency situations

Integrated community health services

ARCS have been implementing the basic package of health services (BPHS) through its 42 clinics and ten emergency medical units (EMUs), according to the strategy of the ministry of public health (MoPH). The ministry officially recognized ARCS as one of the strongest partners in the implementation of the government health strategy by issuing certificates to all 42 ARCS clinics which are implementing the BPHS. Further developments in the collaboration with the MoPH are described under the "Working in partnership" section below.

ARCS renovated 21 clinics based on the internal assessment report carried out in 2006. 15 out of 21 clinics were renovated with Federation support and six others were renovated from ARCS resources. At the same time, ARCS headquarters provided essential materials that were lacking to nine clinics from its own resources.

Psycho-social support (PSP) training was conducted with the support of the International Assistance Mission (IAM) in Herat for ARCS clinics' doctors and EMU teams in the western region from 14 to 19 July 2007. Likewise, two one-week PSP trainings for the staff of the clinics and EMU doctors were conducted in central and northern regions, facilitated by the MoPH and financially supported by the Federation.

Figures of patients treated in ARCS clinics from June-October 2007¹

Categories	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Total
Category 1 - OPD² activities						
OPD visits: under 5 years of age (male)	1289	4098	2816	3854	3382	15,439
OPD visits: under 5 years of age (female)	1205	4109	2947	3877	3374	15,539
OPD visits: over 5 years of age (male)	2441	5872	3837	6235	5485	23,870
OPD visits: over 5 years of age (female)	4379	11,825	6945	11,500	10,324	44,973
Re-attendance	2644	2649	1450	2574	2183	11,500

¹ Health education is carried out as part of other activities such as OPD, MCH and vaccination, so it is not counted in the total beneficiaries.

² Outpatient department

Sub-total						111,321
Category 2 – Immunization						
BCG	1,404	1,487	1,063	1,362	1,210	6,526
DPT/Polio	1,665	1,891	2,002	1,635	1,519	8,712
DPT2/Polio 2	1,730	1,992	1,532	1,801	1,437	8,492
DPT3/Polio 3	1,645	1,840	1,439	1,690	1,393	8,007
Measles	1,558	1,706	1,334	1,872	1,670	8,140
Tetanus (women)	5,036	8,322	5,837	14,865	4,317	38,377
Sub-total						78,254
Category 3 - Mother and child health (MCH) activities						
Family planning	842	1,003	1,041	1,089	868	4,843
Antenatal care	1,374	3,435	2,276	2,753	2,223	12,061
Postnatal care	366	721	2,276	537	481	4,381
Children growth monitoring	504	437	929	826	761	3,457
Sub-total						24,742
Grand total						214,317
Health education						
Group health education	4,567	7,687	7,827	8,147	6,770	34,998
Individual health education	2,446	3,664	2,603	4,123	5,238	18,074

Responding to remote and emergency health needs

During the reporting period, the ARCS emergency medical units (EMUs) provided assistance to 57,390 people. Internal and joint supervision and monitoring visits of the ARCS clinics and EMUs were carried out by the ARCS regional health and mother and child health (MCH) officers. The joint visits were carried out in central and Mazar regions with the MoPH. The health management information system (HMIS) reporting forms were printed and distributed to the clinics and EMUs, to be used for routine reports.

All 34 Federation-supported basic health centres were functional and provided preventive and curative health services in their catchments areas. The clinics and EMUs were provided with medical kits procured by the Federation from Geneva, although for some time the activities of the clinics and EMUs were restricted due to the delay in arrival of the kits.

In general, all ten EMU teams provided routine curative, promotive and preventive health services. This includes active response to the flood operation in Panjshair province as well as emergency first aid assistance to the people injured in road accidents and moving them to nearby hospitals in Kabul and Jalalabad.

ARCS and Federation public health in emergency focal points participated in five emergency taskforce meetings in the MoPH on the preparedness and response plan for cholera and acute diarrhoeal diseases. The ARCS and Federation contributed to the national plan by providing EMU teams and CBFA volunteers (65 male and 60 female). The ARCS also carried out a four day house-to-house hygiene promotion and health education campaign in Kabul city, monitored by the EMU teams and CBFA supervisors. The Federation supported this with CHF 6,000 and training.

The ARCS, with the support of Federation, printed and distributed 4,000 information brochures on avian influenza in English and local languages to risk-prone areas.

The British Red Cross recommended that proposed income generation activities, as part of the "sustainability project", were not viable. Instead, the British Red Cross has agreed in principle to the proposal made by ARCS/Federation that funds would be used instead for another aspect of sustainability – comprehensive community-based health activities. A concept note on this revised project has been developed by the ARCS/Federation and submitted to Geneva and the British Red Cross for their comments and approval. If approved, these activities will be incorporated into the plan for the annual programmes for 2008-2009.

Community based first aid and preventative health activities

The CBFA component of the programme was implemented with an estimated 18,800 volunteers in 31 provinces, with the Federation supporting 16 (the programme was extended to three new provinces, namely Kunduz, Saripul and Bamyán) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supporting the rest. During the reporting period, ARCS/Federation trained 200 new CBFA volunteers, out of which 120 were women.

CBFA volunteers activities in 16 Federation-supported provinces			
Preventive	Curative		
Health education received	First aid provided	Referral to health centres	Total
58,471	10,083	1,444	69,998

World First Aid day was celebrated by ARCS CBFA department, under the volunteers division in central and northern regions, with various activities which was broadcasted by Afghan National TV. Besides these, the CBFA volunteers participated in assessment and relief operations of the flood-affected population in central, northern and western regions.

Project 2: HIV/AIDS Prevention

Project objective: ARCS have the capacity to implement HIV/AIDS prevention amongst young population

This project is being implemented by 120 youth peer educators (YPE) and 20 master trainers in three districts of Kabul city, focusing on life-skills-based youth peer education on adolescent sexual reproductive health for school children. Significant progress was made in the development of the ARCS's human resource capacity through the recruitment of 90 new youth peer educators in seven schools as well as 750 school teachers and counsellors on HIV/AIDS related issues, in addition to 28 CBFA team leaders on HIV/AIDS and other related issues.

A one-day study on knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) among 141 ARCS headquarters' staff members was implemented on 12 July, which will be used to feed into the regional humanitarian values/ HIV joint initiative (see [South Asia programme update](#)). A checklist developed by the regional delegation as part of this initiative, for measuring knowledge, attitude and practice, was used during the study. However, the ARCS are still struggling to carry out the planned baseline study on knowledge and attitude to HIV and AIDS on the project's target population, as the proposal has yet to be accepted by the institutional review committee of the MoPH. A non-governmental organization specializing in such surveys (Hope Worldwide's Afghanistan Office) has been selected to carry out the study.

During the reporting period, the ARCS/Federation health teams participated in the HIV global alliance planning meeting in Delhi, Surveillance Working Group (SWG) and fourth HIV/AIDS Coordination Committee for Afghanistan (HACCA) in MoPH, and the 8th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific in Sri Lanka. Two focal points from HIV/AIDS and humanitarian values programmes were selected by the senior management of the national society to carry out a presentation on the YPE programme, and to promote the reduction of stigma and discrimination towards people affected by HIV during the national youth camp.

A total of 4,000 brochures in English and Dari on YPE was designed and distributed. In addition, ID cards and certificates for YPE trainers and peer educators were printed and distributed.

Coordination meetings were held with the Central Blood Bank as part of the first steps towards the ARCS's voluntary non remunerated blood donation (VNRBD) programme planned for 2008-2009. After assessing the institutional and technical capacity of National Blood Bank in collecting and supplying safe blood, the VNRBD programme will be initiated to ensure adequate and safe blood supply.

Constraints or challenges:

During the reporting the ARCS/Federation did not face any major constraints apart from the security situation which caused the ARCS/Federation to be unable to monitor and supervise activities in some rural areas.

Working in partnership

The collaboration between the ARCS, Federation and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) continues to develop positively. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the ARCS and the ministry on the ongoing HIV/AIDS project in three districts in Kabul. A Memorandum of Understanding was previously signed with the ministry of education for the same project.

ARCS and Federation health managers held meetings with MoPH representatives on a number of issues, including meetings with the National Technical Coordination Committee (NTCC) and the director of public health, to focus on better coordination between MoPH, ARCS and the Federation. Meetings were also held with the MoPH, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO regarding the GAVI fund³, which will enable ARCS to have access to the fund after the submission of the proposal to this funding agency.

The ARCS has also been regularly participating in coordination meetings held with MoPH, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and other stakeholders, as well as ICRC and other Movement partners, to help the national society properly manage its health interventions and avoid duplication of services.

³ Formerly the "Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization", GAVI is a public-private global health partnership providing funding in this area.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The preventive health services provided by the health and care programme, through basic health centres, CBFA and EMUs, have a significant impact on the lives of mothers and children as they receive health and hygiene promotion education to deal with common diseases. The immediate impact on the target population can also be seen from the tables given above.

A recent study by the John Hopkins University revealed some general improvement in the health status of the population in Afghanistan between 2003 and 2006. Although exact figures are not available to accurately demonstrate the level of ARCS's contribution, as an officially recognized key partner of the MoPH with 42 ARCS clinics providing services as part of the "basic package of health services", it is fair to assume that the ARCS has made some contribution to these improvements.

Immunization services nationwide had a positive impact, as an 18 per cent increase in immunization and increased access to vaccine against vaccine-preventable diseases (tuberculosis, polio, measles and diphtheria) have decreased the incidence of these diseases. The study also revealed an increase in the number of women having access to skilled health services from 4.6 per cent to 32.2 per cent and an increase in the access for pregnant women to skilled delivery in remote areas from 13.9 per cent to 18.9 per cent, all of which resulted in improving the mortality rate of live births from 165/1000 to 129/1000 and under five mortality rate from 256/10,000 to 191/10,000 per year⁴.

The HIV/AIDS project has been able to significantly contribute towards creating a positive attitude among ARCS staff and other stakeholders with regard to HIV and AIDS. It has also helped to build strong linkages and partnerships with the ministry of public health and ministry of education. ARCS has established its reputation among the government, national and international non-governmental organizations and civil society as one of the active organizations working towards preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Disaster Management

Objective: The ARCS disaster preparedness (DP) and response capacities at national and branch levels are strengthened and community preparedness improved.

Progress towards objectives

The ECHO-supported project pilot project "Improved Disaster Management Capacity of Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) was concluded.⁵ Running from April 2006 until end of June 2007, the pilot project concentrated on ARCS National Headquarters and the provinces of Kabul and Balkh. Although the implementation was delayed for five months, (as a revised proposal was submitted at the end of June and approval received only on 21 August), the project was successfully completed within the timeframe (21 August 2006 to 31 June 2007) and final detailed report has been send to ECHO/DRC as well as to Federation Secretariat in Geneva.

Under this project, a one-day session was held on 25 June for ARCS staff on communication and information dissemination and ECHO visibility, and on the following day, an information sharing meeting was held for national and international media persons based in Kabul, conducted by the regional communication team from the Federation's South Asia regional delegation, and hosted by the President of the ARCS.

A Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) manual has been completed by the external consultant and is also being translated at the moment. The manual outlines the procedures that guide ARCS's response to disasters, including measures and guidelines for the deployment of ARCS national disaster response teams (NDRT). Practice drills following the recommended procedures in the manual will be carried out once the manual has been approved by the ARCS.

ARCS staff members are continuously being offered additional internal and external trainings within all aspects of disaster management. These initiatives offer a great variety of training related to the capacity building of the ARCS and Federation disaster management staff, as shown in the following table.

⁴ Source: John Hopkins University report, 2007.

⁵ In 2006, an application for funding was granted by ECHO, to support this pilot project which forms part of this appeal. The project costs of €825,557 were supported 95 per cent by ECHO and 5 per cent by the Danish Red Cross.

Type of training	Date	Participants /Trained	Location	Supported by	Remarks
CBDP ToT, DM planning ⁶ workshop	17-27/06/07	20	Kabul	Under ECHO	ARCS/staff and Volunteers
Disaster management regional workshop	03-05/06/07	27	Mazar	Under ECHO project	ARCS branch staffs
CBDP training	11-15/08/07	30	Mazar	Under ECHO project	12 females volunteers
CBDP training	June to Aug.	84	Jalalabad	Federation	ARCS volunteers
CBDP training	23-28/07/07	20	Kandahar	Federation	ARCS volunteers
HR training	1 st Aug 07	2	Kabul	Federation	Fed staff
RDRT logistics	06-09/08/07	2	Bangkok	Federation	ARCS staff
NDPRM ⁷ , NDRP ⁸	01-05/10/07	5	Sri Lanka	Federation	ARCS/Fed staff
DM workshop	Oct. 2007	20	Kandahar	Federation	ARCS volunteers
Total:		210			

During the reporting period, the table below indicates the number of response operations the ARCS disaster management staff have completed in all five regions of Afghanistan, assisting natural disasters- and flood-affected families as well as internally displaced persons (IDP)/families in the central region. All assessment and distribution activities were coordinated with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authorities (ANDMA), ICRC and other stakeholders through meetings organized at the headquarters and provincial levels.

Regions	Types of disasters	Affected families	Affected individuals	Non-food relief items distributed											Food-items by ARCS/ ICRC
				Tents	blankets	tarpaulins	Jerry cans	cooking pressure	kitchen sets	Cooking sets	Fuel lamps	Plastic sheet role	Stoves	Health kits	
Northern (Mazar)	Flash flood, landslide	153	1071	72	144	72	72	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central (Kabul)	flood IDPs	5791	40537	900	6760	1180	1480	0	1180	0	0	0	0	0	730
Eastern (Jalalabad)	Flood	659	4613	189	872	214	300	0	92	0	0	5	86	35	101
South West (Kandahar)	Flood	710	4970	216	310	225	0	274	0	274	274	0	0	0	0
Western (Herat)	Flood	60	420	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:		7373	51611	1377	8086	1691	1852	346	1272	274	274	5	86	35	831

On 27 June of this year, the Kabul disaster response unit (DRU) consisting of nine staff was dispatched to Panjshir province to assess the situation, a day after it was severely hit by floods caused by heavy rainfalls. For the second time, the Kabul DRU team was involved in a full assessment mission to the affected areas of this province, resulting in a lot of positive appraisals for the team's professional work.

In order to improve ARCS disaster management capability to prepare for and respond to disasters, the reconstruction work on a 2000 m² warehouse, located at the ARCS headquarters started in November 2007. An MoU was signed between the Federation and ARCS for this, including the stipulation that the Federation will provide CHF 130,000 while approximately CHF 40,000 will be covered by ARCS towards this project.

In October, the ARCS Secretary General's assistant and the disaster management manager from the Afghanistan delegation participated in the regional disaster management working group as well as the organizational development, disaster management and health joint forum meetings, organized by the South Asia regional delegation in Sri Lanka.

Community awareness of disaster hazards in targeted communities was started in four central regional provinces (Logar, Maidan, Panjshir and Kapisa) by trained volunteers to develop strong and sustainable coping mechanisms of the vulnerable communities. A community awareness campaign was conducted in Taloqan, Worsaj and Farkhar districts of Takhar province. Up to 219 people, including 21 children and 37 women, received awareness on types of disasters, preparedness and mitigation of disasters. Uniforms for 400 CBDP volunteers and 2,000 awareness brochures were dispatched to the provinces to be distributed.

⁶ Community-based disaster preparedness training of trainers, disaster management planning.

⁷ National disaster preparedness and response mechanism

⁸ National disaster response and preparedness

Constraints or challenges:

The deteriorating security situation remains a great constraint towards the implementation of planned activities in the south and most parts of the west. Armed opposition and tribal conflicts combined with crime and poppy trade have created a difficult condition for humanitarian organizations to reach the most vulnerable populations in the remote areas.

Working in partnership

Coordination was maintained with Movement components, Afghan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, other UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. Regular disaster response coordination meetings took place to standardize a 'relief package' to be provided in disaster situations. The presentation of the ARCS disaster management strategic plan to these actors helped to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of ARCS in the area of disaster management in Afghanistan. In addition, ARCS maintains regular coordination meetings with the Federation and ICRC regarding the better implementation of disaster management projects.

Contributing to longer-term impact

The national disaster management plan and the Hyogo Framework, endorsed by the Afghan government, are the basis of the development of the ARCS disaster management strategic plan (see [programme update 4](#)), which will be enhanced by the implementation of the standard operating procedures manual.

The new country-wide disaster management system incorporating disaster response units (DRUs) and an emergency operational center (EOC) have helped ARCS improve its disaster management capacity and provide speedy response and effective assistance to vulnerable communities. The DRU deployment in flood-affected areas in early June had a positive impact on the vulnerable population. By close cooperation and coordination with other humanitarian agencies and ANDMA, the adverse impacts of the disaster were reduced. Such operations have boosted the ARCS image and capacity in assessment, planning, logistics and reporting.

These developments have also enhanced the ARCS's standing and credibility within the Afghanistan disaster management community, as demonstrated by the role assigned to ARCS in the national disaster management plan. This role has further encouraged ARCS commitment to design clear disaster preparedness and response plans and policies.

With the expanded network of trained volunteers and staff, the ARCS established stronger links with the communities and implemented successful risk reduction and response measures. The methodology learnt by the ARCS during various workshops can be used for the development of different training manuals for the national society staff, volunteers and communities.

Organizational Development

Objectives: The ARCS has strengthened its organizational and managerial structures and systems, with focus on financial management, fundraising and youth management.

Progress towards objectives

The key articles of the existing ARCS statutes are being revised by representatives of the ARCS, Federation, ICRC and administration department of the government of Afghanistan. This will then be submitted to the joint Federation and ICRC statutes commission in Geneva for their feedback and comments. The statutes recognize the ARCS as an independent humanitarian organization operating as an auxiliary to the Afghan government. The revised documents will then be sent to the government of Afghanistan for the approval of the president. Also, during this period, a joint commission of the Movement components in Afghanistan were formed to work on the emblem law.

The ARCS strategic plan was developed in five stages, the two first stages having been developed during the last quarter of 2006, and the remaining three (analyzing and strategizing, planning and implementation, and consolidation and production) completed in March 2007, with the technical and financial support of the Federation organizational development (OD) department. The plan was submitted to the ARCS leadership, after being reviewed by the Federation's Asia Pacific Zone OD manager. The programme logframe, matrix and narrative for the appeal 2008/2009 were also finalized, based on the strategic plan.

The first draft of the ARCS human resource policy and regulations, developed by a working group of senior ARCS staff was completed in July with full technical and financial support of the Federation OD department. A positive development is that these human resource regulations are now independent of the government's regulations, a move to be authorized by the ministry of justice (signature by the Afghan president).

To review current financial procedures in the national society, a finance development working group, consisting of ARCS finance and OD staff as well as the Federation OD manager, was established. A tentative plan of action to review ARCS's current financial system was developed, and it was recommended that this review and development of a finance management system should be carried out by an expert external consultant.

The ARCS leadership decided upon a medium-term option for development of a finance management system which will be completed within 18 months. In July, the finance manual and its related forms and in August the manual and accounting forms were finalized and translated in local languages and were submitted to the national society leadership for feedback.

The next phase is recruitment of skilled staff, training of the staff and provision of the necessary information technology facilities, complemented by three-month computer and English language training courses for 20 staff of finance department and a peer learning visit to Nepal Red Cross for six staff.

The membership development process has been continuing in all 34 branches of the national society with 383 new members recruited of which 40 members (10 per cent) were women. Discussions during meetings at the provincial branch level informed the development of training for new members.

A fundraising policy was developed by ARCS and Federation OD departments, then submitted to ARCS leadership for comments, feedback and final approval. The future plans are for the ARCS OD department to oversee all fundraising activities based on this policy. The policy will be circulated to all branches, reinforced by a training workshop and by a commission appointed to develop regulations and implementation guidelines based on the approved policy.

A youth policy is also in the process of development by an ARCS working team, based on responses to a questionnaire from various sources. The National Youth annual camp was conducted in Kabul, in which more than 400 youth volunteers, both men and women, participated. For the first time, half of the expenses of the camp were covered by the ARCS itself.

During the reporting period, 5,432 youth volunteers received English language, computer and mathematic courses and training in five youth clubs of the national society throughout the country. Around 900 new youth volunteers were recruited in 112 schools and first aid kits were distributed to youth volunteers in 97 schools. ARCS has planned to set up youth clubs in two new provinces. The development process of the youth database is completed in Herat and the process will be extended to other provinces.

Constraints or challenges

The deteriorating security situation has affected planned Federation monitoring visits to the membership development and youth programme. However, ARCS did manage to conduct some monitoring in the field. Other constraints during the reporting period were indirect resistance of the national society towards the change process made up of the revision of ARCS legal base, implementation of ARCS strategic plan, restructuring of human resources and ARCS's development of its own human resource regulation and policy.

Working in partnership

OD, as a crosscutting programme, often works with internal and external organizations in terms of OD and capacity building. For instance, in the commission working on revision of the ARCS statutes (constitution), the Federation OD department is working closely with the cooperation department of the ICRC, key staff from the ARCS and a representative from the administration department of the Afghan government. The department is also working with the Japanese Red Cross youth project in Afghanistan and youth international exchange programme. Lastly, the department is also running the humanitarian values programme (see below), and in that context is working in close collaboration with the ministry of religious, education and high education ministries through schools, mosques and communities.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Revision of the ARCS legal base and development of the ARCS five years strategic plan, systems and procedures of human resources and the finance management system, combined with progress made in planning, monitoring and evaluation (related to the development of the 2008-09 plan) will enable the national society to function more efficiently and effectively.

Recruitment of new members is an important step towards the development of governance bodies at branch level, which will in turn lead to strengthened governance at the national level. Bringing youth together 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 the volunteers programme.

Humanitarian Values

(Incorporating Marastoons and social welfare programmes)

Programme objective: ARCS staff and volunteers, as well as selected community groups (including residents of Marastoons) have better understanding of humanitarian values, which is reflected in their behaviour and actions.

Progress towards objectives

As mentioned above, the humanitarian values (HV) programme is managed by the OD department as part of the OD programme since the beginning of 2007 (see [previous programme update](#)). The programme continues to focus on the integration of HV concepts including co-existence, anti-discrimination and gender diversity into ARCS youth and volunteers, DM and Health programmes, and by extension, promoting these within the community. In the last five months, the HV department of the ARCS focused on the following issues:

- Finalization of the HV matrix, logical framework and appeal for 08/09.
- Initial steps for participation in the region's HV and HIV anti-stigma joint project were taken, such as agreement indicators and activities of the project and a discussion with ARCS leadership to support the joint initiative. Meanwhile, the knowledge and attitude questionnaire for the implementation of the project was carried out by the ARCS staff.
- Dissemination and promotion of HV such as anti-discrimination, anti-violence and co-existence were conducted with 46,846 women and 9,263 men community participants by 30 volunteers in 20 districts of Kabul and Parwan provinces.
- "Peace Day" was widely celebrated by HV volunteers in Kabul, with religious leaders trained as HV volunteers disseminating the values of humanity, co-existence and anti-discrimination to 17,267 participants throughout the mosques.

Under the social welfare/Marastoons component of the programme, 356 beneficiaries from destitute families including men, women and children, are currently supported by the ARCS Marastoons in five regions- Kabul, Herat, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Mazar-i-Sharif. The support comprises shelter, food, clothing, school education for the youth and vocational training for both youths and adults. During the reporting period, two residents were re-integrated back to the society, while 23 were newly recruited in Kabul Marastoon. In addition, three new beneficiaries were admitted in Mazar-i-Sharif Marastoon.

During the reporting period, the German Red Cross agreed to the revised budget, allocating their remaining pledge for the renovation of the five Marastoons. The renovation work has now started, and the funds are expected to be exhausted by February 2008.

Constraints or challenges:

Restructuring within ARCS had an impact on the HV programmes, as the qualified HV coordinator was moved to another department, which affected and slowed down activities. Some planned activities, like HV training/dissemination workshops for university volunteers, could not be conducted due to lack of adequate funds under the programme.

Implementation and coordination

The Federation delegation in Kabul and four sub-offices all over Afghanistan and in Peshawar logistics office in Pakistan provide technical and financial support to ARCS with 34 branches, 1,700 permanent staff and over 20,000 volunteers.

The Federation sub-office supports the ARCS staff and volunteers in planning and implementation in the field, as well as carrying out monitoring and evaluation tasks. The combined offices in Herat, Mazar, Jalalabad and Kandahar consist of the ARCS provincial branch offices and a warehouse, attached to the Federation sub-office with the national headquarters and staff, as well as a warehouse with pre-positioned disaster preparedness stocks.

The Federation works daily with their national society counterparts, located in the same building as the ARCS headquarters. Coordination meetings with the ICRC take place on a frequent, sometimes daily basis, particularly in the areas of health and organizational development. A special planning meeting with key Federation and ICRC staff was held in September in order to harmonize support to the ARCS. Close relations are also maintained with the only coordinated bilateral actor (Norwegian Red Cross) currently working under the ICRC umbrella. Coordination meetings also take place regularly between all Movement components at the provincial level.

During this period, the Federation was invited to join the Humanitarian Country Team in Afghanistan (formerly the Inter-Agency Standing Committee country team) as an active observer. This participation as an active observer will facilitate better information exchange between other humanitarian actors, especially in better preparation for major natural disasters.

The Federation received the UNDP, UNHCR and WFP contingency plans and is included in the government's and the ANDMA's further work in disaster preparedness, which strengthens the ARCS position as a significant player in disaster management.

Looking Ahead

The conflict situation in Afghanistan has continued to deteriorate, particularly during last few months. The expatriate delegates of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement are being restricted more and more from work in the field.

The Federation national staff as well as ARCS staff and volunteers have not been targeted. With the strong and professional support from ICRC and Federation, they continue their devoted work in extremely challenging field conditions.

The number of various external actors is high and their military-humanitarian missions are not easily differentiated from regular humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross Red Crescent by local populations. This is increasingly diminishing the true humanitarian space in Afghanistan.

Some of the main priorities for the rest of the year include further work on legal base and finance management development, key priorities of the ARCS that are also reflected in the Strategic Plan of 2008- 2012. Work will continue in the development of statutes and internal regulations, in close cooperation with the Afghan government regarding the Red Crescent emblem as well as the auxiliary, independent role of the ARCS.

Closely related to this is the development of the human resource policy of the national society. The leadership of the ARCS has highlighted that a strong continuous support from the Movement is needed and expected for this.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering quality and accountable assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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

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

- In Kabul: Abdul Ghani Kazmi, Secretary General, ARCS kazimi_arcs@yahoo.com +93 70277335, +93 79401668
- In Kabul: Pepe Salmela, Head of delegation, Federation delegation in Afghanistan pepe.salmela@ifrc.org, +93 700274881.
- In Delhi: Al Panico, Head of regional delegation office; email: al.panico@ifrc.org; phone: +91.11.2411.1125; fax: +91.11.2411.1128
- In Kuala Lumpur: Jagan Chapagain, Deputy head of zone, Asia Pacific; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org; phone: +603.2161.0892; fax: + 603.2161.1210; mobile: + 60.12.215.3765

Interim financial report below; [click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAAAF001 - AFGHANISTAN

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/10
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MAAAF001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	4,679,682	2,006,171	988,284	1,259,354	672,678	9,606,168
B. Opening Balance	66,895	190,966	218,789	94,403	148,960	720,013

Income

Cash contributions (received)

American Red Cross	113,535					113,535
Australian Red Cross	446,578					446,578
British Red Cross	490,728		0	114,950	2,208	607,886
Capacity Building Fund				50,000		50,000
Danish Red Cross		212,584		32,530	2,431	247,546
DFID Partnership	115,317	113,722	6,486	34,924		270,449
Finnish Red Cross	153,250	159,416		61,760		374,426
German Red Cross	16,912		433,151		0	450,063
Hong Kong Red Cross		1,727				1,727
Icelandic Red Cross	41,607					41,607
Japanese Red Cross	315,000	101,000		159,520		575,520
Netherlands Red Cross	31,817			23,550		55,367
New Zealand Red Cross	87,415					87,415
Norwegian Red Cross	1,277,235	233,093		241,074		1,751,403
Spanish Red Cross	0					0
Swedish Red Cross	1,049,716	140,640		293,460	159,399	1,643,215
United States - Private Donors		80		2,598		2,678
C1. Cash contributions	4,139,110	962,263	439,637	1,014,367	164,038	6,719,415

Outstanding pledges (Revalued)

Danish Red Cross		256,071				256,071
German Red Cross	-3,868		-171,434			-175,302
Icelandic Red Cross	-41,200					-41,200
Netherlands Red Cross	-31,363					-31,363
New Zealand Red Cross	-31,377					-31,377
Norwegian Red Cross	0					0
OPEC Fund For International Developm		-54,475				-54,475
Swedish Red Cross	119,475				35,140	154,615
United States - Private Donors				695		695
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	11,666	201,596	-171,434	695	35,140	77,663

Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)

British Red Cross		1,197				1,197
Capacity Building Fund				49,920		49,920
European Commission		5,303				5,303
German Red Cross	0		-0			-0
Japanese Red Cross			-11,669	11,669		-0
Netherlands Red Cross	0				42,547	42,547
Norwegian Red Cross	0	0		0		0
Other				80		80
Spanish Red Cross	0					0
Swedish Red Cross	0	262,803				262,803
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or	0	269,303	-11,669	61,669	42,547	361,850

Inkind Goods & Transport (received)

German Red Cross	218,114					218,114
C4. Inkind Goods & Transport	218,114					218,114

Inkind Personnel

Australian Red Cross	16,740					16,740
British Red Cross					30,883	30,883
Danish Red Cross		74,607			37,407	112,014
Finnish Red Cross					13,200	13,200

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<i>German Red Cross</i>			74,400			74,400
C5. Inkind Personnel	16,740	74,607	74,400		81,490	247,237
Other Income						
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>					94,488	94,488
C6. Other Income					94,488	94,488
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	4,385,631	1,507,769	330,934	1,076,731	417,702	7,718,767
D. Total Funding = B + C	4,452,526	1,698,735	549,723	1,171,134	566,662	8,438,780

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	66,895	190,966	218,789	94,403	148,960	720,013
C. Income	4,385,631	1,507,769	330,934	1,076,731	417,702	7,718,767
E. Expenditure	-3,336,723	-1,447,343	-339,509	-1,017,767	-578,563	-6,719,906
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	1,115,802	251,392	210,214	153,367	-11,900	1,718,874

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		4,679,682	2,006,171	988,284	1,259,354	672,678	9,606,168	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	607,031		129,173				129,173	477,858
Construction Materials				454			454	-454
Clothing & textiles	62,700		66,700	3,279			69,979	-7,279
Food	151,200			92,515	68		92,583	58,617
Seeds,Plants				129			129	-129
Medical & First Aid	618,158	529,811	448	1,431	5,291		536,981	81,177
Teaching Materials	18,000	29	144	1,033	3,439		4,645	13,355
Utensils & Tools	28,080			26			26	28,055
Other Supplies & Services	166,414	28,914		32,212	177		61,303	105,111
Total Supplies	1,651,583	558,754	196,466	131,079	8,975		895,274	756,309
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Land & Buildings	32,000							32,000
Vehicles	36,200	82,180			27,209		109,389	-73,189
Computers & Telecom	28,281	12,416	3,059	4,538	30,043	42,637	92,692	-64,411
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	96,481	94,596	3,059	4,538	57,252	42,637	202,081	-105,600
Transport & Storage								
Storage	62,700	2,752	24,829		1,734	1,280	30,595	32,105
Distribution & Monitoring	37,501	46,227	42,231		8,127	63,281	159,866	-122,365
Transport & Vehicle Costs	594,618	215,320	73,586	3,760	56,153	-40,144	308,675	285,943
Total Transport & Storage	694,819	264,299	140,646	3,760	66,014	24,417	499,136	195,683
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	672,749	370,682	253,352	117,393	55,753	241,208	1,038,388	-365,639
Delegate Benefits	615,331							615,331
National Staff	1,560,647	604,216	272,548	40,655	243,122	47,398	1,207,940	352,707
National Society Staff	1,430,397	756,180	44,923	11,986	154,825	130,413	1,098,327	332,070
Consultants	142,000	9,069	24,734		16,168	7,800	57,770	84,230
Total Personnel Expenditures	4,421,124	1,740,146	595,557	170,035	469,868	426,819	3,402,425	1,018,699
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	708,184	121,414	170,193	5,868	103,697	5,855	407,027	301,157
Total Workshops & Training	708,184	121,414	170,193	5,868	103,697	5,855	407,027	301,157
General Expenditure								
Travel	359,313	77,677	58,777	3,738	51,638	25,164	216,993	142,320
Information & Public Relation	219,700	48,883	13,458	829	59,815	-550	122,434	97,266
Office Costs	444,314	24,643	60,074	3,628	45,193	199,876	333,415	110,899
Communications	132,819	5,485	27,349	1,848	4,326	91,751	130,758	2,061
Professional Fees	4,200				7,499	5,645	13,144	-8,944
Financial Charges	84,000	7	1	0	0	107,595	107,602	-23,602
Other General Expenses	148,431	238,190	92,919	24,467	75,264	-388,653	42,188	106,243
Total General Expenditure	1,392,777	394,884	252,578	34,511	243,735	40,827	966,535	426,242
Depreciation								
Depreciation	16,800	445	6,876			33,026	40,346	-23,546
Total Depreciation	16,800	445	6,876			33,026	40,346	-23,546
Program Support								
Program Support	624,401	213,993	93,762	21,754	66,155	37,262	432,926	191,475
Total Program Support	624,401	213,993	93,762	21,754	66,155	37,262	432,926	191,475
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		-51,807	-11,793	-32,035	2,072	-32,280	-125,843	125,843
Total Operational Provisions		-51,807	-11,793	-32,035	2,072	-32,280	-125,843	125,843
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	9,606,168	3,336,723	1,447,343	339,509	1,017,767	578,563	6,719,906	2,886,263

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		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
	A						B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		4,679,682	2,006,171	988,284	1,259,354	672,678	9,606,168	
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,342,959	558,828	648,774	241,587	94,115	2,886,263	