

PROGRAMME UPDATE



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

AFGHANISTAN

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

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In Brief

Appeal No. 05AA045; Programme Update no. 2, Period covered: 1 April to 30 June 2005; Appeal coverage: 58.2%; Outstanding needs: CHF 2,957,872 (USD or EUR 2,450,699).

(Click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List) (Click here for live Contributions List)

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

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

Programme summary:

Since the new president took office at the start of the year, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) has been developing a clear vision for its future sustainability, profile and impact. The reporting period saw the appointment of a secretary general, separating for the first time governance from management roles.

The two emergency operations (severe winter and floods) have continued. Most of the planned activities under this appeal were also implemented. However, the two emergency operations had slowed down some disaster management (DM) activities despite colossal progress in ARCS logistics development. This indicates the need for further capacity-building. Over 160,000 people benefited from the ARCS clinics, and significant progress was made in close coordination with the ministry of public health regarding the future sustainability and locations of some of the clinics. However, funding for the health programme remained a huge challenge with a shortfall of CHF 2.3 million on the appeal budget. Further funding support for this progressive flagship health programme is, therefore, still urgently sought.

The organizational development (OD) programme also made significant progress with the revised constitution submitted to the Joint Commission in Geneva for consideration, and over 1,200 members recruited in this quarter, as opposed to only 350 in the first quarter. Plans were developed for a technical support visit from the British Red Cross in the next quarter to start planning for the restructuring of the national society and related change process. Structures and links for cooperation were established between the Federation's *Marastoon* (home for the under-privileged) team and the *Marastoon* programme department at ARCS headquarters. The *Marastoon* welfare activities facilitate the care of destitute people and cooperation between the five *Marastoons*, the ARCS headquarters and the Federation delegation.

As indicated above, funding for the Afghanistan programme remains a challenge, and it is clear that the programme continues to be adversely affected by the redirection of resources to the Asia tsunami disaster. Nevertheless, programme expenditure was on target at mid-year and core costs had been further reduced.

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

Operational developments

The second quarter of the year saw the continuation of floods in various parts of the country as the winter snows melted, and ongoing relief assistance to the most needy affected by the severe winter conditions in Kabul (see [operations updates](#) on Federation's website). The increased needs of many sectors of the population, caused by weather conditions, were compounded by increased violence and security incidents in many parts of the country.

As expected, due to a deteriorating security situation, the general level of humanitarian activity slowed down and there was a feeling of dissatisfaction among the public about the government's inability to deliver in terms of security or economic development. The situation of women in Afghanistan is becoming a growing concern with an increase in reported domestic and general violence against women, including specific targeting from the anti-government elements.

The Coalition Forces continued their military operations in the southern and eastern parts of the country, and activities of the anti-government elements were seen in some new, previously relatively safe, areas. Armed and violent criminality was also seen to be on the increase. This quarter saw the kidnapping and subsequent release after several weeks of an Italian non-government organization (NGO) worker, which created a high level of concern and tension amongst the international community.

The date for the parliamentary elections remains on target for 18 September, although full funding for the election process is still being sought, and the security situation is expected to deteriorate in the run-up to and after these elections. The delegation has planned to temporarily reduce its expatriate personnel in this period. Meanwhile, as the security restrictions have remained in force, most operational areas continued to be off limits for the Federation personnel. However, the ARCS activities have proceeded as planned, with ongoing Federation support as needed.

Health and Care

Background

Alongside the ongoing implementation of the four ARCS health projects – clinics, emergency mobile units, first aid and environmental health – the main focus of the national society and the Federation delegation in this sector continues to be the restructuring process of the health and care programme, with a view to increasing its sustainability and cost-effectiveness. This will, however, require time, and it is expected that external support will be required until the end of the year, when some parts of the programme may become self-sustainable.

In early June, a seasonal outbreak of cholera was reported in Kabul. The ministry of public health took immediate steps to control the situation, in close cooperation with humanitarian agencies active in the health sector. ARCS and the Federation delegation supported the inter-agency efforts by releasing laboratory equipment, medicines and other material, by mobilizing one emergency mobile unit, and by regularly monitoring diarrhoea cases in ARCS clinics in Kabul. The outbreak was swiftly contained. For more details, refer to [information bulletin](#), posted on www.ifrc.org.

Communicable diseases are the main cause of mortality and morbidity in Afghanistan. Although national polio immunization campaigns have been conducted on several occasions during the last four to five years, there has been evidence of four new confirmed cases of polio in the southern parts of the country. The disease is believed to be brought in with the return of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries, where the immunization of children has not been maintained. The situation is further exacerbated by the refugees' poor health status and the meagre living conditions that they have returned to.

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

Programme objective: The capacity of ARCS to improve the status of vulnerable people and respond effectively to disasters through health interventions in Afghanistan is increased.

Progress/Achievements

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

During the second quarter, 50 ARCS clinics throughout Afghanistan continued providing basic health care to over 162,000 people. The assistance included treatment, but also individual and group health education, antenatal and postnatal care, and home visits of traditional birth attendants. The table below lists the cumulative figures of attendance and different services provided to the vulnerable communities during the reporting period.



Growth monitoring activity conducted by a midwife in an ARCS clinic

Category	Total first quarter	April	May	Jun	Total second quarter	Grand Total
Patient/Client	219,866	61,025	51,240	50,440	162,705	382,571
Group health education	180,341	61,000	56,000	34,125	151,125	331,466
Individual health education	55,050	10,917	9,523	10,523	30,963	86,013
Antenatal care visit	13,287	3,732	3,770	3,543	11,045	24,332
Postnatal care visit	3,239	203	1,046	816	2,065	5,304
Children growth monitoring	14,034	4,149	2,754	2,571	9,474	23,508
BCG	11,066	3,881	3,684	3,470	11,035	22,101
DPT / Polio	13,738	4,450	4,032	3,848	12,330	26,068
DPT ₃ / Polio ₃	15,998	4,109	3,727	4,290	12,126	28,124
Measles	13,869	3,805	3,250	3,536	10,591	24,460
TT women	31,125	10,106	10,627	10,876	31,609	62,734
Family planning client	6,326	2,881	2,892	3,084	8,857	15,183
TBA deliveries	3,531	923	1,003	1,084	3,010	6,541
TBA home visit	7,887	1,621	1,706	2,057	5,384	13,271

As part of the restructuring process of the clinics, staff reduction for all 50 basic health centres (BHC) has been completed, with each clinic now employing seven staff members. Traditional birth attendants (TBA) will continue their activities until the end of the year, after which they will no longer be part of the basic health package services (BHPS). In 2006, some TBA will be retrained by the ministry of public health (MoPH) as community health workers. As BHC laboratories are no longer required, they have ceased operating, with all laboratory equipment donated to MoPH. The essential drugs list for each clinic has been adjusted to conform to BHPS.

The mapping of all health services in Kabul revealed that MoPH runs 50 clinics in the city, in addition to all other humanitarian agencies. Following discussions with the MoPH and ARCS, the decision was made to close down the 10 ARCS clinics in Kabul, with two being relocated to rural areas. The sites for two clinics will be chosen in the next month by a steering committee consisted of representatives of MoPH, ARCS and the Federation. Out of

the ten Kabul clinics, nine buildings are owned by ARCS. Upon the closure/relocation, they will be rented out to MoPH or interested NGOs, and the income will be used to support other components of the health programme.

At the same time, discussions were also held regarding the total number of clinics that ARCS can maintain in the long run. It was agreed to keep one clinic per city, and to relocate some to rural areas. This would bring the total number of ARCS clinics down to 34. First half of the closures would commence after the elections, in the second half of September, and would be finalized by the end of the year. The remaining closures will take place early next year, incorporating lessons learnt from the first phase of the project. Two new sites are to be chosen and the community survey needs to be completed before the closures are implemented.

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

The ARCS emergency mobile units (EMU) have continued to provide health services to most vulnerable people in remote areas. During the period under review, over 19,000 patients were attended to, which included health education. The table below indicates the monthly attendance:

	April	May	June	Total
Patients seen	9,116	5,867	4,616	19,599

On 18 May, Herat EMU staff participated in an emergency case workshop which was conducted by the United States Agency for International Aid (USAID). EMUs in Kabul were active in camps for internally displaced, while the Mazar team took part in the flood operation in Badakhshan province, where they treated over 80 people from water-borne diseases. EMU in Kandahar participated in a polio immunization campaign in the southern region.

Expected result 3: ARCS has increased capacity to deliver community-based first aid and related public education, and to take part in immunization campaigns and disaster response operations through a network of community-based volunteers.

The project is now active in 25 of 34 Afghan provinces. The plan for 2005 was to expand it into the four new provinces (Khost, Bamyan, Paktia, Kunduz), but that has not yet been accomplished yet, due to funding limitations.

During the second quarter of the year, over 8,000 volunteers attended refresher courses facilitated by team leaders and trainers. These active volunteers provided first aid or advice to almost 80,000 people, whereas the health education and HIV/AIDS awareness sessions targeted over 15,000 individuals. In an effort to increase sustainability of the project, the community-based first aid (CBFA) staff members and volunteers endeavoured to mobilize communities to contribute towards supporting the groups of volunteers in their localities by establishing ARCS corners. In order to sensitize and familiarize the community about the threat of HIV/AIDS, volunteers carry out dissemination campaigns on the ways of transmission, symptoms and various methods of prevention.

In addition to ongoing activities, CBFA volunteers were mobilized and prepared for possible deployment to flood-affected areas. In Ghazni and Logar provinces, they participated in assessment surveys coordinated by the local government flood response units. In Ghazni, they also assisted 30 affected families by transferring them to higher ground. The volunteers are currently taking part in flood response in several provinces, including Badakhshan, Baghlan, Takhar and Kapisa. However, as the response is ongoing, there are no actual data from the field yet.

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

The planned base-line survey was carried out in Kabul, as part of efforts to identify needs-based project priorities and provide the basis for future progress monitoring.

The selection of a site for latrine construction in Kabul province has been completed, and the community elders sensitized about the project objectives. ARCS have asked the population to contribute actively for the project implementation and the public have agreed to provide the construction material. So far, a total of 700 family latrines have been constructed in Kabul's district 10.

Hygiene promotion workshops have been conducted in Kabul, involving 25 female CBFA volunteers and trainers. As part of efforts to improve personal and environmental health in communities, a house-to-house hygiene education was conducted by 50 trained CBFA female volunteers in three provinces – Kabul, Herat and Kandahar – targeting almost 8,000 people. In order to sustain the hygiene promotion programme and to enhance the coping capacity of the community, some community members – especially women – were trained as trainers.

Impact

ARCS clinics continue to provide essential health services to a large portion of the population throughout the country. Through their services, the clinics are addressing some of the most important health problems in Afghanistan, including communicable diseases, high mortality and morbidity rates of women and children, lack of general health education, etc. It is expected that the ongoing restructuring process of the clinics will increase their cost-effectiveness and benefit to the population.

Emergency mobile units are providing essential health care to remote and under-served areas, which makes them an invaluable asset for the population and places a high emphasis on the necessity to reinforce their limited capacities.

The CBFA programme component has made significant progress in increasing the communities' trust in volunteers. The public is now readily using community corners to access first aid or health advice. This in turn is leading to offers of resources such as dressing material and supporting activities from members of the public. Remote communities are benefiting from the health education activities of the CBFA volunteers, gaining knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from common diseases and conditions such as diarrhoea and malaria.

The most important impact of the health education done by CBFA volunteers is raising awareness within the communities of the HIV/AIDS. This is particularly important in view of the high levels of illiteracy, no access to media and poor health conditions in the country, which are an ideal breeding ground for the spread of the HIV virus.

Visible health improvements in the targeted locations can easily be noticed as the behaviour of the communities has greatly changed. The introduction of female volunteers conducting hygiene sessions in villages has been a major force which has greatly contributed to the improved well-being of the targeted communities as women and children are catalysts for behavioural change related to hygiene at the household level

Constraints

Security issues continue to be the main factor hampering monitoring and supervision of most ARCS health activities in some areas. At the same time, insecure living conditions have forced many able community members, who could have been able to support volunteers' activities, to leave. Thus, mobilizing local resources to ensure sustainability and improving coping mechanisms remain a slow and difficult process.

Another major challenge ARCS is facing is a high turn-over of staff, caused by low incentives offered to them. The lack of qualified staff, especially women, continues to have an affect on services offered within the clinics. It is especially difficult to recruit women for clinics in rural areas as there are limited employment opportunities for their husbands.

Instability, poor road conditions, an insecure working environment, high transportation costs and a lack of adequate funding for follow-up activities are the major constraints of EMU and CBFA programme components.

The environmental health programme component continues to face funding problems, which has forced ARCS and the Federation to mainly focus on the hygiene promotion activities and size down the construction part of the project.

Disaster management

Background

During the reporting period, the ARCS DM department was involved in responding to floods that affected most parts of the country, as a result of melting snow and torrential rains between April and June¹. Some 3,000 families were affected by floods, 81 people killed and more than 53 wounded. Over 6,000 livestock and around 10,000 acres of agriculture land have been destroyed in 38 districts of 12 provinces. Major response operations took place in northern Afghanistan, where ARCS worked in cooperation with the central government commission, particularly the ministry of rural rehabilitation and development (MRRD) at regional and provincial levels, with technical support of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Federation assisted ARCS in building a floods information database, by developing and providing standardized damage assessment and relief distribution formats and documentation.

With support of the Federation and ICRC, ARCS completed the winter relief operation in Kabul province by providing food items to 3,593 families². The Federation carried out the monitoring of the winter operation and participating in survey process and data collection as well as interviewing small community groups involving social workers, elders, youth and women to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the relief distribution and to ascertain the families' satisfaction with the assistance they received from the Movement partners in the identified camps for internally-displaced-people (IDP).

The Federation and ARCS have continued working on the restructuring of the national society's DM department, with focus on revised job descriptions. The appeal planning process for 2006 – 2007 and the budget revision for the current year have also been a major focus, alongside the ongoing programme implementation, monitoring and reporting.

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

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

Progress/Achievements

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

During the second quarter of the year, the disaster management departments of ARCS and the Federation have been mostly engaged in implementing the two emergency operations, as outlined above.

The first quarterly DM coordination meeting was held in May, with participation of all regional DM supervisors and key staff members of the national headquarters. The meeting reviewed DM activities undertaken and outlined the remaining activities for 2005. In addition, guiding policies and directions for the development of the DM programme for 2006 -2007 have been provided to participants.

The Federation and the ARCS DM departments participated in the regional DM planning meeting and a disaster simulation exercise from 16 to 20 May, which was organized by the South Asia regional delegation DM department, and hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. Four members were nominated to represent Afghanistan (two from the ARCS DM department, one government counterpart and one from the delegation). The main objective of the exercise was knowledge sharing on national society DM, especially the disaster response capacity for mutual support.

¹ Spring floods emergency appeal 05EA005

² Severe winter emergency appeal 05EA003

During the reporting period, a community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) training workshop was organized in the district of Andrab Bano of the northern province of Baghlan, where a total of 25 volunteers were trained.

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

According to reports from the ARCS regional DM officers, volunteers trained in CBDP have been disseminating DM topics and messages to some 10,000 individuals living in disaster-prone communities. The disseminated topics include the importance of CBDP, fundraising and community participation. Additionally, awareness sessions were presented to the students in two girls' schools in Herat city, based on a weekly schedule. A CBDP-trained volunteer base is seen to be an essential component in the effective disaster response in the long-run. By mobilizing and training local community human resources, ARCS is contributing to strengthening the local coping mechanisms.

The ARCS Herat branch has been running a successful fundraising programme, which is warmly accepted by the local communities. People voluntarily contribute cash and in-kind services to the existing donation boxes in order to build the local response capacity in the communities. However, in some areas the public still needs to be trained how to improve their fundraising capabilities and use the local funds for some other income generating programmes to strengthen the disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity.

So far the funds raised have been used for the following activities: to cover the treatment cost for 135 people with different cases of illnesses; to plant 6,000 trees along the Hrirood river as part of flood mitigation efforts; to set up elementary educational courses for illiterate people (men and women); to establish an English language and mathematics course for 100 people (men and women); to participate in the two campaigns of the cleaning of Herat city in cooperation with local authorities (70 volunteers). Similar fundraising activities have also started in most other regions.

ARCS and the Federation are sharing DM information, activities and achievements with the local communities, authorities and humanitarian agencies. As part of those efforts, one thousand brochures were printed and distributed. Additionally, an Afghan national society uniform was made for the 250 trained CBDP volunteers.

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

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

The national society DM team regularly participates in coordination meetings with the national flood task force (NFTF), which consists of key government ministries, UN/UNAMA agencies and the disaster preparedness department of the government at headquarters as well as provincial levels. ARCS became a member of the joint operation centre (JOC), which brings together the various disaster preparedness/response role players from the government, NGOs and UN agencies. Additionally, the national society has been given responsibility for the coordination of the distribution of relief items and collecting information. The ARCS DM department has so far been recognized as a major player among the partners.

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

For better awareness and understanding, the national society and other local and international population movement agencies have translated the refugee book (used as a reference) from English to both local languages



An afghan woman contributing money to the fundraising system via a donation box in Herat.

(Dari and Pashto). However, due to the lack of funds, only 700 copies were produced and published in the Dari language.

A one-day population movement coordination meeting was organized by the ARCS DM department at ARCS headquarters, where representatives from the Federation, ICRC, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the governmental population movement department participated. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the current status of the IDPs and their needs. The most vulnerable IDPs camps were identified amongst the 22 IDP settlements in Kabul. The above-mentioned partners agreed to participate in regular monthly meetings to share further updates, information and experiences about the returnees from neighbouring countries and internal IDPs.

Constraints

The implementation of the DM programme has suffered from a number of setbacks, including delays in donor response to the DM annual appeal, restrictions of movement caused by the current security situation, as well as the engagement of DM staff members in the afore-mentioned emergency appeals country-wide. In addition, the communication system and the flow of information between the provincial offices and the national society headquarters has remained a challenge throughout the reporting period. However, the Federation delegation has continued providing support to the national society in handling all relevant activities.

Humanitarian Values

Background

The humanitarian values (HV) programme has been recognized as one of the most important programmes of the national society. To promote HV and reduce discrimination between the different Afghan ethnic groups, the first national youth camp was announced by the newly-recruited ARCS secretary general as a one of the most important programmes of the national society. The secretary general is optimistic that the turn out for the second national youth camp, which is to be held in the third quarter of the year, will be positive. ARCS has placed a focal person for the position of HV in the new structure of the national society. The focal person will coordinate the HV agenda in the ARCS programmes. The HV agenda within the national society will be anti-discrimination, peace building, coexisting and reconciliation.

The youth programme is growing, which assures the build capacity of the national society in the future. However, the financial constraint puts a strain on the programme's growth. An increased technical and financial support to the ARCS youth department will be provided.

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

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

Progress/Achievements

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

After initial delays in finalizing an agreement with the ministry of education on the implementation of the programme in schools, mainly caused by the change of leadership at the ministry of education, the memorandum of understanding was signed between ARCS and the ministry in June.

Initial steps were made to start up the HV/youth programme in Herat, and support of the regional ICRC office, as well as the Federation, has been secured. The teacher volunteers in the region provided refresher training about humanitarian values and first aid to youth volunteers in ten schools.

A number of youth volunteers in Herat region actively supported the DM department in the distribution of food items to the flood-affected people in Adraskan district. They were awarded with tokens of appreciation by the provincial governor, as part of efforts to encourage their continuous commitment and participation in similar activities.

The teacher volunteers from 98 schools in Kabul were invited to the ARCS youth club to observe the youth volunteers activities.

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

Since the ARCS youth programme is mainly focused on schools, and most schools in eastern and southern regions were closed over the past two months (term break), there have not been many activities during the reporting period. Youth officers have visited the open schools and distributed first aid material. In addition, the ARCS youth officers in all five regions of the country conducted monthly meetings with teacher volunteers, to discuss the ongoing programme implementation.

The Herat ARCS youth department, in cooperation with the head of the provincial education department and school principals, has initiated a local fundraising scheme in schools, by setting up two charity boxes in two schools in Herat city. Students and teachers will be invited to make small donations to the charity box and the amount will be used for response to local emergencies and to incidents in schools.

During the period under review, regional youth volunteers participated in the celebration of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) and in the International Teachers' Day. In Kabul, 50 youth volunteers wore ARCS uniforms and held ARCS flags and banners at the reception for the guests, while 200 youth and teacher volunteers and a youth female musical group took part in the celebration. In Herat, the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day was celebrated over three days – the youth volunteers presented poems, theatre shows and songs for the occasion. Before the celebration, 300 invitation cards were distributed to the public through the youth volunteers in Herat city. A special newsletter printed in English, Dari and Pashto was also issued. The newsletter contained the biography of the Movement founder Henry Dunant, topics of the Movement's Principles and values, and the ARCS youth activities.

Expected result 3: ARCS has developed a strategic plan for a refocus of the HV programme on anti-discrimination agenda.

Following the restructuring within the national society, a HV focal point has been assigned for and placed in the ARCS dissemination and public relations department. However, activities of this expected result have not started yet.

Constraints

Although there is an increased understanding of and commitment to the implementation of the HV programme within ARCS, most activities at the national level have not yet taken pace. The delays are caused by the absence of the HV focal point at ARCS. This is now being resolved, and more significant progress is to be seen in the second half of the year.

Lack of financial support to the programme, as well as low awareness of some heads of ARCS branches of its relevance, also contribute to the slow programme implementation. Still, as presented above, many branches have taken up local initiatives and youth volunteers are active in a variety of projects.

Organizational Development

Background

A new manager of the ARCS OD department commenced work in May. It is hoped that the new manager will be well placed to influence capacity building in all the departments and programmes of the national society, as the management organogram that was recently adopted by the national society attaches the OD programme directly to

the office of the secretary general. In June, the Federation OD department had useful meetings on the reorganization of the ARCS OD department, national society programme priorities and, in particular, the next steps of the membership organization process. ARCS and the Federation agreed on the need for the national society to play an increasingly leading role in all activities and for the Federation to provide backup technical and financial support.

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

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

Progress/Achievements

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

In May, a final draft of the constitution was completed and sent to Geneva for approval by the Joint Commission of the Movement. The national society's position is that the implementation of the document – after approval by the Joint Commission – should be delayed until 2008, when it is expected that the state cabinet will have formally given approval to ARCS to elect its own president. (Presently, the ARCS president is appointed by government.) Relevant clauses of the approved constitution may then be amended by the national society before it is adopted for implementation. The Federation and ICRC assisted ARCS in the entire process. Once the formal approval is received from the Joint Committee, the next step will be the preparation of a plan for dissemination of the document at headquarters and branch levels.

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

In April, ARCS appointed its first secretary general. This was a significant break from the long practice in which governance and management responsibilities were entrusted in one person and one position. Other vacant positions in the second level (departmental directors) of the national society new management organogram were subsequently filled in during the month of May. However, the president explained that most of the appointments made were in an acting capacity, pending recommendations from an expected human resource review (see expected result 3 below). The rest of the period witnessed efforts by the national society to fill in other positions in the national headquarters organogram. The Federation continued with its contact with the British Red Cross in relation to the promised support in conducting the human resource review.

Recruitment and organization of new members continued in the national society's four pilot branches. Badghis branch led the way with more than 500 recruitments recorded between 1 February and 15 June. The total membership recruited by the four pilot branches against 15 June was 1,269. This figure shows a marked increase in effort by the pilot branches during the reporting quarter, considering the fact that only 350 recruitments had been achieved by end of the previous quarter. The ARCS OD department has been granted a two-month extension of the pilot phase which was scheduled to formally end in June. More time was needed to properly organize the new memberships in the branches, as well as to ensure greater ownership by the branches.

A meeting with the branch administrators and representatives of the membership groups' leaders is scheduled to take place in August. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and discuss the main lessons learnt and to plan training activities on various areas, including basic Red Cross and Red Crescent knowledge, group organization, setting up of branch governance, organize vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA), and programme planning and implementation. Planning of the second phase of the membership programme is to be concluded in July and implementation is to commence in August. It is expected that ten extra branches will be identified for the process, and the national society OD department is expected to play an increasing leading role in all aspects of the process.

During the reporting period, the position of finance development officer was advertised by the delegation. Interviewing and appointment of the best applicant for the position will take place in July.

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

As reported in expected result 2, the delegation followed-up on contacts with the British Red Cross on supporting the human resource review of ARCS. With the assistance of the delegation's OD department and the head of delegation, the terms of reference were finalised with the British Red Cross to provide initial technical advice as to how to develop and plan the project, and this visit will take place in July.

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

Apart from the appointment of a fundraising officer within the ARCS external and public relations department, there was no significant activity under this expected result during the reporting period. There may be the need for support training for the national society fundraising officer. The Federation is to provide this assistance.

Expected Result 5: Residents of the five ARCS *Marastoons* received regular humanitarian assistance and technical training support that prepares them for a return to life in their original communities.

During the reporting period, all residents of the five ARCS *Marastoons* have received monthly supplies of food and non-food items. This type of support to the residents will continue in the coming months. The able-bodied residents participated in vocational training workshops and children and youth (aged six to 14) regularly attended the school classes.

With a view to secure a stable and continuous implementation of activities, the five *marastoons* have received financial support to cover administrative costs, expenditures for vocational training workshops, maintenance of premises, as well as payment of incentives to the personnel. The Federation field offices personnel and the *Marastoons* have received on-the-job training concerning the processing of monthly requests.

A programme officer has been employed and will begin his work on 19 July.

Other activities include the processing of a tri-partite agreement between the German Red Cross, ARCS and the Federation. The review and the amendment of the managerial procedures meant to improve the administration of the five *marastoons* and the German Red Cross-funded and Federation administered project 'ARCS *Marastoon* Management' has been undertaken. In order to incorporate the 'ARCS *Marastoon* Management' project into the operations and administrative procedures of ARCS and its headquarters' *Marastoon* programme department, meetings were held with the head of department and the president of ARCS. It was agreed to establish close cooperation on daily activities as well as the further development of the programme.

A review and amendment of managerial procedures and on-the-job training of the *Marastoon* and field office personnel will be undertaken in the coming period. Visits to the five *Marastoons* will be carried out in cooperation with the *Marastoon* programme department of the ARCS headquarters with a view to complement the on-the-job training of personnel and to strengthen the monitoring of programme activities.

The German Red Cross, the Federation and ARCS will conclude the tri-partite agreement and embark together on the preparation of the 2006 activities.

Impact

The restructuring process of the ARCS senior and middle management layers has been successfully initiated with the appointment of the new secretary general and separation of the governance and management functions, which is a historic move in the national society's management.

From February to June, over 1,200 members have been recruited by the four pilot branches, and most of them actively engaged in ongoing activities. This is an important step forward in the efforts to improve ARCS organizational capacities at branch level.

Structures and links for cooperation have been established between the delegation *Marastoon* project management and the *Marastoon* programme department at ARCS headquarters. The *Marastoon* welfare activities facilitate the care of destitute people and the cooperation between the five *Marastoons*, the ARCS headquarters, the *Marastoon* programme department and the Federation Afghanistan delegation.

Constraints

Continued insecurity in many parts of the country made it impossible for the ARCS and Federation field personnel to monitor the implementation of activities.

The *marastoon* programme suffers from heavy and outdated administrative structure at all levels. Efforts will be made to improve that structure following the finalization of the tri-partite agreement between the ARCS, the Federation and the German Red Cross.

Implementation and management

Coordination, cooperation and strategic partnerships

Ongoing coordination efforts have continued in Kabul and in sub-delegations, involving the local authorities, ICRC, security officers, other NGOs, UN etc. In particular, closer coordination between the delegation, ARCS health department and ministry of public health should be highlighted. The programme coordinator held several meetings with the local representative of the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) to discuss current and potential financial support for emergency operations.

The usual close coordination and cooperation was maintained with ICRC, in particular relating to issues of security and also with regards to the joint support for capacity-building and core cost support to the national society.

The South Asia regional delegation (SARD) reporting consultant visited Kabul and provided training for the delegation's information officer and other delegation personnel. Additional voluntary technical support was provided by the former ICRC information delegate. As a result of these efforts, the delegation is now managing a much higher level of output and stories now actually being posted on the website.

Effective representation and advocacy

The head of delegation conducted a series of visits to embassies and representatives of the following countries to raise the profile of the Federation and the national society, along with the annual appeal and the floods appeal - China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Turkey, all based in Kabul, and the embassies of Australia and Switzerland in Islamabad. Meetings were also held with the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency, which may be interested in supporting DM activities next year, and the Senlis Foundation, which have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federation Secretariat and have shown an interest in developing and implementing programmes which addresses issues around the illegal drugs business in Afghanistan, including the promotion and creation of alternative livelihoods, establishment of drugs policies and the related treatment of drug addicts and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

It is clear from the ongoing embassy visits that there is very little funding for humanitarian assistance which can be directly secured in Kabul. Nearly all funding is committed through government-to-government channels, although some embassies do have the capacity to respond to local emergencies with goods in kind. However, these channels will actively be kept open, as it is clear that much more humanitarian funding is required in the non-governmental sector, and the ever-increasing positive profile of ARCS can only serve to improve the chances of identifying and securing local funding sources.

Delegation management

A new head of sub-delegations started his mission in May and was tasked with developing an analysis, strategy and plan of action for an exit from the sub-delegations. It seems that the most likely way forward is to identify some key Federation personnel who would be re-deployed as staff-on-loan to the respective branches, but the overall objective is a closure over the coming months of the sub-delegations in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat. The Kabul sub-delegation consists of only three personnel who will probably be absorbed into the overall main delegation team. The decision to discontinue with the sub-delegations has been taken in the light of the changing operating environment, new national society support needs and the necessity to further address and reduce the very high core costs of the delegation. This process will be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2006, with Kandahar and Jalalabad to be closed before the end of 2005.

The realignment of the main delegation office was ongoing, with a continuing reduction in the numbers of both delegates and national staff planned for later in the year. The initial planning for the extended security period around the elections was commenced, the intention being to relocate or re-deploy most delegates in late August through to probably late October, depending on the security situation. The intention is to place them within the South Asia region.

Security management remained tight. While the situation in Kabul has been generally quiet, there was much concern about the kidnapping of the Italian NGO worker. Some additional precautionary measures were taken as a result, but all movements are already severely restricted. Visitors will be limited during the security period but it is very much hoped that some partners will be able to visit Kabul later in the year.

Planning for the 2006/7 appeal is under way. The obvious challenge for the delegation is to ensure that the necessary technical and financial support continues to be provided to the national society as it undertakes a major restructuring and change process. At the same time, new major developments are expected within the HV programme, which will be highlighted in the next programme update. In addition, there is a need to continue with support for the health and DM programmes while the increasing of national society self-sufficiency and sustainability is established and developed. In an effort to meet the challenges of the new-look national society, the delegation will be developing a different, bold and dynamic way of working with ARCS in 2006, which will be based on fewer delegates, but a more flexible modular approach utilizing expert technical support when specifically needed.

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

APPEAL No. 05AA045

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				9,055,922		58.2%
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		500,000	AUD	441,250	25.05.05	50 HEALTH CARE CLINICS
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		68,040	AUD	60,045	25.05.05	HEALTH COORDINATOR
BRITISH - RC		90,217	GBP	196,763	06.04.05	HEALTH
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD GRANT				106,000	01.01.05	ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BRITISH - RC				13,048	24.11.05	DELEGATE
CAPACITY BUILDING FUND				75,000	18.01.05	BRANCH DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY STRENGTHENING
GERMANY - RC		100,000	EUR	153,950	17.02.05	HEALTH AND DM
GERMANY - RC				128,342	11.08.05	DELEGATE
GERMANY - RC		213,000	EUR	332,387	11.08.05	MARSTOONS RUNNING COSTS
GERMANY - RC		80,000	EUR	124,840	11.08.05	MARSTOONS SPECIAL COSTS
GERMANY - RC		26,520	EUR	41,040	17.11.05	MARSTOONS & ARCS STAFF TRAINING WORKSHOPS
german - rc		60,000	eur	92,850	17.11.05	MARSTOONS, HUMANITARIAN VALUE
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		100,000	EUR	154,900	29.03.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT
FINNISH - RC		40,000	EUR	61,960	22.03.05	HUMANITARIAN VALUES
FINNISH - RC		80,000	EUR	123,920	22.03.05	CBFA
HELLENIC - GOVT		27,000	EUR	41,809	28.02.05	ADRASKAN CLINIC
JAPANESE - RC		66,212	USD	82,480	30.05.05	INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP PROJECT
JAPANESE - RC		175,193	USD	226,699	29.09.05	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
NEW ZEALAND - RC		70,000	NZD	62,720	19.10.05	HEALTH
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC				165,900	17.03.05	DELEGATE COSTS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2,835,400	NOK	550,068	13.06.05	HEALTH, CBFA, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER MANAGEMENT
OPEC FUND F. INTERN. DEVELOPMENT		200,000	USD	256,100	13.10.05	RELIEF SUPPLIES
SPANISH - RC		229,031	EUR	354,541	15.07.05	
SWEDISH - RC		1,000,000	SEK	171,000	18.04.05	HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT		3,400,000	SEK	581,400	18.04.05	DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH ACTIVITIES
SWEDISH - GOVT		450,000	SEK	76,950	29.03.05	HIV/AIDS
SWEDISH - RC		840,000	SEK	139,440	16.09.05	HEALTH CLINICS
USA - PRIVATE DONOR		2,000	USD	2,264	20.05.05	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				4,817,666	CHF	53.2%

APPEAL No. 05AA045

PLEDGES RECEIVED

13/12/2005

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

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

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

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