

Emergency appeal №: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/04/2021 Emergency appeal revised: 23/06/2022 ¹ Operational Strategy published: 24/06/2022	Glide №: EQ-2022-000232-AFG
Operation update #2 Date of issue: 26 February 2023	Timeframe covered by this update: From 22 June 2022 to 31 January 2023
Operation timeframe: 18 months (24/06/2022 - 31/12/2023)	Number of people to be assisted: 70,000 Number of people reached: 93,725
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 10 million out of 90 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal ²	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 750,000



More than 2,000 households repaired their houses with the financial and technical support from ARCS/IFRC in Khost and Paktika provinces in Afghanistan. The shelter repair was completed before onset of the harsh winter in the affected areas. (Photo: IFRC)

¹ Revised Emergency Appeal No. 4 issued, increasing the total funding requirement by CHF 10,000,000 in response to the earthquake and the DREF allocation of CHF 750,000.

² Part of CHF 210 million Federation-wide funding requirements for Afghanistan until 2023, which includes IFRC Secretariat's Operational Plan for 2022 and 2023, ARCS own funding for 2022 and 2023 and funding by Participating National Societies (PNS) working bilaterally in Afghanistan.

Following the 5.9 magnitude earthquake that hit the southeast region of Afghanistan, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretariat revised its Emergency Appeal, increased its funding ask from CHF80 million to CHF 90 million and extended the operation's timeframe until 31 December 2023. The increase in funding requirements was necessitated to enable IFRC scaling up its humanitarian assistance as well as to implement interventions that bridge development. Extending the operation's geographical coverage from 19 to all 34 provinces of the country and increasing the target to 1 million people. The revision of the Emergency Appeal contains two Operational Strategies: Earthquake in Paktika and Khost seeking CHF 10 million, and the Wider Humanitarian Crises seeking CHF 80 million. To date, the earthquake response Operational Strategy is 72 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with the support of the IFRC, to continue providing humanitarian assistance and protection to people affected by the earthquake.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

On 22 June 2022, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck south-eastern Afghanistan, leading to wide-scale destruction across already vulnerable districts in Paktika and Khost provinces. Around 1,036 deaths (230 of them children) and 2,949 injuries (591 of them children) were recorded. In addition to the loss of life and devastating injury, the earthquake resulted in the destruction of critical infrastructure - including homes, health facilities, schools, and water networks - leaving thousands vulnerable to further harm.

According to the shelter cluster, 7,715 houses were destroyed, and 7,056 households were damaged. Following the disaster, ARCS mounted a response operation and launched an appeal for 10 million Swiss Francs to help ARCS emergency and relief efforts.

By the end of January 2023, IFRC and its International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners network had reached more than **93,725 people** with at least one form of humanitarian assistance. This includes support to **19,984 people** with health services, **56,444 people** with multipurpose emergency cash assistance (MPCA), **35,141 people** with household items and shelter repair assistance; **18,855 people** with household items, **93,725 people** have also been reached with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) health measures to prevent the spread of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

In terms of gaps, not all households whose houses were fully destroyed and/or severely damaged have received assistance for rebuilding/repairing. Hundreds of households are still living in camp settings or have resorted to self-made bunkers as a way of coping with winter. There is an immediate need for winter response packages for saving the lives of the people.

The recent edicts released by authorities, particularly on women's participation in society, have driven a 25 per cent increase in protection needs. The localities affected being in areas with strong conservative cultures limited the level of participation of the female gender. Efforts were made to have a balanced approach that would take care of the cultural practices while enabling access to all affected persons, especially in the areas near major urban centres.

Summary of response

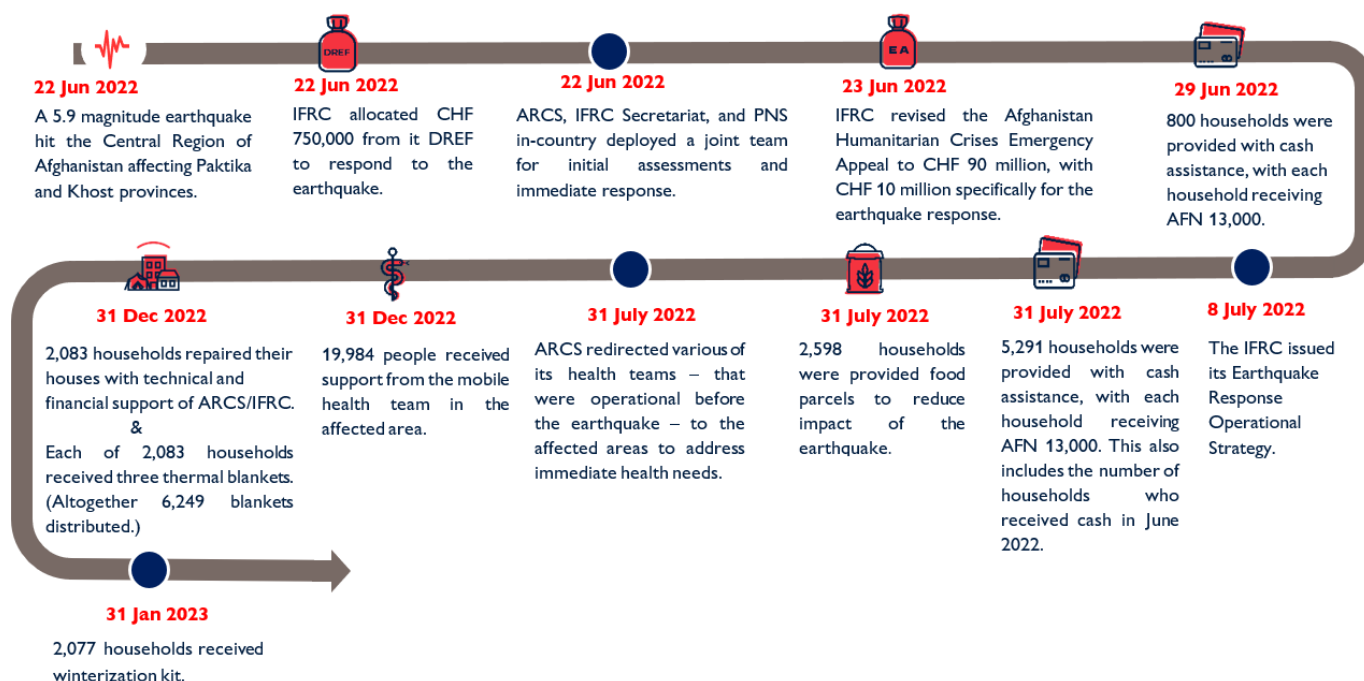
Overview of the operating National Society and ongoing response

Following the earthquake on 22 June 2022, IFRC allocated CHF 750,00 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) on the same day and supported ARCS in needs assessment and immediate response to the people in the affected areas. IFRC revised the Afghanistan Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal on 23 June 2022 to CHF 90 million, with CHF 10 million specifically for the earthquake response through the provision of household items, winter

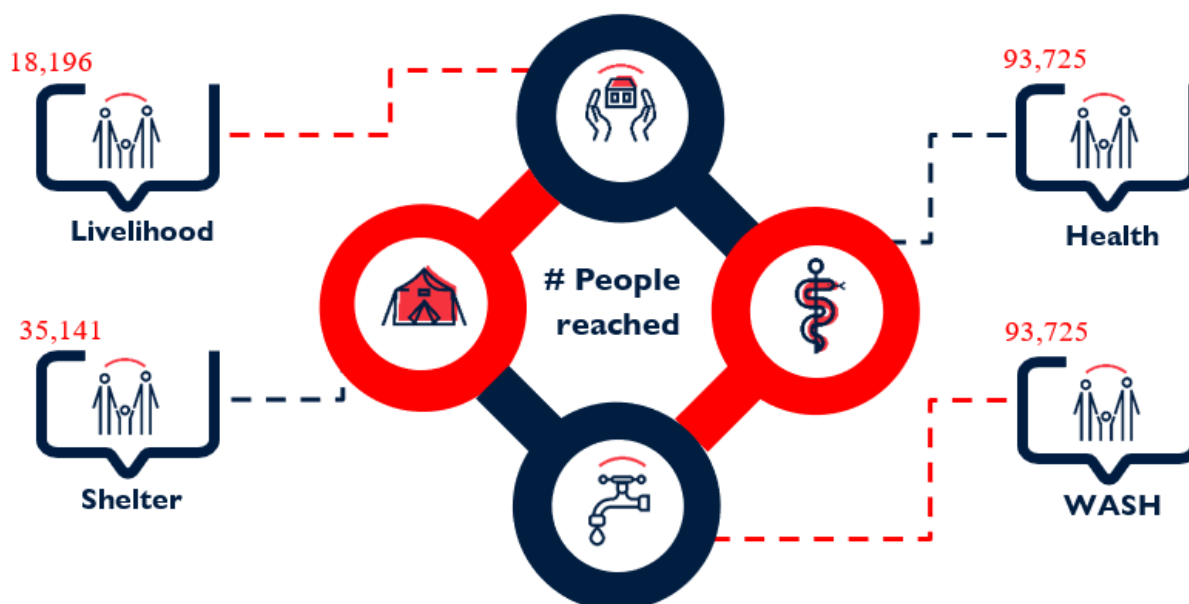
clothing, emergency shelter, and psychosocial support services (PSS). It also covered support for mobilizing branch disaster response teams, staff, and volunteers for assessments, distributions, and monitoring.

With tireless efforts of its staff and volunteers and support from the IFRC network, the ARCS has made significant progress towards operation strategy in the communities. The assistance has been crucial to meet emergency needs, strengthening shelter and improving the health of the people affected by the disaster.

Seven months of milestones in the earthquake response operation



Number of people reached by the ARCS through IFRC Secretariat support under this appeal



Shelter

ARCS is implementing its shelter strategy guided by recommendations of the Emergency Shelter and NFI (ESNFI) cluster and with the technical guidance of Miyamoto International. The strategy revolves around the following interventions: 1) Supporting households for privacy screening, 2) Support for the repair of compound wall, 3) Support for rubble and salvage materials management (transportation (tractors to help people bring in construction materials), 4) Safe shelter awareness dissemination, winterization kits, 5) Support for repair and maintenance of houses in addition to reconstruction. IFRC on the other hand is supporting the programme through shelter technical assistance, progress and compliance monitoring, cluster engagements, briefing partners, strengthening the National Society's response structure such as protection, gender and inclusion (PGI); community engagement and accountability (CEA) and resource mobilization.

Considering the significant impact and the shelter needs after the earthquake, IFRC worked closely with ARCS to address the shelter needs of the affected communities. **One-third** of damaged shelter gaps identified by the shelter cluster have been covered by IFRC-supported programmes. Over **80 ARCS volunteers** were mobilised throughout the response phase to meet shelter needs. IFRC has actively engaged in all shelter coordination mechanisms to avoid duplication and ensure timely coordinated and integrated humanitarian services.

Winterization Support

During the reporting period, ARCS with the support of IFRC distributed 6,249 thermal blankets to 2,083 households with each household receiving three blankets so that they could cope with the harsh cold winter. Likewise, 6,250 winterization kits were procured for distribution in the provinces having harsh winter conditions, of which, 2,077 kits were distributed to earthquake-affected communities in Khost and Paktika provinces in January 2023. Each winterization kit contains winter jackets, sweaters, shawls, wraps, gloves, caps, socks, and boots for a household of seven persons (two adults and five children) as per the average Afghan household composition. This is according to ESNFI cluster recommendation. Similarly, out of the duty of care to volunteers, winter jackets were provided to 200 ARCS volunteers involved in the field response in both Khost and Paktika provinces.



As winter bites across Afghanistan, in some cases with deadly consequences, IFRC is supporting the ARCS to distribute winter kits comprising of winter jackets, sweaters, shawl, wraps, gloves, socks and shoes. (Photo: Meer Abdulla Rasikh, IFRC)

IFRC staff were in the field to support the distribution and enhance ARCS's process through, reviewing standard operation procedure (SOP) for distribution, setting up the distribution points, integrating services offered at the points (i.e., health talks, first aid, risk communication etc), engage the recipients and get their feedback, get first-hand information from the people for publishing, engage media and more importantly give and receive feedback from ARCS.

Heath and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

During the reporting period, the ARCS mobilized four mobile health teams (MHTs) with the support of IFRC in the earthquake-affected areas. The MHTs reached 19,984 people with primary healthcare services such as outpatient care, routine immunization services, and reproductive health services, including family planning, dressing, health education, quality essential medicine distribution, and referral services.

Likewise, ARCS rolled out (RCCE) intervention in the affected areas. This involved recruitment of six district health supervisors, seven community health mobilizers including two females, one community-based health and first aid

(CBHFA) officer and two CBHFA female trainers. Additionally, ARCS/IFRC trained 378 volunteers (294 male and 84 female) on psychological first aid (PFA), epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) and household water treatment (HHWT), first aid and hygiene promotion. ARCS staff and volunteers carried out house-to-house sensitization visits and conducted integrated awareness-raising sessions on hygiene promotion, prevention of water-borne diseases, and COVID-19 risk communication. Furthermore, the volunteers conducted education sessions on the preparation and use of oral rehydration salt with mothers and grandmothers. During the reporting period, **93,725 people** (70,397 males; 23,328 females) were reached through household visits and awareness-raising sessions in Khost and Paktika. In addition, five community health committees and three grandmother committees were established with 118 members (74 males; 44 females) in earthquake-affected areas.

Apart from the earthquake-affected areas, ARCS/IFRC trained volunteers have reached a total of **166,043** (106,963 males; 59,080 females) people in six provinces of the central south region (Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak provinces) under the community health interventions through hygiene promotion, prevention of waterborne diseases, conducting of COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention (IP), prevention of rumours through sharing of the right information, COVID-19 and common rumours in the community and education sessions with mothers and grandmothers on preparing and use of oral rehydration salt. Altogether, 822 volunteers (512 males; 310 females) were trained in first aid, psychosocial first aid, ECV, HHWT and hygiene promotion and mobilized in the six provinces.

Multipurpose Cash and Livelihood

With the support of the IFRC, ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 5,291 households in Barmal and Giyan districts of Paktika province, and Spera district of Khost province in June and July 2022. Each household received AFN 13,000 (CHF 140) which was considered the minimum cash-based food basket recommended by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). Following cash distribution, ARCS interviewed 643 people (640 males; 3 females) who received the cash as part of post-distribution monitoring (PDM). About 93 per cent of the respondents indicated that the cash was very useful in covering their immediate household needs, six per cent mentioned the amount received was not sufficient for meeting their needs, while one per cent did not respond.

CEA and PGI

Under CEA and PGI, ARCS/IFRC jointly spearheaded efforts to ensure the quality of interventions was as per standards. These involved sensitizing community members, listening to their input when developing a response plan, involving them in all stages of the programme, and giving them the platform to air their concerns and address them. Likewise, volunteers and field-based staff were oriented on CEA, PGI and feedback response mechanism (FRM). A paper form was developed and shared with the volunteers to register feedback received from the people in the community.

During the reporting period, an orientation session was conducted on CEA, PGI and feedback response mechanisms for 15 female volunteers in the Khost ARCS branch office. Likewise, there is a plan to conduct CEA and PGI training for ARCS volunteers (males and females) in Paktika province. The trained volunteers engaged with the community to select distribution locations and give priority to senior citizens, people with disabilities (PWD) and women to receive their assistance. The volunteers made sure that there was a standard waiting area for women and PWD.

Banners were installed showing the amount of money allocated to all the categories (severe, moderate and minor) in shelter cash grants. While, in the case of food or household items, their names, weight and the number of products available in a kit were clearly explained in the banner to ensure transparency and make the community believe that ARCS and IFRC are accountable.

In order to ensure that no one is left behind, more so women at risk, three grandmother groups were formed to help in targeting the women within communities. They were trained on community sensitization (health-seeking behaviours, risk communication, oral rehydration salt (ORS) preparation, hygiene promotion, and safe shelter messages). Grandmothers are pivotal for they command respect in communities. During the reporting period, they

engaged with female members of the targeted families to understand their needs and to discuss how the responses and services addressed their needs. They also promoted health seeking behaviour of women to access maternal health services including antenatal and postnatal care. The grandmothers who are members of the community-based committee play important role in community mobilization, raising awareness of the families on eligible criteria, hygiene promotion and maternal health.

Notable feedback from the community was the recurrent request by the people affected by the earthquake to receive assistance from ARCS since they said, “Afghan Red Crescent Society is always in the community and provides diverse and comprehensive assistance to the people affected by disaster”. Additionally, the IFRC quality and accountability team conducted assessments in both provinces to assess if the cash and winterization kit distribution met the PGI minimum standards. The assessment revealed that most of the PGI standards were met during the distribution in both provinces.

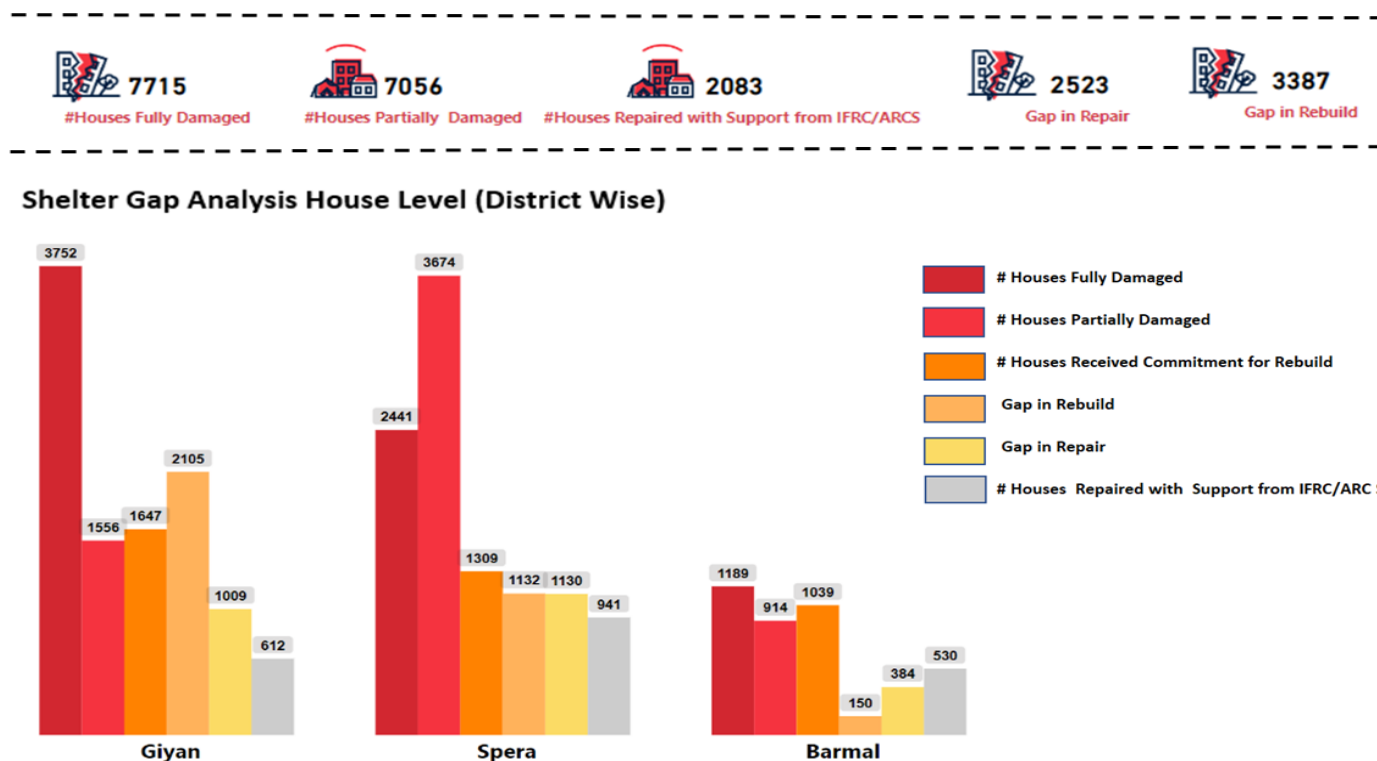
National Society Strengthening

Likewise, ARCS shelter staff, social mobilizers and volunteers have been trained on safer shelter, psychosocial first aid, ECV, household water treatment, first aid and hygiene promotion.

Needs analysis

Shelter

According to the ESNFI cluster, there are still gaps in rebuilding 3,387 houses and repairing another 2,523 in Giyan, Barmal and Spera districts. **Refer to the chart below for district-wise gap analysis. The harsh winter conditions have decreased access to some of the affected areas.** ARCS and IFRC will resume shelter plans as part of the shelter strategy (construction-related intervention) in early March 2023. In addition to ARCS and IFRC, other organisations involved in the shelter programme are Action Aid, Afghan Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation, Cord Aid, United Nations Development Programme and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Data source: <https://sheltercluster.org/response/afghanistan>

Out of 7,715 fully damaged houses, 7,382 houses were from Giyan, Spera and Bamal districts. Likewise, out of 7,056 partially damaged houses, 6,144 houses from the three districts.

Winterization

Winter conditions prevail in most of the country between December and March. The affected areas are in a mountainous region and the cold is unbearable. Although ARCS/IFRC supported 2,083 households to return to their homes through house repair support and provided three blankets to each, shelter cluster data shows that there are still more than 3,000 houses to be rebuilt in the earthquake-affected areas. The households that have not received aid are still living in camp settings. Tents are not enough to withstand winter and people are at risk. Reports indicate that some households have resorted to digging bunkers as a way of coping with winter. This is itself a risk, exposure to toxic air due to poor ventilation, risk of water seeping into the structures and risk of avalanche. There is an immediate need for winter response packages for saving the lives of people from 14,711 households. IFRC procured 6,250 winterization kits, out of which, 2,077 kits were distributed in earthquake-affected communities of Khost and Paktika provinces.

Livelihood

The communities rely on agriculture (farming) and rearing animals for livelihood. Since the earthquake struck at night when livestock was indoors, most died. Farms were also affected due to the destruction of irrigation canals. Communities need to be assisted with restorations of land, rehabilitation of roads, repair of irrigation canals, provision of agriculture starter kits and restocking of livestock. As part of the implemented shelter strategy, IFRC procured ten tractors (with trolleys) based on needs identified by the humanitarian partners in the field where affected communities had challenges bringing their shelter and construction materials due to the nature, distance and topography of the affected areas. These tractors are part of the shelter strategy developed in coordination with the shelter cluster to provide transportation and move shelter items to the hard-to-reach areas. Furthermore, the tractors are foreseen to be needed for livelihood interventions starting in early spring 2023.

Health and Care

The communities are in hard-to-reach areas which were previously active conflict zone. There is limited healthcare coverage in affected areas. People travel long distances for medical care, with emergency medical attention largely leading to fatalities. ARCS runs eight mobile health teams in the affected provinces, with only three MHTs now active in Khost and Paktika provinces after the conclusion of the emergency phase. MHTs are not sufficient to meet the health need of the people in the affected areas. Plans are underway to increase health facilities in the affected areas. A total of ten MHT vehicles and four ambulances are being procured to enhance ARCS health coverage capacities.

Uptake of health services is also low, there is a need to scale up community sensitization and advocacy for the promotion of health-seeking behaviour, and general behavioural change in communities to demystify negative cultural practices more so when it comes to the uptake of immunization services. Communities are also in need of basic first aid knowledge so that they may attend to health emergencies as they wait for professional help to arrive. Communities lack emergency referral capacities, as such, there is a need to support them with ambulatory services so that emergency maternal cases can be managed and referred professionally while avoiding preventable maternal child deaths. Four ambulances procured by IFRC will enhance ARCS capacities in this regard.

Likewise, communities have reported an increased number of people who are mentally distressed due to the shock caused by the earthquake. After losing loved ones, shelter and livelihood sources, some members have found it difficult to cope. Some members have reported loss of sleep, restlessness, hallucinations, aggressive behaviour, isolation and even suicidal attentions. Therefore, there is a need to scale up mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) intervention in the affected areas.

The Danish Red Cross supported carrying out preparatory work for the MHPSS response, which included the development of training materials on PGI and psychosocial first aid, MHPSS for MHTs, training of volunteers on community-based PSS and outreach activities. As a caring for staff and volunteers, the ARCS with the support of the

Danish Red Cross developed materials on signs of stress and coping with stress which were shared with staff and volunteers deployed in the field. Additionally, the ARCS deployed MHPSS master trainers as a part of the disaster management team who provided psychosocial first aid and awareness-raising sessions as well as sports and recreational activities with children in the communities affected by the earthquake.

WASH

Both communal and domestic water sources were damaged during the earthquake. Limited intervention has taken place in water infrastructure, thereby exposing communities to unsafe drinking water while making it hard for females who trek long distances to the rivers to fetch water. There is a need for increased hygiene promotion as well. The community practices open defecation thereby exposing them to risks of waterborne diseases and the spread of cholera. There is a need to train communities on hygiene in handling water for domestic consumption. The communities lack water storage capacities in communal water points. This has led to overcrowding at water points, and lengthy time taken while drawing water and potential point of conflict due to disagreements caused by fatigue.

Furthermore, there is a need to boost storage capacities within these water points. Through IFRC support, 20 water storage tanks with 5,000 litres capacity each were installed in community water points. This helped in bringing water close to communities, thereby reducing distances travelled by women when sourcing water. Other support planned for the year 2023 includes drilling and equipping health facilities within the affected areas with boreholes, support communities with sanitation facilities (latrines) and continued hygiene promotion.

PGI and CEA

The increasing restrictions on participation of women and minority groups is among the main drivers of humanitarian need. Preventing half of Afghanistan's population from contributing meaningfully to society and the economy will have a devastating impact on the whole country. Likewise, there will be some challenges for ARCS to reach households which have only women, with humanitarian assistance as male staff/volunteers are not allowed to interact with women in the community.

During the reporting period, IFRC conducted two assessments (one for cash and one for household items distribution) in each of Khost and Paktika provinces. Objective was to assess whether cash and household items distribution met PGI minimum standards. The assessment shows that most of the PGI standards were met during the distribution in both provinces.

Likewise, an orientation session was conducted on CEA, PGI and feedback response mechanism for 15 female volunteers in Khost ARCS branch office. There is a plan to conduct CEA and PGI training for ARCS volunteers (males and females) in Paktika province.

Operational risk assessment

Afghanistan's context is complex and challenging, especially in the region affected by the earthquake. IFRC/ARCS foresee the following operational risks in the coming period:

- Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities that may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS.
- Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities.
- Extreme winter conditions hinder and delay access and/or distribution.
- Risks associated with displacement of unexploded ordnance.
- Topography and security access constraints in quake-affected areas result in significant response challenges.
- A lack of female staff on the ground makes it difficult to address the specific needs of women.

- ARCS/IFRC delivers humanitarian assistance on a need-based approach. In this case, there is some risk that the households or communities which do not receive major assistance, such as cash or food parcel, can hinder distribution to other communities/households.

ARCS, with support from the IFRC operation team, is closely monitoring the risks and will adopt mitigation measures as outlined in the approved [Operational Strategy](#). The ARCS/IFRC will deal with the risk case by case.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

Overall operational objective

The strategy of the IFRC's supported response is to contribute to strengthening shelter, health, and livelihood strategies, improving food security, and ultimately building resilience in communities affected by the earthquake.

Proposed strategy

a) Integrated assistance

An integrated approach has been adopted in the operation to meet the needs of the population affected by the disaster. Affected people have been reached with shelter support (both emergency and recovery), food, as well as multipurpose cash. ARCS provided 2,598 food parcels, 2,128 bottles of oil, 1,150 Kg dates, and 783 cartoons of biscuits among other food items to affected households. The food was supported by the Chinese Government, Human Aid, German Peace Society, Iranian Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent. There is a plan for support in livelihoods through actions like livestock restocking and drought-resistant agriculture. ARCS/IFRC provided three blankets to each of 2,083 households and distributed winterization kits to 2,077 households in January 2023. Likewise, works are in progress to explore how ARCS/IFRC can adapt programmes to meet the evolving needs including those of education as a result of the recent edicts.

b) Cash-based assistance

Cash-based assistance offered 5,291 households flexibility and adaptability to meet their emergency needs immediately after the disaster and 2,083 households repairing their shelter. Cash-based assistance enabled affected populations to make decisions according to their own priorities, boost local markets, and cost less than other aid options. For the cash disbursement, the partner financial service providers were deployed in all the districts. ARCS/IFRC will continue to prioritize the cash-based assistance modality as needed in the operation.

c) Federation-wide approach

The Emergency Appeal is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and in consultation with all IFRC membership in-country as well as out-of-country. The IFRC network is collectively contributing to the response. This is complementary to existing Movement coordination and cooperation mechanisms and has included fortnightly coordination meetings at the leadership level, regular technical meetings among programmes, as well as reporting tools such as regular situation reports. During the reporting period, the IFRC Country Delegation in Afghanistan engaged with the membership who support Afghanistan bilaterally or multilaterally in moving forward with the 'Agenda for Renewal New WoW' mechanism. In the meantime, the approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact. Other benefits include the utilization of the IFRC's financial and procurement services, resulting in significant reductions in cost and time.

d) National Society Development and localized action

Investing in local institutions is critical to delivering humanitarian assistance that can reach those most in need during the most critical moments, including when access by international actors is constrained for whatever reason. ARCS is a legitimate national actor with the trust, access, expertise, and ability to reach those most in need including those in hard-to-reach areas. As part of this operation, IFRC is supporting ARCS in developing their human resource capacity through national/provincial level training to the staff and volunteers and strengthening logistics and warehousing capacity such as the preposition of relief items.

IFRC has procured two rub halls to be installed and used for holding emergency prepositioned relief items that can be accessed by ARCS when the need arises within the country. The installation process is ongoing and will be completed within the first quarter of 2023. Emergency relief items for 10,000 households are to be prepositioned in the rub halls as part of enhancing ARCS readiness and response capacities. Additionally, IFRC strategic engagement and partnerships team is reaching different donors and partners with funding ask so that appeal is fully funded, and ARCS is empowered to provide humanitarian assistance to the people in need.

e) Protection and prevention

The operation has streamlined PGI as well as CEA in all activities. ARCS has included vulnerability criteria such as seniors with responsibility for children, households headed by widows or single mothers with young children, households with chronically ill members, households with a member with a disability and households with pregnant and lactating women for prioritising assistance in the communities. The operation is reaching different layers of the community such as supporting marastoons³, as well as single-parent households in addressing their livelihood needs. Women play a significant role in ARCS programmes as they are both service receivers and providers. Women service providers are essential, especially for the health clinics, and shelters for vulnerable communities and children.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	People Targeted	13,230
		People Reached	35,141
Objective	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
Key indicators	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of volunteers recruited and trained to support shelter intervention</i>	65	60
	<i># of households receiving household kits</i>	2,598	2,530
	<i># of damaged houses repaired</i>	2,083	2,530
	<i># of provinces targeted with awareness-raising activities</i>	2	2

³ These places offer temporary shelter for vulnerable people

of winterization kits procured for ready distribution

2,530

2,530

Shelter intervention:

Both hardware and software components were included in the shelter intervention. ARCS/IFRC provided financial and technical support to repair 2,083 houses in three districts of Khost and Paktika provinces. Initially, the IFRC had planned to support rebuilding 1,000-1,200 fully destroyed houses. However, after rigorous consultations at national and regional levels along with the consideration of aforementioned factors, such as the approaching winter, ARCS/IFRC decided to focus on repair as it could be completed before December 2022.

ARCS then carried out a survey and proposed the revised list of 2,530 households for repair in three districts (1,000 in Spera, 530 in Barmal and 1,000 in Giyan). However, other organizations also planned to work in Spera and Giyan districts. Then as suggested by the Shelter cluster, ARCS /IFRC supported 2,083 households to repair their houses through financial and technical support.

Table 1: District-wise number of households for house repair support

Province	District	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Khost	Spera	1,000	941	Remaining houses were covered by other agencies
Paktika	Giyan	1,000	612	
Paktika	Barmal	530	530	
Total		2,530	2,083	



Shelter repairing in Tani Khail village of Spera. district (Photo: IFRC)



Tahereen (Pseudo name) expresses his happiness as he has a house to live in with his family during this harsh cold winter. He received financial and technical support to repair his house, three blankets and a winter kit from ARCS/IFRC. Left to him is his son an. (Photo: IFRC)

Conditional cash was provided to the selected 2,083 households in two tranches based on the category of damage as shown in Table 1.

Table 2: Amount (in USD) of shelter cash for different categories of damages

Tranche	Amount in USD		
	Minor damaged houses	Moderate damaged houses	Severe damaged houses
First (60%)	198	330	510
Second (40%)	132	220	340
Total (100%)	330	550	850

Key success factors of the shelter intervention include:

- A. **Cash-based assistance:** This offered flexibility and adaptability in the repair of shelters and produced a strong sense of ownership and autonomy for the target households. It also enabled affected populations to make decisions according to their own priorities, boost local markets, and cost less than other aid options. For the cash disbursement, the financial service provider was deployed in all the districts.
- B. **Supervision and monitoring:** ARCS/IFRC engineers and masons monitored the repairing of houses in the field daily to ensure the quality of the repair was in line with the guidelines and standards of the shelter cluster and meet compliance. In addition, they conducted on-site coaching and mentoring to the local masons and builders on safer shelter construction.
- C. **Promotion of indigenous practice:** Most of the communities affected by the disaster were far away from the city centre with intermittent roads posing challenges for the transportation of building materials. Therefore, the ARCS/IFRC encouraged the households to repair their houses in their own vernacular construction following safer shelter techniques. This allowed them to use local materials and complete the repair work faster as they did not have to waste much time for the transportation of the construction materials from the market.
- D. **Technical support:** ARCS/IFRC engineers and masons were on site providing technical support to the affected population as they engaged in the rebuilding exercise. This allowed the fusion of modern practices with indigenous ones thereby ensuring superior practices are adhered to.
- E. **Capacity building of ARCS staff, volunteers and community:** A total of 11 engineers, six from ARCS and five from IFRC attended technical training organized by Miyamoto International. The training enhanced their technical know-how in assessing damages, implementing building back safer techniques by incorporating six key messages in the repairs and/or rebuilding of vernacular structures. The engineers hold roles as either shelter technical officers or safer shelter awareness officers. Likewise, 25 masons from the affected communities were enrolled in practical trainings conducted by Miyamoto International. Furthermore, 10 social mobilizers and 65 volunteers – including 13 female volunteers – were provided with orientations/trainings related to key messages on safer shelter construction practices. Refer to Table 3 for the training details.
- F. **Community mobilization:** People from targeted households were mobilised within their villages and actively involved in the repair process. They were encouraged to bring along local masons in training on build back better practices who would then engage in house repair works. The social mobilizers and volunteers were actively engaged in conducting community sessions to disseminate the safer shelter messages which they need to adopt while repairing/rebuilding their houses.

Table 3: Details of shelter trainings for staff, volunteers and community members

Name of training	Provinces	Date	Types of participants	Number of participants	Facilitator
Building back safer training	Paktika	16 October 2022	Engineers	5 (2 from APRCS and 3 from IFRC)	Miyamoto International
	Khost	23 October 2022	Engineers	4 (2 from ARCS and 2 from IFRC)	
	Paktika	3 November 2022	Engineers	2 (from ARCS)	

Safe shelter awareness messaging training	Paktika	26 October 2022	Volunteers, social mobilizers, technician/mason and shelter engineers	20	IFRC shelter team
	Khost	3 November 2022		52 (39 male and 13 female)	
	Paktika	14 November 2022		34	
Practical training ToT on building back safer for	Khost	8-9 November 2022	Masons	13	Miyamoto International
	Paktika (Giyani)	13-14 November 2022		2	
	Paktika (Barmal)	28-29 November 2022		10	

The trained shelter team conducted 32 community sessions (14 in Khost and 18 in Paktika) and household visits for raising awareness and sensitization on six key messages of build back safer. At least one participant from 2,083 households participated in the community sessions. Out of which, 66 households were female-headed households. ARCS female volunteers conducted the session for them. Dissemination of the key messages was a pivotal part of the shelter programme. The key messages were delivered to the targeted population in the most effective way, making sure that they could easily understand them, for instance, participants were encouraged to share their experiences; the key messages were delivered using visual means; participants were allowed to discuss lessons through group exercises. Moreover, the sessions were designed in a way that participants could learn through fun and interaction.



Female volunteers' engagement in shelter intervention in Spira district (Photo: ARCS)



Community sessions for dissemination of key messages on safe shelter construction practices (Photo: IFRC)

For all the houses that have received socio-technical and financial support from IFRC/ARCS to repair their homes, the shelter team developed an inspection checklist/technical monitoring checklist. The checklist was guided by the same six key messages and allowed systematic documentation of the monitoring of progress while considering technical compliance.

Challenges:

- Shelter intervention took a little longer to start due to extended consultations among cluster members on a standardised approach to shelter intervention. However, after the interventions started, there was close technical support monitoring by technical teams to make up for the lost time.

- Any type of construction activities taking place in Afghanistan should take into consideration the harsh winter of Afghanistan because construction will be delayed by factors such as setting of the mortar in frigid conditions. Taking this into consideration, ARCS/IFRC prioritized the delivery of shelter repair assistance with rebuilding support to start in spring.
- The initial lack of transportation facilities for ARCS and IFRC field staff delayed the work progress. This challenge was addressed by temporarily leasing additional vehicles locally as a longer-term solution was being worked.
- Because of the cultural contexts and circumstances in affected districts, the dissemination of key messages could not be delivered to female members in all working areas. Nevertheless, 13 female volunteers were mobilised in a few villages of Spira district of Khost province. These volunteers reached female members of the targeted households and disseminated the key messages for safer shelter construction.
- Several families living in one compound were considered as one household and provided only one card. PDM findings revealed that cash provided for such households was not sufficient for repairing their affected homes. Plans are underway to provide such households with additional amounts, where gaps still exist, so that they may complete repair works.
- PDM also indicated that some houses in the targeted villages were left out of the survey. Plans have advanced to include such households in the next round of assessment so that they may receive support.

Household kits and winterization support

During the reporting period, ARCS/IFRC distributed 6,249 blankets to 2,083 households (1,142 households in Paktika and 941 households in Khost) affected by the earthquake. Each household received three blankets. Likewise, 6,250 winterization kits were procured for distribution in earthquake-affected areas and other regions severely affected by winter. Out of which, 2,077 kits were distributed to the same households who had received blankets and support for their house repair.



Households affected by the earthquake received winterization kits from ARCS with the support of IFRC in Barmal district of Paktika province. (Photo: Meer Abdulla Rasikh, IFRC)

Table 4: District-wise number of households receiving winterisation kits

No.	Province	District	No. of households reached
1	Khost	Spera	941
2	Paktika	Barmal	530
3		Giyan	606
Total			2,077

Table 5: List of items and quantity in winterization kit

No.	Items	Unit of measurement	Quantity
1	Children sweater	pcs	5
2	Adult sweater	pcs	2
3	Woman's winter shawl	pcs	1
4	Male winter wrap, Patto	pcs	1
5	Winter shoes for adults	pair	2
6	Boots for children	pair	4
7	Socks (pairs)	Pair	12
8	Children woolen winter gloves	pair	4
9	Warm winter woolen children caps	pcs	4
10	Winter coat	pcs	6
11	Bag	pcs	3

Likewise, IFRC is providing jacket to 200 ARCS volunteers to keep them warm from the cold winter and keep their motivation up for the humanitarian assistance. They have been working tirelessly in the field since the beginning of the operation.

Additionally, ARCS distributed 138 household kits, 1,740 kitchen sets, 1,157 sleeping mats, 600 solar lamps. 540 tarpaulins, 1,488 tents, 616 beds, 400 carpets, 400 mattresses with pillows, 1,722 plastic sheets to the households affected by the earthquake .



Taharin (Pseudoname) and his family members have worn the warm clothes from the winterization kit provided by ARCS with support of IFRC in Giyan district of Paktin province. (Photo: Meer Abdulla Rasikh)



Livelihoods

People Targeted 14,000

People Reached 18,196

Objective: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of earthquake-affected households assisted through emergency food security and livelihood restoration activities	2,598	2,500
	# of earthquake-affected households who receive adequate food in a timely manner	2,598	2,500

# of provinces engaged with community engagement and sensitization activities	2	2
# of market assessments conducted	1	1
# of post-distribution monitoring activities conducted	0 ⁴	2

Food assistance: During the reporting period, ARCS provided 2,598 food parcels, 2,128 bottle of oil, 1,150 dates, and 783 cartoon of biscuits among other food items to affected households based on gaps identified in coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). The food was supported by the Chinese Government, Human Aid, German Peace Society, Iranian Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent.

 Multi-purpose Cash	People Targeted	70,000
	People Reached	56,444

Objective:	Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of households who received cash to support their livelihoods	5,291	5,000
	# of post-distribution monitoring activities conducted	3	5

Cash-based assistance

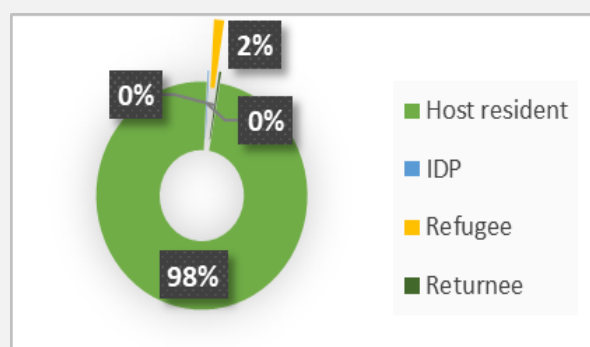
Each of the 5,291 households received AFN 13,000 (CHF 140) in June and July 2022 in Barmal, Giyan and Spera which helped them to meet their emergency needs. The amount provided per household was considered the minimum cash-based food basket recommended by the FSAC.

PDM

Following the distribution of cash, three PDM surveys were conducted for cash intervention in Khost and Paktika. A total of 643 people (640 males; 3 females) were interviewed during the survey. Regarding the age of the respondents, 73 per cent were 18 -50 years old, 23 per cent were more than 50 years, and 5 per cent were under 18 years old. Many of the respondents were host residents, and only 2 per cent has refugee status during the cash distribution.

Age	Female	Male	Grand Total
18 to 50 years	2	467	469
More than 50 years	1	144	145
Under 18 years	0	29	29
Grand Total	3	640	643

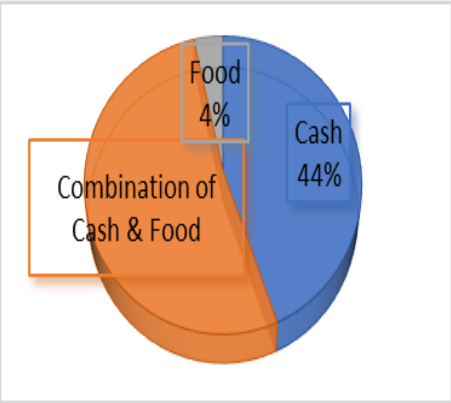
The average monthly income of the households who received cash assistance was 3,700 AFN. About 89 per cent of respondents said that ARCS staff conducted a sensitization session before cash distribution, 4 per cent said 'No', and 7 per cent said that they did not have information about the sensitization meeting.



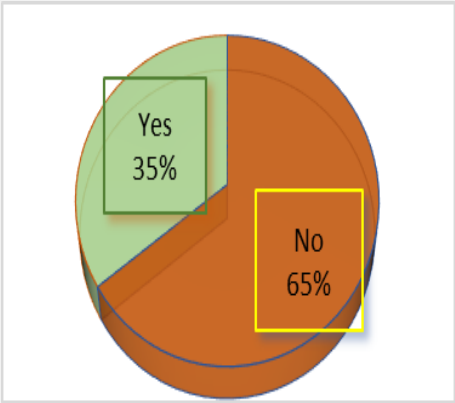
⁴ During the reporting period, no PDM was conducted for the livelihood activities. There was typing mistake in the Operation Update No.1

Furthermore, 52 per cent of respondents preferred a combination of cash and food, 44 per cent cash, and 4 per cent mentioned food assistance would be better to receive.

Almost 99 per cent of the respondents felt safe on the day of cash distribution, keeping cash at home, and travelling with cash to the market. Moreover, 93 per cent of the respondents indicated that cash assistance received was very useful in covering their household's immediate needs, 6 per cent mentioned amount of cash received was very less, it should be continued to the affected communities, and 1 per cent did not have information.

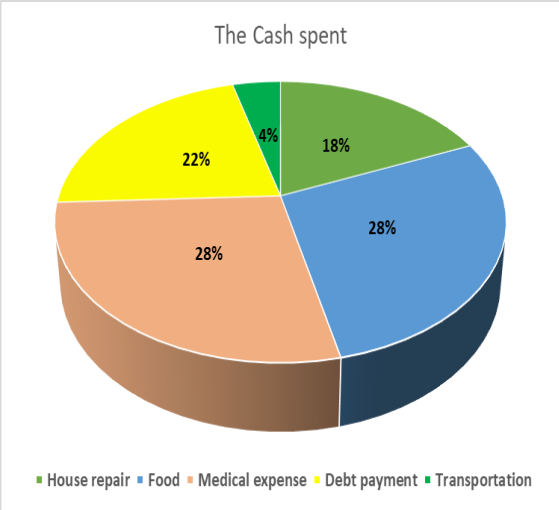


Preference of assistance



Understanding of feedback mechanism

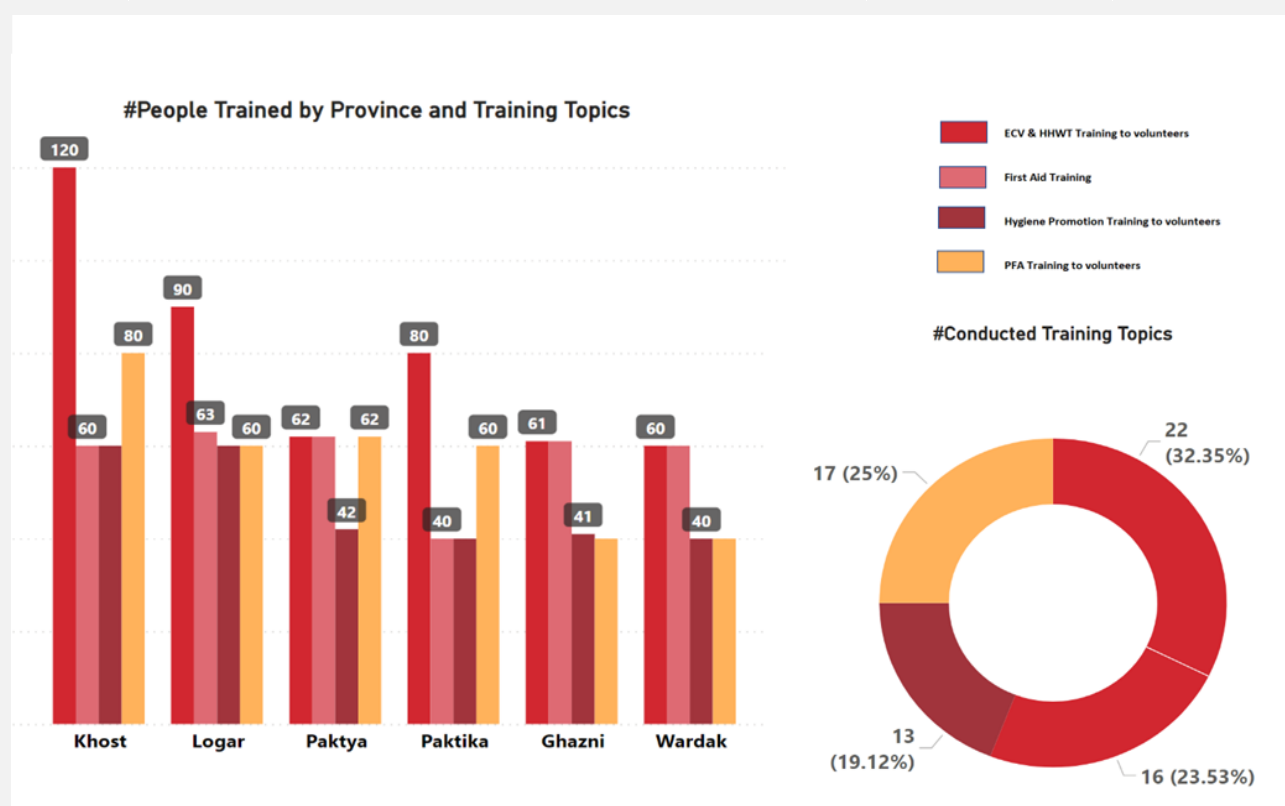
Regarding the feedback mechanism, 35 per cent understood how to reach ARCS for feedback and complaint, while 65 per cent did not understand. All the respondents were satisfied with the ARCS selection process, and the information provided about the place, times, and cash distribution. As per the below chart, the three top priority areas where the cash was spent are food, medical expenses and Debt payment respectively.



ARCS PMER staff is interviewing the cash recipient in Spera district of Khost province. (Photo: ARCS)

 Health & Care (Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)	People Targeted	316,000
	People Reached	93,725
Objective: Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening		

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of volunteers trained in PFA in the targeted areas	140	60
	Communities are supported by NS to effectively respond to health and psychosocial needs during an emergency.	Yes	Yes
	# of MHTs deployed	44 ⁵	6
	# of targeted people reached with MHTs	19,984	15,000
	# of volunteers trained and mobilized to conduct awareness-raising campaigns	478	60
	# of households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	4,058	2,030



Community health

The ARCS rolled out risk communication and community engagement intervention in the affected areas. This involved recruitment of six district health supervisors, seven community health mobilizers including two females, one CBHFA officer and two CBHFA female trainers. The staff along with volunteers carried out house-to-house sensitization visits and conducted integrated awareness rising sessions on hygiene promotion, prevention of waterborne diseases, and COVID-19 risk communication. Apart from that, the trained volunteers conducted education sessions on the preparation and use of oral rehydration salt with mothers and grandmothers.

Unlike other sectors, community health/RCCE activities were implemented not only in Khost and Paktika but also in neighbouring provinces such as Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak in the central south region of Afghanistan.

⁵ There were six MHTs supported by IFRC in Khost and Paktika provinces for routine health service, and four MHTs from different provinces were mobilized for serving people affected by the earthquake.

A total of 822 ARCS volunteers (512 males; 310 females) were trained in first aid, psychosocial first aid, ECV, HHWT and hygiene promotion in six provinces of the central south region (Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak). Out of which, 378 volunteers (294 males; 84 females) were from Khost and Paktika. The given chart provides the number of volunteers trained in Khost and Paktika provinces and neighbouring provinces separately.

The trained volunteers reached 166,043 people (106,963 male, 59,080 female) through hygiene promotion sessions, prevention of waterborne diseases, COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention, rumour prevention, education sessions with mothers and grandmothers on preparing and use of oral rehydration salt and house visits in the central south region (Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak). Out of them, 67,985 people (57,217 males; 10,768 females) were reached through 2,031 integrated awareness-raising sessions and 98,058 people (49,746 males; 48,312 females) through household visits. The household visit was targeted at host communities (161,730 people), internally displaced people (3,690 people), and PWD (2,416). In addition, five community health committees and three grandmother committees were established with 118 members (74 male; 44 female) in Khost and Paktika provinces.

Community health committees work with relevant health stakeholders to improve the health situation and strengthen the capacity of the community to identify and respond to health issues in their area. Grandmother committees have similar responsibilities, but their focus is more on females. During the reporting period, ARCS reached out to female members in the community affected by the disaster, with health and hygiene promotion and other awareness-raising activities through the grandmother committees. These committees mobilize female volunteers to transfer health messages on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health.

Out of 166,043 people reached in the central south region, **93,725 people** (70,397 males; 23,328 females) were reached in **Khost and Paktika** earthquake-affected provinces.

Mobile health teams

Altogether 19,984 people reached through MHTs with primary healthcare services such as outpatient care, routine immunization services, reproductive health services including family planning, dressing, health education, quality essential medicine distribution, and referral services since the beginning of the operation in Khost and Paktika provinces. Out of them, 10,225 people were reached during the relief phase and 9,759 people (4,121 males and 5,638 females) during the recovery phase. During the reporting period, the MHTs were active in the earthquake-affected areas with the support of the IFRC.

IFRC has procured ten MHT vehicles and four ambulances to enhance ARCS health coverage capacities. These have since arrived in Kabul, are being registered, and then will be dispatched to affected areas.

Medical kits distribution

ACRS distributed 596 units of medical kits in earthquake-affected areas. Out of these, 500 medical kits were donated by the Chinese Government and 96 medical kits were distributed with the financial support of IFRC.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

People Targeted	70,000
People Reached	93,725

Objective:

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	% of targeted population have access to clean water, sanitation and with increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to	59	50
	# of provinces with assessments conducted	2	2
	# of households provided with safe water	1,283	1,283
	# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	93,725	70,000
	# of households provided with hygiene kits	500	200

Provision of safe water and distribution of WASH Items

During the reporting period, six water trucks were mobilized which distributed 40,000 litres of safe water per day to affected households in ten villages. Additionally, 20 water tanks of 5,000-litre capacity each were installed in strategic locations of the ten villages to ensure that community members could collect water when they needed it. The IFRC Secretariat channelled funds to the Turkish Red Crescent for the latter to provide technical support for the water supply, while Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) supported testing the water quality at source. ARCS distributed 1,280 jerry cans for safe water storage and 500 hygiene kits to affected households.

There is a plan for the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools and health centres in areas affected by the earthquake, which will start in March 2023 after being pushed back due to the harsh winter season.

Risk communication and community engagement/ hygiene promotion

During the reporting period, 100 volunteers (80 males; 20 females) were trained in hygiene promotion through five training sessions and 200 volunteers (160 males; 40 females) were trained in ECV and HHWT through ten training sessions in Khost and Paktika provinces.

The trained volunteers reached 93,725 people (70,397 male; 23,328 female) through RCCE activities including household visits with health and hygiene messages and 1,973 integrated awareness-raising sessions on common infectious diseases, hygiene promotion, prevention of waterborne diseases; conducting COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention, and preparing and use of ORS. Out of the total, 88,507 people were from host communities, 3,309 internally displaced persons and 1,909 PWD.



ARCS, supported by IFRC, is working to bring safe drinking water, boys and girls toilets, and handwashing stations to schools across Afghanistan. (Photo: Abdul Tawab Razavy)



Community Engagement and Accountability

People Targeted 70,000

People Reached ongoing

Objective:

Target people and communities with timely, accurate, trusted, and accessible information regarding Red Cross Red Crescent services while engaging with the National Society to share feedback that is used to adapt and guide programmes and operations.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of staff and volunteers trained on community engagement and accountability.	50	50
	# of CEA integration assessment carried out at regional level.	2	2
	# of community consultation meetings.	8	8
	% of community members and recipients of assistance are aware of existing feedback mechanisms	50	50
	# of Quality Assurance survey completed.	2	2
	# of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey completed.	3	8

During the reporting period, the quality and accountability team conducted quality assurance surveys with the people who received support from ARCS/IFRC and community meetings with ones who were left out of the registration survey and those who were affected by the disaster but not included in the list for receiving the service.



Glimpse of community meeting in Barmal district of Paktika province (Photos: IFRC)

Quality assurance survey:

The ARCS/IFRC quality and accountability team interviewed 100 people in the field (50 in Paktika and 50 in Khost) randomly during cash distribution. The main objective of the survey was to check whether the cash distribution was according to the vulnerability criteria. The team also observed the distribution process and checked whether the programme activities were progressing as planned.

The key findings of the survey are:

- 100 per cent of the respondents said that they did not pay money for being included in the list of assistance.
- 99 per cent of respondents said that they were satisfied with the beneficiary selection criteria in both provinces; while 1 per cent said they were not.
- 90 per cent of the respondents said that they were satisfied with the distribution location while 10 per cent were not in Khost province because of the long distance from their home to the distribution area. Spera district office was selected as the distribution area in the province because of safety and security measures.

Community meetings:

The quality and accountability team conducted eight community meetings in Khost and Paktika provinces. Four meetings were with people left out of the registration survey and another four were with the ones affected by the disaster but not included in the list for receiving the services. In consultation with the affected community groups, the constraints or barriers faced by persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities, and backgrounds in accessing cash and household items were identified, and actions taken to respond to them.

Limitation of the study:

- No cross-verification was done for validating the findings of the community meetings.

	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	People Targeted	5,000
		People Reached	ongoing
Objective:	<i>Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of staff and volunteers trained on Protection, Gender & Inclusion.</i>	50	50
	<i># of PGI integration assessment carried out at regional level.</i>	2	2
	<i># of community consultation meetings.</i>	8	8
	<i># of Quality assurance survey completed.</i>	2	2

CEA and PGI training/orientation to volunteers:

An orientation session was conducted with 50 volunteers (35 males and 15 females) in Khost ARCS brunch office on CEA, PGI and FRM on 3 November 2022. Objectives of the training were to enable the participants to support mainstreaming of CEA and PGI into their operations in Khost and Paktika provinces and expand their existing CEA and PGI activities into a more structural and systematic approach so that communities are at the centre of all programmes and operations. In addition, the participants are oriented on draft FRM toolkits as pilot in the respective communities.

PGI minimum standards in interventions

IFRC quality and accountability team conducted an assessment to assess if the cash and goods (for example winterization kit) distribution in Khost and Paktika provinces met the minimum standards. The assessment revealed that most of the PGI minimum standards were met during the distribution while some of the standards were missing which need to be considered in future distributions.

The key findings of the assessment are:

- SOP was followed at the distribution points. There was a provision for people to queue, wait, receive, and carry cash household items away from the distribution points in a dignified manner.
- Information about distribution was disseminated widely using diverse tools and channels including visual formats (such as pictures or posters, use of larger fonts), relevant languages and easy-to-read formats at

distribution points, around displacement camps/shelter sites and in all locations where persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities, and backgrounds gathered.

- A separate banner was installed with names and the number of items in each package.
- Persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities, and backgrounds received an equal amount of assistance at the distribution points.
- The following measures were considered to ensure the safety of persons of all gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds at distribution points:
 - Distributions during daylight
 - Crowd control
 - Prior communication about the date and location of distribution to the district head in each province.
- A complaint registration desk was established at all distribution locations.
- ARCS staff and volunteers together with IFRC staff supported women, children, and PWD to avoid queues and helped them to carry their winterization kits to their homes. Prior to distribution, ARCS staff and volunteers were sensitized on needs associated with gender, age and disability. They were provided with skills on how to communicate respectfully with people with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities, persons with mental health disabilities and senior citizens.

Things to be considered in future distribution:

- Some people said that they travelled eight hours of driving distance to reach the distribution location in Khost province. Therefore, ARCS/IFRC should find a way where all targeted households have the minimum travelling distance for receiving the assistance.
- There was no designated waiting area where people could wait to receive assistance. This should be improved in future distribution.



Glimpse of people climbing up the hill to go to their homes after receiving their assistance in Barmal district of Paktika province. (Photo IFRC)



IFRC staff supporting people with disabilities and child to carry their winterization kits to their homes. (Photos: IFRC)



ARCS/IFRC conducted CEA and PGI training to volunteers in Khost province. (Photo: IFRC)



Target community members reading banner in which winterization kit items have clearly been written. (Photo: IFRC)

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	National Society capacity building and organisational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform		
Key indicators	Indicator	Actual	Target
	National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	Yes	Yes

# of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS	6	10
Rapid Response surge members deployed to support the operations	7	7
ARCS compliance with principles and rules for humanitarian assistance is improved	Ongoing	Yes
Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress	Ongoing	Yes
Exit Strategy is developed in consultation with the communities	Ongoing	Yes
ARCS engages with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention	Ongoing	Yes
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues	Ongoing	Yes

Human resource capacity development

ARCS/IFRC trained 65 volunteers (including 13 females), 10 social mobilizers, 6 shelter engineers and 25 masons on safer shelter construction practices and 6 key messages in Spera, Barmal, Giyan districts of Khost and Paktika provinces. The sessions were specially designed for ARCS shelter staff to orient them on the shelter programme and their responsibilities, and to disseminate the shelter cluster's safer key messages to the community.

In addition, ARCS/IFRC conducted 27 trainings on first aid, psychosocial first aid, ECV, HHWT and hygiene promotion for 378 volunteers (294 males; 84 females) in Khost and Paktika provinces.

Surge Capacity

During the reporting period, the IFRC Secretariat mobilized seven technical experts to support the ARCS as well as IFRC in procurement, human resource, shelter programme and field coordination in the operation. Along with providing technical support in the shelter programme, shelter delegates also provided their technical support in Marastoon Guest House, sub-health clinics related to the health project, office renovation works, and construction works of field offices.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

Technical and operational complementarity through the cooperation of Movement partners while engaging effectively with outside actors to influence actions at the local, regional, and global levels. There is a need to invest more to better articulate the auxiliary role of the National Society with all stakeholders, and accordingly, strengthen the IFRC's network footprint in the response

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Movement-wide coordination mechanism</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i>Coordination with external stakeholders</i>	Yes	Yes

Coordination with the authorities

As auxiliary to the public authorities, ARCS maintains close coordination with various public entities at national and subnational levels including Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority and Provincial Disaster Management Committees. The authorities have established an inter-ministerial committee for the earthquake response, and ARCS – as well as other humanitarian organizations – is being invited to attend the meetings to share its plans for support. The IFRC Secretariat is complementing by engaging with the relevant ministries.

Movement cooperation and coordination

International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in-country continue to coordinate closely in line with existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms anchored under a Movement Cooperation Agreement (MCA). An Emergency Response Taskforce (ERT) has been agreed to be responsible for developing and monitoring the ARCS operational strategy, with ARCS at the centre and the IFRC Secretariat providing strategic coordination for the benefit of the IFRC membership.

Membership coordination

A meeting of all in-country partners was held in July 2022 within the framework of IFRC's Agenda for Renewal's New Way of Working (New WoW). During the meeting, among others, some Participating National Societies (PNS) agreed to pursue Shared Leadership in the implementation of the IFRC Emergency Appeal operation, leveraging their expertise, knowledge, and technical capacities. In this regard, plans have advanced for the Turkish Red Crescent to take the lead in the implementation of shelter and WASH with ARCS using funds mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Furthermore, in July 2022, the German Red Cross undertook a scoping mission during which its representative held individual meetings with ARCS, IFRC Country Delegation, and PNS in-country to identify gaps and possible modalities for cooperation. The IFRC Country Delegation provided support and facilitation for the visit.

External coordination

IFRC and ARCS continue to engage in advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and coordination with other humanitarian actors, including agencies in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The IFRC is an observer to the HCT and an active participant in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and relevant Cluster or Inter-Agency Working Group meetings/forums. These platforms are useful for information sharing, planning, analysis, and strategic coordination. Representation of the IFRC network in these forums is using the best-place approach. For instance, the Danish Red Cross is representing the IFRC network in Child Protection and MHPSS Working Groups.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

Objective:	<i>The humanitarian shelter and settlements sector are well coordinated, supporting a comprehensive, quality, coherent, and consistent shelter and settlements response</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Participation in Shelter Coordination platform</i>	Yes	Yes

ARCS and its partners are currently engaging with the emergency shelter and non-food item cluster and the authorities in planning support for shelter repairs and rebuilding. The Shelter intervention followed the agreed model and the common minimum standards by the Shelter Cluster. The process also adopted indigenous practices of the community, maintaining social cohesion, cultural norms, and traditions of the people throughout the shelter interventions.

IFRC is continuing its coordination and taking part in different meetings with the Shelter cluster and other UN agencies, like UNHCR and IOM, who are the key player in shelter interventions. The Shelter cluster holds meeting on monthly basis to avoid duplication and have a consistent approach of all partners in their support for shelter activities. During the reporting period, five meetings were held and IFRC participated in each of them. The meetings provided a platform for Shelter cluster members to share progress, discuss challenges and new guidelines and share information on what the partners were doing in terms of shelter intervention.

Likewise, IFRC has maintained strong coordination with the Shelter cluster for fulfilling the gaps for shelter support and is providing updates to the cluster on regular basis. Additionally, IFRC coordinated with Miyamoto International for providing trainings to engineers and masons. As a result, all ARCS/IFRC shelter staff are fully trained and have a pool of trained human resources ready to carry out the shelter Intervention.

Further, the IFRC shelter team provided their inputs and suggestions in the development of key messages and provided their support to Miyamoto International for the translation of key messages from English to Pashto. The key messages are being disseminated in the community.

The six key messages were developed by the Shelter Cluster partners including IFRC and basically focus on regional traditional vernacular construction practices of Afghanistan. Some of the buildings stood robust against the earthquake because they were developed following good construction practices. However, some of the poor construction practices led to life-critical failures. Thus, to mitigate these failures, six key technical messages were developed based on local know-how, materials, and existing culture.



Secretariat Services

Objective:		<i>The IFRC Secretariat ensures high quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies.</i>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>% of IFRC staff in-country who completed minimum security training requirements</i>	100%	100%
	<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i># of evaluations conducted for emergency response</i>	1	2

During the reporting period, IFRC carried out the following secretariat services:

- Maintained security assessments and plans in the two operational areas including enhancement of security protocols in-country in coordination with all in-country partners.

- Adequate measures were taken to ensure the safety and security of all RCRC personnel involved in this operation. The IFRC Country Delegation security team is maintaining close coordination with external humanitarian actors in-country on the situation, particularly in the earthquake-affected areas. The security team is maintaining close coordination with the ARCS units and local administrations in the operational areas. The National Society's security framework is applicable throughout the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under the IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management are applicable. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel follow the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.
- The security department maintained and followed an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process, risk register, contingency planning, and business continuity plan for Afghanistan.
- All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.
- During the reporting period, 72 national staff and delegates participated in the security rules and regulations refreshment course. The course consists of drills on how to react in case of direct attack, indirect attack, shelling, fire, earthquake and safe room rules and regulations.
- Facilitated global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities).
- Facilitated joint monitoring visits IFRC and ARCA in the affected area. The visit was crucial to observe work progress in the field and understand whether the assistance had met the immediate needs of the people in the community.
- IFRC has been providing services to integrated National Societies, including but not exclusively on procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management.



ARCS/IFRC carried out joint monitoring visits to households who repaired their houses damaged the by the earthquake. (Photo: IFRC)

Note: The education sector will be reported in the next operation update.

D. FUNDING

In addition to the support provided by Movement partners in-country, the ARCS response is mainly resourced via the IFRC Emergency Appeal with a funding requirement - specifically for the Earthquake Operational Strategy- of CHF 10 million. To date, CHF 7.2 million has been obtained towards the Earthquake Operational Strategy, translating to 72 per cent coverage.

Contributions have been received from the Austrian Red Cross (source of funding: Austrian Government), British Red Cross (source of funding: British Government), Finnish Red Cross (source of funding: Finnish Government), Japanese Government, Japanese Red Cross Society, Korean National Red Cross, The Netherlands Red Cross (source of funding: The Netherlands Government), Norwegian Red Cross (source of funding: Norwegian Government), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Supreme Master Ching Hai, Swiss Red Cross (source of funding: Swiss Government), and Zurich Foundation.

The recent decisions by the governing authorities of Afghanistan have raised concerns from partners to the Emergency appeal, especially with regard to the two recent bans on women. IFRC has maintained close communications with its partners updating them on any potential impacts of these directives and measures taken by IFRC. At current, the IFRC activities funded under the Emergency Appeal supporting ARCS auxiliary mandate remain unimpacted and continue without any interruption. IFRC has also maintained close coordination with other Aid agencies in Afghanistan, the IFRC SG participated in the Inter Agency Coordination Committee and has presented the IFRC's position towards continue supporting the people of Afghanistan through humanitarian interventions.

For details on the expenditure as of 31 January 2023, please refer to the financial report appended.

Contact information

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

In the Afghan Red Crescent Society

- Dr. Mohammad Nabi Burhan, Secretary General; email: mohadnabi@gmail.com
- Ghulam Habib Hasam, Director International Department, email: habibhasam@arcs.af

In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: alexander.matheou@ifrc.org
- Juja Kim, Deputy Regional Director; email: juja.kim@ifrc.org
- Joy Singhal, Head of Health, Disasters, Climate and Crises; email: joy.singhal@ifrc.org
- Felipe Delcid, Emergency Operations Manager; email: felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
- Mahfuja Sultana, Operations Coordinator; email: opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org
- Olle Kaidro, Logistic Coordinator; email: olle.kaidro@ifrc.org
- Afrhill Rances, Communications Manager; email: afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Christina Duschl, Senior Officer Operations Coordination; email: christina.duschl@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- Homa Nader, Strategic Engagement and Partnership Manager; email: homa.nader@ifrc.org

For planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) enquiries

- Mursidi Unir, PMER in Emergencies Coordinator; email: mursidi.unir@ifrc.org

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [IFRC Emergencies Landing Page](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate, and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Afghanistan: Khost and Paktika Earthquake

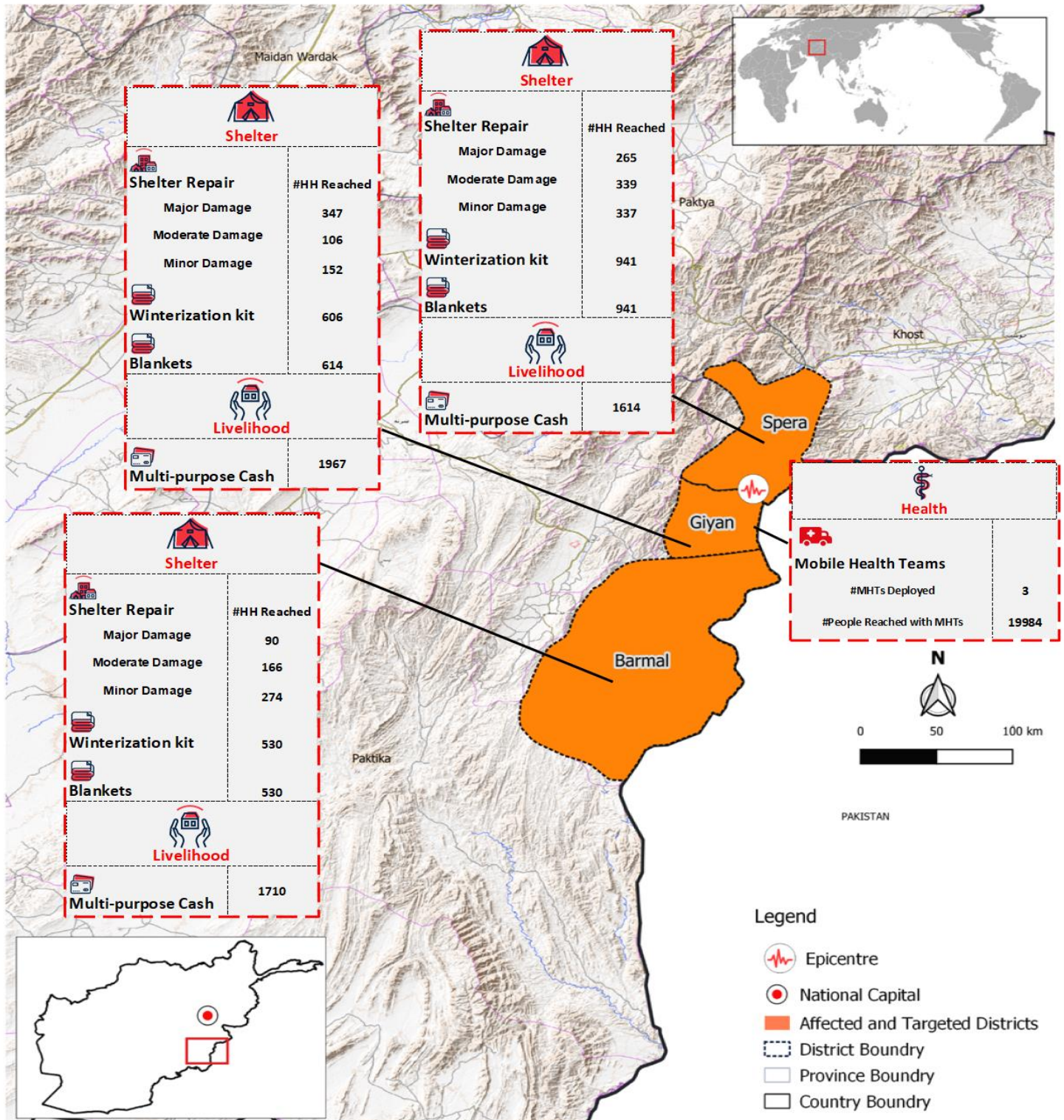
Operation Update #2

IFRC Contributions

As of January 31, 2023



IFRC



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, Earthquake USGS.

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2022/12	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30 Jan 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	3,983,000
AOF2 - Shelter	9,490,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	29,228,000
AOF4 - Health	12,288,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,827,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,196,000
AOF7 - Migration	8,808,000
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	10,875,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,592,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,102,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	3,611,000
Total Funding Requirements	90,000,000
Donor Response* as per 30 Jan 2023	36,307,814
Appeal Coverage	40.34%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	1,080,841	908,010	172,830
AOF2 - Shelter	2,839,446	3,086,004	-246,558
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	14,681,470	10,232,742	4,448,728
AOF4 - Health	2,109,419	2,035,834	73,586
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,042,807	249,291	1,793,515
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	115,945	45,462	70,483
AOF7 - Migration	0	386	-386
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	2,045,679	889,649	1,156,030
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,032,757	994,844	1,037,913
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	854,482	194,638	659,844
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	2,709,845	1,146,718	1,563,126
Grand Total	30,512,690	19,783,579	10,729,112

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2022/12

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	36,311,224
Expenditure	-19,783,579
Closing Balance	16,527,645
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	16,527,645

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1,750,000	Reimbursed :	1,750,000	Outstanding :	0
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Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
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Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30 Jan 2023

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MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance						0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
Albanian Red Cross	10,000				10,000	
Austrian Red Cross	458,817				458,817	
Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)	1,065,959				1,065,959	
Bahrain Red Crescent Society	48,175				48,175	
Bloomberg	1,142				1,142	
British Red Cross	2,806,841	11,977			2,818,817	
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	12,840,762				12,840,762	
Danish Red Cross	1,376,354				1,376,354	
Electrolux Food Foundation	6,348				6,348	
European Commission - DG ECHO	221,194				221,194	
Finnish Red Cross	577,135				577,135	
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)	789,469				789,469	
France - Private Donors	403				403	
French Government	1,053,056				1,053,056	
German Red Cross		106,671			106,671	
German Red Cross (from German Government*)	6,872				6,872	
Government of Malta	28,830				28,830	
Great Britain - Private Donors	87				87	
Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Socie	23,695				23,695	
Irish Red Cross Society	48,142				48,142	
Islamic Development Bank IsDB	515,870				515,870	
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund	1,627,543				1,627,543	
Italian Red Cross	187,373				187,373	
Japanese Government	4,912,616	49,987			4,962,603	
Japanese Red Cross Society	353,079				353,079	
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	123,550				123,550	
Kuwait Society for Relief	1,070,079				1,070,079	
Luxembourg Government	524,175				524,175	
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	481,348				481,348	
On Line donations	15,620				15,620	
Other			97,076		97,076	
Red Cross of Monaco	46,703				46,703	
Red Cross Society of China	323,225				323,225	
ShelterBox	50,000	100,187			150,187	
Singapore Red Cross Society	66,664				66,664	
Slovenian Red Cross	5,184				5,184	
Spanish Government	510,964				510,964	
Supreme Master Ching Hai	29,100				29,100	
Swedish Red Cross	1,393,916				1,393,916	
Swiss Government	800,000				800,000	
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	71,713				71,713	
The Netherlands Red Cross	268,361				268,361	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	1,081,402				1,081,402	
The Philippine National Red Cross	9,044				9,044	
The Republic of Korea National Red Cross	37,695				37,695	
Twitter	46,273				46,273	
United States - Private Donors	552				552	
Z Zurich Foundation	30,000				30,000	
Total Contributions and Other Income	35,945,326	268,821	97,076	0	36,311,224	0

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

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Prepared on 30 Jan 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

Total Income and Deferred Income	36,311,224	0
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