

Emergency appeal №: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/04/2021 Revised appeal published: 24/06/2022 (Revision No.4) ¹ Revised Operational Strategy published: 01/07/2022	Glide№: DR-2021-000022-AFG
Operation update #8 Date of issue: 15/05/2025	Timeframe covered by this update: From 10/04/2021 to 31/03/2023
Operation timeframe: 32 months (10/04/2021 - 31/12/2023)	Number of people being assisted: 1,008,000 individuals (144,000 households)
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 80 million out of CHF 90 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal ² CHF 200 million out of CHF 210 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 1,000,000



Farming households received urea fertilizer during a distribution in shirzad village, district of Nangahar province. A total of 3,125 households received urea fertilizer from ARCS with support of IFRC in five provinces (Ghor, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Sar-e-Pul). (Photo: ARCS)

¹ Emergency Appeal Revision No.4 was done shortly after revision No.3 to include the response to the Earthquake in Khost and Paktika. Refer to [Emergency Appeal Revision No.3](#) for the specific updates addressing the changing needs relating to the Wider Humanitarian Crises response for this operation update.

² CHF 80 million reflects the funding required for the Wider Humanitarian Crises response which began in April 2021 when the Emergency Appeal was launched. The additional CHF 10 million is the funding ask for the Earthquake in Khost and Paktika response that began in June 2022.

*This Wider Humanitarian Crises response, which seeks CHF 80 million, is currently 48 per cent funded. This funding has been crucial in enabling the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to all groups of people in need affected by this crisis. Further funding contributions are needed to enable ARCS, with the continued support of IFRC, to continue to help meet the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan. The country has seen an overall increase of people in need, now at 28.3 million people, many of them women and children. Continuing droughts have caused a dramatic increase in humanitarian needs in various sectors particularly water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health. By the end of March 2023, IFRC and its Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partner network helped **3.5 million**³ people in Afghanistan with some form of assistance, and they are reaching communities in all the country's 34 provinces.*

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Key drivers of humanitarian need in 2023 are multidimensional: a protracted drought, climate-induced disasters, other hazards, protection concerns particularly for women and girls, economic hardship, and constrained access to essential services. Furthermore, while there is no more widespread conflict, the effects of a 40-year conflict and situations of violence continue to slow the move towards recovery and building resilience.

There are needs in every province of the country, with extreme need in 33 out of 34 provinces and 27 out of 34 major cities/provincial capitals with the rest in severe need, indicating how widespread the crisis is across the country. Even with two-thirds of the country already having humanitarian needs in 2023, further deterioration is highly possible unless the root causes and drivers of need are addressed. Substantial investments in water infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, alternative livelihoods, gender policy reform and macroeconomic stabilization are urgently needed, along with the stabilization of services supporting basic human needs – especially health care and social services – to reduce dependence on humanitarian actors to provide emergency care and transition to longer-term support.

Key drivers of humanitarian needs in Afghanistan



The deteriorating economy has led to sharp declines in income and rising debt. The average household debt in Afghanistan has increased six-fold in recent years from AFN 9,770 (equivalent to CHF 99) in 2019 to AFN 59,492 (equivalent to CHF 602) in 2022⁴. Most of the needs are in urban areas; with 27 out of 34 provincial capitals being in extreme severity of need, including Kabul. Women and girls are usually more impacted by humanitarian crises, also in this case, where particularly, changes in the labour market affect women. According to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), two-thirds of Afghanistan's population will need humanitarian assistance in 2023 as the country enters its third consecutive year of drought-like conditions and the second year of crippling economic decline. The number of people in need of assistance is estimated at a record 28.3 million in 2023, up from 24.4 million in 2022 and 18.4 million in 2021⁵.

³ People reached may include double counting as this figure is the summation of the people reached in different sectors such as shelter, multipurpose cash, livelihood, health and WASH.

⁴ Regional Population Movement - Afghanistan: Preparedness and Response - Operation Update #4, Emergency appeal no. MDRAFRPM21

⁵ <https://www.acaps.org/country/afghanistan/crisis/complex-crisis#>

Access to food and livelihood remain among the top priorities. Continuous drought caused a reduction in wheat cultivation in 2022 that further increased food insecurity and adversely impacted livestock health as well as the coping capacities of farmers. According to World Food Programme (WFP) report⁶, all 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity. Nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food insecure (IPC+3), with 6 million more on the brink of famine-like conditions (IPC 4) and 4 million acutely malnourished of which 3.2 million are under the age of five⁷.

Prolonged drought and other disasters added another layer to an already dire humanitarian situation. The general humanitarian situation between February and July 2022 in Afghanistan deteriorated due to low snowfall during winter (which ended in March 2022) along with prolonged drought conditions which led to severe water shortages and farming was heavily impacted and derived snow melt water resources that are used for irrigation and crops in the spring/summer.

More than 228,000 people were affected by the sudden onset of hazards in 2022⁸. Three major earthquake incidents in 2022 caused loss of life and damage to houses and property: in Badghis Province in January, Southeastern Region in June and Kunar Province in September. In addition, unseasonal flooding occurred between July and September, affecting 21 provinces. And while the spring season saw the lowest levels of flooding in 2022 compared with the previous five years, a surge in atypical floods during the summer season (June to September) caused substantial disruption to agricultural livelihoods, affecting crops before harvest and otherwise disrupting regular cycles. Likewise, an earthquake that struck Northeast Afghanistan on 21 March 2023 worsened lives in this area.

Increasing restrictions on women's participation in various facets of life and society limit the ability of the wider humanitarian community to reach a group that comprises half of the country's population (Approximately 20 million). Engagement with the authorities at all levels, and other stakeholders, is crucial given the extreme importance of female workers to deliver principled and effective interventions, particularly in targeting women and which – as per Afghanistan cultural practices – must be delivered by women for women.

As an auxiliary to public authority, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across the country facilitating disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS has access all over the country with its 24,600 volunteer network, including 6,700 female volunteers and 2,500 staff of which 645 are female. The IFRC has continued to support ARCS to fulfil its mandate of delivering humanitarian assistance to affected populations independently in a principled manner.

The Federation-wide approach focuses on utilizing existing in-country Participating National Societies (PNS) technical resources to roll out various activities such as providing cash and livelihood assistance, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection gender and inclusion (PGI) services, as well as relief assistance through mobilization of community-based volunteers, national and international resources, and close coordination with authorities and other partners to cover the wider humanitarian needs of all the affected people in Afghanistan.

A funding project agreement was signed with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) in line with the Agenda of Renewal⁹. The application of the Agenda for Renewal and a New Way of Working in Afghanistan is geared towards achieving effective membership coordination, leadership, and transformation. It aims to position the IFRC Secretariat as an organization that is cost-effective, innovative, transparent, and accountable. The Secretariat taps into the sectoral specialty/technical expertise the PNS have, by channeling funds through them so that they may assist the operating National Society in implementing the [Operations Strategy](#).

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/wfp-afghanistan-situation-report-13-october-2022>

⁷ WFP Afghanistan: Situation Report, 18 January 2023

⁸ Source: OCHA DTS, as of 11 December 2022

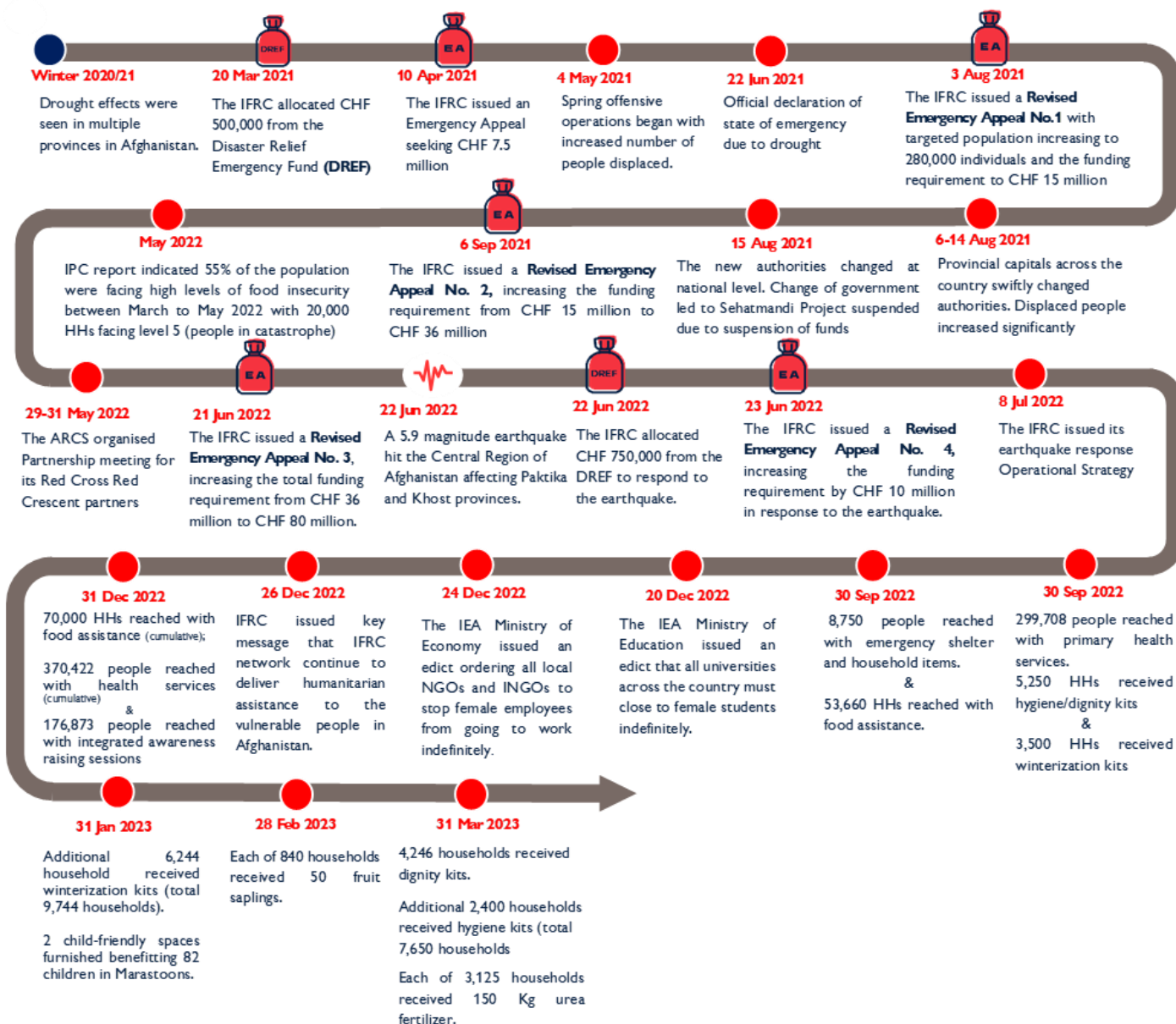
⁹ A The Agenda for Renewal aims to position the IFRC Secretariat as an organization that is cost effective, innovative, transparent and accountable-serving its membership to respond to global challenges and supporting community-based action.

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation has continued to strengthen its systems of financial compliance and accountability to support ARCS manage resources and deliver humanitarian assistance. This has included strengthening financial safeguarding and control to ensure that no one that appears on the financial sanctions manages or has control over funds transferred to ARCS from IFRC. This entails regular screening of all individuals or vendors forwarded to IFRC for payments and screening of all individuals or vendors paid by ARCS using IFRC funds. In addition, the IFRC supports ARCS on procurements procedures following the same standards for items purchased using funds from IFRC.

As of 31 March 2023, IFRC and its Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partner network helped 3.5 million people in Afghanistan with some form of assistance, and they are reaching communities in all the country's 34 provinces.

Summary of response

Highlights of IFRC network response towards evolving crises and disasters in Afghanistan

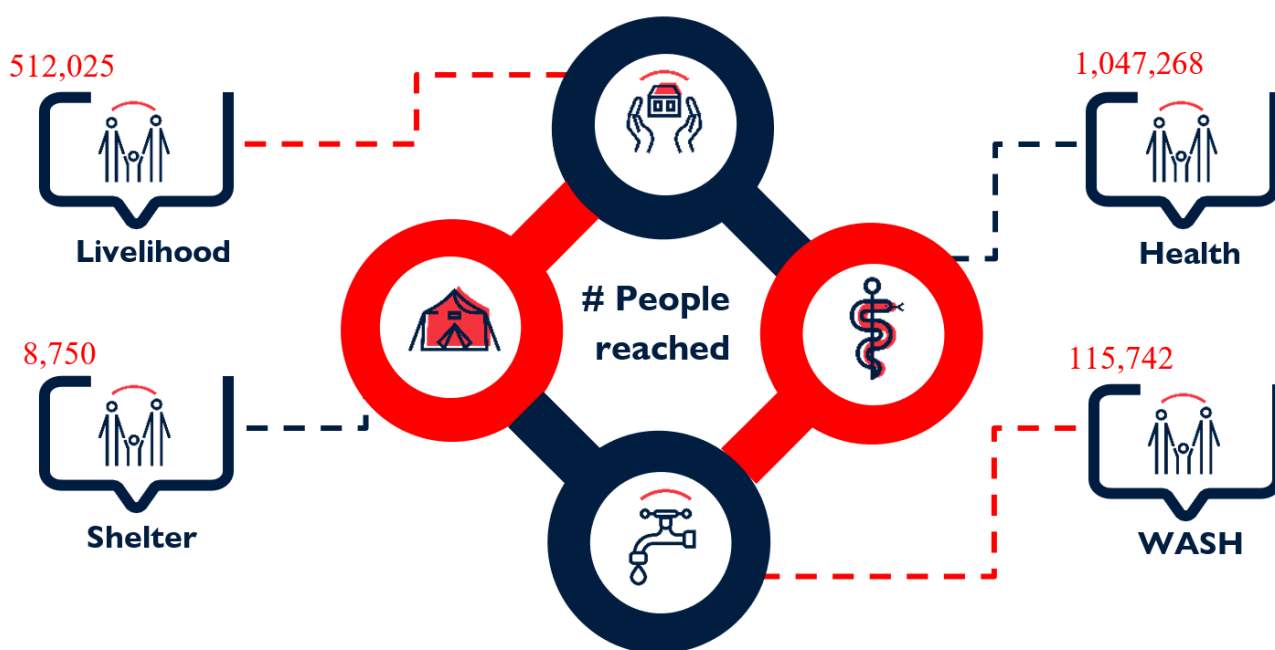


Overview of the operating National Society and ongoing response

ARCS presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well-established, which enables the National Society to reach vulnerable populations not served by other humanitarian actors in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas. The ARCS has 2,500 staff of whom 645 (26 per cent) are female and 24,600 active volunteers of whom 6,700 (27 per cent) are female.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, ARCS is a primary national partner to respond to disasters across and other situations of emergency in the country. The National Society also facilitates disaster preparedness activities with its 34 provincial branches spread across the country. ARCS has a long history of providing life-saving assistance to people in need and has acceptance in Afghanistan. The National Society has continued to provide humanitarian assistance to both male and female people in need.

Number of people reached by ARCS with the support of the IFRC Secretariat under this appeal (except Khost and Paktika Earthquake Response)



As of 31 March 2023, **IFRC Secretariat support** had reached **1.7 million people**¹⁰ (except Khost and Paktika earthquake response) since the start of the operation. This included 8,750 people reached with household items, more than 500,000 people with food and livelihood support, more than 56,000 people with emergency cash, 1 million people with health and care, more than 115,000 people with WASH and more than 68,000 people with winterization kits.

Under shelter and settlements, with the support of IFRC, ARCS provided household kits to 1,250 households - in Bahdakhshan and Sar-e-Pol provinces, at the end of December 2021- beginning of January 2022, benefiting 8,750 deserving people.

Under livelihood: ARCS provided food packages to 41,750 households food packages in 24 provinces between April and December 2022. Likewise, A total of 20 women from Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons enrolled in six-month vocational and business development trainings (18 December 2022-17 June 2023). Altogether, 14 women from Kabul

¹⁰ Approximate total people reached based on cumulative reach estimated across all intervention areas supported under this Emergency Appeal. May include double counting since this figure is the summation of the people reached in different sectors. In addition, health and WASH interventions are also funded, partly, by the IFRC Operational Plan 2022.

have been receiving training in tailoring while six women from Kandahar have been learning embroidery. The trainings are being facilitated by a professional training entity engaged by the IFRC on a consultancy basis.

Likewise, ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 8,500 households in four provinces (Kabul, Panjshir, Kunar and Laghman) benefitting 56,311 people (male -26,287 and female 30,024) in 2022.

Regarding health and care, ARCS continued to provide **primary healthcare and immunization services** through 36 mobile health teams (MHTs) supported by IFRC under the Humanitarian Crises emergency appeal, **reaching approximately 590,813 people** (202,734 male, 388,079 female) including **14,133 IDPs** (4,615 Male, 9,518 Female) during the reporting period. In addition, **7,777 community awareness sessions** were conducted in targeted communities **reaching 119,756 community members including 58,672 females**. This included community members who also benefited through risk communication sessions and awareness of COVID-19. In addition, eight psychosocial support sessions were conducted for 160 women in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons.

Under WASH, 7,650 family hygiene kits were distributed in Helmand, Hirat, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, and Panjshir which benefitted 53,550 people. Likewise, 4,246 dignity kits were to women and girls in five provinces (Kunduz, Ghor, Badghis, Daikundi and Farah).

Besides, training for ARCS field staff and volunteers have been among the priority of the operation to provide quality services and localised actions. Major training includes:



Vaccines help protect the health of people, families and communities.

ARCS provided oral polio vaccine with support of IFRC in Kandahar. (Photo: Dr. Sohail Ahmad, ARCS)

- A total of 113 trainings on first aid, psychosocial first aid, household water treatment (HHWT), epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), and hygiene promotion for 900 volunteers (550 male and 350 female) in Badghis, Farah, Sar-e-Pol, Ghor, Daikundi, Kabul, Panjshir, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Kunduz provinces.
- Three Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) integrated PGI training of trainers (ToT) for 63 ARCS staff and volunteers (62 male and one female) from West, Southwest and East regions.
- Three CEA cum PGI training for 82 staff (67 male and 15 female) including doctors, project managers, midwives, vaccinators, and social mobilizers of the East and South regions.
- Six branch disaster response team (BDRT)/cash transfer programme (CTP) training for 150 staff and volunteers (all male) in Northeastern and Southeastern regions.
- Two planning and reporting training for 53 staff (male) in the Northeast and North regions
- One accountability and responsibility awareness and finance manual course for 20 staff (male) in Kunar province.

CEA and PGI are streamlined in all the IFRC-supported programmes. Feedback response mechanisms are active and in place to enable community members to ask questions, raise concerns and receive clarifications. Furthermore, CEA and PGI-relevant questions have been integrated into post-distribution monitoring and quality assurance processes.

Furthermore, the basic needs of 80 women, 226 children and 100 individuals requiring mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) were met in Marastoons. This included the provision of shelter and basic needs such as beds for war widows and families, sofas for elders and people with disabilities and fridges for families for vulnerable women and children in Marastoons in Kabul and Kandahar. They now have comfortable learning spaces in Marastoons equipped with necessary tools and materials such as laptops, projectors and monitors, and education

materials in Marastoons in Kabul and Kandahar. Additionally, 82 children have been enjoying child-friendly spaces in the Marastoons.

Under disaster risk reduction, 7,667 winterization kits were distributed in eight provinces benefitting 68,208 people. Distribution in Khost and Paktika has been excluded from this figure.

Additionally, ARCS with the support of IFRC reached 93,725 people with health and care, 56,444 people with multipurpose emergency cash assistance, 35,141 people with shelter; 18,855 people with household items, and 2,083 **households** with thermal blankets in response to the June 2022 devastating earthquake in the south-eastern region (Khost and Paktika)¹¹.

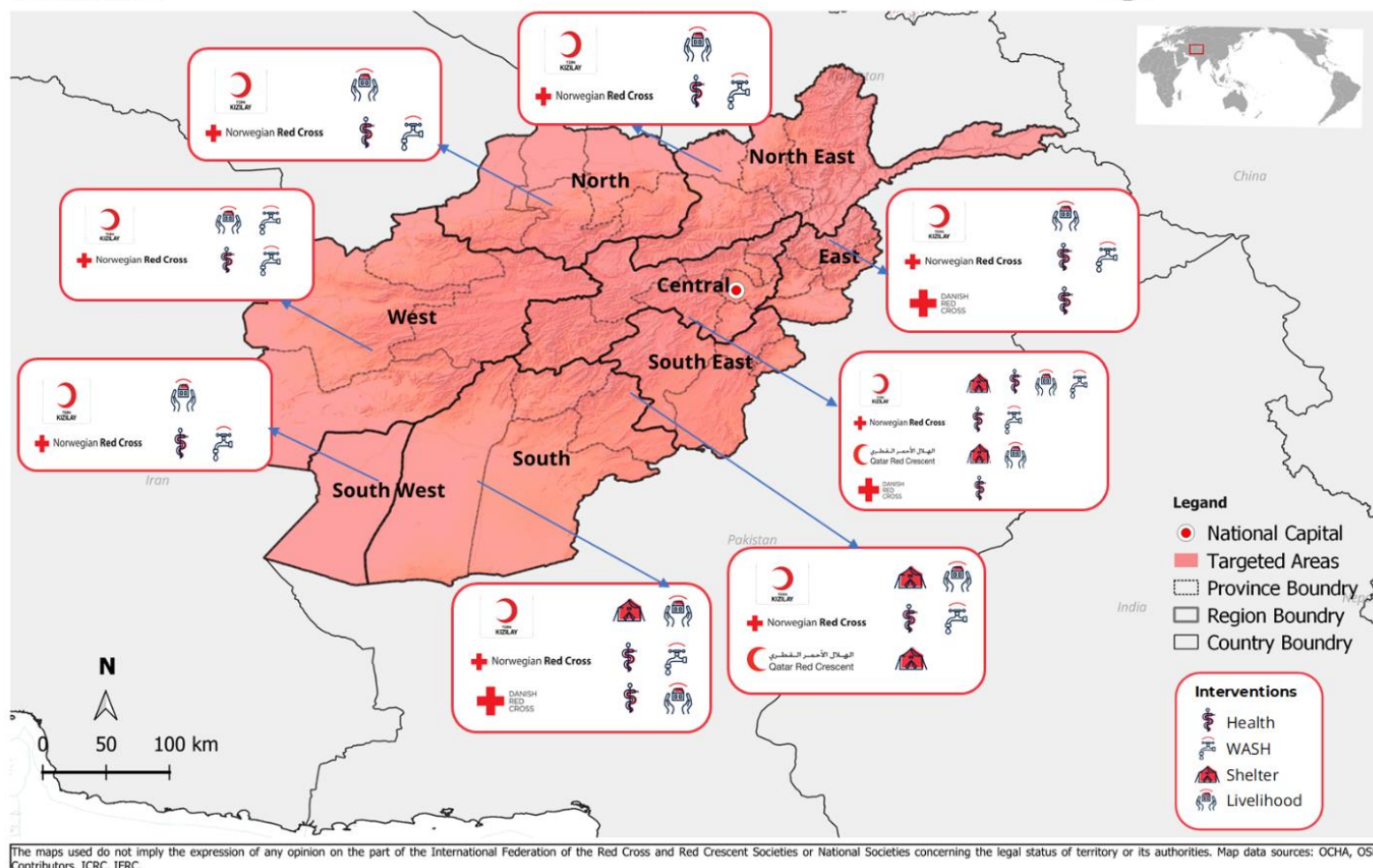
Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement actions in country

ARCS response is being implemented using a Federation-wide approach which factors support channelled via the IFRC Secretariat emergency appeal – including PNS that do not have a presence in Afghanistan – support by PNS in-country namely Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and TRC, as well as other National Societies directly supporting ARCS's response bilaterally from outside Afghanistan. The Federation-wide approach continues to facilitate coordinated assistance with others, effectively utilizing resources and existing expertise to ensure critical gaps are covered when millions are requiring aid. This is complementary to the existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Wider Humanitarian Crisis

Federation Wide Partner Presence and Response

As of 31 March 2023



¹¹ [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#).

PNS that have channelled support via the IFRC Secretariat Emergency Appeal are the Albanian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hong Kong Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Irish Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Kuwaiti Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross of Monaco, Red Cross Society of China, Singapore Red Cross Society, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross Organization, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross.

In-country partners are actively supporting the operations with a focus on the provision of in-kind assistance such as food and shelter items, healthcare services and relief assistance. Turkish Red Crescent actively supports ARCS's operations through the provision of food and livelihood assistance, shelter, health as well as WASH interventions.

NorCross provides support mainly in health services, particularly in ARCS primary health care interventions through supporting the operation of 113 facilities (full support for 38 MHTs and 28 health sub-centres (HSCs), and partial support for 46 basic health centres (HCs) and one district hospital) across the country. ARCS also received support from QRCS in providing essential health services in Kandahar as well as in the distribution of food packages, shelter goods and non-food items in Kabul, Wardak and Paktya. The Danish Red Cross is supporting mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and primary healthcare, reaching vulnerable populations with psychological first aid and safe and dignified referrals to specialized mental health and protection services.

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to support ARCS in the following: humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in under-served areas; longer-term resilience-building programmes; strategic and operational coordination of the IFRC membership support to ARCS; advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy; enhancement of ARCS organizational development, and representing ARCS internationally.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in Afghanistan since 1986 and continues to be operational through its main delegation in Kabul, as well as through its field-based offices in Kabul, Gulbahar, Khost, Ghazni, Kandahar, Lashkargah, Farah, Herat, Maimana, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, and Jalalabad.

Collectively, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country has established coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored under the Movement Cooperation Agreement. The Movement Platform Meeting is organized every six weeks between ARCS, IFRC, and ICRC leadership focusing on strategic-level engagements.

Movement Operational Coordination (MOC) meetings take place monthly and bring together ARCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS currently present in Afghanistan. Scheduled virtual meetings are organized at pre-agreed intervals to connect ARCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS supporting Afghanistan – bilaterally or via the IFRC Secretariat emergency appeal – for a shared understanding of progress, challenges and opportunities.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

Many non-state actors in Afghanistan provide humanitarian aid to Afghans, working through clusters. The Cluster system was established as a sectoral coordination mechanism at the national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners, including non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings are held monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies. The clusters cover areas such as agriculture education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter and WASH.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum that guides principled humanitarian action in Afghanistan which IFRC attends weekly as a representative of the membership. The ARCS and IFRC are members and participate in the national-level monthly coordination meetings of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), Cash and Voucher Working Group, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, Accountability to Affected Population Working Group, Health Cluster, WASH Cluster, and Gender in Humanitarian

Action Working Group. IFRC also attends the Inter-cluster Coordination Team meeting. ARCS and IFRC are coordinating with the public authorities, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to avoid duplication and to build synergies. This includes active engagement in relevant clusters.

Activities funded outside the Emergency Appeal

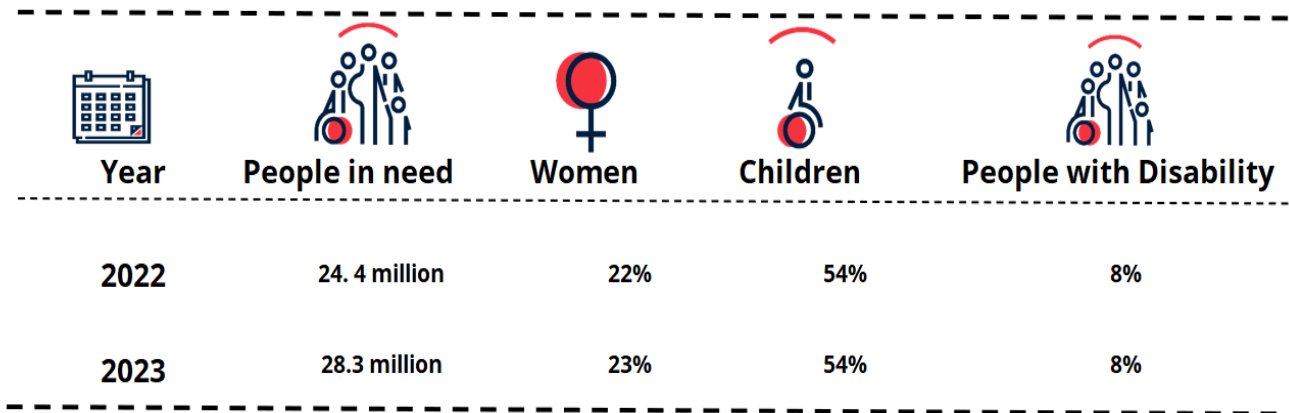
Overall, alongside activities funded under this emergency appeal, ARCS has been continuously delivering various services and actively implementing activities in reaching out to the most vulnerable population and communities in need of humanitarian assistance. **Large-scale projects supported by other funding sources** outside this emergency appeal include the COVID-19 response, supported through funds from the Asia Pacific COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, as well as community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) and WASH in schools (WiNS) project, supported through IFRC Secretariat operational plan for Afghanistan.

Through these multi-donors funded projects, **ARCS has reached at least 3.5 million people** since April 2020 of whom approximately 2.5 million people were reached through the health services provided by ARCS’ MHTs and healthcare centres for COVID-19 screening and referrals as well as Risk Communication and Community Engagement RCCE activities conducted to raise COVID-19 health awareness. With the support of IFRC, 11 additional MHTs, 8 HSCs, 40 HCs are operational in Kandahar and Paktika provinces. These MHTs reached 133,375 people (54,885 male, 78,490 female) with primary health and immunization services. Moreover, community-based Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) surveillance activities were regularly conducted by the MHT staff as well as ARCS volunteers in the targeted locations. No AFP cases were reported from the targeted areas during the reporting period. Likewise, with the support of IFRC, ARCS distributed 42,000 saplings to 840 households with different sapling varieties (Apple, Almond, Pistachio, apricot, grape, pomegranate and plum) along with sapling plantation, orchard management, and sapling disease control training in four districts (Ghoryan, Kosahn, Koshk-e- Kona, Koshk-e- Robat Sangi) of Herat province.

ARCS has also assisted many residents of the National Society’s five Marastoons¹² (Shelters for war widows) with food and non-food items assistance, reaching mainly senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWD). In addition, over the reporting period, a total of 459 females were trained in handicraft skills as part of livelihood programming. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) to obtain feedback from the people who received food and cash assistance as well as to evaluate the effectiveness of ARCS intervention was conducted by the planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit of ARCS in several provinces in the West and Southwest regions where the distributions mostly took place over the reporting period. Around 560 ARCS volunteers were involved in the assessment and distribution activities. Also in the same period, ARCS recruited 1,096 new volunteers from across the country.

Needs analysis

Number of people need in humanitarian assistance is estimated to increase in 2023 than 2022 in Afghanistan



Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, Page # 8)

¹² [ARCS Marastoons](#) are social welfare centres that provide shelters to destitute and needful families (mostly widowed, single mother and the ill or disabled) and educate orphans in hope for a better future. There are five ARCS Marston’s established in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar and Balkh provinces

According to OCHA¹³, 28.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in 2023 out of which 54 per cent are children, 23 per cent are women and 8.3 per cent are people with severe disabilities.

Even with two-thirds of the country already in need of humanitarian assistance during 2023, further deterioration is highly possible unless the root causes and drivers are addressed. Substantial investments in water infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, alternative livelihoods, gender policy reform and macroeconomic stabilization are urgently needed, along with the stabilization of services supporting basic human needs – especially health care and social services – to reduce dependence on humanitarian actors as well as to provide emergency care and transition to longer-term support. In addition, needs in all sectors have been identified and described in the revised emergency appeal and operational strategy that was published in June 2022.

The deteriorating economy has led to sharp declines in income and rising debt. The average household debt in Afghanistan has increased six-fold in recent years from AFN 9,770 in 2019 to AFN 59,492 in 2022¹⁴. Most of the needs are in urban areas; with 27 out of 34 provincial capitals being in extreme severity of need, including Kabul. According to the World Bank, aggregate demands fell due to lower sources of income, and a reduction in expenditure, consumption, and public expenses. While disruptions in the payment system and supply constraints further hampered private sector activities, initially forcing many businesses to close or scale down their operations¹⁵.

Supporting local agricultural production is a key factor for protecting rural livelihoods that are exposed to a variety of shocks and have to deal with a difficult economic environment,

Food Security and Livelihood

According to the WFP Afghanistan situation update¹⁶ on 22 December 2022, nearly 20 million people in Afghanistan are acutely food-insecure (IPC 3+), including more than 6 million people on the brink of famine-like conditions in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), according to preliminary projections for November 2022 to March 2023. Afghanistan continues to face the highest prevalence of insufficient food consumption globally, with 92 per cent of Afghan households struggling to meet their food needs¹⁷. The major drivers of food insecurity in Afghanistan include poverty and economic instability, weather and climatic shocks, and decades of conflict that have limited the spread of essential public services and safety nets. Gender inequalities have limited women's economic opportunities, contributing further to household food insecurity. Almost 100 per cent of female-headed households are facing insufficient food consumption. These numbers are likely to increase. Widows and single mothers are even more vulnerable during this period as the unemployment rate continues to increase.

According to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), of more than 17,000 households surveyed, 91 per cent identified food as the top priority, 55 per cent identified livelihoods and employment support as the top priority and 47 per cent identified healthcare as the top priority – making food the biggest priority for Afghan households followed by livelihoods and employment support and healthcare as the second and third biggest priorities during first 7 months of 2022.¹⁸

Health and Nutrition

The broader humanitarian crisis critically limits the capacity of the healthcare system and health services. Most health facilities have poor infrastructure and there are fewer qualified healthcare workers due to emigration, limits on women's movement and employment, and reduced funds to pay salaries and keep facilities open. Afghanistan's continued "brain drain" of highly skilled medical workers seeking opportunities abroad, coupled with the December 2022 ban on women attending university, has weakened – and will continue to weaken – the public health system. A total of 13.2 million people in 34 provinces reside in areas where primary healthcare services are not accessible within

¹³ OCHA 2023, Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan, Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023

¹⁴ Regional Population Movement - Afghanistan: Preparedness and Response - Operation Update #4, Emergency appeal no. MDRAFRPM21

¹⁵ World Bank 2022, Afghanistan Development Update, October 2022

¹⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/wfp-afghanistan-situation-report-22-december-2022>

¹⁷ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2022-09/afghanistan-18.php>

¹⁸ UNDP 2023, Afghanistan Socio-economic Outlook 2023, Executive Summary, page -11

a one-hour walking distance. Furthermore, the most qualified healthcare workers are concentrated in urban cities and well-resourced provinces.

Multiple parallel shocks are driving Afghanistan's health needs and are severely impacting the increasingly strained health systems and services. Significant among these are acute disease outbreaks, including multiple outbreaks of measles, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), dengue fever, pertussis, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, malaria, and COVID-19. There are also high mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs arising from widespread and chronic stress and trauma in Afghanistan, especially among the vulnerable population, including IDPs. A total of 17.6 million people need health services in Afghanistan¹⁹.

The long history of conflict together with the political change has come with economic and financial uncertainties that have negatively affected nutrition systems. A weak health system and reduced dietary intake due to food insecurity will contribute to higher morbidity rates related to malnutrition. Women and children are the most vulnerable to hunger and malnutrition. It is estimated that four million vulnerable people will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2023, including 875,224 children with severe acute malnutrition, 2,347,802 children with moderate malnutrition, and more than 840,000 pregnant and lactating women with acute malnutrition.

Furthermore, insufficient or lack of water and sanitation facilities, compounded by an absence of knowledge of how to prevent contamination in the handling and preparation of food (hygiene promotion), especially by pregnant and lactating mothers, can further compromise adequate nutrition, even if diets are adequate²⁰.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Water supply services in Afghanistan are limited and access to improved water infrastructures is among the lowest in the world. According to the WASH cluster, 21.2 million people will need water, sanitation and hygiene. Preliminary results of the Whole of Afghanistan (WoA) assessment conducted in August and September 2022 indicated that WASH is one of the sectors seeing a deterioration. 79 per cent of households reportedly lack access to sufficient water. The lack of snowfall over the last winter season and prolonged drought conditions have caused severe water shortages in the country²¹.

The national water supply system does not meet the demand of 80 per cent of its urban population due to its infrastructure either being shuttered or falling into a state of disrepair. The suspension in development assistance to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) responsible for rural water supply has seen the end of several WASH programs including the installation of solar-operated piped schemes with household connections, and the promotion of open defecation-free communities through community-led total sanitation (CLTS) approach. This has left communities exposed to dire water, sanitation, hygiene and health risks and seen an increase in negative coping mechanisms particularly around water collection and excreta disposal through the use of unsafe, unprotected water sources and open defecation.

Access to adequate water was considerably worse in rural areas, where 25 per cent of households were found not to have access to adequate water sources. Furthermore, 12 per cent of rural households reported not having access to sufficient water, likely due to drought and water scarcity, with the main reported barriers to accessing water considerably increasing compared with 2021. The proportion of rural households reporting that there were insufficient water points doubled (10 per cent compared with 20 per cent) and 17 per cent stated that the water points were not functioning or dried up, compared with 13 per cent in 2021. The increase in these barriers signals a worsening of drought effects amidst decaying water infrastructure in rural areas. Furthermore, access to improved sanitation is also significantly worse in rural areas, with 40 per cent of people having access to improved latrines (compared with 70 per cent in urban areas), while 53 per cent of rural people use unimproved latrines (compared with 26 per cent of people in urban areas). (*Afghanistan humanitarian need overview 2023*)

¹⁹ Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, Page # 8).

²⁰ Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, Page # 37

²¹ <https://pajhwok.com/2022/06/08/kabul-facing-acute-potable-water-shortage-experts/>, and - Afghanistan Humanitarian Need Overview 2023

While insufficiency of water is reported at similar levels among urban and rural households, rural households stated a higher prevalence of inadequate water sources (26 per cent compared with 1 per cent), unimproved sanitary facilities (53 per cent compared with 26 per cent) and non-functioning hand washing facilities (13 per cent compared with 5 per cent), indicating an overall worse WASH situation compared with urban households with potential health implications. Urban households reported considerably higher expenditure on water both compared with rural households (AFN 255 compared with AFN 40 per month) and with 2021 (38 per cent higher), to have a sufficient amount to meet needs.

Afghanistan has long been battling with high rates of AWD, especially among infants and households headed by women and people with a disability. Ongoing effects of drought, high levels of malnutrition, poor sanitation practices and low availability and access to water contribute to rising cases of AWD as well as high risk of cholera cases.

Drought and access to water

The severe needs from the 2018 and 2021/22 droughts have compounded and are reaching a crisis point. As of December 2022, Afghanistan was experiencing the first triple-dip impact of La Niña globally since 1998-2001 which was also a period of multi-year drought and high levels of food insecurity in Afghanistan. A period of multiple La Niña years before this, in the early to mid-1970s, saw severe national drought and famine in several provinces in Afghanistan, particularly Ghor and Badghis provinces. The WoA (2022) confirmed drought as the most frequently reported shock experienced in the six months before data collection, increasing from 39 per cent in 2021 to 64 per cent in 2022 and analysis conducted using the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) shows that 25 out of 34 provinces report either severe or catastrophic drought conditions, with over 50 per cent of the population affected.

The prolonged drought is resulting in the drying of surface water sources such as springs and a significant drop in groundwater levels of hand-dug and shallow wells. Afghanistan's groundwater resources are becoming severely depleted, with 49 per cent of boreholes assessed in Kabul reported completely dry, while the functionality of the systems remains at about 60 per cent efficiency. Water production has been reduced by half while network losses peak at 50-60 per cent, with intermittent distribution and increased contamination from wastewater – a situation that occurs both in urban and rural areas. As a result of the ongoing drought event and water crisis, the proportion of households experiencing barriers to accessing water has risen from 48 per cent in 2021 to 60 per cent in 2022²².

Infrastructural barriers were the most frequently reported, with 19 per cent of households stating that there were insufficient water points and 18 per cent that they were not functioning or dried up. Urban households additionally reported that purchasing water was too expensive (21 per cent of urban households). With drought conditions expected to continue into 2023, a stretched water system could negatively impact the livelihoods and health conditions of an already vulnerable population. The challenge to access adequate and safe water for drinking, cooking, sanitation, hygiene and other household uses has placed communities at heightened risk of displacement and transmission of waterborne and infectious diseases, including AWD.

In 2023, WASH needs will continue to grow in urban settings and rural drought-affected areas and will develop in areas of IDP returns and newly accessible hard-to-reach districts, both in communities and institutions (healthcare facilities, nutritional centres and schools).

Shelter

In Afghanistan, the need for shelter assistance remains critical. Immediate shelter assistance is required for vulnerable families such as refugees or IDPs and local families living without a house or living in destroyed houses. Natural hazards such as earthquakes and floods, combined with ongoing conflict and displacement, have left many people without adequate protection from harsh weather conditions. OCHA reported that 698,000 people were displaced by conflict in Afghanistan in 2021 and over 32,000 people further in 2022²³. The IDPs either live in tents in

²² OCHA 2023, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023, Page no. 7

²³ OCHA: [Afghanistan: Snapshot of Population Movements, January - December 2021 \(As of 06 January 2022\) - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb](#)

public areas or with host families. According to the shelter cluster, 9.7 million people need emergency shelter and non-food items in 2023²⁴.

Operational risk assessment

In accordance with IFRC's Risk Management Framework, IFRC Country Delegation in Afghanistan has living risk register documents capturing risks relevant to the office and the organization, including safeguarding risks. The documents are regularly updated, operations and security risk register documents are reviewed bimonthly. Risks analysed and considered outside of the risk appetite are escalated to the regional and global levels.

Since 1 September 2021, IFRC is handling all procurement files in Afghanistan. The IFRC country delegation has well-established procurement procedures and systems to ensure procurement is open, fair, competitive and transparent. The country delegation's procurement processes follow the global IFRC procurement procedures. In compliance with its internal policies, IFRC screens its staff and suppliers in Afghanistan against UN sanctions lists. It also undertakes its own screening of all new ARCS staff at both headquarters and branch levels. All IFRC project managers have been trained in fraud and corruption, with training for new ones to be done within a month of joining. IFRC screens all individuals and vendors paid by ARCS with funds from IFRC and supports ARCS to ensure that sanctioned individuals are not responsible for the management of IFRC funds and resources.

Furthermore, there is a 100 per cent completion rate of the IFRC online course on fraud and corruption prevention. Awareness on Integrity Line, the IFRC Whistleblowing and Case Management System, is reinforced with posters in the corridors as well as during staff meetings. From 1 May 2023, the country delegation will have a dedicated risk and compliance team that will be responsible for reinforcing the systems of financial controls and risk management and it will work with the ARCS's audit and compliance department to regularly review all transactions and processes for compliance.

Additionally, IFRC is hiring safeguarding staff based in Kabul who will focus primarily on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and misconduct related to child safeguarding. The staff will develop and deliver safeguarding communication strategies, tools, and guidance for affected people, and personnel of the IFRC network. The Safeguarding Senior Officer, once on board will coordinate with IFRC global safeguarding team to review and update the IFRC Afghanistan country delegation safeguarding policy and rollout, to ensure that the policy aligns with the Movement Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies. The Senior Officer will be responsible for the development and delivery of safeguarding training to personnel of the IFRC network and implementing partners as well as providing strategic support to the ARCS to enhance knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and support the establishment and/or strengthen safeguarding systems within the National Society. A PSEA self-assessment, which had been in planning since 2022 will be done once the Safeguarding Senior Officer is fully on board.

Here is a list of the risks that were anticipated during the planning phase and mitigation measures followed during the operation period.

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
Fragility of the national banking system affects liquidity and exchange rates	Continue to assess and monitor the situation and explore options to ensure funding is secured and brought into the country through proper channels.
Cash transfer programme related risks: • The potential risk of replacing cash with in-kind assistance.	• Close coordination and monitoring supported by the finance department. • Develop a procurement plan to ensure sufficient time is allocated. • Financial planning coupled with innovative financial solutions

²⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/people-need-resumes-activities-and-negotiates-full-and-safe-return-work-female-afghan-ngo-workers>

Potential risk	Mitigation measure
- The difficulties in making payments to local suppliers due to the cash shortage. - Long lead time for international procurement - Lack of community acceptance of cash recipient selection processes or an inability to reach the most vulnerable - Possible fraud and corruption in selection of recipients due to gaps in verification process and data manipulation - Unauthorised access to, or destruction, loss, alteration or disclosure of personal data	- Application of strong community engagement and accountability. During household surveys/selection, staff and volunteers share information about the programme with community members, using the best approaches to reach different groups including women and strengthen feedback mechanisms. - Use RedRose system for registration of people receiving assistance (recipients) under a global framework agreement between IFRC and RedRose. - Data protection: Give access of recipients' data to specific and limited number of staff at IFRC and ARCS.
Spring floods and landslides constraining access and distributions. With adverse impact on water and sanitation quality, these may also increase the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases.	To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC are: - Preposition the planned supplies at the branch/community level. - Map out alternative road options for access. - Conduct hygiene awareness-raising activities. ARCS has also a community-based health programme raising awareness.
Increase in trend of conflict/violence in targeted provinces/districts that impacts: - Access - Safety (staff and volunteers) - Supply - Road closure	To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC will: - Negotiate with current authorities, Other Armed Groups; mobilize local volunteers and community leaders. - Conduct security briefing to staff and volunteers, equipping with ARCS visible tools to increase the visibility, dissemination of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement principles. - Preposition the planned supplies at the branch/community level. - Map out alternative road options for access.
Major supply chain risks in Afghanistan: - Logistics bottleneck and delays in procurement impact programme delivery timelines. - Limited supplies in the markets hinder procurement. - Delay on international procurement due to the global supply chain disruption by key developments such as Ukraine crisis. - Restricted banking services affect cashflow, including for payment of suppliers. - Fraud and/or corruption.	- Strengthen supply chain management team and continuously review processes to make improvements. - Sub-contract a portion of the operation to PNS with presence in Afghanistan based on their unique capabilities and capacities. - Diversify sourcing options, including from neighbouring countries. - Preposition readiness stocks in strategic locations across the country for timely response. - Engage financial service providers who are licensed by the Central Bank and thoroughly screened as well as using the UN Cash Bridge. - Undertake regular context analysis to inform adjustments in approaches or implementing modalities, and thus switching to cash-based assistance or in-kind modalities as per analysis. - Screen all vendors and contractors against UN sanctions lists prior to entering contracts. - Socialize the IFRC fraud and corruption prevention policy to vendors and contractors. - Apply relevant control measures, including having the IFRC Country Delegation as the first-line defence.
In the event of resurging COVID-19 cases reported that may have impact on physical health and business continuity.	To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of the people receiving assistance and the staff who will be involved in distributions, the COVID-19 standard operating procedure and COVID-safe programming guide will be followed, and physical distance maintained. Moreover, masks, handwashing facilities, and sanitizers will be available in distribution sites.
The ban on national women from working in the humanitarian field is partially applied/ status quo remains and humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable people such as single women, widows, pregnant and lactating mothers, children	- Monitor situation - Keep humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people at centre and find innovative ways to reach them - Continue private humanitarian diplomacy as priority - Operational adaptations - Localized and customized arrangements

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

The overall objective of this operation is to ensure appropriate assistance to 1,008,000 individuals (144,000 households) affected by humanitarian crises in the 34 targeted provinces in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, supporting them to meet their basic needs through unconditional cash grants, livelihood (food package), WASH-related needs, households, and winterization kits for wintertime. The humanitarian crisis operational strategy focuses on the following ongoing and proposed Interventions:

- Implementation of a multi-sectoral assessment in 34 target provinces.
- Provision of emergency food security assistance to 80,000 households.
- Livelihood protection and restoration assistance to 40,000 households.
- Community-managed livelihood projects for 10,000 households.
- Provision of entrepreneurial training and seed capital to 10,000 marginalised youth and women who are currently unemployed or underemployed.
- Provision of integrated and multipurpose relief assistance to 100,000 households.
- Provision of essential household items and emergency shelter assistance to 10,000 households.
- Enhance community resilience through integrated community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives including addressing drought-related livelihood actions through actions such as the establishment of community greenhouses and provision of drought-resistant seedlings.
- Community-based water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and health promotion assistance.
- Ensure protection, gender and inclusion, and that community engagement and accountability are mainstreamed and integrated throughout the operation.
- Enhance the emergency response and preparedness capacity of the ARCS, including their health facilities



The [mobilization table](#) for this Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal was updated in July 2022 to reflect the changes in the in-kind needs above. The total requests from the updated mobilization table increased by 1.5 million CHF, now seeking assistance worth a total of 13.2 million CHF. The updated Mobilization Table is currently 32 per cent covered with the support of in-kind donation of MHTs, household items, medical supplies, and shelter goods as well as procurement of food parcels and winterization kits. In-kind donations were received through the generous contribution of Movement partners, including British Red Cross, German Red Cross and Japanese Red Cross as well as external partners including the Japanese Government (JICA) and ShelterBox. Further donor support and funding is required to enable implementation of in-kind assistance programming.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	People targeted:	140,000
	People reached:	8,750

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>		
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Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of assessments on shelter capacities and gaps conducted	2	34
	# of sets of household items distributed ²⁵	1,250	10,000
	# of multi-crises affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items ²⁶	8,750	140,000
	# of provinces targeted with awareness raising activities	2	34

With the support of IFRC, ARCS provided household kit to 1,250 households - in Bahdakhshan (1,000) and Sar-e-Pol (250) provinces, at the end of December 2021-beginning of January 2022, benefiting 8,750 deserving people. Refer to Annex 1 of the [winterization readiness plan](#) for the composition of household kits

The winterization kit was provided to 9,744 households (93,136 people) in December 2021-January 2022 and January 2023. Out of which 2,077 households were from Khost and Paktika. Detail of the distribution has been presented under the disaster risk reduction section of this report. Additionally, 8,255 blankets distributed to 2,483 households in Paktika and Khost provinces. Likewise, IFRC procured the following items and prepositioned them in ARCS and IFRC existing warehouses.



Each of 400 households received five blankets in Gayan district of Paktika Province. (Photo: ARCS)

Table 1: items and prepositioned in ARCS and IFRC existing warehouses

No.	Items	Quantity
1	Plastic Jerry cans (20 Litre)	15,000
2	Tarpaulins	10,000
3	Mid thermal blankets	968
4	High thermal blankets	25,190
5	Household item sets	540

²⁵ Indicator has been modified to measure household sets that have been distributed instead of procured for distribution

²⁶ Indicator has been revised from drought affected to multi-crises affected people to cover the wider scope of people impacted by the humanitarian crises in the country

During the reporting period, as part of the earthquake response operation, ARCS conducted safer shelter awareness sessions in three districts of two provinces (Barmal and Gayan in Paktika and Spira in Khost). The sessions helped the communities to understand the importance of safer shelter construction and provided knowledge on how to repair a house safer. IFRC had printed the key messages provided by the shelter cluster and ARCS volunteers had disseminated the messages in the communities. More than 2,000 households were reached through the safer shelter key messages in two provinces.

Additionally, IFRC provided support on the refurbishment of ARCS Marastoon. The items obtained include single beds -300 pieces, chairs- 80 pieces, educational materials-100 sets, English language literature books-50 volumes, fridge-70 pieces, sofa 4 sets and educational materials for kids -100 volumes which will improve the living conditions of 223 widows and their 203 children.

	Livelihoods	People	560,000
		People	512,025 ²⁷
Objective:	<i>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of provinces with rapid assessments of markets conducted</i>	30	34
	<i># of multiple crisis-affected people assisted through emergency food security and livelihood restoration activities²⁸</i>	490,000	560,000
	<i># of technical and vocational skill training sessions</i>	12 ²⁹	400
	<i># of community greenhouse pilot projects</i>	Not yet	16
	<i># of provinces covered by distribution of agri-tools/ equipment and/or livestock packages³⁰</i>	5	34
	<i># of training sessions on agriculture and livestock management</i>	5	120
	<i># of community committees or interest groups formed</i>	6	100

²⁷ Food-490,000 people, vocational training -20 people and urea fertilizer - 22,015 people

²⁸ Indicator has been revised from drought affected to multi-crises affected people to cover the wider scope of people impacted by the humanitarian crises in the country

²⁹ 2 vocational trainings and 10 technical trainings

³⁰ Indicator has been modified to measure provinces covered by distribution of *distribution of agri-tools/ equipment and/or livestock packages* instead of targeted for distribution

Under livelihood, ARCS with the support of IFRC and TRC has been focusing on improving food security and livelihood of the most vulnerable people in the community. This includes providing food packages to the most vulnerable households, vocational training, and agriculture technical training together with urea fertilizer distribution. A community mobilization approach has been adopted in livelihood activities.

Distribution of relief goods

A total of 70,000 households (approximately 490,000 people) were reached through the food assistance programme with the support of IFRC since the beginning of the operation. Among them, 41,750 households (approximately 287,350 people) received food packages in 24 provinces between April and December 2022. Out of which, TRC supported the distribution of food packages to 25,000 households in 20 provinces. Province-wise food distribution from April to December 2022 is available in [Operation Update 7](#).

ARCS revised the food basket in May 2022 in line with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) minimum standards. Each revised food package contains wheat -100kg, rice -24.5kg, oil 10 l, bean -7kg, green tea 1kg, salt -2kg, sugar-5kg, BP 5 biscuits-1 unit and has a monetary value of 13,000 AFN³¹. Following the food basket revision, FSAC updated the guidelines for the food basket as well in August 2022. As the situation continues to evolve in the country, there is a probability for the value of the packages to continuously change.

The collection of photos from the food distribution activities described above can be viewed [here](#).

Community committee formation, sensitization, and mobilization

ARCS/IFRC staff and volunteers in coordination branch disaster response team (BDRT), local authority representatives, community development councils, and village religious elders carried out community meetings, workshops and orientations on the concept and purpose of the livelihood project in five provinces (Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghor, Nangarhar, and Sar-e-Pul). Community sensitization has been crucial to making communities aware, motivating and encouraging them to engage and contribute actively to the successful implementation of livelihood projects.

Further, six community groups each with 20 members were formed in the five provinces. The members participated in and monitored the implementation of the livelihood activities within their respective communities, in particular the distribution of fertilizers. The community groups are encouraged to actively engage in the livelihood project design and implementation planning process cycle as well as help promote and publicise the planned projects through the wider stakeholder network. The aim is to allow communities to gain equitable access and opportunities to participate in the decision-making process that affects them. Each community group has 20 members.

Technical and vocational trainings

With the support of IFRC, ARCS conducted two-day agriculture technical training for 120 members from the six community groups in five provinces (Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghor, Nangarhar, and Sar-e-Pul) in March 2023. The training covers integrated pest management, good agricultural techniques, fertilizer application method, water management and weed management. The participants were selected from the 3,125 households that received urea fertilizers. Additionally, four ARCS staff from each province participated in the training as co-facilitators so that they could be mobilized as resource persons for future training. Following the training, they have been cascading their knowledge and skills to other farmers in the village through orientation and onsite mentoring. The number of people trained per province has been demonstrated in Table 2.

³¹ Each previous food basket contains wheat -50kg, rice -24.5kg, oil 5 l, bean -7kg, green tea 1kg, salt -2kg, sugar-5kg, BP 5 biscuits-1 unit and had monetary value of 8,000 AFN.

Likewise, 20 women from Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons started vocational training on 18 December 2022 and will complete it by 18 June 2023. Altogether, 14 women from Kabul have been learning tailoring Hijab, clothing for children cloth and creative design techniques, while six women from Kandahar have been learning embroidery. The trainings are being facilitated by a professional training entity engaged by the IFRC on a consultancy basis.

In addition to financial support for the training, ARCS/IFRC is providing AFN 75 per day to each participant for refreshments. Out of which, each participant saves AFN 20 in a box. They will use the money for starting their business after the completion of the training in June 2023. All women will be provided with grants of USD 2,000 equivalent each as seed capital for starting their businesses.



Story of participant

Nargis (Pseudoname), is a 35-year-old mother of five living in Kabul Marastoon. Since joining the Marastoon in 2020, she along with her family have been receiving support from ARCS. As the support is only for 3 years, she needs to prepare to start her own business.

Nargis and 14 other women from Kabul Marastoon received tailoring and business development training. Nargis' business proposal was selected as the best among the group, making her eligible to receive seed fund of 2,000 USD to start her own business when she leaves Marastoon with her family.

"Marastoon's three-year support for single-parent families is vital for most of the families like mine. It covered initial education of our children, provided training and basic sewing equipment for starting small businesses" – Nargis

Table 2: Technical and vocational trainings per province

No.	Province	District	Name of training	Number of trainings	Types of participants	Number of participants			Remarks
						Male	Female	Total	
1	Kabul	Kabul Capital	Tailoring	1	Women from Marastoon	0	14	14	Six-month vocational training
2	Kandahar	Kandahar City Aino Mina	Embroidery	1		0	6	6	
3	Kunduz	Ali abad	Agriculture technical training	2	Households affected by drought	20	0	20	Two-day technical training
4	Kandahar	Panjwayee		2		20	0	20	
5	Ghor	Ferozko		2		20	0	20	
6	Sar-I-pul	Sozmaqala		2		20	0	20	
7	Nangrahar	Sherzad and Hesarak		2		40	0	40	
Total				12		120	20	140	

Urea fertilizer distribution

ARCS/IFRC distributed 150 Kg of urea fertilizer to each of the 3,125 households in five provinces (Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghor, Nangrahar, and Sar-e-Pul) in March 2023. Out of 3,125 households registered for fertilizer support, 30 households are female-headed. Refer to Table 3 for households reached per province. They have applied urea

fertilizer in their wheat crops as March is the appropriate season for the application of urea fertilizer in wheat crops.

Table 3: Urea fertilizer distribution per province

No.	Province	District	Number of target households	Number of households reached	Number of female-headed household
1	Ghor	Ferozko	625	625	
2	Kandahar	panjwayee	625	625	
3	Kunduz	Ali abad	625	625	28
4	Nangarhar	Sherza And Hesarak	625	625	
5	Sar-e-Pul	Sozmaqala	625	625	2
Total			3,125	3,125	30



Multi-purpose Cash

People targeted:

700,000
(100,000 HHs)

People reached:

66,622
(8,500 HHs)

Objective:	<i>Socio-economically vulnerable households have the ability to meet their basic needs</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of affected people who successfully received cash assistance after being identified based on their needs ³²	56,311 (8,500 HHs)	700,000 (100,000 HHs)
	# of training sessions in CVA SOPs for staff and volunteers	2	34
	# of community consultation and sensitization meeting	80	10,000

Cash-based assistance

A total of 8,500 households received multipurpose cash in 12 districts of four provinces (Kabul, Panjshir, Kunar and Laghman) benefitting 56,311 people (male -26,287 and female 30,024) in 2022. Each household received a cash amount of 15,500 AFN (CHF 175) in Kabul and Panjshir. While it was 17,500 AFN (CHF 197) in Kunar and Laghman. The amount for Kabul and Panjsheer was unconditional for two months while it was for winterization (heating system) based on cluster calculations in Kunar and Laghman. More details on multipurpose cash distribution per province are available in [Operation Update 7](#).

In most of ARCS' disaster response operations, cash assistance has been the preferred modality to provide help to vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, people living with disabilities, and families with infants.

³² Indicators have been added to highlight the reach and impact of cash assistance provided.

However, providing immediate cash-based assistance was difficult between August 2021 and May 2022 because of constraints in the banking sector and cash liquidity issues in Afghanistan. In the second half of 2022, IFRC engaged two financial service providers (FSPs) to facilitate cash distribution in affected communities. The objective was to provide a financial service allowing the transparent provision of cash grants to the recipients in a timely and orderly manner. Cash is distributed by the FSPs to households who are registered by ARCS, verified by IFRC, and assigned beneficiary cards with a QR code that is unique to each recipient. The QR code was used for all transactions when recipients claimed and received their cash assistance.

[Click here](#) to view a video of an IFRC staff reporting from the field during the cash assistance activity in Kabul.

Exit Survey

ARCS PMER department with technical support of IFRC conducted eight exit surveys by interviewing 725 (male 708, female 17) aid recipients at the distribution sites of Kabul, Khost, Paktika, and Kunar provinces.

The main purpose of the exit survey was to verify and validate the amount of cash received by the community people. In addition, the survey was crucial to understand the community satisfaction level from the ARCS staff and volunteers' behaviour at the distribution site, and the information provided by ARCS about the distribution place and time to the people in the community.

At the distribution sites, 89 per cent of the aid recipients were present to collect the assistance themselves, while 11 per cent of the respondents were relatives or friends of the aid recipient who came to collect on behalf of the aid recipients.

No one paid money or anything to someone to receive the assistance.

The majority (99 per cent) was satisfied with the behaviour of staff and volunteers at the distribution site, while only 1 per cent of aid-recipient mentioned that the volunteers were not considering the turn of each aid recipient and they waited for a long time in the line. Before the beginning of the distribution, 38 per cent of respondents waited for 1-3 hours, and 26 per cent for 3-6 hours. Likewise, 4 per cent for 6-8 hours were held back at the distribution site.

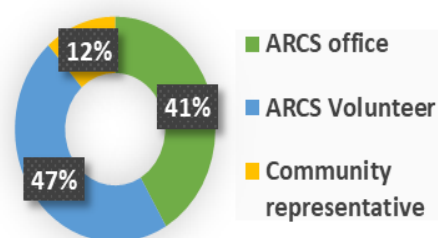
All the aid-recipients were satisfied with the information provided by ARCS about the time and date of distribution and also felt safe during the distribution day. When asked how they were informed about the distribution, 47 per cent indicated by ARCS volunteers, 42 per cent by calling from the ARCS office, and 12 per cent were informed by the community representative.

In case of any feedback or complaints, when asked "Do understand how to register your feedback or complaints?" 13 per cent said yes, while 87 per cent mentioned No, I don't understand. The findings were shared with the operation team. They mentioned that they would work with the ARCS operation team to increase the number of sensitization meetings with community people before or during the distribution to provide awareness about how to reach ARCS for any feedback and complaint.

Post distribution monitoring

From July to December 2022, 11 PDM surveys were conducted for cash assistance, in Zabul, Urozgan, Panjsher, Paktika, Nangarhar, Wardak, Logar, Laghman, Khost, Kandahar, and Kabul provinces. Out of 11 PDM surveys, 3 surveys were conducted for cash distribution funded by this pledge in Khost, Paktika, and Laghman provinces. A total of 1,544 people (male 1,444 and female 100) people responded. The number of females interviewed was low due to the cultural sensitivity as the enumerators were male. The male family members did not allow female

Means of receiving distribution information



family members to be interviewed. IFRC is working with ARCS to advocate for the recruitment of more female staff and volunteers to reach out to more female recipients.

Table 4: Age and sex of people interviewed for the PDM

Age	Female	Male	Total	Remarks
18 to 50 years	68	987	1,055	People under 18 years received cash when the household head was not in a condition to visit the distribution point because of different reasons such as health problems and age.
More than 50 years	31	390	421	
Under 18 years	1	67	68	
Total	100	1,444	1,544	

Regarding the residence status of the respondents, 68 per cent were host residents, 21 per cent were temporary residents, 9 per cent IDPs, 1 per cent were returnees, and 1 per cent were refugees at the time of cash distribution.

When asked which of ARCS/IFRC selection and vulnerability criteria the respondents had met to receive the cash assistance, 54 per cent of respondents said that they were selected as they had rain-fed lands of less than three jeribs, 34 per cent engaged in highly destructive food-related coping strategies, and 12 per cent had two or more children under the age of five, who were unable to meet their basic food needs. Followed by vulnerability criteria, 52 per cent were seniors with responsibility for children in the household, and 22 per cent were without livestock.

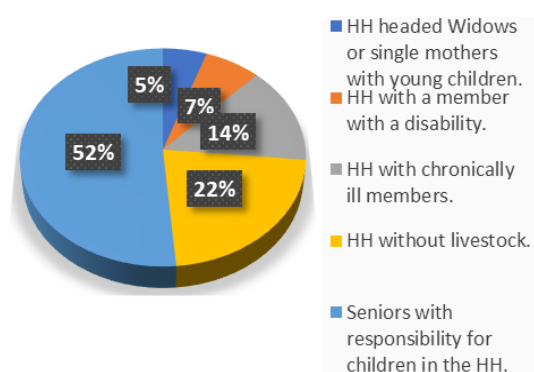
When the enumerator asked, "Did the ARCS staff conduct a sensitization session before cash distribution?" 90 per cent said Yes, 6 per cent No, and 4 per cent did not have information about the sensitization meeting.

Furthermore, 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. All the respondents were satisfied with the ARCS selection process and the information provided about the place, time, and cash distribution.

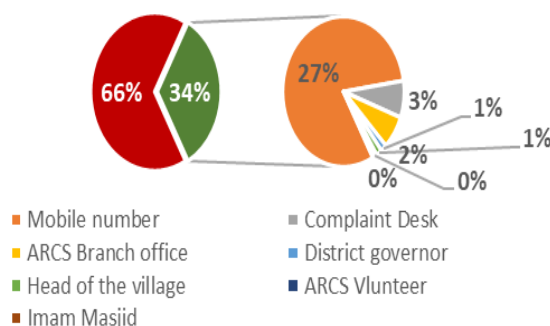
Regarding the feedback mechanism, 34 per cent of respondents understood how to reach ARCS for feedback and complaint, while 66 per cent did not understand. These findings were shared with the IFRC CEA and operation team who will work with the ARCS team to systemize community sensitization meetings about existing feedback channels and explain how communities can reach ARCS for any feedback and grievance.

Out of 34 per cent who understood how to register their feedback and complaints, 27 per cent mentioned they informed via the mobile number provided on flyers on the day of distribution, 3 per cent highlighted through a complaint box and 2 per cent by reaching out to ARCS branch offices in the provinces. Moreover, 97 per cent of the respondents indicated that cash assistance received was extremely useful in covering their household's immediate needs, however, 3 per cent mentioned the amount of cash received was very less, and the assistance should be continued by ARCS/IFRC to the affected communities.

Vulnerability criteria



Feedback mechanism



The top three areas that the aid recipients spent the received cash were on food, house repair, and medical expense of their family members.

Site Observation

Besides, exit surveys and PDM surveys, ARCS and IFRC PMER staff carried out physical observation at 11 distribution sites. It was found that there were crowd control mechanisms in place and safety and security were observed at most of the distribution sites. Target people (People entitled for receiving cash or goods) were getting assistance in a respectful and dignified manner. The site observation checklist has 13 questions. The checklist was used by PMER staff to monitor whether the distribution was carried out in a transparent way ensuring community engagement at the distribution site.

Lessons learned workshop

ARCS PMER department with technical support of IFRC conducted a two-day lessons learned workshop on multipurpose cash intervention in November 2022. The workshop's main objective was to discuss challenges, capture learning and provide recommendations for future distribution.

The workshop was participated by 40 people (male 38 and female 2) including ARCS management, operation, PMER, Finance, the representatives of the ARCS seven regional offices, provincial managers from Kunar, Khost, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces, and the representatives of the operation, finance and PMER department of IFRC country delegation. The workshop was held at ARCS headquarters, and it was facilitated by ARCS and IFRC PMER team. Key learnings from the multipurpose cash programme and recommendations captured from the workshop have been presented.

Key findings from the site visit and lessons learned from the multipurpose cash programme captured in the workshop are available in [Operation Update 7](#). With the support of IFRC and PNS, ARCS has been implementing the recommendations from the workshop not only in cash distribution but also in other relief items distribution, for instance, the selection of the distribution points as proximal as possible to all the recipients and enhancement of coordination among ARCS branch offices, regional offices, ARCS headquarters and IFRC country delegation.

	Health & Care (Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)	People targeted:	1,176,400
		People reached:	1,047,268*
Objective:	The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care		
Key indicators	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of affected people reached with CBHFA by volunteers¹⁸</i>	61,269	200,000
	<i># of First Aid kits procured and distributed</i>	100	4,000
	<i># of volunteers trained in basic first aid and injury prevention in targeted areas.</i>	520	1,360
	<i># of Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training sessions for volunteers¹⁷</i>	29	68

# of volunteers trained and mobilized to conduct awareness raising campaigns	900	1,360
# of people reached with integrated awareness raising sessions	277,669	570,200**
# of volunteers trained in psychological first aid (PFA)	520	340
# of people who received mental health and psychosocial support services (SADD) ¹⁹	160	25,000
# of safe referrals to specialised mental health and child protection and SGBV services ²⁰	0	1,000
# of health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health service	36	40
# of people (clients)* reached with primary health services	494,157	950,400
# of people reached with RMNCH clinical services.	34,788	74,727

* People reached may include duplicate counting as monitoring is based on the number of cases treated

** The target for integrated awareness-raising sessions includes 95,000 people (about the seating capacity of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum) to be reached through CBHFA volunteers and 475,200 through health facilities.

Primary health service through mobile health teams

During the reporting period, ARCS operated 47 MHTs, with the support of IFRC, out of which 36 MHTs were supported by the humanitarian crisis response operation, while 11 MHTs, eight HSCs, and 40 health camps were supported through Operational Plan 2022-Unified Plan 2023. The MHTs operated in remote areas of 16 provinces, including Nangarhar, Kunar, Nuristan, Kandahar, Helmand and Urozgan, Parwan, Sar-e Pol, Bamyán, Paktika, Wardak, Nimroz, Herat, Badghis, and Jawzjan.

From April 2022 to March 2023, the 36 MHTs were able to reach 590,813 people (202,734 male, 388,079 female) with primary health care services such as out-patients, communicable (AWD, pelvic inflammatory disease, urine tract infection, urinary tract infection) and non-communicable disease (such as hypertension), obstetric/neonatal care, reproductive health services (family planning and antenatal/postnatal care), health education, dressing, referral, routine immunization services including 64,355 under-1-year children with immunization services and 14,133 (4,615 male, 9,518 female) internally displaced persons.



ARCS medical staff providing immunization service to women and children in Paktika province. (Photo: ARCS)

Under the routine immunization services, the MHTs provide BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin), Hepatitis B, oral poliovirus vaccines, inactivated poliovirus vaccines, measles, Pentavalent, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, and rotavirus vaccines, which provide protection against tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, measles, H. Influenza type B, Pertussis, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Rotavirus infections and pneumococcal diseases. All MHTs were fully supplied with medicines and medical consumables.

Prior to April 2022, MHTs' operational and community-based activities were covered through other funding sources outside the emergency appeal.

The MHTs also engaged with target communities regularly to enhance their health knowledge, raise health awareness and promote healthy behaviour through awareness sessions. Objectives of the session were to mobilize targeted communities for vaccines, take preventive measures against the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak and involve community elders and local provincial health directors in the project implementation cycle.



Together We End Polio

ARCS medical staff providing oral polio vaccine in Kandahar. (Photo: Dr. Sohail Ahmad, ARCS)

During the reporting period, the MHTs conducted **7,708 awareness sessions** for **117,268 people** from communities in 15 provinces. These included 14,233 people who also benefited through risk communication sessions and awareness on COVID-19. Risk communications and community engagement activities were conducted in parallel aimed to enhance behaviour change in targeted families to take care of their personal and environmental hygiene, proper waste management, and how to access to clean water at the household level.

Likewise, ARCS reached **319,000** people (approximately 162,740 male and 156,360) with primary health services (69,820 people), oral polio vaccination (137,196 under 5-year children), routine immunization (180 under 5-year children), tetanus toxoid vaccine (103 childbearing age women) and integrated health education (111,879 people) from eight health sub centers and 40 health camps in Paktika and Kandahar provinces.

CEA and PGI training

With the support of IFRC, ARCS conducted three 4-day training on CEA and PGI for the MHT staff in Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces. The training was facilitated by the IFRC quality and accountability team. A total of 82 participants (67 male and 15 female) including doctors, project managers, mid-wives, vaccinators and social mobilizers of the east zone (Nangarhar, Kunar, and Nuristan provinces) and south zone (Kandahar, Helmand and Urozgan) MHTs participated in the trainings and the participants.

Following participation in the training, the ARCS staff and volunteers prioritized community engagement and different vulnerable groups' participation in the process of developing health care service delivery planning, implementation, and use. The participants were enabled to consider the PGI and CEA components and provide continued primary healthcare services to the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, people with disabilities, and marginalized groups.

Health/WASH trainings and CBHFA/RCCE activities

Risk communications and community engagement activities were conducted in parallel aimed to enhance behaviour change in targeted families to take care of their personal and environmental hygiene, proper waste management, and how to access to clean water at the household level.

ARCS trained 900 volunteers on psychological first aid, epidemic control for volunteers, household water treatment, Hygiene promotion and first aid, and mobilized for RCCE and CBHFA activities in eight provinces (Badghis, Ghor, Sar-e-Pul, Farah, Daikundi, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Panjshir). Refer to Table 5 for details on number of participants. Some volunteers have taken more than one training course.

Table 5: Summary of ARCS volunteers trained on health and WASH trainings

Name of training	No. of training	No. of participants		
		Male	Female	Total
First aid	26	320	200	520
Psychological	26	300	220	520
ECV and HHWT	29	340	320	660
Hygiene	32	390	310	700

Till the end of March 2023, the trained volunteers reached 61,269 people, including 27,281 females through household visits and conducted integrated awareness-raising sessions on hygiene promotion, prevention of water-borne diseases, COVID-19 risk communication, and preparation of ORS.

In addition, 55 community health committees with 560 members and 23 grandmothers' committees with 380 members were established in the 10 provinces (Kandahar, Nangarhar, Daikundi, Kabul, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Farah, Ghor, Badghis, Konduz).

Community health committees aim to work with relevant health stakeholders to improve the health situation and to strengthen the capacity of the community to identify and respond to important health issues in their area - including those of the most vulnerable and marginalized - thereby contributing to overall community-health systems strengthening, community capacity and equity, and improved overall health outcomes.

While grandmother committees, ARCS reaches the female side of targeted communities with health promotion/hygiene promotion and awareness raising. These committees mobilize the female volunteers to transfer the health messages on Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health (RMNCH).



Child-friendly spaces in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons. (Photo: ARCS)

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Discussions are ongoing on MHPSS support and activities for this operation, which the Danish Red Cross is actively supporting. Interventions are being focused to provide vulnerable populations with psychological first aid and safe and dignified referrals to specialized mental health and protection services. A total of 520 community volunteers were trained in psychological first aid. The volunteers are now enabled to provide PFA to the shock-affected people in the targeted areas.

ARCS conducted eight PSS sessions in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons. A total of 160 women participated in the session. The sessions consisted of handicraft activities, drawings, relaxation exercises and physical exercises. Furthermore, ARCS furnished child-friendly spaces in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons. A total of 82 children have been enjoying the playing space in Marastoons; 50 children in Kabul and 32 in Kandahar.

Looking forward:

The progress of the outcomes on health-related activities reflected above is related to fund utilization under this appeal. As funds are utilized, future progress on the provision of planned health services under this appeal will be better reflected in the following reporting period.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People targeted: 560,000

People reached: 115,742

Objective:	<i>The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of schools provided with safe and accessible water and sanitation facilities ²²	0	80
	# of community initiative water supply network micro-projects implemented ²²	0	30
	# of targeted people reached with access to clean water, sanitation and increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to Sphere standards	115,742	108,000
	# of volunteers trained in hygiene promotion	700	1,360
	# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	61,492	190,400
	# of households provided with hygiene and dignity kits	11,896	40,000
	# of households provided with household water treatment products (Aqua tabs/water filters)	0	80,000

Hygiene kits distribution:

As of 31 March 2023, 7,650 family hygiene kits were distributed in Helmand, Hirat, Sar-e-Pul, Kandahar, and Panjshir which **53,550** people benefitted from them.

Table 6: Hygiene kits distribution per province

Date	Province	District	Number of households targeted	Number of households reached	Number of people reached		
					Male	Female	Total
First quarter of 2022	Hilmand		3,000	3,000	10,710	10,290	21,000
	Herat		2,000	2,000	7,140	6,860	14,000
	Sar-e Pol		250	250	893	858	1,750
First quarter of 2023	Kandahar	Kandahar	300	300	1,071	1029	2,100
		Takhta Pol	500	500	1,785	1,715	3,500
	Panjshir	Shutul	500	500	1,785	1715	3,500
		Khenj	300	300	1,071	1029	2,100
	Sar-e Pol	Sayed Abad	401	401	1,432	1375	2807
		Gosfandi	399	399	1,424	1,369	2,793
Total			7,650	7,650	27,311	21,091	53,550

Additionally, 2,530 family hygiene kits were prepositioned as part of preparedness for the expected response in the coming summer. From the mentioned total number of family hygiene kits, 800 were prepositioned in the ARCS branch in Nangarhar province and 1,730 kits are prepositioned in IFRC-ARCS central warehouse.

Table 7: Hygiene kit composition

No.	Item	Quantity
1	Antiseptic soap (Dettol) - 125gm	7 bars
2	Plastic soap case (for 250gm soap)	1 pc
3	Laundry soap (200gm)	7 bars
4	Plastic jerry can (10-20 litre)	2
5	Plastic bucket (10-20 litre)	1
6	Plastic mug / AftabA (2 litre size)	1
7	Soft cotton cloth (2 m ² piece)	2 pcs
8	Toothbrush - adult	3 large pcs
9	Toothbrush - child	4 small pcs
10	Toothpaste (125gm)	2 tubes
11	Towel (40 x 70 cm)	5 pcs
12	Shampoo	2 pcs
13	Kotex/sanitary pad (normal size) (box of 12)	2 boxes
14	Bag	1
15	Hygiene promotion IEC materials with key messages	5 sheets

Training to volunteers

ARCS trained volunteers on household water treatment, and hygiene promotion in three provinces of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Farah, Ghor, Daikundi, Kabul, Badghis, and Kunduz with the below details:

- A total of 700 volunteers (390 males; 310 females) were trained in hygiene promotion through 32 training sessions.
- A total of 660 volunteers (340 males; 320 females) were trained in epidemic control for volunteers and household water treatment through 29 training sessions³³.

Hygiene promotion activities

The trained volunteers have been carrying out household visits with health and hygiene messages and conducting integrated sessions on hygiene promotion, waterborne disease prevention, COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention, rumour prevention, education sessions with mothers and grandmothers on preparing and use of oral rehydration salt. As of 31 March 2023, ARCS reached 115,742 people (53,610 female) in 10 provinces (Badghis, Ghor, Farah, Sar-e-Pul, Daikundi, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, and Panjshir).

As part of raising awareness sessions and household visits, information education and communication (IEC) materials were distributed. The IEC materials distributed during hygiene promotion sessions included leaflets with hand washing tical times, COVID-19 prevention, massages to prevent diarrhea, and environmental hygiene messages.

Dignity kits distribution

ARCS/IFRC distributed 4,246 dignity kits to women and girls in five provinces (Kunduz, Ghor, Badghis, Daikundi and Farah). The dignity kit contains basic supplies to maintain the health and dignity of women and girls affected by the crisis. Detail of the dignity kits distribution has been presented under the disaster risk reduction section. ARCS gender unit was involved in the distribution of the kit and community sensitization through two female staff of the gender unit and female volunteers in the respective provinces.

³³ As this is ECV and HHWT combined training, the same has been reported under the health section as well.

Table 8: Dignity kit composition

No.	Item	Quantity
1	Handwashing soap (130-140g)	5 bars
2	Laundry soap (220-230 gm)	5 bars
3	Sanitary pads (girls, box of 16)	3 packs
4	Female underwear (5 pieces per pack)	1 pack
5	Bag	1 piece
6	Toothbrush – adult	5 pieces
7	Toothpaste (130gm)	2 pieces
8	Shawl	1 piece
9	Shampoo (360ml)	1 piece
10	Plastic sandals	1 pair
11	Hairbrush	1 piece
12	Hygiene promotion IEC materials with key messages	2 sheets

Table 9: Dignity kits distribution per province

No.	Province	Number of dignity kits distributed	Number of people reached		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Kunduz	1,000	4,714	5,046	9,760
2	Ghor	1,000	4,741	5,189	9,930
3	Badghish	897	3,535	4,215	7,750
4	Daikundi	500	1,529	1,566	3,095
5	Farah	849	2,831	3,597	6,428
	Total	4,246	17,350	19,613	36,963

Next step:

Plans are underway to continue implementing WASH activities based on new income registered, and for which WASH interventions are included, and the progress will be reported in the next reporting period.

**Protection, Gender and Inclusion****Objective:**

Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable

Key indicators:**Indicator****Actual****Target**

of deployed staff and volunteers trained in PGI sensitization and minimum standards³⁴

63

2,000

of PGI assessments conducted using the Minimum Standards

8

34

³⁴ Indicators have been modified to measure in number of staff and volunteers reached instead of by percentage

# of staff and volunteers are trained to respond on SGBV/PSEA using SOPs and in child protection activities	63	1000
# of PGI minimum standard checklist adapted for different sectors ³⁵	7	10

ARCS organized a meeting with ARCS gender unit staff and provided them with orientation on the priorities on PGI for the year 2023. The follow-up meeting will be held after the Eid holiday to agree on the priority actions that IFRC can support in the areas of PGI.

The PGI-related questions were integrated into the assessment questionnaire to ensure the specific needs of the affected population based on gender, disability and other diversity factors are considered and are used to tailor-made the response to address the diverse needs. In addition, post-PDM and exit interview questionnaires were revised and PGI-related questions were added to the tools.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:	<i>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.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator ³⁶	Actual	Target
	# of staff and volunteers trained on community engagement and accountability	63	2,000
	# of CEA integration assessment carried out at regional level	5	7
	# of community consultation meetings	113 ³⁷	200
	% of community members and recipients of assistance are aware of existing feedback mechanisms	51	100
	% of community members who feel their opinion are taken into account during programme planning and decision-making	Discussion is ongoing for data collection ³⁸	70
	# of Post distribution monitoring and satisfaction survey completed	16 ³⁹	40

³⁵ Indicator added to highlight specific activity to be measured in mainstreaming PGI in all of ARCS programming

³⁶ CEA previously reported under PGI section is now reported separately. All indicators are newly added to reflect CEA specific activities to be measured

³⁷ 52 grandmother committee meetings + 61 health committee meetings

³⁸ Although PDM provides data against this indicator, it does not give complete picture as PDM is for distributions only. Therefore, discussion is ongoing on data collection method and tools for this indicator.

³⁹ summary of the PDM and exit survey findings have been provided under Multi-purpose Cash section

IFRC quality and accountability team developed an 18-month plan to integrate CEA into ARCS at the institutional, programme, and operation levels. The plan was to be carried out between July 2022 and December 2023. The objective of the integration at the institutional level is to improve community trust and programme and operation quality and sustainability by institutionalizing CEA in the ARCS. However, at the programme and emergency response level, the plan aims to ensure the ARCS programme and operation is accountable to communities by integrating meaningful community participation, open and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback throughout all stages of the programme cycle. The ToT on CEA and PGI is the focus of the plan and key staff of ARCS at the regional level will be trained as CEA and PGI trainers. Trained ARCS staff will then be deployed to cascade the training to ARCS staff and volunteers at branch and field levels.

Three four-day CEA integration (together with PGI) ToT training was conducted for 63 staff and volunteers (including one female) in East, South and Southeast regions in 2022. Participants were trained to support mainstreaming of CEA and PGI into their operations and to expand their existing CEA and PGI activities into a more structural and systematic approach that ensures the communities are at the centre of all programmes and operations. The ToT held in September and October 2022 targeted mainly male participants. That was in line with culturally appropriate practices being reinforced to have separate training sessions for males and females. ToT training sessions for females will be held once the appointment of new staff is completed in the gender unit of ARCS. Likewise, the draft CEA policy has been shared with the ARCS leadership for their feedback.

A self-assessment exercise was carried out in all three regions where the training was conducted. The assessment helped to inform how well the National Society meets the CEA minimum actions and where the gaps are at all levels for further action planning. One of the priority gaps identified was the current lack of CEA-integrated policy and strategy at the institutional level.

The ARCS leadership was oriented on the importance of CEA to ensure vulnerable people are at the centre of RCRC humanitarian assistance and was fully supportive of the CEA and PGI integration plan. CEA has also been reflected in the ARCS strategic plan. The reactivation of the ARCS toll-free number (1313) to directly receive community feedback is planned. As part of the self-assessment follow-up, the IFRC Q&A team drafted the CEA policy and translated it into two local languages.



ARCS staff taking exit interview of a farmer who received urea fertilizer in Nangahar province. (Photo: ARCS)

In terms of programming, programme staff were oriented on the importance of CEA and the minimum actions of CEA that need to be integrated into all phases of a programme. Likewise, staff and volunteers involved in emergency response were also oriented on the 10 minimum actions of CEA to be integrated into emergency response operations. These include informing targeted communities of ARCS emergency response plans and services during the community rapid assessment. Overall, CEA in programming still needs further strengthening.

Next steps:

The CEA strategy and a localized brief guide will be developed and distributed to all staff and volunteers. The CEA and PGI integration plan will continue to be implemented in the remaining four regions. Information, education and communications and behaviour change communication materials for community-based awareness will be printed and distributed to communities.

The ARCS gender unit staff will be trained on Sexual and gender-based violence prevention standard operating procedures. The technical assessment will be conducted for the reactivation of the ARCS toll-free number 1313. Moreover, ARCS staff and volunteers will be trained on PGI and CEA in batches throughout this operation.

	Migration	People targeted:	560,000
		People reached:	150,027

Objective:	<i>Host communities support the needs of IDPs and returnees and their families and assist them with reintegration at all stages (origin, transit, and destination)</i>
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Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of multi-sector needs assessment on migration issues conducted.</i>	Not started yet	TBC
	<i># of IDPs who received WASH & healthcare services⁴⁰</i>	108,174	560,000
	<i># of IDPs who receive in-kind and cash assistance⁴¹</i>	53,900	168,000
	<i># of provinces with Humanitarian Service Points established.</i>	Not started yet	12
	<i># of people (and households) offered protection assistance specifically related to displacement and migration</i>	Not started yet	TBC

People on the move are an integral target of overall IFRC/ARCS-supported humanitarian and emergency assistance programmes. Some of the indicators listed above are for indicative purposes to monitor the progress on the desired target but are already calculated in the other sectors. IDP is in the list of vulnerability criteria and as such are prioritized in the beneficiary selection list to receive food, cash assistance, household items, hygiene kits and winterization kits. Many IDPs have reported having received cash and in-kind assistance from IFRC-ARCS. Moreover, it is estimated at least 108,174 IDPs received health services through ARCS' MHTs and handwashing soaps in 15 provinces since the start of this emergency appeal.

	Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery	People targeted:	560, 000
		People reached:	68,208

Objective:	<i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>
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Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of households received winterization kit ⁴²</i>	7,667	10,000 ⁴³

⁴⁰ Indicator added to reflect IDPs who were reached through WASH and healthcare interventions under this emergency appeal

⁴¹ Indicator added to reflect IDPs who were reached through cash and various in-kind assistance

⁴² Indicator has been modified to be more specific to the activity

⁴³ Target number of kits has been revised to reflect new target people reach under the latest operation strategy

# of staff and volunteers trained on BDRT, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) & early warning system (EWS) response	150	1000
# of sessions preparedness meetings and awareness conducted in drought affected communities ⁴⁴	Planned	100
# of people reached by RCRC through DRR/CCA public awareness messaging and public education campaigns (PAPE) ⁴⁵	Ongoing	60,000
# of communities that have developed plan of action for DRR/CCA based on vulnerability and capacity assessment with support of RCRC ³²	Planned	200
# of people trained in disaster risk reduction-related areas (vulnerability and capacity assessment or climate change adaptation, first aid, contingency planning, or emergency response) ³²	Planned	4,000

Winterization support

A total of 6,244 winterization kits were distributed in 10 provinces in January 2023 where there was harsh winter. Likewise, 3,500 winterization kits were distributed in December 2021 and were completed in January 2022. Vulnerable groups especially IDPs were prioritized to receive winterization kits. Province-wise distribution plan is as shown below:

Table 10: Winterization kits distribution per province

No.	Date	Province	Number of households targeted	Number of households reached	Remarks
1	December 2021-January 2022	Herat	500	500	
2		Hilmand	1,000	1,000	
3		Kabul	1,000	1,000	
4		Kandahar	1,000	1,000	
5	January 2023	Badakhshan	500	500	
6		Bamyan	500	500	
7		Daikondi	500	500	
8		Ghor	500	500	
9		Kabul	1,067	1,067	
10		Kunar	500	500	
11		Laghman	100	100	
12		Nurisatan	500	500	
		Sub-total (1)	7,667	7,667	
13		Khost	941	941	Distribution in Khost and Paktika is part of the earthquake response operation.
14		Paktika	1,142	1,136	
		Sub-total (2)	2,083	2,077	
		Grand Total	9,750	9,744	

⁴⁴ Indicator has been modified to be more specific to the activity

⁴⁵ Indicators added to measure community awareness and preparedness for disaster response



People received winterization kit from ARCS with the support of IFRC in Barmal of Paktika province, (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)



Winterization kit provided by ARCS with the support of IFRC helped people kept them warm during harsh winter in Barmal of Paktika province. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

Table 11: List of items and quantity in each winterization kit

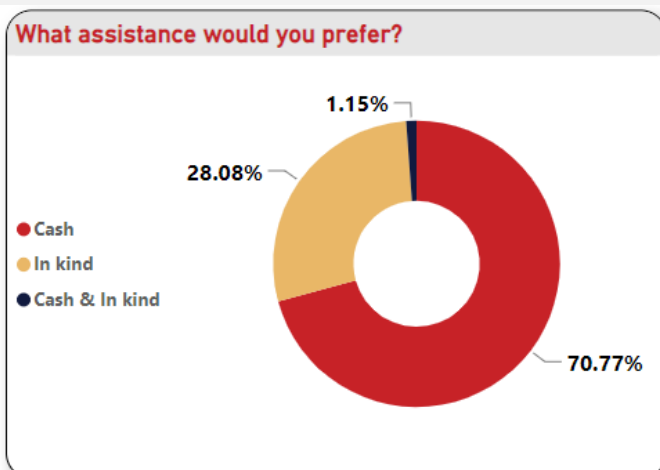
No.	Items	Unit of measurement	Quantity
1	Children sweater	pcs	5
2	Adult sweater	pcs	2
3	Woman's winter shawl	pcs	1
4	Male winter wrap, Patto	pcs	1
5	Winter shoes for adults	pair	2
6	Boots for children	pair	4
7	Socks (pairs)	Pair	12
8	Children woolen winter gloves	pair	4
9	Warm winter woolen children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

In addition, 2,000 blankets were provided to 400 households affected by the earthquake in Gayan district of Paktika province in March 2023. Each household received five blankets. This has also been mentioned under the shelter and settlement section.

Post distribution monitoring (PDM)

Following the distribution of the winterization kits, ARCS PMER department with the technical support of IFRC, conducted PDM in Khost and Paktika provinces. A total of 260 aid recipients were interviewed during the PDM. All respondents were male as no female was available for the interview due to cultural sensitivity in the communities of Afghanistan.

Most of the respondents (95 per cent) were from the host community followed by the internally displaced population (4.6 per cent) and temporary residents (0.5 per cent). The majority of the respondents (71 per cent) said that they preferred cash only, followed by 28 per cent who preferred in-kind support, while only 1 per cent of respondents said they wanted both cash and in-kind support. For more details on the PDM, refer to **Annex II** at the end of the report. RCS will conduct PDM of winterization support in other provinces in the coming months .



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.

Strengthening capacity of ARCS staff and volunteer on response

ARCS established three new BDRT and conducted three Disaster response and cash transfer training for 75 staff and volunteers (all male participants) in Paktika, Parwan and Bamyan provinces between January and February 2023. The ARCS mobilizes trained staff and volunteers to respond quickly to the people affected by disasters and crises during emergencies.

Table 12: Summary of BDRT and CTP trainings

No.	Training	Branch	Year	No. of participants	Remarks
1	BDRT refresher	Badakhshan	27-30 September 2022	25	Established branch development response team
2	BDRT refresher	Baghlan	3- 6 October 2022	25	
3	BDRT and CTP	Ghazni	20-26 December 2022	25	
4	Established New BDRT and Conducted Disaster Response & Cash Transfer Training	Paktika	31 January -5 February 2023	25	
5	Established new BDRT and Conducted disaster response & Cash Transfer training	Parwan	6-11 February 2023	25	
6	Established new BDRT and conducted disaster response & Cash Transfer training	Bamyan	21-26 February 2023	25	
Total				150	
Note: All the participants were male.					

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	<i>National Society capacity building and organizational 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</i>		
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	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of ARCS capacity building and organisational development initiatives organized⁴⁶</i>	Ongoing	34 branches
	<i># of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS</i>	6	34
	<i># of trained volunteers deployed to support the emergency operation⁴⁷</i>	Ongoing	500

National Society Development (NSD): At the request of ARCS, in 2022 IFRC has deployed a Membership Services Adviser and the Asia Pacific Volunteering Coordinator on multiple missions to support ARCS on a wide range of NSD areas. These include a revision of ARCS's Statutes and Law, completion of their Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and Operational Plan 2022-2024, **development of a National Society Development Initiative (NSDI)**, and an **NSD Roadmap to accelerate organizational strengthening**. Details will be included in the next Operations Update once the NSDI has been discussed with Movement partners in-country.

Capacity building and training: Capacity-building efforts were around **CEA and PGI training** for ARCS staff and volunteers, including MHT staff, and enhancing information management capacity. A key focus was the utilization of the **Red Rose expertise** for data collection and management. In this regard, IFRC engaged with the Red Rose team on preparations for installation and training that were done during the first half of May 2022. This has contributed to and improved the data protection and management setup for the cash voucher assistance.

Enhancing digitalization capacity: IFRC supported ARCS to fast-track the National Society's digital transformation agenda at headquarters, regional and branch levels. ARCS aims to build up the governance, management and accountability systems, branch development, communication, and resource mobilization of the National Society through engagement in digital transformation.

With the support of IFRC, the following digital transformation projects were successfully carried out during the reporting period for ARCS:

- Established a new video conference room for ARCS leadership which enables online meetings to be conducted smoothly with ARCS offices as well as partner in-country and internationally
- Supported the deployment of the RedRose data management system used in ARCS cash and in-kind distribution activities
- Procured 650 Office 365 licenses and supported on-site training in Malaysia for ARCS information technology (IT) department staff. Currently, nine directorates use institutionalized emails and implementation of the rest directorates and staff are under the process

⁴⁶ Indicator has been modified to be a quantitative indicator instead of a binary indicator

⁴⁷ Indicator added to highlight National Society's capacity to train and deploy volunteers for emergency response

- Supported ARCS in the assessment and quality assurance of hardware and software
- Supported in the assessment of digitalisation gaps that includes the need for the development of Volunteer Management System, upgrade of Microsoft Navision to a standard enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution like Microsoft Business Central, need for an upgrade of local IT infrastructure and GPS solution.
- IFRC IT/information management team have been providing technical support/orientation on the use of IT equipment and information management to ARCS on a need basis.
- Provided Red Rose utilization training for 32 ARCS staff from disaster management, PMER and IT departments from headquarters and regions.
- Completed procurement of closed-circuit television system equipment to enhance the capacity for security systems in ARCS headquarters and Marastoon and handed over to ARCS
- More than 200 residents have been benefiting from the provision of equipment and items (laptops- 22 pieces for computer lab), printer-8 pieces, Projector and screen -1 piece for children to watch the informative presentation, television screen, sound system in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons.

ARCS conducted a three-day planning and reporting for 23 staff in the Northeast and North regions. The main objective of the training was to develop the capacity of branch staff on planning tools including log frame, result-based management and reporting as well as orient them on planning and reporting templates.

Likewise, ARCS conducted training on accountability and responsibility awareness and a finance manual for 20 ARCS finance staff (all male) from the East region in Kunar. The objective of the training was to strengthen the financial management system of the ARCS. The training covered an introduction to accountability and responsibility, ARCS financial manual and system, working advance and reporting. These trainings are part of an effort of IFRC to support in strengthening the capacity of the Host National Society for delivering quality services efficiently and transparently and upholding accountability to the vulnerable people it serves.

Table 13: Details of national/provincial level trainings for ARCS staff and volunteers

No.	Training	Branch	Date	No. of participants
1	Planning and reporting	Northeast region	19-21 December 2022	23
2		North region	16-18 January 2023	30
3	Accountability and responsibility awareness and finance manual	Asadabad, Kunar	24-30 December 2022	20

Note: All the participants were male.

Next step:

Enhancing digitalization capacity:

- Procurement of IT equipment to support ARCS in the digitalization of operation under process – expected to be completed by May 2023
- Establishment of a call centre (1313) to allow a Feedback response mechanism. A comprehensive assessment of this project is to be conducted by a third party-
- Support in volunteer management and development of Volunteer Management System

Recruitment of NSD delegate is in progress. The NSD delegate will support ARCS – closely with the ICRC and PNS– in moving forward with its NSDI and NSD Roadmap to accelerate organizational strengthening. Furthermore, the Danish Red Cross has indicated securing substantial financial resources to support ARCS NSD efforts in a coordinated manner to optimize results.



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

Movement wide coordination mechanism is described and active⁴⁸

Yes

Yes

ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention

Ongoing

Yes

IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Ongoing

Yes

Coordination with the authorities: ARCS is maintaining close coordination with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and local authorities in line with its role as auxiliary to public authorities while maintaining neutral and independent humanitarian action. Among others, ARCS is working closely with MoPH on the mobilization of healthcare personnel, medicines, and medical equipment. Furthermore, the IFRC Secretariat is supporting briefing sessions and sharing of information with government and institutional donors.

Membership coordination: In-country partners engaged within the framework of IFRC's Agenda for Renewal's New Way of Working (New WoW) throughout the reporting period. Among others, some 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, an agreement was signed with the TRC in August 2022 for TRC to take the lead in the implementation of food assistance and WASH with ARCS using funds mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal. A resource person – from Danish Red Cross – was engaged in November 2022 to support in developing a common needs and context analysis. 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.

In May 2022, the IFRC supported the facilitation of the ARCS partnerships meeting in the State of Qatar. For three days, participants from ARCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS dialogued, exchanged views, conducted joint contextual analysis, and undertook group strategic thinking to create a shared understanding of the dynamic operational context in Afghanistan, the evolving humanitarian landscape, and prioritize new opportunities and challenges. It was also an opportunity for the ARCS to present its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and identify realistic partnering principles and modalities for working together on the ambitions outlined in the 5-year plan.

On 29 May 2022, there was also a diplomatic roundtable meeting with Doha-based embassies and missions which enabled the ARCS to provide an update on the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, as well as its activities in-country. This event also allowed the ARCS to provide its views on emergencies as well as long-term solutions required to mitigate the worst of the crisis. Diplomatic mission representatives had an opportunity to ask questions and present their views on the worsening humanitarian and political situation in Afghanistan.

⁴⁸ Indicator added to reflect ongoing movement coordination in country

On 17 June 2022, the IFRC Geneva hosted the Donor Advisory Group (DAG) members from Geneva-based missions and National Societies for a roundtable discussion with ARCS senior management team (SMT) members to discuss the evolving operational context in Afghanistan and ARCS' 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. This was also an opportunity for discussion on the revised Emergency Appeal for Afghanistan. The DAG members took the opportunity to raise questions around the operational capacity of the ARCS, the situation of women in today's Afghanistan, bank sanctions/liquidity crisis, and urgent needs in the country based on the multiple crises the country is suffering from. A follow-up briefing to DAG was done in November 2022 by the IFRC Head of Delegation in Geneva.

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) was 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.

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, Danish Red Cross is representing the IFRC network in Child Protection and MHPSS Working Groups

New external partners: Partnerships forged during this period includes Islamic Development Bank and the Kuwait Society for Relief.



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 rapid response and surge members deployed to support operations⁴⁹</i>	9	As required
	<i># of evaluations conducted for emergency response</i>	1	2 ⁵⁰
	<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Ongoing	Yes

⁴⁹ Indicator has been modified to measure the number of rapid response surge staff deployed

⁵⁰ Target has been updated from one to two to reflect mid-term review and final review of the Emergency Appeal

Surge capacity: The IFRC Secretariat has mobilized nine **surge delegates** to support the ARCS as well as the IFRC network in the ongoing response. Those deployed during the reporting period comprise those covering the following areas: Programme coordination, Field coordination, human resources, information management, PMER, procurement, and shelter programme.

Recruitment: Recruitment of long-term positions for the deputy head of delegation, supply chain coordinator, procurement delegate, and planning and reporting delegate completed.

Likewise, several needed **staff were recruited locally** over the reporting period. These included one operations response officer, one cash transfer programme officer, one senior livelihood officer, two female data assistants, one communications coordinator, one senior security officer and two safety and access officers, (Khost and Sharan) Restructuring of the organization structure is in progress in IFRC Afghanistan Delegation for:

- Providing efficient and quality support – aligned with the IFRC's Agenda for Renewal – to ARCS and the IFRC membership as well as enhancing Humanitarian Diplomacy
- Providing integrated support to PNS.

Evaluations: A mid-term review of the operation was conducted between October-November 2022 by an external evaluation team. The report was translated into Dari and Pashto. The report has been finalized and currently, IFRC Afghanistan country delegation management is working on management response and their action plan for the proposed recommendations.

Procurement: Because of prolonged multiple shocks in the country including recent climate-induced disasters such as floods and droughts resulted in the need for large-scale procurement of various items. IFRC has been fully supporting ARCS in handling the procurement files. All procurement undertaken by the IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation follows the IFRC procurement internal policies and is in compliance with UN sanctions procedures. Currently, IFRC has a procurement delegate in the Afghanistan delegation who is responsible for procurement through the IFRC and supporting ARCS in their procurement process as well as capacity development in procurement. In addition, there is a supply chain coordinator in IFRC to ensure the procurement process follows the IFRC policies and procedures.

Current procurement priorities include:

- Long-term framework agreement for the procurement of food packages, fuel/diesel supply and transportation.
- hygiene items for offices and residences,
- long-term service agreement for generators maintenance, consultant to prepare drawing, design, bill of quantities (BoQ) and supervision and monitoring of execution part of ARCS Marastoon renovation,

Communications: The IFRC supports the ARCS in its communication functions both internally and externally. Throughout the reporting period, press releases and articles were posted on the IFRC website:

- 17 June 2022 Afghanistan: Hunger and poverty surge as drought persists
<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/afghanistan-hunger-and-poverty-surge-drought-persists>
- 22 June 2022 following the earthquake: Deadly earthquake hits crises-riddled Afghanistan
<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/deadly-earthquake-hits-crises-riddled-afghanistan>
- 15 August 2022 Afghanistan: Unending crises driving millions to breaking point
<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/afghanistan-unending-crises-driving-millions-breaking-point>
- 13 September 2022 Crisis fatigue not an option as global hunger crisis deepens, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement warns

<https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/crisis-fatigue-not-option-global-hunger-crisis-deepens-international-red-cross-red>

IFRC also published an [online statement](#) following the ban on women in education and workplace in December 2022. It continues its work by engaging privately with relevant authorities on this matter. In addition, the IFRC made a call to the international community on providing long-term solutions to the crises-riddled country through this [Op-Ed piece](#). The IFRC keeps its partners and donors updated on Afghanistan-related matters through internal communication alongside consultation with the ARCS leadership.

The IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office re-ignited the technical support to the delegation in Kabul and extends its support to the ARCS Communications team towards the latter part of 2022. During the reporting period, IFRC recruited a Communications Coordinator and together with the Audiovisual Officer now comprise the IFRC in-country communications team, under its Strategic Engagement and Partnerships Unit.

With proactive collaboration in place, IFRC issued an in-depth story on Afghanistan which can be found [here](#), highlighting its work on the ground through the Mobile Health teams. The IFRC is also supporting the ARCS Communications team in procuring basic equipment for generating content from the field and sharing information. In addition, IFRC is providing capacity-building support for which a Movement Orientation and Communications training is planned for late May 2023.

Looking forward:

- Lessons learned workshop of humanitarian crises operation.

D. FUNDING

As of 31 March 2023, the Emergency Appeal coverage for the Wider Humanitarian Crises response is approximately 48 per cent per cent (including in-kind donations) against a funding requirement of CHF 80 million. The donor response can be accessed [here](#). It should be noted that funding amounts reported in the donor response and financial reports include the coverage of the Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operational Strategy of which approximately CHF 7.2 million has been obtained against a funding ask of CHF 10 million.

All the income received to date for the Wider Humanitarian Crisis has been fully allocated, with a bulk of it already spent on emergency food assistance, household items and hygiene kits and winterization kits. During the period from April to September 2022, funds were mainly mobilized for food and cash assistance to reach the targeted population where priority needs were identified. This resulted in overspending of the initial budget allocated within the disaster risk reduction and livelihood and basic needs sectors. The budget variances will be addressed further in the next operations update. For details on the expenditure as of 31 December 2022, please refer to the financial report appended.

Several partners to the appeal have expressed concerns relating to the December 2022 developments relating to limitations put on local female humanitarian workers. ARCS and IFRC are maintaining close communications with the authorities and partners to ensure a shared understanding of the potential impacts of the developments. Implementation continues as planned and in line with funding obtained to date. IFRC is against any form of exclusion and its private humanitarian diplomacy efforts aimed at securing unimpeded access by the entire humanitarian community, including female workers, will continue alongside service delivery. The top priority remains to deliver humanitarian assistance and critical services to people who are experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

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: sg@arcs.af
- International Relations Department; email: ir@arcs.af

In the IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan

- Necephor Mghendi, Head of Delegation; email: necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org
- Rad Al Hadid, Operations Manager; email: rad.alhadid@ifrc.org
- Farukh Keter, Field Coordinator; email: farukh.keter@ifrc.org

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
- Nikola Angelovski, Operations Coordinator; email: opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org
- Olle Kaidro, Logistic Coordinator; email: olle.kaidro@ifrc.org
- Afrhill Rances, Regional 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.

ANNEX I

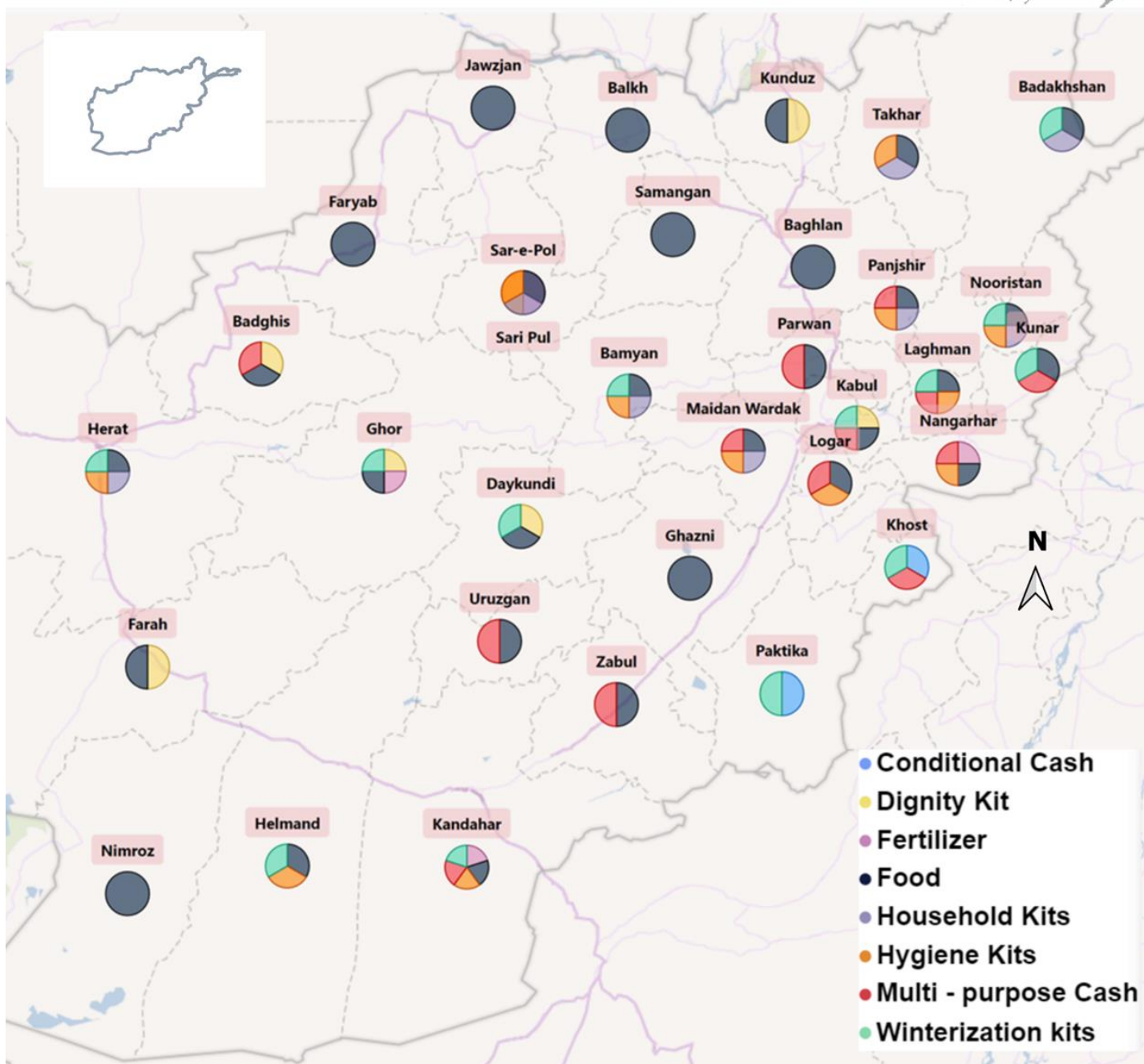
Afghanistan Wider Humanitarian Crisis

IFRC Response

As of 31 March 2023



+C 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.



PDM Survey Summary



Background

ARCS PMER department with technical support of IFRC Country Delegation PMER, conducted PDM surveys in Spera, Gayan, and Barmal districts of Khost and Paktika provinces for the winterization kits distributed to the earthquake affected households. Total of 260 aid recipients were interviewed during the PDM survey and the summary results are reflected as below.



Respondents

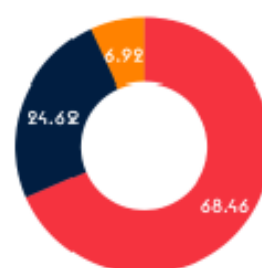
260

Gender %



■ Male

Age %

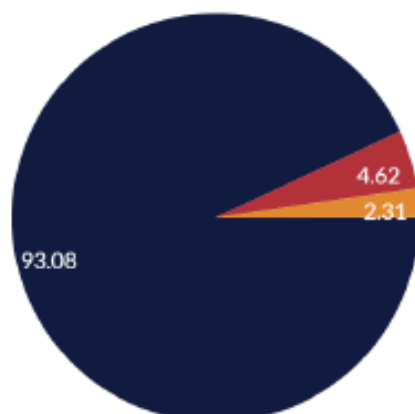


■ 18 - 50 ■ > 50 ■ < 18



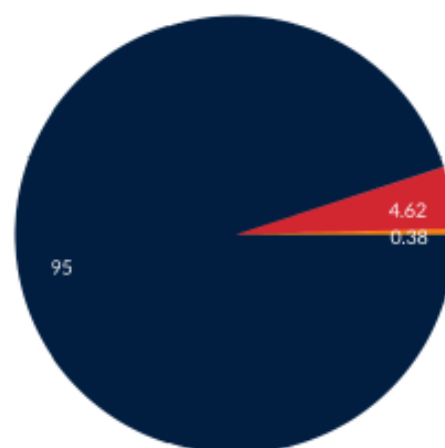
Households and migration details

How long have you been living in your current location? (%)



■ More than 3 months
■ between 2 weeks and 3 months ■ less than 2 weeks

What was your residency status in this location when you received the assistance? (%)

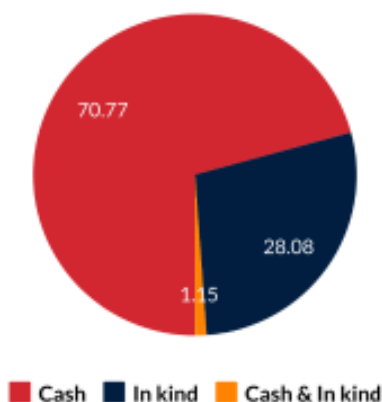


■ Host resident ■ IDP ■ Temporary resident

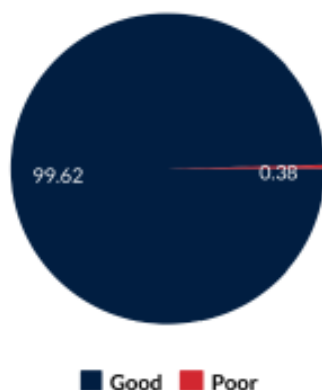


Satisfaction Level

What assistance would you prefer? (%)



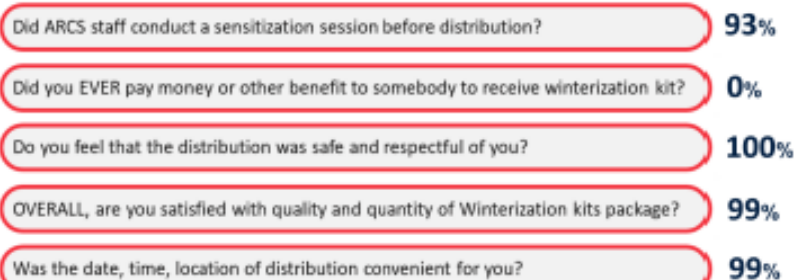
How was the quality of items in winterization kits you received? (%)



Satisfaction with selection process (%)



Questions with Yes response

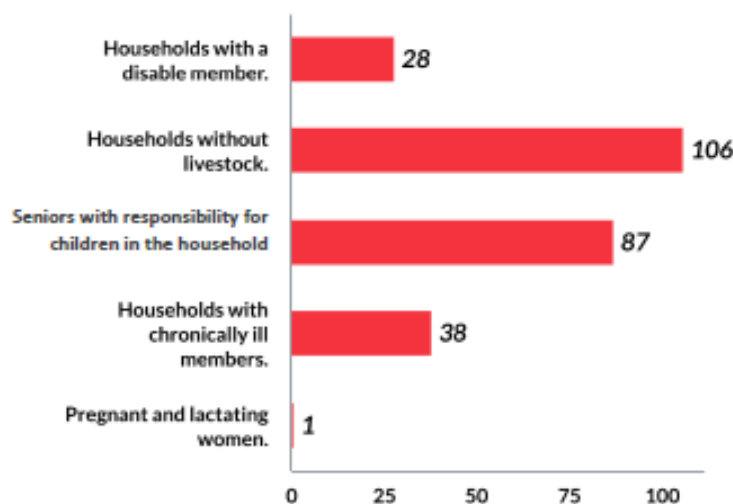


Satisfaction with information provided (%)

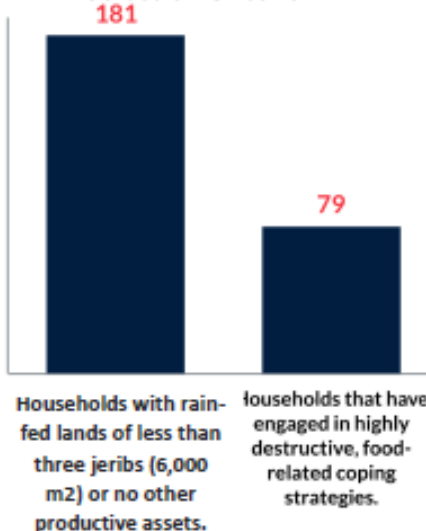


Selection and Vulnerability criteria's

Vulnerability Criteria



Selection Criteria



Internal

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Prepared on 08 May 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 08 May 2023	40,693,383
Appeal Coverage	45.21%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	1,502,071	1,199,077	302,994
AOF2 - Shelter	7,439,788	3,819,719	3,620,069
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	16,541,967	11,753,796	4,788,171
AOF4 - Health	3,346,482	2,220,320	1,126,162
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	938,294	538,333	399,961
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	131,814	70,193	61,621
AOF7 - Migration	0	767	-767
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	1,220,602	999,744	220,858
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,304,640	1,295,690	1,008,950
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	825,986	343,358	482,629
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	2,436,207	1,394,931	1,041,276
Grand Total	36,687,851	23,635,928	13,051,924

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/03

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	36,524,287
Expenditure	-23,635,928
Closing Balance	12,888,359
Deferred Income	2,543,659
Funds Available	15,432,018

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

Prepared on 08 May 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

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*)	12,923,356				12,923,356	
Danish Red Cross	1,547,648				1,547,648	
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	189,765				189,765	
Japanese Government	4,782,454	49,987			4,832,440	2,438,519
Japanese Red Cross Society	522,610				522,610	
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			119,631		119,631	
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	405,823				405,823	105,140
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	36,135,834	268,821	119,631	0	36,524,287	2,543,659

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Prepared on 08 May 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	36,524,287	2,543,659
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