

Emergency appeal No: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/04/2021 Revised appeal published: 14/10/2023 (Revision No.6) ¹ Revised Operational Strategy published: 01/07/202	GlideNo: DR-2021-000022-AFG
Operation update #9 Date of issue: 7/12/2023	Timeframe covered by this update: From 10/04/2021 to 30/09/2023
Operation timeframe: 44 months (10/04/2021 - 31/12/2024)	Number of people being assisted: 2 million individuals (186,000 households)
Funding requirements (CHF): IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 120 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 300 million ¹	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 1,000,000

As of 30 September 2023, this Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) seeks CHF 120 million overall and is currently 36 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with humanitarian assistance and protection needs of the affected population



ARCS is providing cash assistance, vocational training, and inputs for income-generating activities to widows and women-headed households in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. (Photo: ARCS)

¹ Emergency Appeal Revision No.6 was done shortly after revision No.5 to include the response to the Earthquake in Herat. Refer to [Emergency Appeal Revision No.6](#) for the specific updates addressing the changing needs relating to the Wider Humanitarian Crises response for this operation update.

The Emergency Appeal was revised two months later (in October 2023) following the fifth revision (in August 2023) due to the devastating earthquakes in western Afghanistan. These earthquakes created urgent humanitarian needs, including health, food, shelter, cash assistance, mental health, and psychosocial support (PSS), water, sanitation and hygiene, and protection for orphaned children and widowed women. The Operational Strategy for Herat Earthquakes outlines the needs and approach for delivering assistance.

In the latest sixth revision, the IFRC Secretariat is not increasing funding requirements. The response to the Herat Earthquakes is incorporated into the funding requirements established in the August 2023 revision. This approach aligns with the framework outlined in the previous revision, focusing on delivering urgent humanitarian assistance and addressing recovery needs. However, a separate Operational Strategy for the Herat earthquakes has been prepared to earmark funds, identify donor assistance needs, and streamline monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.

Currently, the Emergency Appeal ([MDRAF007rea6](#)) has four Operational Strategies (see below chart).



A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Major disasters that hit Afghanistan in 2022 and 2023

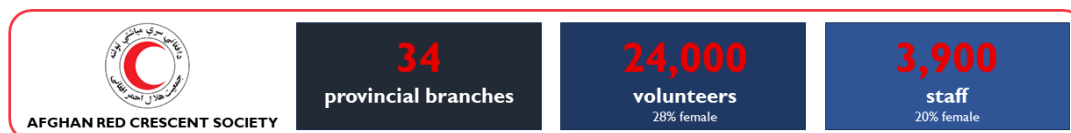


Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan are driven by multiple factors: drought, climate disasters, protection issues (especially for women and girls), economic hardships, and limited access to essential services. Urgent investments are needed in water infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, alternative livelihoods, gender policy reform, and macroeconomic stability to prevent further deterioration. Stabilizing essential services like healthcare and social services is crucial to reduce dependence on humanitarian aid and promote long-term support. The situation has been exacerbated by the frequency of disasters, including floods and earthquake.

Increasing restrictions on women's involvement in various aspects of Afghan society limit the humanitarian community's outreach to approximately 20 million Afghan women. Collaboration with authorities and stakeholders is vital, as female workers play a crucial role in effective interventions, aligning with cultural practices in Afghanistan. For more details, refer to the previous wider Humanitarian Crises [Operation Update No.8](#).

Summary of response

Overview of the operating National Society and ongoing response



The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), as a public authority auxiliary, is a key national partner in disaster response. The National Society has more than 24,000 volunteers and 3,900 staff involved in humanitarian assistance to people in need across the country. ARCS presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well-established, enabling the National Society to reach vulnerable populations not served by other humanitarian actors in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas.

Key accomplishment:



As of 30 September 2023, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached more than **2 million people** (except Khost and Paktika earthquake response) since the start of the operation. Refer to the above diagram for the sector-wise number of people reached data. More details as follows:

Shelter

- 2,083 households received support for their house repairing and 305 households received integrated intervention including house reconstruction in Khost and Paktika provinces. For more details, refer to (Khost and Paktika) Earthquake Response [Operation Update No.3](#).

Livelihood

- 92,500 households received food packages in 28 provinces since April 2022.
- 20 women from Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons² completed six-month vocational and business development trainings in the first half of 2023. They are now earning by tailoring and embroidery activities.

² Marastoons are centers in Afghanistan that traditionally provide shelter for the destitute. The term "marastoon" means "places of assistance" and the Afghan Red Crescent Society operates these centers.

- 500 women received one month of soft skills training such as bookkeeping, business management, and business plan development in Marastoons in five provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar).
- 500 individuals are benefiting from cash for work programme in flood-affected areas in two provinces (Badakhshan and Maidan Wardak).
- Each of 3,125 households received 150kg of urea fertilizer in five provinces (Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghor, Nangarhar, and Sar-e-Pul) in March 2023.
- Each of 1,200 households received AFN 9,000 (approx. CHF 105) to purchase agriculture kits (wheat certified seeds-50kg, Urea fertilizer-50kg and Diammonium Phosphate fertilizer-50kg) in Badakhshan, Bamyán Ghazni and Kunar provinces.

Multipurpose cash

- 28,019 households comprised of 173,553 people (72,556 males and 100,997 females) received multipurpose cash in 28 provinces. Refer to the multipurpose cash section of this report for more details.

Health and WASH

- 991,601 people (345,752 males, 645,849 females) provided with primary health care services such as out-patients, communicable and non through 16 mobile health teams (MHTs)
- A total of 7,650 households received hygiene kits in Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Panjshir and Sar-e-Pul, which benefitted 53,550 people.
- 2,408 volunteers (1,356 males and 1,052 females) trained on evidence-based community-based health and first aid (eCBHFA), first aid in schools, psychological first aid, nutrition screening, epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), household water treatment (HWT), and hygiene promotion in 20 provinces (Badghis, Bamyán, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khost, Kunduz, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktika, Panjshir, Parwan, Sar-e-Pul, and Zabul). Following participation in the training, the volunteers reached 192,869 people, including 87,920 females through household visits and health and hygiene-related sessions. Likewise, they carried out our nutrition screening of under 5 children, and pregnant and lactating mothers. The volunteers refer the malnutrition cases to health facilities.
- 651 people (383 males and 268 females) with congenital heart disease received cash support for their treatment across the country.

PGI and CEA

- Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are integrated into all IFRC-supported programs and operations.
- The feedback received from the hotline is actively utilized, primarily for cash assistance purposes, allowing community members to ask questions, voice concerns, and seek clarifications.
- The ARCS staff and volunteers have received training on feedback mechanisms and communication with the community, equipping them to effectively handle inquiries and engage with community members.
- CEA and PGI-related questions have been incorporated into post-distribution monitoring (PDM), field assessment, and other quality assurance processes. This helps to address PGI and CEA issues throughout the programme/operation cycle.
- 4,246 women and girls received dignity kits in five provinces (Badghis, Daikundi, Farah Ghor and Kunduz). The dignity kit contains basic supplies to maintain the health and dignity of women and girls affected by the crisis.

National Society Development

- 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.

Additionally, the basic needs of 80 women, 226 children and 100 individuals requiring mental health and psychosocial support (PSS) were met in Marastoons. Under disaster risk reduction (DRR), 7,667 winterization kits were distributed in eight provinces benefiting 68,208 people (note: distribution in Khost and Paktika has been excluded from this figure).

Furthermore, ARCS, with the support of IFRC and its International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners network reached 106,000 people through multisectoral intervention in Khost and Paktika. Refer to (Khost and Paktika) Earthquake Response [Operation Update No.3](#) for further information.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement actions in country

Federation-wide approach: 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 Turkish Red Crescent (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 require aid. This is complementary to the existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms in Afghanistan.

As of 30 September 2023, ARCS with the support of the IFRC network (IFRC Secretariat and Participating National Societies -PNS) have assisted **3.8 million people** in Afghanistan through multisectoral intervention (shelter, health and care, WASH and DRR) reaching communities in **all 34 provinces** of the country. The Danish Red Cross supports 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.

NorCross provides support 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, Maidan Wardak and Paktya.

Turkish Red Crescent actively supports ARCS's operations through the provision of food and livelihood assistance, shelter, health as well as WASH interventions. A funding project agreement was signed with the TRC in line with the Agenda of Renewal³.

National Societies that have channelled support via the IFRC Secretariat Emergency Appeal are the Albanian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent, Canadian Red Cross, 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, Kuwait 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.

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.

³ 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 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 channelling funds through them so that they may assist the operating National Society in implementing the wider Humanitarian Crises [Operational Strategy](#).

The IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation has continued to strengthen its systems of financial compliance and accountability to support ARCS in managing resources and delivering humanitarian assistance. This includes reinforcing financial safeguards to prevent individuals under financial sanctions from controlling funds transferred to ARCS. Regular screening of individuals or vendors is conducted for payments, both for those forwarded to IFRC and those paid by ARCS using IFRC funds. Additionally, IFRC supports ARCS in procurement procedures, ensuring alignment with IFRC standards for items purchased using IFRC funds.

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, Gulbahaar, 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

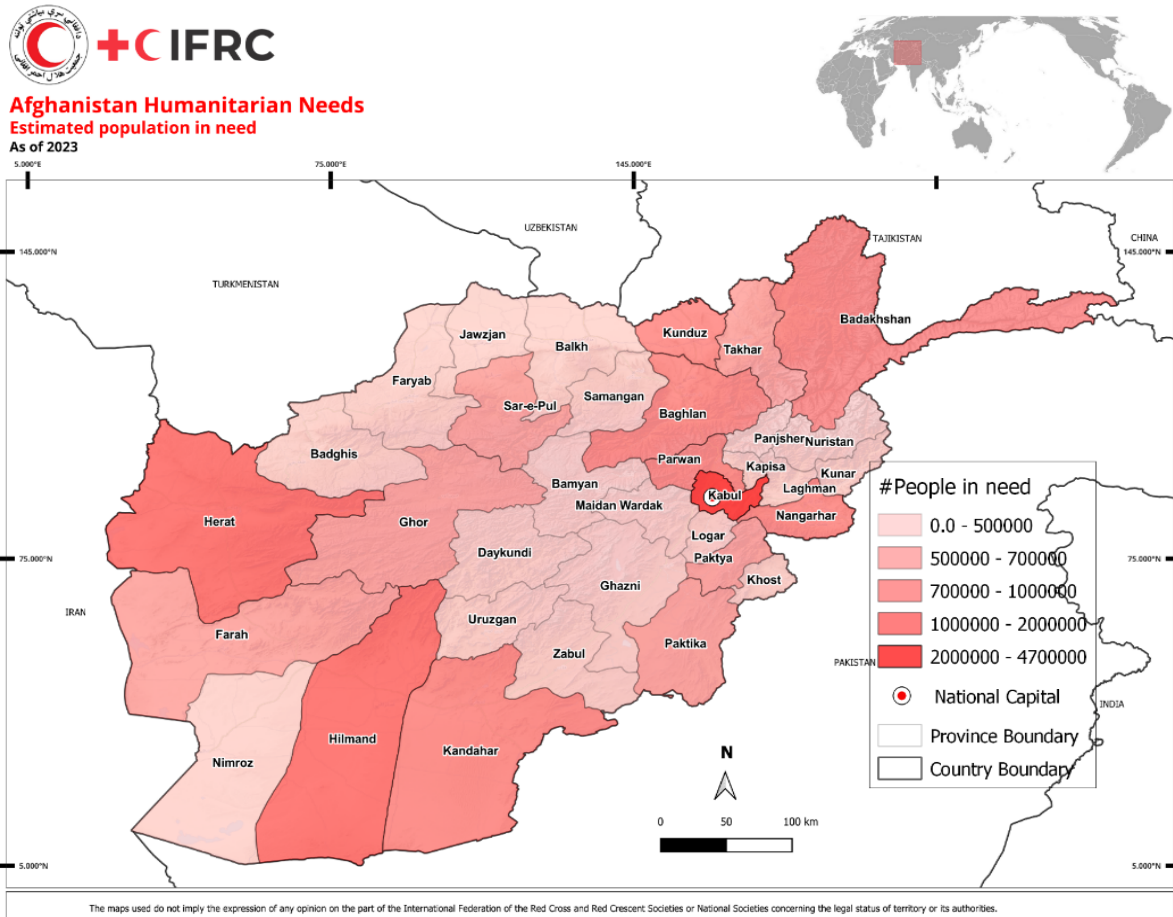
Many non-state actors in Afghanistan provide humanitarian aid to Afghans, working through clusters. The cluster system was established as a sectoral coordination mechanism at the national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of partners, including non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders.

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 (CVWG), Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES-NFIs) Cluster, Health Cluster and WASH Cluster. 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 to reach out to the most vulnerable populations and communities in need of humanitarian assistance. Large-scale projects supported by other funding sources outside this emergency appeal include primary health and care, WASH in schools (WiNS), supporting Marastoons, and strengthening community resilience to climate change programmes supported through the Unified Plan for Afghanistan. The latest progress against the plan is accessible here: [Mid-year IFRC Network Plan Report 2023](#).

Needs analysis



Data Source: [Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan by OCHA, Jan 2023](#)

Afghanistan is facing significant humanitarian needs, with approximately 28.3 million people requiring assistance in 2023. Among those in need, children account for 54 per cent, women 23 per cent, and individuals with severe disabilities make up 8.3 per cent of the population⁴.

Food Security and Livelihood

Between May and October 2023, an estimated 15.3 million people are acutely food insecure, including 3.4 million that require sustained humanitarian support to prevent catastrophic levels of hunger⁵. According to the latest food insecurity assessment by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), 15.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity, of whom 2.7 million people are one step away from famine. Women and children are disproportionately affected by the humanitarian crisis, with some 3.2 million children facing moderate (MAM) and severe (SAM) malnutrition in addition to 840,000 undernourished pregnant and lactating mothers. There is, therefore, a need to continue providing nutritious food in some places as well as support for addressing MAM and SAM.

In Afghanistan, food insecurity is driven by several factors. Poverty and economic instability, weather-related shocks, and prolonged conflict have all contributed to the problem. Limited access to essential public services and safety nets exacerbates the situation. Gender inequalities have also played a role, restricting women's economic opportunities and worsening household food insecurity. Particularly concerning is the fact that almost all female-headed households in Afghanistan do not have enough food. These challenges are expected to worsen, and widows and single mothers face heightened vulnerability due to increasing unemployment rates.

⁴ Afghanistan humanitarians need overview 2023.

⁵ WFP Afghanistan Country Brief September 2023

Health and care

Afghanistan faces significant gaps in healthcare access, particularly in rural areas. The costs associated with healthcare, including transportation expenses, pose additional barriers to access, especially for impoverished individuals. The country is grappling with various acute disease outbreaks, including measles, acute watery diarrhea (AWD), dengue fever, pertussis, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), and malaria. Vaccine-preventable diseases continue to pose a threat to child morbidity and mortality, with cases of measles, pertussis, and polio still being detected in 2023. Strengthening routine immunization efforts and primary health services is crucial. Decades of conflict, economic hardships, and pre-existing needs, including widespread substance abuse, have had severe mental health and psychosocial impacts on the population.

Afghanistan faces challenges in addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) due to limited healthcare infrastructure, especially in rural areas. Access to specialized healthcare services for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of NCDs is often limited. This results in delayed or inadequate management of NCDs, leading to increased morbidity and mortality. 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 Afghanistan⁶.

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. ARCS supported by IFRC networks has been distributing food packages and multipurpose cash to vulnerable households. Refer to the livelihood and multipurpose cash sections for more details. Furthermore, ARCS CBHFA volunteers refer the malnourished cases to the hospital.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

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 country⁷.

Shelter and winterisation

In Afghanistan, the need for shelter assistance remains critical. Immediate shelter assistance is required for returnees, households displaced by floods and earthquakes and households 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 2022⁸. The IDPs either live in tents in public areas or with host families. According to the ES-NFI cluster, 9.7 million people need emergency shelter and non-food items in 2023⁹.

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. Also, risks analysed and considered outside of the risk appetite are escalated to the regional and global levels.

⁶ Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview Afghanistan: Humanitarian Programme Cycle 2023, Page # 8).

⁷ <https://pajhwok.com/2022/06/08/kabul-facing-acute-potable-water-shortage-experts/>, and - Afghanistan Humanitarian Need Overview 2023

⁸ OCHA: [Afghanistan: Snapshot of Population Movements, January - December 2021 \(As of 06 January 2022\) - Afghanistan | ReliefWeb](#)

⁹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/people-need-resumes-activities-and-negotiates-full-and-safe-return-work-female-afghan-ngo-workers>

Potential Risk

Mitigation Measure

Cash transfer programme related risks:

- ✓ 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

- ✓ Applied 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.
- ✓ Used Red Rose system for registration of people receiving assistance (recipients) under a global framework agreement between IFRC and Red Rose.
- ✓ Data protection: Gave 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:

- ✓ Prepositioned the planned supplies at the branch/community level.
- ✓ Mapped out alternative road options for access.
- ✓ Conducted hygiene awareness-raising activities. ARCS has also a community-based health programme raising

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:

- ✓ Negotiated with current authorities, Other Armed Groups; mobilize local volunteers and community leaders.
- ✓ Conducted security briefing to staff and volunteers, equipping with ARCS visible tools to increase the visibility, dissemination of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement principles.
- ✓ Prepositioned the planned supplies at the branch/community level.
- ✓ Mapped 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.

- ✓ Strengthened 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.
- ✓ Diversified sourcing options, including from neighbouring countries.
- ✓ Engaged financial service providers who are licensed by the Central Bank and thoroughly screened as well as using the UN Cash Bridge.
- ✓ Undertook 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.
- ✓ Screened all vendors and contractors against UN sanctions lists prior to entering contracts.
- ✓ Socialized the IFRC fraud and corruption prevention policy to vendors and contractors.
- ✓ Applied relevant control measures, including having the IFRC Country Delegation as the first-line defense.

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

- ✓ Monitored situation
- ✓ Put humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people at centre and find innovative ways to reach them
- ✓ Continued private humanitarian diplomacy as priority
- ✓ 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 MPCA, 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 marginalized 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.

In-kind donations were received through the generous contribution of Movement partners, including the 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 are required to enable the implementation of in-kind assistance programming.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION






The figures reported through the indicators are the progress made by ARCS with the support of the IFRC Secretariat.

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

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

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of assessments on shelter capacities and gaps conducted</i>	2	34
	<i># of sets of household items distributed¹⁰</i>	1,250	10,000
	<i># of multi-crises affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items¹¹</i>	8,750	140,000
	<i># of provinces targeted with awareness-raising activities</i>	2	34

With the support of IFRC, ARCS provided:

Shelter, Housing and Settlements		
 1,250 households received household kits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household kit to 1,250 households - in Badakhshan (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 the winterization readiness plan for the composition of household kits. • Winterization kit to 9,744 households (93,136 people) in December 2021-January 2022 and January 2023, of which 2,077 households were from Khost and Paktika. Details of the distribution have been presented under the DRR section of this report. • 8,255 blankets to 2,483 households in Paktika and Khost provinces. • Shelter repairing support to 2,083 households followed by integrated intervention including house reconstruction to 305 households in Khost and Paktika provinces. Refer to (Khost and Paktika) Earthquake Response Operation Update No.3 for further information. • In addition, ARCS/IFRC is supporting construction of latrines for 305 households who do not have latrines. 	
 9,744 households received winterization kits		
 2,483 households received blankets (8,255 pieces)		
 2,083 households received shelter repair support		
 305 households received integrated interventions including house reconstruction		

Exit survey for conditional cash assistance in Paktika and Khost Provinces

ARCS's planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) team carried out an exit survey of the conditional cash grants for shelter construction at the distribution point to get feedback from the recipients so that immediate improvements can be made in the ongoing distribution. A total of 45 people (all male) who received

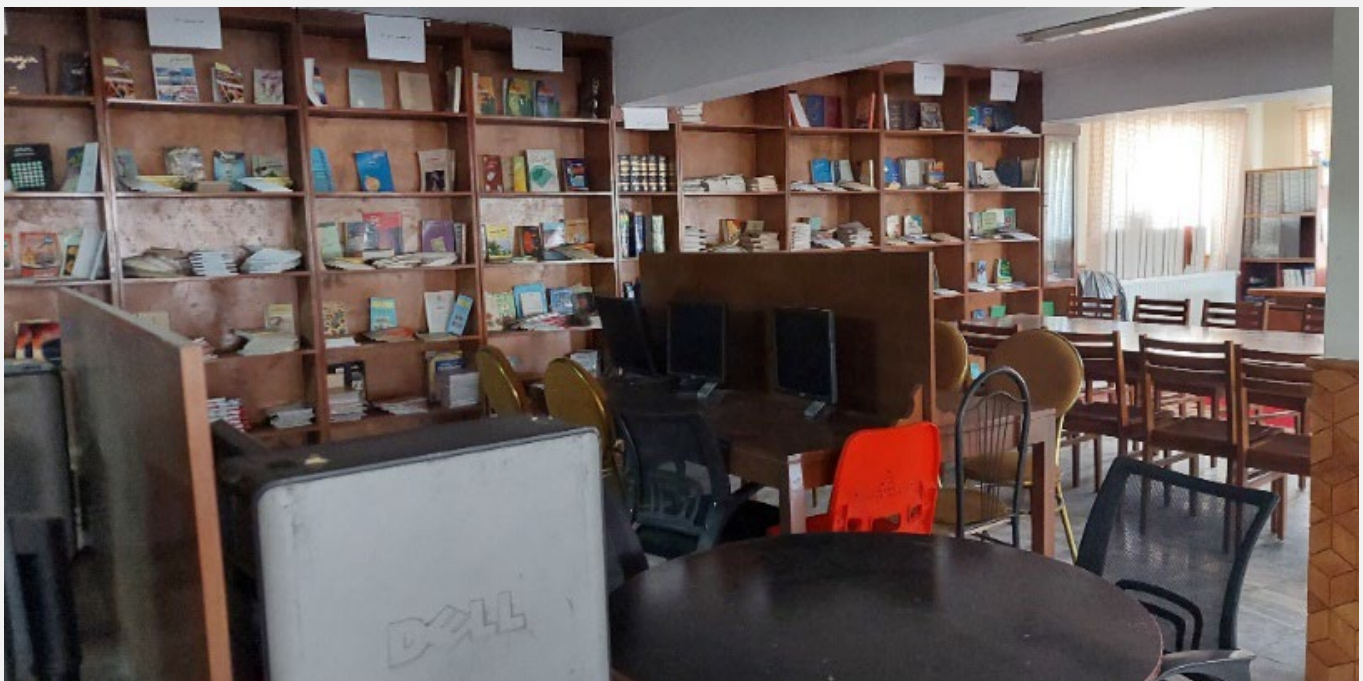
¹⁰ Indicator has been modified to measure household sets that have been distributed instead of procured for distribution.

¹¹ 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

assistance were interviewed in Paktika and Khost provinces. Out of them, 76 per cent of respondents were from 18-50 years old, 22 per cent were above 50 years and 2 per cent were under 18 years. Key findings of the survey:

1. 60 per cent of respondents obtained distribution information from the ARCS office, 31 per cent from ARCS volunteers, and the remaining 9 per cent from the community representatives.
2. 58 per cent of the respondents waited approximately 3 hours to receive the cash, 24 per cent waited 2 hours, and 18 per cent waited 1 hour at the distribution point.
3. Regarding the understanding of how to register a complaint, 67 per cent of respondents said they were aware of where to register the complaint, while the remaining 33 per cent said they did not know about it.
4. 40 per cent of respondents said they spent approximately AFN 200 (approx. CHF 2.5), 36 per cent around AFN 300 (approx. CHF 3.8), and 24 per cent approximately AFN 500 (approx. CHF 6.3) on transportation from home to distribution points.

Support to Marastoons



ARCS is maintaining library for the residence at Kabul Marastoon. (Photo IFRC)

The ARCS Marastoon provides shelters to destitute and needy families while providing education to orphans in the hope of a better future. In the first half of 2023, IFRC provided refurbishment of the items obtained from ARCS for Marastoon. These items included 300 single beds, 80 chairs, 100 sets of educational materials, 50 volumes of English language literature books, 70 essential white goods (fridges), 4 sofas and 100 volumes of educational materials for kids. These items have improved the living conditions of 223 widows and their 203 children. In addition to providing technical support in shelter projects, the IFRC shelter team also provided technical support in all the shelter and construction projects that were supported by IFRC which include:

1. Health sub-clinics at Khost at Paktika (refer to health sections of the report for more details)
2. Medical warehouse in ARCS premises (refer to health sections of the report for more details)
3. WASH in schools (this will be reported in the annual report)
4. Renovation/refurbishment of Marastoon at Kabul, Balkh and Herat (deprioritized for 2023)
5. Office renovation works.

Likewise, IFRC selected a consultant for the renovation of the ARCS Marastoons in Kabul, Balkh and Herat aligning them with modern and contemporary architectural standards. However, the consultancy was terminated because of some issues with the consultant and the fund was diverted to other activities. Furthermore, an assessment of the existing condition of the IFRC office building was carried out to improve facilities and living conditions within the IFRC's office spaces.

	Livelihoods	People targeted:	650,000
		People reached:	650,000¹²
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>	34	34
	<i># of multiple crisis-affected people assisted through emergency food security and livelihood restoration activities¹³</i>	650,000	560,000
	<i># of technical and vocational skill training sessions</i>	16 ¹⁴	400
	<i># of community greenhouse pilot projects</i>	Planned	16
	<i># of provinces covered by the distribution of Agri-tools/ equipment and/or livestock packages¹⁵</i>	9	34
	<i># of training sessions on agriculture and livestock management</i>	9	120
	<i># of community committees or interest groups formed</i>	15	100

Food distribution

A total of 92,500 households (650,000 people) were reached through the food assistance programme with the support of IFRC since the start of the operation. Among them, 64,250 households (450,000 people) received food packages in 31 provinces between April and 30 September 2023.

Out of which, TRC supported the distribution of food packages to 40,000 households in 31 provinces. 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 AFN 13,000¹⁶. For more details, refer to **Table 1**.

¹² Food-490,000 people, vocational training -20 people and urea fertilizer - 22,015 people

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 2 vocational trainings (tailoring and embroidery)+ 5 soft skill trainings +9 wheat Agri practice and integrated paste management training

¹⁵ 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.

Table 1: Province-wise food distribution from April to 30 September 2023				
Province	# of food packages			
	Target	IFRC	Via TRC	Total
1. Badakhshan	3,400	1,400	2,000	3,400
2. Badghis	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
3. Baghlan	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
4. Balkh	4,500	3,500	1,000	4,500
5. Bamyan	3,350	2,350	1,000	3,350
6. Farah	3,300	2,500	800	3,300
7. Faryab	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
8. Ghazni	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
9. Ghor	1,700	1,000	700	1,700
10. Herat	3,500	2,000	1,500	3,500
11. Hilmand	2,600	-1,000	1,600	2,600
12. Jawzjan	2,200	700	1,500	2,200
13. Kabul	2,500	500	2,000	2,500
14. Kandahar	1,900	-	1,900	1,900
15. Kapisa	800	-	800	800
16. Kunar	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
17. Kunduz	3,500	2,500	1,000	3,500
18. Laghman	1,700	-	1,700	1,700
19. Logar	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
20. Maidan Wardak	4,300	2,300	2,000	4,300
21. Nangarhar	5,600	3,500	2,100	5,600
22. Nimroz	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
23. Nooristan	1,800	1,000	800	1,800
24. Paktia	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
25. Panjshir	800	-	800	800
26. Parwaan	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
27. Samangan	800	-	800	800
28. Sar-e Pol	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
29. Takhar	1,100	-	1,100	1,100
30. Uruzgan	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
31. Zabul	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Grand Total	64,250	24,250	40,000	64,250

Soft Skill training

A total of 500 women in five provinces (Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar) received one-month soft skills training such as bookkeeping, business management, financial literacy, market linkage, and business plan development in Marastoons.

Table 2: Number of soft training participants per province						
S.N.	Date	Province	Name of training	Types of participants		Remarks
1.	Sept 2023	Balkh	Soft skills training	Women from and outside the of Marastoons	100	Duration: One month Number of training -5
2.		Herat			100	
3.		Kabul			100	
4.		Kandahar			100	
5.		Nangarhar			100	
Total					500	

The main objective of the training was to restore dignity, provide protection and bring about hope to underprivileged women and children affected by climate-related shocks and prolonged conflict. Refer to **Table 2** for number of participants per province.

Out of 500 women who received soft skill training, 433 women have started vocational (tailoring/ embroidery) training since 4 October 2023. The training will be for three months. While the remaining 57 women are taking poultry farming training in November 2023.

Vocational training

A total of 20 women from Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons completed a six-month vocational training in June 2023. Out of these 14 women were trained on tailoring for women and children in Kabul Marastoon, while six women learned embroidery in Kandahar Marastoon. The trainings were facilitated by a professional training entity engaged by the IFRC on a consultancy basis. In addition to financial support for the training, ARCS provided AFN 75 (approx. CHF 0.9) per day to each participant for refreshments. Out of which, each participant saved AFN 20 in a box. They used the money to start their business after the completion of the training. Additionally, each of the participants received USD 2,000 equivalent as seed capital for starting their businesses.

Cash for work intervention

A total of 500 individuals are benefiting from cash for work programmes in flood-affected areas in two provinces (Badakhshan-300 and Maidan Wardak-200). The main objective of the project is to provide temporary employment opportunities to the individuals affected by flash floods in 2023. They are receiving AFN 400 (approx. CHF 80) per day for 52 working days in two months until December 2023. This is in line with the guidelines provided by CVWG. They are repairing irrigation channels, public roads, and bridges, and renovating hospitals, schools, and shelters in their community as part of the cash for work.

The cash for work is taking place in the places which were affected by flash floods in the third quarter of 2023. IFRC Secretariat had allocated IFRC-DREF to support the ARCS to respond to the people displaced by the floods. The operation targeted vulnerable households such as female/child-headed households, people with disabilities, and households with pregnant/and or lactating mothers with multipurpose cash. The IFRC-DREF amount was not enough to cover individuals between 20-45 with cash for work (temporary employment). Hence, this project has targeted 500 individuals between 20-45 years for cash for work intervention.

ARCS mobilised the community for the selection of individuals for cash for work and its monitoring. The project team conducted community sensitization meetings where the objectives of cash for work initiatives were explained. It was followed by the formation of a 12-member local stream community committee in each district. All the members of the committee are male. The major roles of the committee were to prioritise community projects, select individuals for the cash for work, and monitoring of cash for work and resolve conflicts if arose in the community during the accomplishment of the project. Key criteria used for selecting 500 individuals for cash for work included:

- Affected by floods in 2023
- Having no employment
- Bread-winner of the households
- Interested in cash for work project

Urea fertilizer/agriculture kit intervention

ARCS distributed 150kg of urea fertilizer to each of the 3,125 households in five provinces (Kandahar, Kunduz, Ghor, Nangarhar, and Sar-e-Pul) in March 2023. Out of 3,125 households registered for fertilizer support, 30 households are headed by women. Refer to the previous wider Humanitarian Crises [Operation Update No.8](#), page number 19 for more details of distribution.

Name of province	# of HH	# of female-headed HH	# of people		
			Male	Female	Total
Badakhshan	300	0	1,381	1,365	2,746
Kunar	300	29	999	1,032	2,031
Ghazni	300	0	1,367	1,464	2,831
Bamyan	300	0	1,097	1,136	2,233
Total	1,200	29	4,844	4,997	9,841

Likewise, ARCS supported by IFRC provided conditional cash AFN 9,000 (approx. 105 CHF) to each of 1,200 households to purchase agriculture kits (wheat certified seeds-50kg, Urea fertilizer-50kg and Diammonium Phosphate fertilizer-50kg) in Kunar, Ghazni, Badakhshan and Bamyan provinces. Refer to **Table 3** for details.

The main objective of the intervention was to enhance the livelihood and food security of the farmers who have been affected by drought and flood in the past two years through agriculture projects, especially wheat certified seed. ARCS follows the guidance from the FSAC on the agricultural package (certified wheat 50kg, urea fertilizer 50kg, and phosphate fertilizer 50kg). The transfer value of AFN 9,000 was based on the estimated market price for the agriculture package.

Wheat agriculture practice and paste management training

ARCS with the support of IFRC conducted two-day wheat agriculture practice and integrated paste management training for 120 local stream community committee members in four provinces where the agriculture kit support project was implemented (Badakhshan, Bamyan, Ghanzi and Kunar) provinces. Each local stream community committee contained 30 members (all male). The training covered the history and types of wheat, the importance of certified seeds, preparation of land, uses of fertilizer, integrated paste management, post-harvest and storage as well as marketing.

Likewise, ARCS formed six community groups each with 20 members in five provinces (Ghor, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Sar-e-Pul) in the first quarter of 2023. All 120 members received two-day agriculture technical training in March 2023. Refer to **Table 4** for details.

Date	Province	District	Type of training	# of training	Type of participation	# of participants	Remarks
March 2023	Ghor	Ferozko	Wheat agriculture practice and integrated paste management training	1	Community groups	20	All participants were male
	Kandahar	Panjwayee		1		20	
	Kunduz	Ali abad		1		20	
	Nangarhar	Sherza and Hesarak		2		40	
	Sar-e-Pul	Sozmaqala		1		20	
Sep-23	Badakhshan	Baharak		1	Local stream community committee	30	
Oct -23	Bamyan	Panjab		1		30	
	Ghazni	Andar		1		30	
	Kunar	Noor Gul		1		30	
Total				10		240	

Following the training, they cascaded their knowledge and skills to other farmers in the village through orientation and onsite mentoring.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM)

The ARCS PMER department carried out PDM of the urea fertilizer distribution in November 2023. A total of 331 respondents (1 female; 330 males) were interviewed during the survey. Key findings of the survey:

- 90 per cent of the respondents indicated that the quality of the urea fertilizer received was excellent and 10 per cent of respondents said that the quality was good.
- All respondents said that they never paid money or other benefits to anybody to receive the assistance.
- All respondents said that they used the fertilizer in wheat crops.



Multi-purpose Cash

People targeted: 700,000

People reached: 173,553

Objective: Socio-economically vulnerable households have the ability to meet their basic needs

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of households who received cash assistance after being identified based on their needs ¹⁷	28,019	100,000
	# of training sessions in CVA SOPs for staff and volunteers	2	34
	# of community consultation and sensitization meeting	80	10,000

Cash-based assistance

Table 5: Number of households reached with multipurpose cash

Province	# of HH targeted	# of HH reached	# of people reached			Distribution month
			Male	Female	Total	
1. Kabul	6,900	6,901	20,096	23,737	43,833	June 2022
2. Panjshir	1,000	999	3,576	3,826	7,402	
3. Kunar	510	510	2,016	1,825	3,841	
4. Laghman	100	100	599	636	1,235	Dec 2022
Sub-total	8,500	26,287	26,287	30,024	56,311	2022
1. Badakhshan	600	595	1,323	2,191	3,514	April to Sept 2023
2. Badghis	600	600	2,024	2,807	4,831	
3. Baghlan	500	500	908	1,423	2,331	
4. Balkh	1,000	1,000	1,635	2,368	4,003	
5. Farah	650	647	971	1,790	2,761	
6. Faryab	600	600	1,368	2,318	3,686	
7. Ghor	600	600	1,033	2,000	3,033	
8. Helmand	1,219	1,205	3,586	5,744	9,330	
9. Herat	1,000	1,000	1,969	3,132	5,101	
10. Jawzjan	500	500	1,048	1,491	2,539	
11. Kabul	1,051	994	3,341	4,386	7,727	
12. Kandahar	1,251	1,139	5,044	6,233	11,277	
13. Khost	500	500	1,312	2,100	3,412	
14. Kunar	700	700	1,544	2,260	3,804	
15. Kunduz	1,000	981	2,004	3,408	5,412	
16. Laghman	700	700	1,480	2,400	3,880	
17. Logar	700	700	1,392	2,237	3,629	
18. Nangarhar	1,000	1,000	2,426	3,454	5,880	
19. Nimroz	450	450	1,205	1,919	3,124	
20. Nuristan	600	600	1,585	2,133	3,718	
21. Paktia	1,000	1,000	1,705	2,707	4,412	
22. Paktika	700	700	1,460	2,394	3,854	
23. Samangan	500	500	870	1,568	2,438	
24. Sar-e Pul	500	500	804	1,395	2,199	
25. Takhar	500	500	986	1,580	2,566	
26. Uruzgan	830	498	1,802	3,309	5,111	
27. Zabol	809	800	1,444	2,226	3,670	
Sub-total	20,060	19,509	46,269	70,973	117,242	2023
Total	28,570	28,019	72,556	100,997	173,553	2022-2023

¹⁷ Indicators have been added to highlight the reach and impact of cash assistance provided.

During the reporting period, ARCS supported by IFRC provided cash to 28,019 households comprising 173,553 people (58 per cent female) in 28 provinces (four provinces in 2022 and 27 provinces in 2023; while three provinces namely Laghman, Kunar and Kabul were repeated).

In 2022, 8,500 households received multipurpose cash in four provinces (Kabul, Panjshir, Kunar and Laghman) benefitting 56,311 people (26,287 males and 30,024 females). Each household received a cash amount of AFN 15,500 (approx. CHF 175) in Kabul and Panjshir. While it was 17,500 AFN (approx. CHF 197) in Kunar and Laghman. The amount for Kabul and Panjshir was unconditional for two months while it was for winterization (heating system) based on cluster calculations in Kunar and Laghman.

Likewise, 19,509 households received cash which translates to 117,242 people (46,269 males and 70,973 females) from April to September 2023. Each household is receiving AFN 8,500 (approx. CHF 85) to cover 100 per cent of the cost of a monthly food basket for a family of seven- noting average family size in Afghanistan is seven.

The funding was entirely allocated to women and especially women at risk which include widows, and female-headed households, families with people with disabilities, and pregnant and lactating mothers. When undertaking the recipient selection process, 'people at risk' included the following:

- Female widow with no income source.
- Female-headed house who is responsible of parenthood due to physical and/or mental incapacity of spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner.
- Female-headed house with one or more members having disability or chronic illness.
- Lactating mothers with one or more infants
- Female-headed household with no stable source of income.
- Child-headed household.
- Household headed by elderly person, with children and no abled adult bread winner.
- Household whose breadwinner is severely impacted by drug addiction.

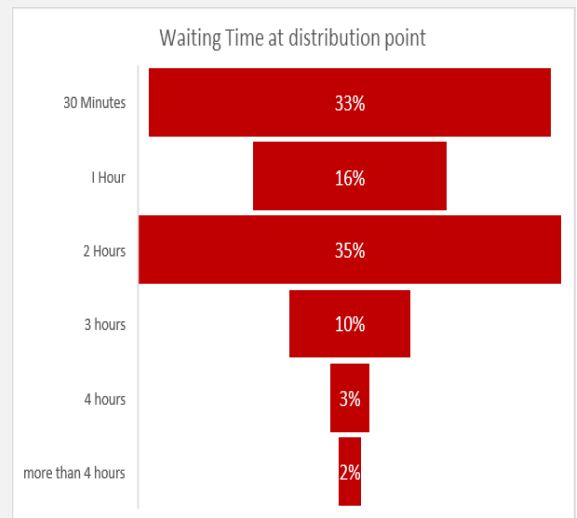
Financial service providers were mobilized to provide cash to households who are registered by ARCS, verified by IFRC, and assigned recipient cards with a QR code that is unique to each recipient. The QR code was used for all transactions when recipients claimed and received their cash assistance.

Exit Survey

ARCS's PMER department carried out exit surveys at cash distribution point to get feedback from the recipients so that immediate improvements can be made in the ongoing distribution. A total of 801 recipients were interviewed, 771 female (96 per cent) and 30 male (4 per cent) in 10 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghais, Farah, Ghor, Jawzjan Kunar, Laghman, Nimroz, Paktika and Takhar). Out of them, 94 per cent of respondents were 18-50 years old, 45.6 per cent were more than 50 years old and 0.5 per cent were under 18 years old.

Key findings of the survey:

- 55 per cent of the respondents said that they received information about distribution from the ARCS office, 41 per cent said from community representatives, and 4 per cent said that they received the information about the distribution from ARCS volunteers.



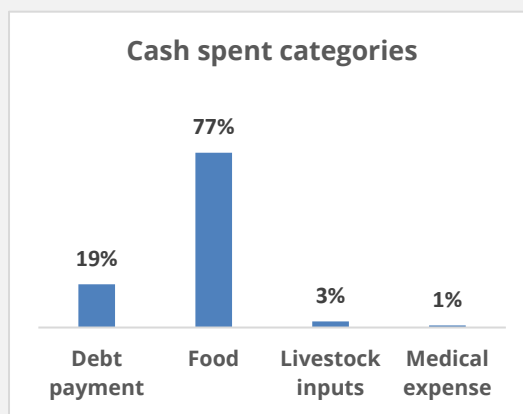
- 33 per cent of the respondents said that they waited for around 30 minutes to receive the cash, 16 per cent said that they waited 1 hour to receive the cash, 35 per cent responded 2 hours, 10 per cent responded 3 hours, 3 per cent responded 4 hours and remaining 2 per cent waiting for more than 4 hours to receive cash at the distribution points. ARCS would select distribution points which are easier to access in future.
- 10 per cent of the respondent did not spend any for transportation from their home to the distribution point and back home while 90 per cent of them paid AFN 20-300 (less than CHF 4)
- All respondents said that they did not pay anything to RCRC volunteers/ staff to receive assistance

Post distribution monitoring (PDM)

Following the distribution of cash for women at risk, ARCS conducted PDM in Helmand and Urozgan Provinces. A total of 110 respondents (1 male; 109 females) were interviewed during the survey. Regarding the age of the respondents, 57 per cent were 18 -50 years old and 43 per cent were more than 50 years. All of 110 respondents were host residents.

Key findings of the PDM:

- 66 per cent of respondents said that they preferred cash and 34 per cent of respondents preferred combinations of cash and in-kind. AFRC will continue the adoption of cash transfer as the modality to deliver humanitarian assistance in case the local markets are functional and required items are available in the market.
- Furthermore, all the respondents were aware of the distributed amount of cash.
- 99 per cent of the respondents indicated that cash was useful to cover their most important family needs and 1 per cent mentioned the amount of cash received was not sufficient to cover their family needs.
- 100 per cent of the respondents indicated that they never pay money or other benefits to somebody to receive the assistance.
- The top four priority areas the cash was spent are food, debt payment, livestock inputs and medical expenses respectively.



Health & Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

People targeted: 1,176,400

People reached: 1,180,994*

Objective: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of affected people reached with CBHFA by volunteers ¹⁸	192,869	200,000
# of First Aid kits procured and distributed	100	4,000	
# of volunteers trained in basic first aid and injury prevention in targeted areas.	2028	1,360	
# of Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV) training sessions for volunteers ¹⁷	76	68	

# of volunteers trained and mobilized to conduct awareness raising campaigns	2060	1,360
# of people reached with integrated awareness raising sessions	436,357	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	737,588	950,400
# of people reached with RMNCH clinical services.	51,277	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 (MHTS)








During the reporting period, ARCS operated 47 MHTs, with the support of IFRC, out of which 36 MHTs were supported by the Humanitarian Crises response operation, while 11 MHTs, eight Health Sub-Centers (HSCs) and 40 health camps were supported through Operational Plan 2022-Unified Plan 2023.

The MHTs operated in remote areas of 16 provinces, including Badghis, Bamiyan, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, Parwaan, Sar-e Pol, Urozgan, and Zabul. It is worth noting that the MHT that was previously operational in Helmand was relocated to Zabul province considering the needs of the targeted community.

In the meantime, IFRC/ARCS conducted a training needs assessment (T&A) and identified the training needs of the health staff. A training plan has been developed to conduct training based on the identified needs.

As of September 2023, the 36 MHTs were able to reach 991,601 people (345,752 males, 645,849 females) with primary health care services such as out-patients, communicable (AWD, pelvic

Primary health service through mobile health teams

- 
Geographic coverage
 - ✓ Operated in **16 provinces**: Badghis, Bamiyan, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, Parwaan, Sar-e Pol, Urozgan, and Zabul.
 - ✓ MHT originally in Helmand was relocated to Zabul for community needs.
- 
Operational Reach
 - ✓ ARCS reached **802,620 people with primary health services**, oral polio vaccination, routine immunization, tetanus toxoid vaccine, and integrated health education.
 - ✓ **47 Mobile Health Teams (MHTs)** operated.
 - ✓ **36 MHTs** supported by Humanitarian Crises response; **11 MHTs, 8 Health Sub-Centers (HSCs), and 40 health camps** supported through Operational Plan 2022-Unified Plan 2023.
- 
Health Services Provided
 - ✓ Primary healthcare services to **991,601 people** (345,752 male, 645,849 female)
 - ✓ Services include out-patients, communicable and non-communicable diseases, obstetric/neonatal care, reproductive health, health education, dressing, referral, and routine immunization.
- 
Immunization Services
 - ✓ Routine immunization services provided for **under-1-year children (83,254) and internally displaced persons (22,402)**.
 - ✓ Vaccines include BCG, Hepatitis B, oral poliovirus, inactivated poliovirus, measles, Pentavalent, pneumococcal conjugate, and rotavirus.
- 
Health Education and Awareness
 - ✓ **7,708 awareness sessions** conducted for **117,268 people** in 16 provinces.
 - ✓ Additional **14,233 people** benefited from risk communication sessions, emphasizing COVID-19 prevention and personal/environmental hygiene.
- 
Community Engagement
 - ✓ Engaged with target communities to mobilize for vaccines and COVID-19 prevention.
 - ✓ Involvement of community elders and local health directors in project implementation.
- 
Training and Capacity Building
 - ✓ Training Needs Assessment conducted for health staff.
 - ✓ Training plan developed to address identified needs for continuous improvement.

inflammatory disease, urine tract infection, urinary tract infection) and non-communicable disease (e.g. hypertension), obstetric/neonatal care, reproductive health services (family planning and antenatal/postnatal care), health education, dressing, referral, routine immunization services including 83,254 under-1-year children with immunization services and 22,402 (7,371 males, 15,031 females) internally displaced persons.

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 protect 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.

The MHTs also engaged with target communities regularly to enhance their health knowledge, raise health awareness, and promote healthy behavior 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.

During the reporting period, the MHTs conducted 7,708 awareness sessions for 117,268 people from communities in 16 provinces. These included 14,233 people who also benefited through risk communication sessions and awareness of COVID-19. Risk communications and community engagement activities were conducted in parallel aimed to enhance behavior 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 802,620 people (348,074 males and 454,546 females) with primary health services (131,616 people – 45,723 males, 85,893 females), oral polio vaccination (520,477 under 5-year children – 249,624 males, 270,853 females), routine immunization (3,312 under 5-year children – 1,768 males, 1,544 females), tetanus toxoid vaccine (4,167 childbearing age women) and integrated health education (143,048 people – 50,959 males, 92,089 females) from eight health sub centers and 40 health camps in Paktika and Kandahar provinces.

Support for congenital heart disease treatment

ARCS supported 651 people (383 males and 268 females) for treatment of congenital heart disease in 34 provinces. Each of them received USD 750 to 2,350 based on severity of the disease. The Financial Service Provider contracted by IFRC Secretariat was mobilized for cash distribution to the selected person.

Health/WASH trainings and CBHFA/RCCE activities

Name of training	# of training	# of participants		
		Male	Female	Total
First aid	55	486	382	868
Psychological first aid	26	300	220	520
ECV and HHWT	76	860	740	1,600
Hygiene promotion	32	390	310	700
eCBHFA	58	640	520	1,160
Nutrition screening	7	80	60	140

RCCE activities were conducted in parallel and aimed to enhance behavior 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 2,060 volunteers on eCBHFA, first aid in schools, psychological first aid, nutrition screening, epidemic control for volunteers, household water treatment, hygiene promotion, and mobilized for RCCE and CBHFA activities in 20 provinces (Badghis, Bamyán, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor, Heart, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kabul, Kapisa,

Kunduz, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Maidan Wardak, Khost, Nimroz, Paktika, Parwan and Zabul. Refer to **Table 6** for details on number of participants. Some volunteers have taken more than one training course.

Till the end of September 2023, the trained volunteers reached 192,869 people, including 87,920 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, 77 community health committees with 893 members and 42 grandmothers' committees with 665 members were established in the 18 provinces (Kandahar, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Farah, Ghor, Daikundi, Kabul, Badghis, Parwan, Wardak, Herat, Nimroz, Zabul, Paktika, Bamyan, Jawzjan and Kunduz).

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.

Through 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).

First aid in schools

ARCS has successfully trained 348 volunteers (166 males, 182 females) in 29 schools in Herat, Kabul, Kapisa, and Khost provinces. The newly acquired first aid skills will enable the volunteers to respond promptly to injuries that may occur during school hours.

First aid training not only benefits the students injured in schools but also contributes to the overall education environment. Knowing that there are competent volunteers ready to provide immediate medical assistance fosters a sense of security and reassurance to students and their families.

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 on providing 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.

Health sub-clinic project at Khost and Paktika

ARCS supported by IFRC is establishing 10 sub-health clinics: two sites in Khost and eight sites in Paktika. The work started on 10 July 2023. Refer to **Table 7** for the progress percentage of each clinic. The work progress in most of the sites (7 out of 10) is more than 90 per cent. However, the progress in three sites Yousuf Khil, Wazikhwa and Bak is very low due to the following reasons:

- i) **Wazikhwa:** Because of land disputes between two tribes, contractor was not able to carry out any works in Urgon district. Hence, new site (Wazikhwa district) was provided to the contractor only on 16 October 2023.


- ii) **Yousufkhil:** ARCS could not accept the works carried out by the contractor as there were some concerns about the effective use of land because the Contractor carried out the construction adjacent to the road instead of constructing on allocated area of land. The area where the contractor carried out their work was allocated that for some other purpose (marketplace). Likewise, the contractor rotated the site plan without getting the approval from ARCS and IFRC Engineers. Head of ARCS in Paktika suggested to change the location of clinic and carry out all activities at the area designated by them. As a result, all the works were halted since August and there was no progress since then. The Contractor was able to resume the work just recently i.e., in November.
- iii) **Bak:** Rotary well drilling was not successful. The Contractor had to perform geophysical test to find the new location for the well. Likewise, nearly completed Septic tank got destroyed by the flood. Therefore, the Contractor had to relocate the site and restart the work.

S.N.	Province	District	Overall Progress %
1.	Paktika	Omna	92%
2.		Jani Khail	90%
3.		Waza Khwa (Woch Khwar)	95%
4.		Deela	90%
5.		Khoshamand	90%
6.		Surabi	91%
7.	Khost	Hasan kot	96%
8.	Paktika	Yousuf Khil	60%
9.		Wazikha	10%
10.	Khost	Bak	35%

Medical warehouse

IFRC is supporting ARCS technically and financially to construct a medical warehouse in the ARCS premises. Key progress under this project includes assessment of the existing buildings, development of designs and drawings, production of bills of quantities (BoQs) as well as the consultant selected for rehabilitation/ repair purposes. After the assessment report prepared by the consultant, it was found that the existing building was not suitable to be converted into a medical warehouse. Hence, a new design is being prepared and the process of preparing tender documents (design, drawings, BoQs and specifications) is ongoing. IFRC has been providing technical support since the initiation of this project, including:

- Tender evaluation process for the selection of consultant
- Reviewing of Drawings and Designs presented by the consultant.

 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		People targeted:	560,000
		People reached:	247,342
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
	<i># of schools provided with safe and accessible water and sanitation facilities</i>	WASH in school and CIWMP have been covered under Unified Plan	80
<i># of community initiative water supply network micro-projects (CIWMP) implemented</i>	30		

# of targeted people reached with access to clean water, sanitation and increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to Sphere standards	247,342	108,000
# of volunteers trained in hygiene promotion	700	1,360
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	193,092	190,400
# of households provided with hygiene and dignity kits ¹⁸	8,450 HH with hygiene kit and 14,286 with soap bars	25,000
# of households provided with household water treatment products (Aqua tabs/water filters)	0	80,000

Hygiene kit, dignity kit and soap distribution

As of 30 September 2023, ARCS distributed 8,450 family hygiene kits in Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Nangahar Panjshir and Sar-e-Pul, which benefitted 59,150 people.

Date	Province	District	# of HH targeted	# of HH reached	# of people reached		
					Male	Female	Total
First quarter of 2022	Helmand	-	3,000	3,000	10,710	10,290	21,000
	Herat	-	2,000	2,000	7,140	6,860	14,000
	Sar-e-Pul	-	250	250	893	858	1,750
First quarter of 2023	Kandahar	Kandahar	300	300	1,071	1,029	2,100
		Takhta Pul	500	500	1,785	1,715	3,500
	Panjshir	Shutul	500	500	1,785	1,715	3,500
		Khenj	300	300	1,071	1,029	2,100
	Sar-e-Pul	Sayed Abad	401	401	1,432	1,375	2,807
		Gosfandi	399	399	1,424	1,369	2,793
Third quarter of 2023	Nangarhar	Khogiani	400	400	1,428	1,372	2,800
		City (7, 8, 9 municipality districts)	400	400	1,428	1,372	2,800
Total			8,450	8,450	30,167	23,835	59,150

Date	Province	District	# of HH targeted	# of HH reached	# of people reached		
					Male	Female	Total
Third quarter of 2023	Badakhshan	Keshem	1,429	1,429	5,102	4,901	1,0003
		Faizabad city	1,428	1,428	5,098	4,898	9,996
	Baghlan	Baghlan Jadid	1,428	1,428	5,099	4,899	9,998
		Pul-e-Khumri city	1,428	1,428	5,099	4,899	9,998
	Helmand	Lashkargah	1,428	1,428	5,100	4,900	10,000
		Nahr-e-Seraj	1,428	1,428	5,099	4,899	9,998
	Kunduz	Imam Sahib	1,429	1,429	5,102	4,901	1,0003
		Kunduz city	1,428	1,428	5,098	4,898	9,996
	Jawzjan	Darab	1,429	1,429	5,102	4,902	1,0004
Sheberghan city		1,429	1,429	5,102	4,902	1,0004	
Total			14,286	14,286	51,000	49,000	100,000

Refer to the previous wider [Humanitarian Crises Operation Update No. 8](#), page number 27 for hygiene kit composition. Additionally, ARCS distributed 200,000 bars of soap to 14,286 households in five provinces

¹⁸ The indicator '# of households provided with hygiene and dignity kits' has been separated in to two: i.) # of households provided with hygiene kits ii.) # of women/girls provided with dignity kits

The second indicator has been placed under PGI section. Likewise, target has also been split as 25,000 HH for first indicator and 15,000 HH for second indicator.

(Badakhshan, Baghlan, Helmand, Kunduz and Jawzjan) affected by AWD in the third quarter of 2023. AWD is endemic in Afghanistan and recurrent outbreaks remain a major public health threat. Refer to **Table 9** for details.

Training to volunteers

ARCS trained volunteers on household water treatment, and hygiene promotion in 18 provinces of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Panjshir, Sar-e-Pul, Farah, Ghor, Daikundi, Kabul, Badghis, Parwan, Maidan Wardak, Heart, Nimroz, Zabul, Paktika, Bamyan, Jawzjan and Kunduz with the below details:

- 700 volunteers (390 males; 310 females) were trained in hygiene promotion through 32 training sessions.
- 1,600 volunteers (860 males; 740 females) were trained in epidemic control for volunteers and household water treatment through 76 training sessions¹⁹.

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 September 2023, ARCS reached 193,092 people (94,600 female) in 10 provinces (Badghis, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Panjshir and Sar-e-Pul).



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

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

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of deployed staff and volunteers trained in PGI sensitization and minimum standards²⁰</i>	63	2,000
	<i># of PGI assessments conducted using the Minimum Standards</i>	8	34
	<i># of women/girls provided with dignity kits</i>	4,246	15,000
	<i># of staff and volunteers are trained to respond on SGBV/PSEA using SOPs and in child protection activities</i>	63	1000
	<i># of PGI minimum standard checklist adapted for different sectors²¹</i>	7	10

The ARCS/IFRC has been advocating for women's involvement and ensuring women serve women as per cultural requirements and to mitigate protection risks. The ARCS has 3,900 staff and 24,000 volunteers of whom 7,600 (31 per cent) are females, and these have been involved in ensuring women benefit from services, especially dignity

¹⁹ As this is ECV and HHWT combined training, the same has been reported under the health section as well.

²⁰ Indicators have been modified to measure in number of staff and volunteers reached instead of percentage.

²¹ Indicator added to highlight specific activity to be measured in mainstreaming PGI in all of ARCS programming.

kits, winterization kits, vocational trainings and cash assistance. In terms of the sensitive feedback mechanism, IFRC is in discussion with ARCS to build capacity for protection and social inclusion within the ARCS staff and volunteers as well as to establish an inclusive feedback mechanism for sensitive issues.

To mitigate protection risks, the ARCS has engaged community leaders to ensure that women’s participation in the project is not interrupted. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries were explained with emphasis being put on the project targeting women at risk.

Likewise, ARCS distributed 4,246 dignity kits to women and girls in five provinces (Badghis, Daikundi, Farah, Ghor and Kunduz). The dignity kit contains basic supplies to maintain the health and dignity of women and girls affected by the crisis. Refer to the previous wider [Humanitarian Crises Operation Update No. 8](#) page 28-29 for province-wise dignity kit distribution data and kit composition.

Next steps:

- Train ARCS gender department on sexual and gender-based violence prevention standard operating procedures.
- Conduct technical assessment for reactivation of the ARCS toll-free number 1313.
- Train ARCS staff and volunteers on PGI and CEA in batches throughout this operation.



Community Engagement and Accountability

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

	Indicator²²	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of staff and volunteers trained on community engagement and accountability</i>	148	2,000
	<i># of CEA integration assessment carried out at regional level</i>	5	7
	<i># of community consultation meetings</i>	163 ²³	200
	<i>% of community members and recipients of assistance are aware of existing feedback mechanisms</i>	51	100
	<i>% of community members who feel their opinion are taken into account during programme planning and decision-making</i>	No data available	70
	<i># of Post distribution monitoring and satisfaction survey completed</i>	16 ²⁴	40

The CEA progress until 30 March 2023 has been reflected in previous wider [Humanitarian Crises Operation Update No. 8](#). ARCS/IFRC has integrated CEA sessions in different trainings such as CBHFA and NDRT trainings. Key topics

²² CEA previously reported under PGI section is now reported separately. All indicators are newly added to reflect CEA specific activities to be measured

²³ 52 grandmother committee meetings + 61 health committee meetings


²⁴ summary of the PDM and exit survey findings have been provided under Multi-purpose Cash section

covered included CEA introduction, its importance, feedback mechanism, and health communication (in CBHFA) and CEA in emergencies (in NDRT). A total of 85 staff and volunteers participated in the CEA sessions in September and early October 2023.

Community Feedback: ARCS take community feedback as part of the exit survey and PDM of all distributions. Key findings of the surveys have been reflected in the multipurpose cash and livelihood sections of this report. Likewise, ARCS supported by IFRC conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with participants of the soft skill training in five Marastoons (Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar) to get their feedback and understand participants' perception, preferences, and their plan during and after the training. Based on the feedback, the recommendation points have been discussed with the livelihood team to act. A total of 50 FGDs were conducted (10 FGDs in each Marastoon) with 500 female participants.

Next steps:

- Develop CEA strategy and a localised brief guide and distribute to all staff and volunteers.
- Implement CEA and PGI integration plan in the remaining four regions.
- Print information, education and communications and behaviour change communication materials with awareness messages on different topics such as hygiene and distributed to communities.


	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>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of multi-sector needs assessment on migration issues conducted.</i>	Planned	TBC
	<i># of IDPs who received WASH & healthcare services²⁵</i>	247,342	560,000
	<i># of IDPs who receive in-kind and cash assistance²⁶</i>	53,900	168,000
	<i># of provinces with Humanitarian Service Points established.</i>	Discussion is ongoing to establish humanitarian service points at the border site to facilitate Afghan returnees from Pakistan	12
	<i># of people (and households) offered protection assistance specifically related to displacement and migration</i>	Planned	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 is 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.

²⁵ Indicator added to reflect IDPs who were reached through WASH and healthcare interventions under this emergency appeal

²⁶ Indicator added to reflect IDPs who were reached through cash and various in-kind assistance

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>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of households received winterization kit ²⁷</i>	9,744	10,000 ²⁸
	<i># of staff and volunteers trained on BDRT, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) & early warning system (EWS) response</i>	385	1000
	<i># of sessions preparedness meetings and awareness conducted in drought affected communities²⁹</i>	Planned	100
	<i># of people reached by RCRC through DRR/CCA public awareness messaging and public education campaigns (PAPE)³⁰</i>	Ongoing	60,000
	<i># of communities that have developed plan of action for DRR/CCA based on vulnerability and capacity assessment with support of RCRC³²</i>	Planned	200
	<i># 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</i>	Ongoing part of longer-term programme	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. Refer to the previous wider Humanitarian Crises [Operation Update No. 8](#), page number 32 for province-wise distribution winterization kit, page number 33 for kit composition and its annex for PDM key findings.

Besides, ARCS distributed 2,000 blankets to 400 households affected by the earthquake in Gayan district of Paktika province in March 2023. Each household had received five blankets. Additionally, four Rubb Halls were installed in the vicinity of ARCS in October 2023. A request for quotation has already been made to hire consultancy services to create "design, drawing, estimate, specification, and bill of quantities development for civil/electrical works within the premises of the Rubb Halls. Emergency relief items for 10,000 households are to be prepositioned in the Rubb Halls as part of enhancing ARCS readiness and response capacities. Additionally, IFRC strategic engagement and

²⁷ Indicator has been modified to be more specific to the activity

²⁸ Target number of kits has been revised to reflect new target people reach under the latest operation strategy

²⁹ Indicator has been modified to be more specific to the activity

³⁰ Indicators added to measure community awareness and preparedness for disaster response

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.

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>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of ARCS capacity building and organisational development initiatives organized³¹</i>	Ongoing	34 branches
	<i># of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS</i>	8	34
	<i># of trained volunteers deployed to support the emergency operation³²</i>	500+	500

As part of this operation, IFRC supports ARCS in developing its human resource capacity through national/provincial level training for the staff and volunteers and strengthening logistics and warehousing capacity such as prepositioning relief items. Further, IFRC is supporting ARCS in institutionalising capacities and establishing a more robust enabling environment where organisational policies and strategies are reviewed/updated/introduced that eventually govern future response, recovery, and community resilience engagement of ARCS.

Operationalize the ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 by developing a consolidated operational plan and engaging key stakeholders in a partnership meeting, which results in agreed outcomes

During the reporting period, ARCS developed a consolidated operational plan for 2022–2024, engaging Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners in Afghanistan. Likewise, the IFRC deployed a Membership Services Adviser on multiple missions to support ARCS in various NSD areas. These include a revision of ARCS’ Statutes and Laws, completing their Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and Operational Plan 2022-2024, and developing a National Society Development (NSD) Initiative and an NSD Roadmap to accelerate organizational strengthening. Furthermore, an NSD Delegate joined the IFRC Country Delegation in August 2023 to 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 secured financial resources to support ARCS NSD efforts in a coordinated manner to optimize results.

Digitalization

A key focus was utilising Red Rose's data collection and management expertise. In this regard, IFRC engaged with the Red Rose team on preparations for installation and training during the first half of May 2022. This has contributed to and improved the data protection and management setup for cash and in-kind distributions as well as different types of surveys for instance exit survey, baseline survey and PDM.

³¹ Indicator has been modified to be a quantitative indicator instead of a binary indicator.

³² Indicator added to highlight National Society’s capacity to train and deploy volunteers for emergency response.

Enhancing digitalization capacity

IFRC supported ARCS in fast-tracking 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.

Orientation of ARCS senior management and staff

ARCS has undergone a change process since late 2021, with more than 90 per cent of senior managers at headquarters, regional, and branch levels new to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As such, a key priority has been to provide orientation for the new senior managers about the Movement Principles, key IFRC policies and procedures, and various humanitarian standards. During May 2022, ARCS held its General Management Meeting, which brought together senior managers from headquarters, regional, and branch levels. As part of the week-long meeting, the IFRC Country Delegation organized orientation sessions for ARCS managers covering various topics, including the IFRC Constitution, IFRC governance structure, Movement and IFRC statutory meetings, policies on fraud and corruption prevention, integrity, and safeguarding. The IFRC Office of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI) provided a facilitator.

Strengthening local branches of ARCS

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, and orient them on planning and reporting templates.

Strengthening capacity of ARCS staff and volunteer on response

ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat trained 385 staff and volunteers (355 males and 30 females) on disaster response trainings. Refer to **Table 10** for details. ARCS mobilized the trained staff and volunteers in flood and earthquake assessments and responses.

S.N.	Training	Branch	Year	# of participants	Remarks	
1	BDRT refresher	Badakhshan	Sept 2022	25	Three-day training All participants were male	
2	BDRT refresher	Baghlan	Oct 2022	25		
3	BDRT and CTP	Ghazni	Dec 2022	25	Six-day training All participants were male	
4		Paktika		Feb 2023		25
5		Parwan				25
6		Bamyan				25
7	BDRT	Paktika		25		
8		Khost	May 2023	25		
9		Logar	June 2023	25		
10		Maidan Wardak	July 2023	25		
11	DRU	Central North region	April 2023	25	Two separate training for male - 30, female -30	
12		East region	May 2023	25		
13		North region	Aug 2023	25		
14	NDRT	Kabul	Oct 2023	60		
Total				385		

Enhancing digitalization capacity:

- IFRC procured IT equipment to support ARCS in the digitalization of operations. The equipment arrived in Afghanistan and customs clearance is under process.
- Vendor selection process is in progress for the development of a volunteer management system for ARCS.



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.

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i>Movement wide coordination mechanism is described and active³³</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i>ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	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. Refer to the previous wider Humanitarian Crises [Operation Update No. 8](#), for more details.

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 include the Islamic Development Bank and the Kuwait Society for Relief.

³³ Indicator added to reflect ongoing movement coordination in country



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 operations³⁴</i>	9	As required
	<i># of evaluations conducted for emergency response</i>	1	2 ³⁵
	<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Ongoing	Yes

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, planning and reporting delegate and NSD delegate completed.

Likewise, several needed **staff were recruited locally** over the reporting period. IFRC Afghanistan Delegation went through an organizational restructuring process 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 and November 2022 by an external evaluation team. The report was translated into Dari and Pashto.

Supply chain

The Afghanistan Country Delegation has strengthened its Supply Chain Function with two (2) delegates to ensure timely service delivery to the needs of the people of Afghanistan and in compliance with donor and IFRC policies and regulations. The Supply Chain Coordinator oversees the overall management of the procurement, logistics and warehousing functions with the Procurement Delegate focusing more on sourcing of goods, works and services on behalf of the National Society, ARCS.

As the IFRC and PNSs are working towards National Society Development for the Afghan Red Crescent Society, all Procurement activities are managed by the Federation. All procurement on behalf of ARCS follows the IFRC Procurement Policy. Parties to contracts issued by IFRC are subjected to due diligence as well as sanctions checks against the UN Sanctions list.

³⁴ Indicator has been modified to measure the number of rapid response surge staff deployed

³⁵ Target has been updated from one to two to reflect mid-term review and final review of the Emergency Appeal

Currently the National Society Logistics Development (NSLD) Plan is being finalized and will be used to build on the institutional capacity to deal with supply chain-related issues. The NSLD process will take a long time but the commitment to ensure the NS achieves this goal is paramount for the continued support from IFRC and the back donors.

The IFRC continues to involve the ARCS logistics staff in supply chain-related processes to ensure inclusivity and engagement on the wider Logistics development agenda. Various trainings have been and will be carried out to ensure staff are aware of the wider RCRC movement humanitarian principles related to aid to ensure continued participation in the improvement of ARCS processes and systems.

The operations and logistics departments have engaged, planned and processed Procurements for the 2023 prepositioning in time for winter and any other disaster. As compared to the previous year 2022, the Delegation has ensured the exercise's timely conclusion.

To ensure the above, the Delegation has increased its Warehousing capacity centrally in Kabul with the generous contribution in kind of land by ARCS. The increased capacity will ensure a timely, optimal and adequate emergency response to the needs of those affected by disasters.

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 to provide 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 extended 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 provided RCRC Movement orientation and communications training in May 2023, for 60 staff (all male) from ARCS headquarters staff, seven regional and 34 provincial offices marking a significant milestone in enhancing their understanding of communications in disaster scenarios within the IFRC network.

Facilitated by the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional communication manager in collaboration with the communication team from the IFRC Afghanistan delegation and the Netherlands Red Cross Press/communications Officer, the training successfully equipped key communications staff and focal points with comprehensive insights. Recognizing that some participants were new to the RCRC Movement, the preliminary orientation provided valuable knowledge on the Movement's component, the ARCS's relationship with other National Societies, the role of the IFRC Secretariat in communications, and the utilization of ARCS's communication products by the IFRC network. This foundational knowledge has empowered ARCS communications staff to effectively gather information and generate content, especially during disasters, while considering the diverse needs of internal stakeholders within the IFRC network. The inclusion of a male member in the facilitation team ensured a balanced representation and contributed to the overall success of the training.

D. FUNDING

As of 30 September 2023, the Emergency Appeal coverage for the overall response is approximately **36 per cent** (including in-kind donations) against a funding requirement of CHF 120 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 7.3 million has been obtained against a funding ask of CHF 10 million.

All the income received to date for the wider Humanitarian Crises operation has been fully allocated, with a bulk of it already spent on emergency food assistance, household items, hygiene kits and winterization kits. During the period from April to September 2023, 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. For details on the expenditure as of 30 September 2023, 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:

At the Afghan Red Crescent Society:

- Dr. Mohammad Nabi Burhan, Secretary General; email: sg@arcs.af
- International Relations Department; email: ir@arcs.af

At 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

At 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
- Naimatullah Akbari Operations Coordinator; email: opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org
- Nuraiza Khairuddin, Logistic Manager; email: nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org
- Afrhill Rances, Regional Communications Manager; email: afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

At 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:

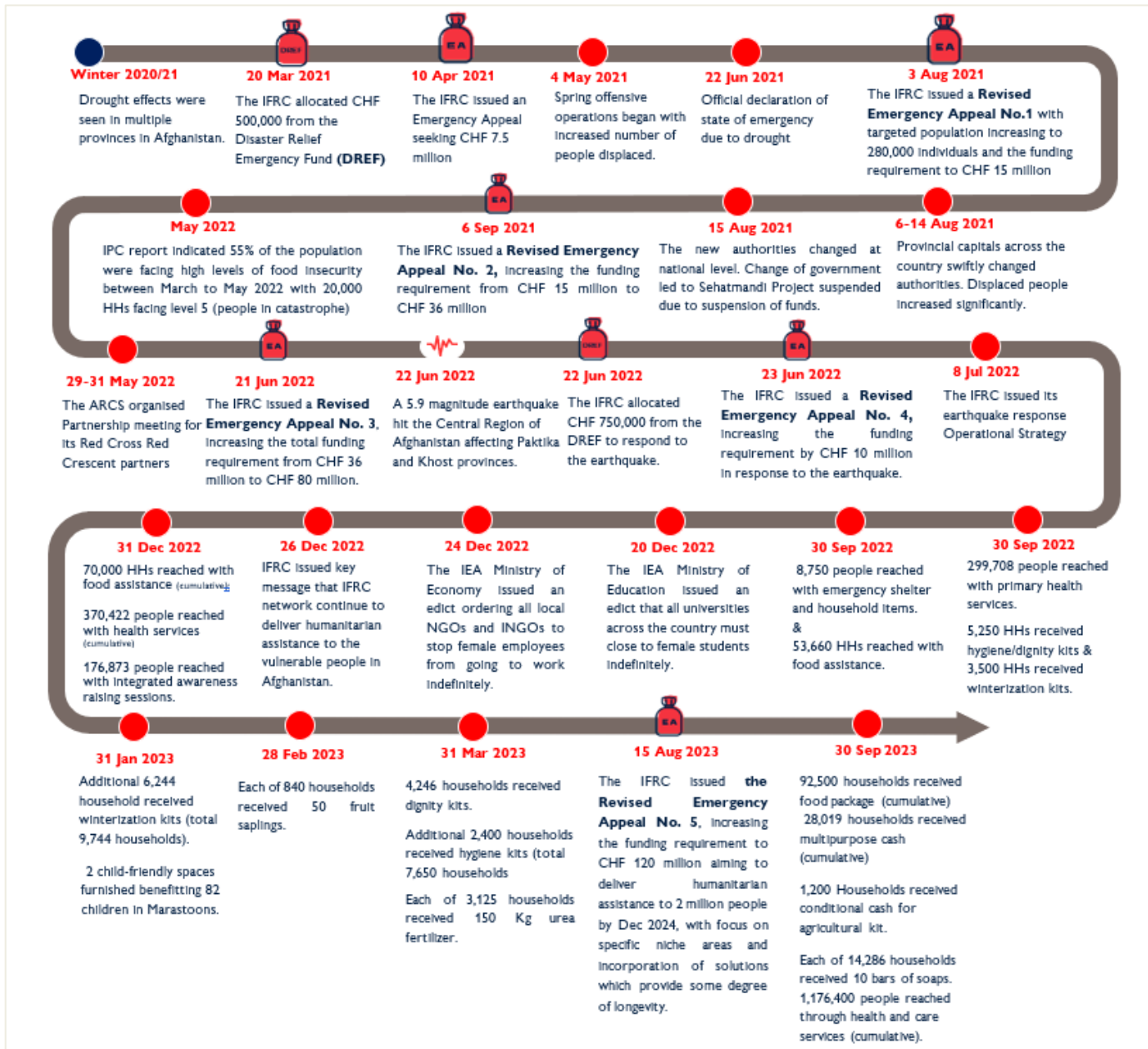
- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [IFRC Emergencies Landing Page](#)

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

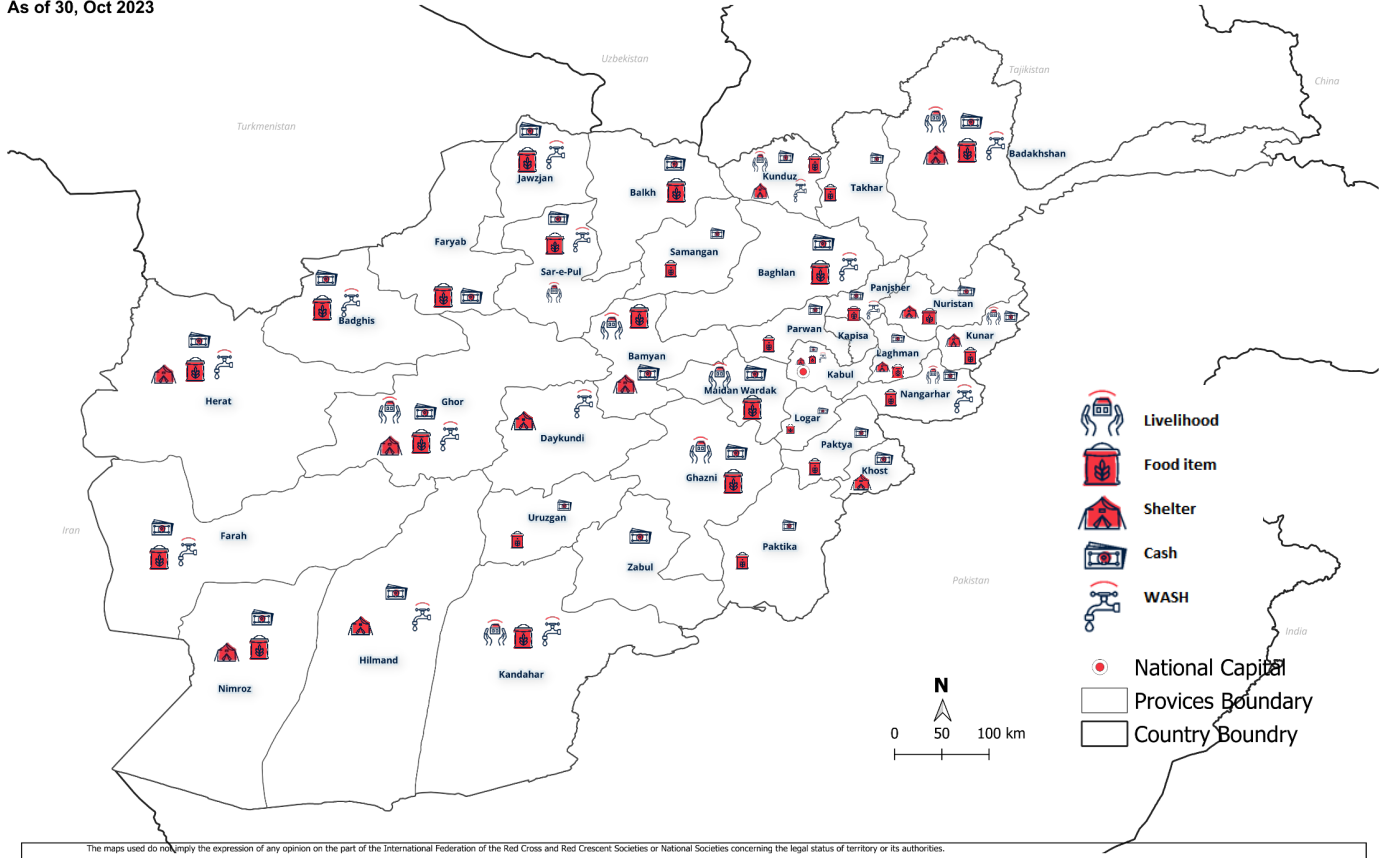
Highlights of IFRC network response towards evolving crises and disasters in Afghanistan



Annex II



Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crisis
Operation Updates #9
As of 30, Oct 2023



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.

Internal

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2023/9	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Nov 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2024; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	120,000,000
Donor Response* as per 06 Nov 2023	0
Appeal Coverage	

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Strategy	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	12,127,000	11,211,587	4,322,005	6,889,582
PO02 - Livelihoods	20,086,000	8,761,524	5,338,933	3,422,591
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	18,248,000	3,899,714	4,129,180	-229,466
PO04 - Health	18,927,000	3,346,482	2,649,612	696,870
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,294,000	724,294	684,495	39,799
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,703,000	256,587	217,911	38,676
PO07 - Education	379,000	0	1,075	-1,075
PO08 - Migration	9,426,000	14,208	767	13,441
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	8,702,000	3,095,341	10,191,152	-7,095,811
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	1,513,000	111,945	8,046	103,898
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	53,000	1,714,012	277,223	1,436,790
Planned Operations Total	99,458,000	33,135,694	27,820,399	5,315,295
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	7,779,000	939,489	1,306,994	-367,505
EA02 - Secretariat Services	4,571,000	5,160,010	3,985,429	1,174,581
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	8,278,000	445,053	829,241	-384,188
Enabling Approaches Total	20,628,000	6,544,552	6,121,664	422,888
Grand Total	120,086,000	39,680,247	33,942,063	5,738,183

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/09

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	40,223,712
Expenditure	-33,942,063
Closing Balance	6,281,648
Deferred Income	2,107,966
Funds Available	8,389,614

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	2,500,000	Reimbursed :	1,750,000	Outstanding :	750,000
----------------------------------	--------	-----------	--------------	-----------	----------------------	----------------

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2023/9	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Nov 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2024; 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	138,531		2,957,348		
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	12,920,022				12,920,022		
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*)	1,938,915				1,938,915		
France - Private Donors	403				403		
French Government	1,053,056				1,053,056		
German Red Cross		106,671	21,574		128,245		
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	5,177,820	49,987			5,227,806	2,043,153	
Japanese Red Cross Society	682,456				682,456		
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	123,550				123,550		
Kuwait Society for Relief	2,630,881				2,630,881		
Luxembourg Government	524,175				524,175		
New Zealand Red Cross	57,876				57,876		
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	481,348				481,348		
On Line donations	16,174				16,174		
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	446,151				446,151	64,813	
Supreme Master Ching Hai	29,100				29,100		
Swedish Red Cross	1,651,967				1,651,967		
Swiss Government	800,000				800,000		
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	85,028				85,028		
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		
Turkish Red Crescent Society			26,700		26,700		
Twitter	46,273				46,273		
United States - Private Donors	552				552		
Z Zurich Foundation	30,000				30,000		

Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2023/9	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 06 Nov 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2024; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
Total Contributions and Other Income	39,768,085	268,821	186,805	0	40,223,712	2,107,966
Total Income and Deferred Income					40,223,712	2,107,966