

Emergency appeal No: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/04/2021 Emergency appeal revised: 23/06/2022 ¹ Operational Strategy published: 24/06/2022	Glide No: EQ-2022-000232-AFG
Operation update #3 Date of issue: 14 August 2023	Timeframe covered by this update: From 22 June 2022 to 30 June 2023
Operation timeframe: 18 months (24/06/2022 - 31/12/2023)	Number of people to be assisted: 70,000 Number of people reached: 106,000
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 10 million out of 90 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal ²	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 750,000



More than 2,000 households repaired their houses with the financial and technical support from ARCS/IFRC in Khost and Paktika provinces of Afghanistan in 2022. The shelter repair was completed before onset of the harsh winter in the affected areas. **(Photo: IFRC)**

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

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

Following the 5.9 magnitude earthquake that hit the southeast region of Afghanistan, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Secretariat revised its Emergency Appeal, increased its funding ask from CHF80 million to CHF 90 million and extended the operation's timeframe until 31 December 2023. The increase in funding requirements was necessitated to enable IFRC to scale up its humanitarian assistance as well as to implement interventions that bridge development. Extending the operation's geographical coverage from 19 to all 34 provinces of the country and increasing the target to 1 million people.

The revision of the Emergency Appeal contains two Operational Strategies: Earthquake in Paktika and Khost seeking CHF 10 million, and the Wider Humanitarian Crises seeking CHF 80 million. To date, the earthquake response Operational Strategy is 73 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghanistan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with the support of the IFRC, to continue providing humanitarian assistance and protection to people affected by the earthquake.

The process is ongoing for the fifth Emergency Appeal revision to ensure that the delivery of humanitarian assistance will not only address urgent needs but also incorporate solutions that provide a degree of longevity, looking beyond early recovery 'hand-outs'. Furthermore, investment will be made in strengthening local preparedness and response capacity. The CHF 30 million increase in funding requirements factors in support that will be provided during the extended period, within the operation timeframe which will be extended by 12 months until 31 December 2024. As a result, the total Secretariat funding requirement will be CHF 120, and the Federation Wide Funding Requirement will be CHF 300 million.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

A 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck south-eastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, leading to wide-scale destruction across already vulnerable districts in Khost and Paktika provinces. At least 1,163 deaths and 2,949 injuries were recorded³. Deaths were mostly caused by collapsed structures, with secondary data analysis and earthquake intensity mapping indicating that around 70 per cent of houses in areas affected by high-intensity shock are either damaged or destroyed.

According to the Emergency Shelter and Household Item (ES-HI) cluster in Afghanistan, 7,715 houses were destroyed while 7,056 houses were damaged by the earthquake in Khost and Paktika provinces. In addition, the earthquake destroyed many critical infrastructures including health facilities, schools and water networks raising the risk of communicable diseases, particularly acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and cholera.

Prior to the earthquake, Khost and Paktika had reported widespread cases of AWD and measles. Health needs in affected areas remained dire due to underinvestment in the overall health sector in the country and humanitarian actors pulling out of the emergency phase of the earthquake response. There was also a need to provide protection and psychosocial support (PSS) in the most affected communities.

The earthquake resulted in increased humanitarian needs, particularly shelters, health, household items, winterization needs, food security and livelihood, water hygiene and sanitation (WASH) assistance as well as education, protection and nutritional support to the affected population.

Following the disaster, ARCS mounted a response operation and launched an appeal for 10 million Swiss Francs to help ARCS emergency and relief efforts.

³ OCHA 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, Afghanistan, page number 60

By the end of June 2023, ARCS with the support of IFRC and its International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement partners network had reached more than **106,000 people** with at least one form of humanitarian assistance. This includes support to **106,070 people** with health services, **56,444 people** with multipurpose emergency cash assistance (MPCA), **35,141 people** with household items and shelter repair assistance; **18,855 people** with household items, **93,725 people** have also been reached with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) health measures to prevent the spread of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

The impact of the earthquake is still eminent. In terms of gaps, not all households whose houses were fully destroyed and/or severely damaged have received assistance for rebuilding/repairing. Hundreds of households are still living in camp settings or have resorted to self-made bunkers.

Furthermore, the edicts released by authorities in December 2022, particularly on women's participation in society, have driven a 25 per cent increase in protection needs. The localities affected being in areas with strong conservative cultures limited the level of participation of the females gender. Efforts were made to have a balanced approach that would take care of the cultural practices while enabling access to all affected persons.

Summary of response

Overview of the operating National Society and ongoing response

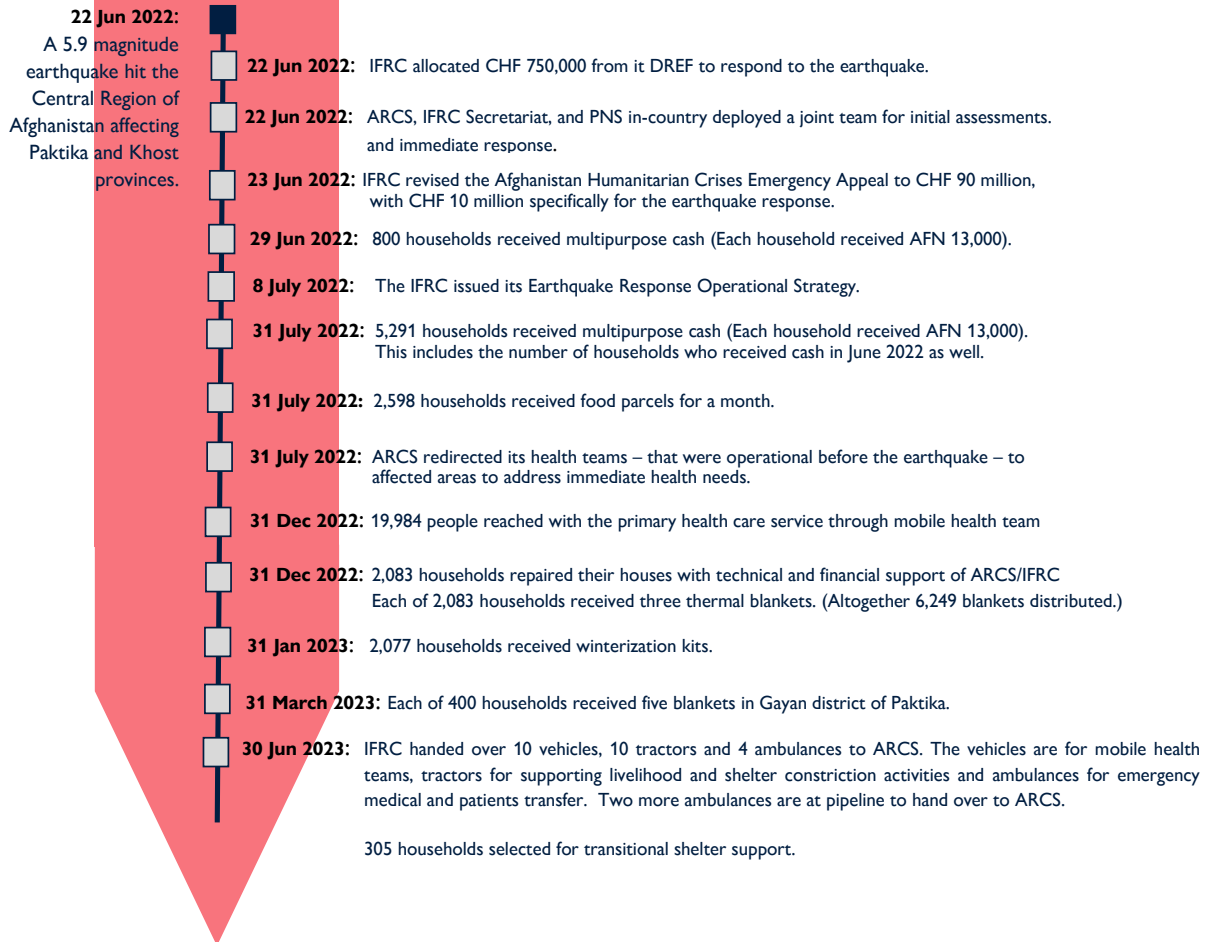
The ARCS has a presence and local networks across Afghanistan which are exceptionally well-established, including in Khost, Paktika, and Paktya provinces. ARCS has a network of at least 26,500 volunteers (6,700 of them female) and 3900 staff (780 of them are female). ARCS staff and volunteers were among the first responders – alongside community members, local authorities, and other agencies with a presence in affected areas – delivering assistance.

ARCS mobilized members of its branch disaster response teams (BDRTs for response in the affected provinces together with 180 community-based volunteers. The ARCS response has put more focus on cash-based assistance (CBA) complementary to relief efforts and was able to provide emergency cash assistance to the households affected by the earthquake within the first week of the disaster. A total of 5,292 households received multipurpose cash in June -July 2023 which helped them to meet emergency needs.

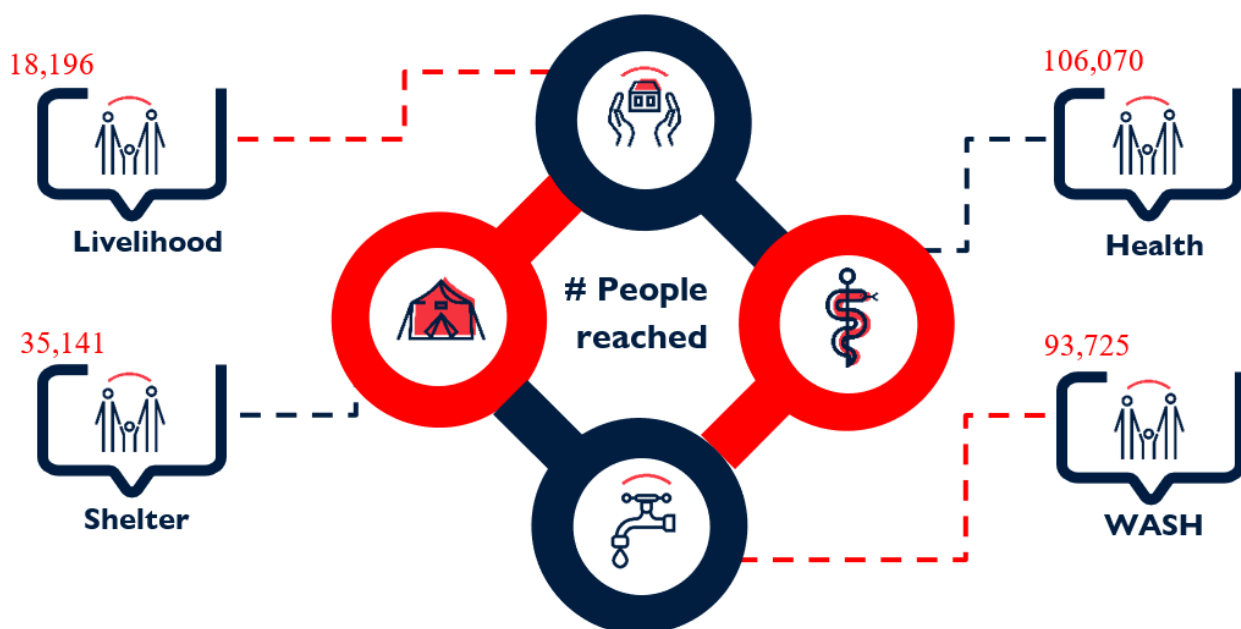
Following the earthquake on 22 June 2022, IFRC allocated CHF 750,00 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) on the same day and supported ARCS in needs assessment and immediate response to the people in the affected areas.

IFRC revised the Afghanistan Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal on 23 June 2022 to CHF 90 million, with CHF 10 million specifically for the earthquake response through the provision of household items, multipurpose cash, winter clothing, shelter, livelihood and primary health care services including psychosocial support services (PSS). It also covered support for mobilizing BDRTs, staff, and volunteers for assessments, distributions, and monitoring. The response to this disaster has been notable because of the political context and limitations on triggering some of the global humanitarian response tools, that left the local humanitarian community to deal with it.

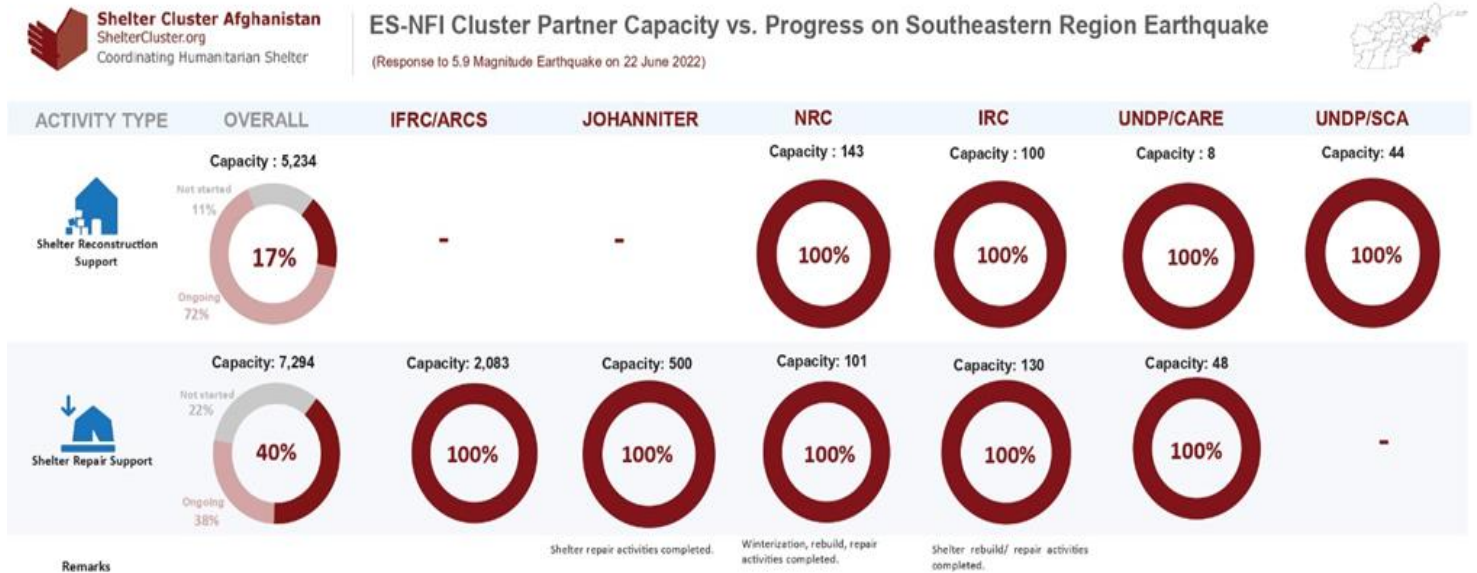
One year of milestones in the earthquake response operation



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



Shelter repair: Considering the significant impact and the shelter needs after the earthquake, IFRC/ARCS worked closely with ES-HI members to address the shelter needs of the affected communities in Khost and Paktika provinces. A total of 2,083 shelter repair which is one-third of damaged shelter gaps identified by the shelter cluster was covered by IFRC-supported programmes. Altogether, 11 engineers, 25 masons, 65 volunteers, and 10 social mobilisers were mobilised for orienting the community on six key messages of safer shelter construction and monitoring and providing technical support for the shelter.



Creation date: May 7, 2023 | Data sources: SE Region implementing partners
Feedback: ES-NFI, im.afghanistan@sheltercluster.org

This map is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of IMMAP and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.



Completed
Ongoing
Not started
Page 1 Of 3

Transitional shelter: in line with the shelter strategy developed in coordination with the shelter cluster and approved by ARCS, The IFRC/ARCS is providing multi-sectorial integrated interventions as of June 2023. The assistance includes transitional shelter support to 305 households in Spira district of Khost and Gayan and Barmal districts of Paktika province. The households were selected after the detail damage assessment done by the engineers and volunteers. Only those houses were selected - which were fully damaged but could not get repair assistance in the previous phase, because of the winter effect in the affected communities.



ARCS engineers carrying out shelter damage assessment in Spira district of Khost province. (Photo: ARCS)

In June 2023, 60 IFRC/ARCS staff and volunteers (30 staff including 15 engineers and 30 volunteers) were oriented on shelter strategy, shelter assessment, working mechanism, Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) principles and rules are being mobilized in the field to carry out transition shelter intervention. The trained staff and volunteers are carrying out community sensitization sessions on the criteria used for transitional shelter support with an emphasis on build back safer with six key messages of safer shelter construction.

Emergency Shelter and Household Item cluster coordination: The IFRC/ARCS coordinated with the ES-HI cluster to identify villages for intervention and targeting communities, to avoid duplication as multiple actors were involved

in providing support to affected communities. The IFRC/ARCS shelter team participated in monthly cluster coordination meetings during the period. In the meetings, progress by various actors was reported, challenges faced due to restrictions placed on a segment of the community, lessons learned from the previous phase and gaps in the sector.

Multipurpose cash:

With the support of the IFRC, ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 5,291 households in Barmal and Giyan districts of Paktika province, and Spera district of Khost province in June and July 2022. Each household received AFN 13,000 (CHF 140) which was considered the minimum cash-based food basket recommended by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC).

Following cash distribution, ARCS interviewed 643 people (640 males; 3 females) who received the cash as part of post-distribution monitoring (PDM). About 93 per cent of the respondents indicated that the cash was very useful in covering their immediate household needs, six per cent mentioned the amount received was not sufficient for meeting their needs, while one per cent did not respond. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 17-18 for post-distribution monitoring findings of the multipurpose cash assistance)

Tractors for shelter construction and livelihood activities:

As part of the implemented shelter strategy, IFRC procured ten tractors (with trolleys) based on needs identified by the humanitarian partners in the field where affected communities had challenges bringing their shelter and construction materials due to the nature, distance and topography of the affected areas. These tractors are part of the shelter strategy developed in coordination with the shelter cluster to provide transportation and move shelter items to the hard-to-reach areas. Furthermore, the tractors are foreseen to be needed for livelihood interventions and farmers-led initiatives in 2023. Each tractor contains a plough which will be used for land preparation for agriculture activities.

IFRC/ARCS have been engaging the ministry of Agriculture at the field level to aid in liaising with the formation or strengthening of existing farmers' associations.

Livelihood activities: As part of integrated programming, IFRC/ARCS is supporting 305 households with livelihood activities such as cash and technical training for livestock rearing in Spira, Gayan and Barmal districts of Khost and Paktika provinces. They are the same households who are receiving transitional shelter support from IFRC/ARCS.

Mobile health team (MHT) deployment:

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the actual number of people reached with services by the eight MHTs are as follows:

Indicators	Reach
# of people (clients) reached with primary health services	106,070 (44,398 males and 61,672 females)
# of people reached with RMNCH clinical services	5,359 (all female)
# of under-5-year children provided with routine immunization	5,995 (3,122 males and 2,873 females)
# of patients referred out to higher-level health facilities	739 (626 males and 113 females)

IFRC procured and handed over ten MHT vehicles and four ambulances to ARCS for deploying Khost and Paktika, thereby strengthening the health intervention capacity of the ARCS. The four ambulances (two Toyota Landcruiser ambulances and two Toyota Hiace ambulances) will primarily be used in Khost and Paktika provinces to provide ambulance/referral services transporting eligible patients to advanced medical facilities within the two provinces, and in case of need for tertiary services to Kabul. Two more ambulances are on the pipeline to hand over to ARCS. More people will be reached with this investment in future. There was less investment in health infrastructures in past due to conflict in the provinces.

Water storage tank: Through IFRC support, 20 water storage tanks with 5,000 litres capacity each were installed in community water points. This helped in bringing water close to communities, thereby reducing distances travelled by women when sourcing water.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE):

ARCS mobilized six district health supervisors, seven community health mobilizers including two females, one community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) officer and two CBHFA female trainers in the affected area. Additionally, ARCS/IFRC trained 378 volunteers (294 males and 84 females) on psychological first aid (PFA), epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) and household water treatment (HHWT), first aid and hygiene promotion.

The trained staff and volunteers carried out house-to-house sensitization visits and conducted integrated awareness-raising sessions on hygiene promotion, prevention of water-borne diseases, and COVID-19 risk communication. Furthermore, the volunteers conducted education sessions on the preparation and use of oral rehydration salt with mothers and grandmothers. In 2022, **93,725 people** (70,397 males; 23,328 females) were reached through household visits and awareness-raising sessions in Khost and Paktika. In addition, five community health committees and three grandmother committees were established with 118 members (74 males; 44 females) in earthquake-affected areas.

Apart from the earthquake-affected areas, ARCS/IFRC trained volunteers reached a total of **166,043** (106,963 males; 59,080 females) people in six provinces of the central south region (Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak provinces) in 2022.

Household kits and winterization support: During the reporting period, ARCS/IFRC distributed 6,249 blankets to 2,083 households (1,142 households in Paktika and 941 households in Khost) affected by the earthquake in 2022. Each household received three blankets. Likewise, **2,077 households received** winterization kits in January 2023. Each winterization kit included warm cloth items for a seven-member household.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA), and protection gender and inclusion (PGI):

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

In 2022, an orientation session was conducted on CEA, PGI and feedback response mechanisms for 15 female volunteers in the Khost ARCS branch office. The trained volunteers engaged with the community to select distribution locations and give priority to senior citizens, people with disabilities (PWD) and women to receive their assistance. The volunteers made sure that there was a standard waiting area for women and PWD. Banners were installed showing the amount of money allocated to all the categories (severe, moderate and minor) in shelter cash grants. While, in the case of food or household items, their names, weight and the number of products available in a kit were clearly explained in the banner to ensure transparency and make the community believe that ARCS and IFRC are accountable.

To ensure that no one is left behind, three grandmother groups were formed to help in targeting the women within communities. They were trained on community sensitization (health-seeking behaviours, risk communication, oral rehydration salt (ORS) preparation, hygiene promotion, and safe shelter messages). Grandmothers are pivotal for they command respect in communities. During the reporting period, they engaged with female members of the targeted families to understand their needs and to discuss how the responses and services addressed their needs. They also promoted health seeking behaviour of women to access maternal health services including antenatal and postnatal care. The grandmothers who are members of the community-based committee play an important role in

community mobilization, raising awareness of the families on eligible criteria, hygiene promotion and maternal health.

National Society strengthening: ARCS shelter staff, social mobilizers and volunteers have been trained on safer shelter, psychosocial first aid, ECV, household water treatment, first aid and hygiene promotion. The response shows the unique position of the RCRC Movement to apply the localization agenda (grand bargain), it provided good evidence for the effectiveness of investment in local capacities to have impactful timely intervention being rooted and part of the local response structure, “in a manner that is as local as possible and only as international as necessary”.

Needs analysis

Shelter

The shelter needs due to the earthquake in June 2022 are still pending for more than 20,000 people⁴ in Khost and Paktika provinces. Considering the high cost of shelter repairs, and the negative net income of households, reconstruction comes at a high cost that many cannot afford. Most Afghan households are unable to sustain any major impact that severely damages or destroys their shelter, many must make choices between meeting basic needs or repairing their shelters. To avoid duplications and meet the shelter needs of the households, the ES-HI cluster asked all shelter cluster members to cover certain villages in Khost and Paktika provinces. IFRC/ARCS took 70 villages for shelter assistance in the provinces.

Table 1: Number of villages targeted by IFRC/ARCS per district for shelter assistance

No.	Province	District	No of villages targeted for transitional shelter support	Revised number of villages after coordination with ES-NFI cluster	Remarks
1	Paktika	Barmal	15	15	
2	Paktika	Gayan	41	31	Out of 41, 10 were covered by other partners
3	Khost	Spira	24	24	Out of 31, 7 were covered by other partners
Total			80	70	

Following the finalization of the list of villages, 305 households were targeted for rebuilding support (transitional shelter) as stated in Table 2 based on the given selection criteria:

- House destroyed completely or damaged severely.
- Land ownership
- Not received shelter repair assistance from IFRC/ARCS in 2022

Table 2: Number of targeted households for transitional shelter in 70 villages

No.	Province	District	Targeted households	Revised number of households after damage assessment
1	Paktika	Barmal	55	12
2	Paktika	Gayan	150	193
3	Khost	Spira	100	100
Total			305	305

⁴ [2023-04 Factsheet - Afghanistan | Shelter Cluster](#)

The targeted households were further assessed by the team of engineers and volunteers to determine the intensity of damages in the house. The assessment revealed that only 12 households met the criteria for transitional shelter assistance in Barmal district. However, there were more houses in Gayan which were destroyed and were in need of support. Thus, the list of households was further revised as stated in Table 2.

In addition to ARCS and IFRC, other organizations involved in shelter Intervention are International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Cord Aid, Action Aid, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and so on.

Winterization: Each year, freezing winter temperatures, especially in high altitude locations drive the need for the provision of life-saving winter assistance for most affected persons whose shelters do not protect against the cold and who do not have the financial capability to purchase fuel and heaters to supplement their heating requirements. The lack of warm clothing, insulation, and heating heightens the risk of respiratory infections, hypothermia, and preventable mortality among children and the elderly. Economic decline, price increases, and rising poverty mean the need will remain high and the trend of households requiring assistance to cope with the winter season will continue to this year.

Livelihood: The communities rely on subsistence agriculture (farming) and rearing animals for livelihood in Khost and Paktika. Since the earthquake struck at night when livestock was indoors, most died. Farms were also affected due to the destruction of irrigation canals. Communities need to be assisted with restorations of land, rehabilitation of roads, repair of irrigation canals, provision of agriculture starter kits and restocking of livestock.

Health and care: The communities are in hard-to-reach areas which were previously active conflict zone. There is limited healthcare coverage in affected areas. People travel long distances for medical care, with emergency medical attention largely leading to fatalities. ARCS runs eight mobile health teams in the affected provinces, with only three MHTs now active in Khost and Paktika provinces after the conclusion of the emergency phase. MHTs are not sufficient to meet the health need of the people in the affected areas. A total of 10 MHT vehicles and four ambulances were procured and handed over to ARCS to enhance ARCS health coverage capacities.

WASH: Both communal and domestic water sources were damaged during the earthquake. Many water points were not functional, and several communities did not have access to safe drinking water. Limited intervention has taken place in water infrastructure, thereby exposing communities to unsafe drinking water while making it hard for females who trek long distances to the rivers to fetch water. There is a need for increased hygiene promotion as well. The community practices open defecation thereby exposing them to risks of waterborne diseases and the spread of cholera. There is a need to train communities on hygiene in handling water for domestic consumption. The communities lack water storage capacities in communal water points. This has led to overcrowding at water points, and lengthy time taken while drawing water and potential point of conflict due to disagreements caused by fatigue.

Operational risk assessment

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

- Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities that may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS.
- Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities.
- Extreme winter conditions hinder and delay access and/or distribution.
- Risks associated with displacement of unexploded ordnance.
- Topography and security access constraints in quake-affected areas result in significant response challenges.

- A lack of female staff on the ground makes it difficult to address the specific needs of women.
- ARCS/IFRC delivers humanitarian assistance on a need-based approach. In this case, there is some risk that the households or communities which do not receive major assistance, such as cash or food parcel, can hinder distribution to other communities/households.

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

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

Overall operational objective

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

Proposed strategy

a) Integrated assistance

An integrated approach has been adopted in the operation to meet the needs of the population affected by the disaster. They include shelter (both emergency and transitional), multipurpose cash, food and livelihood, primary health and care services, WASH, RCCE intervention and winterization support.

b) Cash-based assistance

Cash-based assistance has been prioritized in the operation as it enables the population affected by disaster to make decisions according to their priorities, boost local markets, and cost less than other aid options. Within a week of the disaster, ARCS with the support of IFRC started providing multipurpose to the households affected by the disaster and reached 5,291 households with cash by July 2022. Likewise, ARCS used conditional cash-based assistance for 2,083 shelter repairs in the fourth quarter of 2022. Furthermore, the National Society is disbursing cash for 305 transitional shelters in three districts (Speira, Gayan, and Barmal) of Khost and Paktika provinces in July 2023.

For the cash disbursement, the partner financial service providers are being deployed in all the districts. ARCS/IFRC will continue to prioritize the cash-based assistance modality as needed in the operation.

c) Federation-wide approach

The Emergency Appeal is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and in consultation with all IFRC membership in-country as well as out-of-country. The IFRC network is collectively contributing to the response. This is complementary to existing Movement coordination and cooperation mechanisms and has included fortnightly coordination meetings at the leadership level, regular technical meetings among programmes, as well as reporting tools such as regular situation reports.

During the reporting period, the IFRC Country Delegation in Afghanistan engaged with the membership who support Afghanistan bilaterally or multilaterally in moving forward with the 'Agenda for Renewal New WoW' mechanism. In the meantime, the approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all

members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact. Other benefits include the utilization of the IFRC’s financial and procurement services, resulting in significant reductions in cost and time. The food was supported by the Chinese Government, Human Aid, German Peace Society, the Iranian Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent.

d) National Society Development and localized action

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


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

e) Protection and prevention

The operation has streamlined PGI as well as CEA in all activities. ARCS has included vulnerability criteria such as seniors with responsibility for children, households headed by widows or single mothers with young children, households with chronically ill members, households with a member with a disability and households with pregnant and lactating women for prioritizing assistance in the communities. The operation is reaching different layers of the community such as supporting marastoons⁵, as well as single-parent households in addressing their livelihood needs. Women play a significant role in ARCS programmes as they are both service receivers and providers. Women service providers are essential, especially for the health clinics, and shelters for vulnerable communities and children. ARCS mobilized female staff as part of MHTs to deliver services in the field. Likewise, 13 female volunteers were trained and mobilized for carrying out orientation sessions on six key messages for safer shelter construction to female-headed households in Spira district of Khost province.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

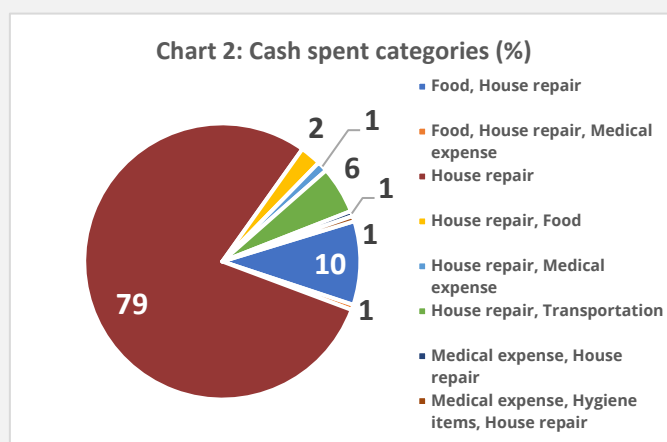
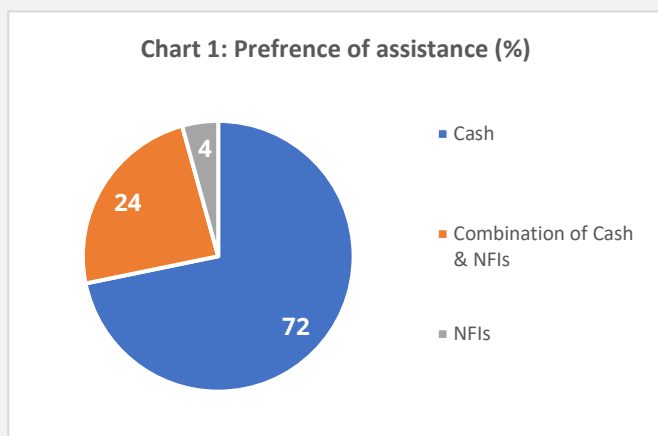
	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	People Targeted	13,230
		People Reached	35,141
Objective	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target

⁵ These places offer temporary shelter for vulnerable people

Key indicators	# of volunteers recruited and trained to support shelter intervention	65	60
	# of households receiving household kits	2,598	2,530
	# households who receive conditional cash for shelter	2,083	2,530
	# of damaged houses repaired	2,083	2,530
	# of provinces targeted with awareness-raising activities	2	2
	# of winterization kits procured for ready distribution	2,530	2,530
	# of winterization kits distributed	2,077	2083

Shelter repair

ARCS/IFRC provided financial (conditional cash transfer) and technical support to repair 2,083 houses in three districts of Khost and Paktika provinces. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 11-14 for detail of the shelter repair).



PDM: Following the completion of the shelter repair, the ARCS PMER department conducted a PDM of the shelter cash grants. A total of 163 people (160 males; 3 females) were interviewed during the survey. Regarding the age of the respondents, 52 per cent were 18 -50 years old, 39 per cent were more than 50 years, and 9 per cent were under 18 years old. Key findings:

Table 3: Age of response

Age	Female	Male	Grand Total
18 to 50 years	1	84	85
More than 50 years	1	63	64
Under 18 years	1	13	14
Grand Total	3	160	163

- 72 per cent of respondents preferred cash, 24 combinations of cash and in-kind, and 4 per cent mentioned in-kind would be better to receive.
- 99 per cent felt safe on the day of cash distribution, keeping cash at home, and travelling with cash to the market.
- All the respondents said that they were satisfied with the ARCS selection process, and the information provided about the place, times, and cash distribution.

- 80 per cent of the respondents indicated that cash was useful to cover their most important family needs, 15 per cent mentioned the amount of cash received was very little, and 5 per cent did not have information.
- As per Chart 2, the three top priority areas where the cash was spent were house repair, food, and transportation.

Note: same households who received conditional cash for shelter repair, received warm blankets and winterization kits as well.

Capacity building of ARCS staff, volunteers and community:

A total of 11 engineers, six from ARCS and five from IFRC attended technical training organized by Miyamoto International. The training enhanced their technical know-how in assessing damages and implementing building back safer techniques by incorporating six key messages in the repairs and/or rebuilding of vernacular structures.

The engineers hold roles as either shelter technical officers or safer shelter awareness officers. Likewise, 25 masons from the affected communities were enrolled in practical training conducted by Miyamoto International. Furthermore, 10 social mobilizers and 65 volunteers – including 13 female volunteers – were provided with orientations/trainings related to key messages on safer shelter construction practices.

Likewise, 60 staff and volunteers including 15 engineers, 30 volunteers, and 15 other staff were oriented on shelter strategy, RCRC principles and rules, household selection criteria and six key messages for build back safer in June 2023. Refer to table 4 for the training details. The trained staff and volunteers are mobilized in the field for community sensitization and transitional shelter construction activities.

Table 4: Details of shelter trainings for staff, volunteers, and community members

Name of training	Provinces	Date	Types of participants	Number of participants	Facilitator
Building back safer training	Paktika	16 October 2022	Engineers	5 (2 ARCS and 3 IFRC)	Miyamoto International
	Khost	23 October 2022	Engineers	4 (2 ARCS and 2 IFRC)	
	Paktika	3 November 2022	Engineers	2 (ARCS)	
Safe shelter awareness messaging training	Paktika	26 October 2022	Volunteers, social mobilizers, technician/mason and shelter engineers	20	IFRC shelter team
	Khost	3 November 2022		52 (39 males and 13 female)	
	Paktika	14 November 2022		34	
Practical training ToT on building back safer for	Khost	8-9 November 2022	Masons	13	Miyamoto International
Practical training ToT on Building Back Safer for skilled labor (Masons)	Paktika (Gayan)	13-14 November 2022		2	By Miyamoto International; in Gayan district

Practical training (ToT) on Building Back Safer for skilled labor (Masons)	Paktika- (Barmal)	28-29 November 2022		10	By Miyamoto International; in Barmal district
Shelter orientation /Induction Training	Khost(Spira)	15 -June - 2023	Engineers, Volunteers and ARCS Staff (BDRT Team)	20	IFRC Shelter Team
	Paktika(Barmal,Gayan)	18-June- 2023		40	

Transitional shelter assistance

Following the successful completion of the repair of 2,083 houses, IFRC/ARCS is planning to support transitional shelter 305 households in Spira district of Khost and Barmal, and Gayan of Paktika provinces. Cash-based assistance offers flexibility and adaptability in the design and construction of houses and produces a strong sense of ownership and autonomy for the house owners. They can buy construction materials themselves, pay for labor, and any other services that would be needed to construct shelters.

Key steps for the transitional shelter intervention include:

- Damage assessment to identify the needs of the affected communities,
- Community sessions on safe shelter awareness to educate the local population on best practices for constructing safe and resilient shelters,
- Conditional cash assistance for two-room transitional shelters for the targeted number of households.
- Technical support to households for the construction of their shelter



ARCS Engineers conducting community session on six key messages of safe shelter construction in Spira district of Khost province. (Photo: ARCS)

Household selection criteria:

- Households whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged and who own a plot of land were selected for transitional shelter assistance.
- Households whose houses could not be repaired or repairing costs per house exceed the cost of the transitional shelter.

Households that received repair assistance (socio-technical and financial) from ARCS/IFRCs have been excluded from transitional shelter support. Additionally, the following guidelines are considered for transitional shelter support:

- The existing shelter is in worse condition and will collapse if upgraded or repaired.
- Existing shelters are in disaster-prone areas and were directly affected.
- Shelter with a poor foundation will collapse even if the roof is repaired.
- Creating additional space would damage or weaken the shelter.

- Imminent risks of eviction due to lack of security of tenure related to land, rented accommodation, etc. following an upgrade or repair.
- If the walls are badly cracked and regardless of the upgrade, they will fall.

Conditional cash assistance for two-room transitional shelters: ARCS is providing USD 2,620 in three tranches; first 30 per cent, second 40 per cent and final remaining 30 per cent for two-room transitional shelter as recommended by the ES-NFI cluster in Afghanistan.

Table 5: Conditional cash assistance plan for transitional shelter construction

Province	District	Number of target households	Remarks
Khost	Spira	100	Each household receives USD 2,620 in three tranches; first 30% (USD 786), second 40% (USD 1,048) and final remaining 30% (USD 786).
Paktika	Barmal	12	
Paktika	Gayan	193	
Total		305	

The main objective of providing conditional cash in three tranches is to ensure technical compliance of the houses with existing guidelines/regulations, thus maintaining the quality of construction.

First tranche:

- USD 786 (30 per cent total amount) will be provided to each household once the household's list is finalized and an agreement is signed between ARCS and the household for the construction of transitional shelter. The objective of the first tranche is to ensure that they have adequate means to purchase necessary materials and carry out the required tasks without delay or hindrance.
- House owner is responsible to arrange materials and skilled mason, labours, as well as proper management of salvage materials, after the demolition of damaged houses.

Second tranche:

- ARCS engineers and volunteers provide socio-technical support to the selected households once the construction work starts. Each house owner will receive USD 1,048 (40 per cent of the total amount) as the second tranche once the ARCS engineers verify the completion of the foundation level of construction as per the technical guideline and recommend cash disbursement.
- The second tranche provides the opportunity for the house owner to arrange the required resources for further construction works.

Third tranche:

- Once the construction is completed up to the roof level, the house owner will inform ARCS volunteers/engineers to monitor the construction progress. The engineers after careful observation will recommend the final instalment (30 per cent of the total amount). This amount enables the house owner to procure roofing materials.

Final handover certificate:

- Following the completion of the houses and receipt of all the cash tranches by the house owner, the technical team will further carry out technical monitoring of all the completed houses. When it is certified by the project team that the unit is completed in all respects and fit for usage, the house owner will receive handover certificates.

Human resources are planned according to the needs of the project. ARCS has a team of 15 engineers (one engineer per 20 households) and 30 volunteers (one volunteer per 10 households) who are dedicated to transitional shelter intervention. ARCS supported by IFRC will provide socio-technical support to the 305 households throughout the construction process.

As a part of the duty of care to staff and volunteers, IFRC procured 55 sets of personal protective equipment (PPE) for IFRC/ARCS shelter engineers and volunteers. The PPE was used during the technical assessment and will be used during the monitoring of the shelter construction. Each PPE set contains safety hard hats- 55 pieces, gloves- 55 pairs and safety boots (shoes)- 55 pairs, which will protect them from possible injuries at the site.

Note: Engineers in the field are responsible to determine the intensity of damage level i.e., minor, moderate and severe. Likewise, Engineers also should be able to suggest whether those houses can/cannot be repaired and be able to conduct a market assessment survey to recommend whether the cost of repairing exceeds the cost of construction of transitional shelter.

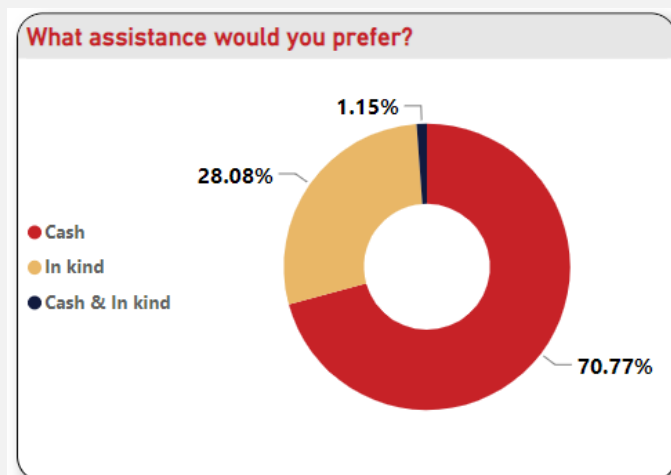
Household kits and winterization support:

ARCS distributed 138 household kits, 1,740 kitchen sets, 1,157 sleeping mats; 600 solar lamps; 540 tarpaulins; 1,488 tents; 616 beds; 400 carpets; 400 mattresses with pillows; and 1,722 plastic sheets to the households affected by the earthquake in 2022. Likewise, ARCS/IFRC distributed 6,249 blankets to 2,083 households (1,142 households in Paktika and 941 households in Khost) affected by the earthquake. Each household received three blankets.

Furthermore, 2,077 households who had received blankets and support for their house repair received winterization kits in early 2023. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 15-16 for the district-wise number of households reached and the list of items in each winterization kit)

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

Most of the respondents (95 per cent) were from the host community followed by the internally displaced population (4.6 per cent) and temporary residents (0.5 per cent). The majority of the respondents (71 per cent) said that they preferred cash only, followed by 28 per cent who preferred in-kind support, while only 1 per cent of respondents said they wanted both cash and in-kind support.



For more details on the PDM, refer to [Afghanistan-Humanitarian Crises Operation Update 8 \(MDRAF007\) Annex II](#) at the end of the report.

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



Livelihoods

People Targeted	14,000
People Reached	18,196

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

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of earthquake-affected households assisted through emergency food security and livelihood restoration activities</i>	2,598	2,500
	<i># of earthquake-affected households who receive adequate food in a timely manner</i>	2,598	2,500
	<i># of provinces engaged with community engagement and sensitization activities</i>	2	2
	<i># of market assessments conducted</i>	1	1
	<i># of post-distribution monitoring activities conducted</i>	0 ⁶	2

Food assistance: In 2022, ARCS provided 2,598 food parcels, 2,128 bottles of oil, 1,150 dates, and 783 cartoons of biscuits among other food items to affected households based on gaps identified in coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). The food was supported by the Chinese Government, Human Aid, German Peace Society, Iranian Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent.

Livelihood support:

IFRC procured and handed over 10 tractors to ARCS to deploy in Khost and Paktika provinces. The tractors will be mobilized on two fronts.


Firstly, they will be used for the transportation of construction materials to be used in shelter constructions.

Secondly, they will be used for livelihood activities such as transporting agricultural inputs to farms and products to local markets or collection centres. Each tractor contains a mould/chisel plough, which will be used for land preparation for agricultural activities.



IFRC handed over ten tractors to ARCS for supporting livelihood and shelter activities in Khost and Paktika provinces of Afghanistan. (Photot: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

⁶ During the reporting period, no PDM was conducted for the livelihood activities. There was typing mistake in the Operation Update No.1

	Multi-purpose Cash	People Targeted	70,000
		People Reached	56,302

Objective: *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		<i># of households who received cash to support their livelihoods</i>	5,291
	<i># of post-distribution monitoring activities conducted</i>	3	5

Each of the 5,291 households received AFN 13,000 (CHF 140) in June and July 2022 in Barmal, Giyan and Spera which helped them to meet their emergency needs. The amount provided per household was considered the minimum cash-based food basket recommended by the FSAC. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 17-18 for PDM findings of the multipurpose cash assistance. The PDM was conducted in August 2022)

Likewise, IFRC/ARCS is planning for market assessment and providing livestock rearing support to 305 households in Spira, Gayan and Barmal districts or Khost and Paktika provinces. These are the same households which are receiving transitional shelter support from IFRC/ARCS.

	Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	People Targeted	316,000
		People Reached	93,725

Objective: *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		<i># of volunteers trained in PFA in the targeted areas</i>	140
	<i>Communities are supported by NS to effectively respond to health and psychosocial needs during an emergency.</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i># of MHTs deployed</i>	8 ⁷	6
	<i># of targeted people reached with MHTs</i>	19,984	15,000

⁷ There were six MHTs supported by IFRC in Khost and Paktika provinces for routine health service, and four MHTs from different provinces were mobilized for serving people affected by the earthquake.

# of volunteers trained and mobilized to conduct awareness-raising campaigns	478	60
# of households reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	4,058	2,030

Community health:

The ARCS rolled out risk communication and community engagement intervention in the affected areas in 2022. This involved recruitment and mobilization of six district health supervisors, seven community health mobilizers including two females, one CBHFA officer and two CBHFA female trainers for training volunteers and supporting in health and hygiene promotion activities in the earthquake affected area.

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

The trained volunteers reached 166,043 people (106,963 male, 59,080 female) through hygiene promotion sessions, prevention of waterborne diseases, COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention, rumour prevention, education sessions with mothers and grandmothers on preparing and use of oral rehydration salt and house visits in the central south region (Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak).

Out of 166,043 people reached in the central south region, **93,725 people** (70,397 male; 23,328 female) were reached in **Khost and Paktika** earthquake-affected provinces. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 18-20 for detail of community health activities in the operation)

In addition, five community health committees and three grandmother committees were established with 118 members (74 male; 44 female) in Khost and Paktika provinces.

Mobile health teams:

Following the earthquake, IFRC/ARCS deployed eight MHTs for primary healthcare services such as outpatient care, routine immunization services, reproductive health services including family planning, dressing, health education, quality essential medicine distribution, and referral services since the beginning of the operation in Khost and Paktika provinces.

From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the actual numbers of people reached with services by the eight MHTs are as follows:

- # of people (clients) reached with primary health services - 106,070 (44,398 males and 61,672 female)
- # of people reached with RMNCH clinical services - 5,359 (all female)
- # of under-5-year children provided with routine immunization - 5,995 (3,122 males and 2,873 female)
- # of patients referred out to higher-level health facilities – 739 (626 males and 113 female)

Out of them, 10,225 people were reached during the relief phase and 9,759 people (4,121 males and 5,638 female) during the recovery phase. During the reporting period, the MHTs were active in the earthquake-affected areas with the support of the IFRC.

Ambulance and MHT vehicles support:

IFRC procured and handed over 10 MHT vehicles and four ambulances to ARCS to strengthen its primary health and care services as well as health referral system in Khost and Paktika provinces. Two more ambulances are on pipeline to handover to ARCS. These vehicles are being registered, and then will be dispatched to affected areas.

The ambulances and MHT vehicles are provided with essential items and accessories, detail of which are listed in the following table:

Table 6: List of essential items and accessories

Items in each ambulance	Items in each MHT vehicle
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HF Radio Codan Envoy XI set, 2. Spare part for 50,000 Km, 3. Tool kit, 4. Spare tyre 5. Jug with handle, 6. Standard medical equipment and accessories for ambulance. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HF Radio Codan Envoy XI set, 2. Spare part for 50,000 Km, 3. Tool kit, 4. Spare tyre 5. Jug with handle 6. Radio, CD MP3 pleyer 7. Fire Extinguisher 8. Front and Rear Heavy Duty Bumper 9. Heavy Duty Roof rack with 2nd Spare Wheel Bracket

Through this support, ARCS will improve safer referral and access of health care services to the most vulnerable people including women, children, and internally displaced people in Paktika and Khost provinces here by playing its auxiliary role to public authorities in meeting national goal of health and care.

Medical kits distribution:

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

Health strategy:

IFRC is supporting ARCS in developing their long-term health strategy.

	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	People Targeted	70,000
		People Reached	93,725
Objective:	<i>Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>% of targeted population have access to clean water, sanitation and with increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to</i>	59	50
	<i># of provinces with assessments conducted</i>	2	2
	<i># of households provided with safe water</i>	1,283	1,283
	<i># of people reached by hygiene promotion activities</i>	93,725	70,000
	<i># of households provided with hygiene kits</i>	500	200
Provision of safe water and distribution of WASH-related items:			

During the reporting period, six water trucks were mobilized which distributed 40,000 litres of safe water per day to affected households in ten villages. Additionally, 20 water tanks of 5,000-litre capacity each were installed in strategic locations of the ten villages to ensure that community members could collect water when they needed it.

The IFRC Secretariat channelled funds to the Turkish Red Crescent to provide technical support for the water supply, while Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) supported testing the water quality at source. ARCS distributed 1,280 jerry cans for safe water storage and 500 hygiene kits to affected households. Refer to Table 7 for hygiene kit composition.



With the support of IFRC, ARCS installed 20 water tanks in 10 villages of Barmal district of Paktika province (Photo: ARCS)

Table 7: Hygiene kit composition

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

There is a plan for the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools and health centres in areas affected by the earthquake in the second half of 2023.

Risk communication and community engagement/ hygiene promotion:

In 2023, 100 volunteers (80 males; 20 females) were trained in hygiene promotion through five training sessions and 200 volunteers (160 males; 40 females) were trained in ECV and HHWT through ten training sessions in Khost and Paktika provinces.

The trained volunteers reached 93,725 people (70,397 male; 23,328 female) through RCCE activities including household visits with health and hygiene messages and 1,973 integrated awareness-raising sessions on common

infectious diseases, hygiene promotion, prevention of waterborne diseases; conducting COVID-19 risk communication, infection prevention, and preparing and use of ORS. Out of the total, 88,507 people were from host communities, 3,309 internally displaced persons and 1,909 PWD.



Community Engagement and Accountability

People Targeted 70,000

People Reached ongoing

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

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

The ARCS/IFRC quality and accountability team interviewed 100 people in the field (50 in Paktika and 50 in Khost) randomly during cash distribution. The main objective of the survey was to check whether the cash distribution was according to the vulnerability criteria. The team also observed the distribution process and checked whether the programme activities were progressing as planned. (Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#) page number 22 for findings of the interview)

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



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People Targeted 5,000

People Reached ongoing

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

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		# of staff and volunteers trained on Protection, Gender and Inclusion.	50
	# of PGI integration assessment carried out at regional level.	2	2

# of community consultation meetings.	8	8
# of Quality assurance survey completed.	2	2

CEA and PGI training/orientation to volunteers:

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

IFRC/ARCS staff and volunteers signed the Code of Conduct as part of routine orientation while joining the organization. The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy was drafted in 2021, however, it was on hold after the August 2021 political change due to the sensitivity of this issue. The IFRC Secretariat is currently working with ARCS to establish gender based violence (GBV) and child protection referral pathways. The orientation on GBV and child protection have been integrated into PGI training conducted for staff and volunteers in Khost and Paktika provinces.

PGI minimum standards in interventions:

IFRC quality and accountability team conducted an assessment to assess if the cash and goods (for example winterization kit) distribution in Khost and Paktika provinces met the minimum standards. The assessment revealed that most of the PGI minimum standards were met during the distribution while some of the standards were missing which need to be considered in future distributions. Refer to [Afghanistan-Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operation Update 2 \(MDRAF007\)](#), page number 23-24 for findings of the assessment)

Key recommendations from the assessment:

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

The quality and accountability team have shared findings and recommendation with the operation team for future distributions consideration.

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:

National Society capacity building and organisational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform

Key indicators	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i># of national/provincial level trainings conducted for staff and volunteers of ARCS</i>	6	10
	<i>Rapid Response surge members deployed to support the operations</i>	7	7
	<i>ARCS compliance with principles and rules for humanitarian assistance is improved</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>Exit Strategy is developed in consultation with the communities</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>ARCS engages 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

Human resource capacity development:

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

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

Surge Capacity:

During the reporting period, the IFRC Secretariat 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.

Along with providing technical support in the shelter assistance in Khost and Paktika, the shelter delegates provided technical support in Marastoon Guest House, sub-health clinics related to the health project, office renovation works, and construction works of field offices.

National Society Development (NSD):

At the request of ARCS, IFRC deployed a Membership Services Adviser and the Asia Pacific Volunteering Coordinator on multiple missions to support ARCS in a wide range of NSD areas. These include a revision of ARCS's Statutes and Law, completion of their Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and Operational Plan 2022-2024, development of a National Society Development Initiative (NSDI), and an NSD Roadmap to accelerate organizational strengthening.

Digital transformation:

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

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

- Supported ARCS in procurement, deployment, and implementation of institutionalized email system and Ms office 365 in ARCS headquarters and branch offices.
- Strengthened the ARCS CCTV system for procurement of required CCTV equipment.
- Enhanced the technical capacity of ARCS IT staff by conducting and supporting them in physical Microsoft 365 training in Malaysia and as well supported ARCS to participate in IFRC global innovation summit in Kenya.
- Supported ARCS in the procurement of 340 tablets for enhancing their capacity for data collection.
- Supported ARCS in the assessment of hardware and software.
- Co-led the Movement coordination in support of enhancing the digitalization capacity of 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*

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

Coordination with the authorities:

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

Membership coordination:

To operationalize the Agenda for Renewal (AfR) and New Way of Working (NWoW), meetings were continued between ARCS, IFRC and PNS throughout the process. The three PNS (Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Cross) with in-country presence are fully on board. However, the confirmation from the Qatar Red Cross is still pending. The shared leadership model agreed with the Turkish Red Crescent to implement a portion of the IFRC Emergency Appeal that started in August 2022. The Project Funding Agreement (PFA) between IFRC

and the Turkish Red Crescent was signed in August 2022 and implementation is underway. This shared leadership exercise is one of the successful projects in Afghanistan which has helped to speed up and smoothen the implementation of the Emergency Appeal.

Movement cooperation and coordination:

International RCRC 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 has been agreed to be responsible for developing and monitoring the ARCS operational strategy, with ARCS at the centre and the IFRC Secretariat providing strategic coordination for the benefit of the IFRC membership.

ICRC agreed to be part of the Country Coordination Team (CCT) and information sharing to continue throughout the process with them. The last CCT meeting was held on 28 March 2023 with all members, focusing on NSD, as an informal Movement-wide meeting.

A Danish Red Cross representative visited Afghanistan and carried out a context and climate change needs assessment in December 2022. An assessment report is currently with the ARCS and the CCT for their review and input.

ARCS has finalized its Operational Plan 2022 -2024 (until March) together with RCRC Movement partners. Likewise, Afghanistan Unified Plan 2024 is being prepared incorporating input from the IFRC network in line with ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025, Operational Plan 2022-2024 (until March), IFRC Strategy 2030 and humanitarian priorities of public authorities in the country.

A face-to-face meeting involving the CCT and National Societies which support Afghanistan multilaterally has been planned in Istanbul Turkey in July 2023.

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-practice approach. For instance, the Danish Red Cross is representing the IFRC network in Child Protection and MHPSS Working Groups.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

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

ARCS and its partners are currently engaging with the emergency shelter and non-food item cluster and the authorities in planning support for shelter repairs and rebuilding. The Shelter intervention followed the agreed model and the common minimum standards by the Shelter Cluster. The process also adopted indigenous practices

of the community, maintaining social cohesion, cultural norms, and traditions of the people throughout the shelter interventions.

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

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

Further, the IFRC shelter team provided their inputs and suggestions in the development of key messages and provided their support to Miyamoto International for the translation of key messages from English to Pashto. The key messages are being disseminated in the community. The six key messages were developed by the Shelter Cluster partners including IFRC and focus on regional traditional vernacular construction practices of Afghanistan. Some of the buildings stood robust against the earthquake because they were developed following good construction practices. However, some of the poor construction practices led to life-critical failures. Thus, to mitigate these failures, six key technical messages were developed based on local know-how, materials, and existing culture.

IFRC has actively engaged in all shelter coordination mechanisms to avoid duplication and ensure timely coordinated and integrated humanitarian services.



Secretariat Services

Objective:		<i>The IFRC Secretariat ensures high quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies.</i>	
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>% of IFRC staff in-country who completed minimum security training requirements</i>	100%	100%
	<i>Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i># of evaluations conducted for emergency response</i>	1	2 ²⁹

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

Security:

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

- Adequate measures were taken to ensure the safety and security of all RCRC personnel involved in this operation. The IFRC Country Delegation security team is maintaining close coordination with external humanitarian actors in-country on the situation, particularly in the earthquake-affected areas. The security team is maintaining close coordination with the ARCS units and local administrations in the operational areas. The National Society's security framework is applicable throughout the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under the IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management are applicable. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel follow the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.
- The security department maintained and followed an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process, risk register, contingency planning, and business continuity plan for Afghanistan.
- All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.
- During the reporting period, 72 national staff and delegates participated in the security rules and regulations refreshment course. The course consists of drills on how to react in case of direct attack, indirect attack, shelling, fire, earthquake and safe room rules and regulations.

Communication:

A year ago, a devastating earthquake struck southern Afghanistan, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The IFRC has been actively supporting the ARCS in their communication efforts, both internally and externally.

During this reporting period, the IFRC has been diligently publishing press releases, articles, and tweets on their website and digital media platforms to provide regular updates on the situation and to assist ARCS in its communication efforts:

- 22 June 2022 following the earthquake: Deadly earthquake hits crises-riddled Afghanistan -Press Release
- <https://www.ifrc.org/press-release/deadly-earthquake-hits-crises-riddled-afghanistan>
- 23 June 2022: IFRC/ARCS providing critical humanitarian assistance
<https://twitter.com/i/status/1539921633376612352>
- 19 Jan 2022 : Short video-update on earthquake and shelter interventions
<https://twitter.com/IFRCAsiaPacific/status/1615912127667253250>
- 23 June 2023: Reflecting one year of humanitarian Aid in southern-Afghanistan (khost and Paktika earthquake)
<https://twitter.com/i/status/1677304427789844481>
<https://twitter.com/i/status/1672254795871141894>

Through effective collaboration and communication, the IFRC and ARCS are working together to address the ongoing crises in Afghanistan. The IFRC is committed to keeping its partners and donors informed about Afghanistan-related matters and actively engages with the ARCS leadership to ensure that their collective efforts are aligned and impactful.

Monitoring and evaluation:

- Facilitated joint monitoring visits IFRC and ARCS in the affected area. The visit was crucial to observe work progress in the field and understand whether the assistance had met the immediate needs of the people in the community.

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

Integrated service:

- IFRC has been providing services to integrated National Societies, including but not exclusively on procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management.

Supply chain:

Facilitated global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities). This involved the transportation, delivery of food parcels, digitization of the ARCS disaster response department, Office 365 training, supply of medical kits to 31 MHTs, water tower installation and trucking in Paktika, cash distribution and laboratory testing of food items for the response.

D. FUNDING

In addition to the support provided by Movement partners in-country, the ARCS response is mainly resourced via the IFRC Emergency Appeal with a funding requirement - specifically for the Earthquake Operational Strategy- of CHF 10 million. As of 30 June 2023, CHF 7.3 million has been obtained towards the Earthquake Operational Strategy, translating to 73 per cent coverage.

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

The recent decisions by the governing authorities of Afghanistan have raised concerns from partners to the Emergency appeal, especially with regard to the two recent bans on women. IFRC has maintained close communications with its partners updating them on any potential impacts of these directives and measures taken by IFRC. At current, the IFRC activities funded under the Emergency Appeal supporting ARCS auxiliary mandate remain unimpacted and continue without any interruption. IFRC has also maintained close coordination with other Aid agencies in Afghanistan, the IFRC SG participated in the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee and has presented the IFRC's position towards continue supporting the people of Afghanistan through humanitarian interventions. For details on the overall IFRC Emergency Appeal expenditure as of 30 June 2023, please refer to the financial report appended.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact

In the Afghan Red Crescent Society

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

In the IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan

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

In the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur

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

In IFRC Geneva

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

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support

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

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

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

Reference documents

Click here for:

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

How we work

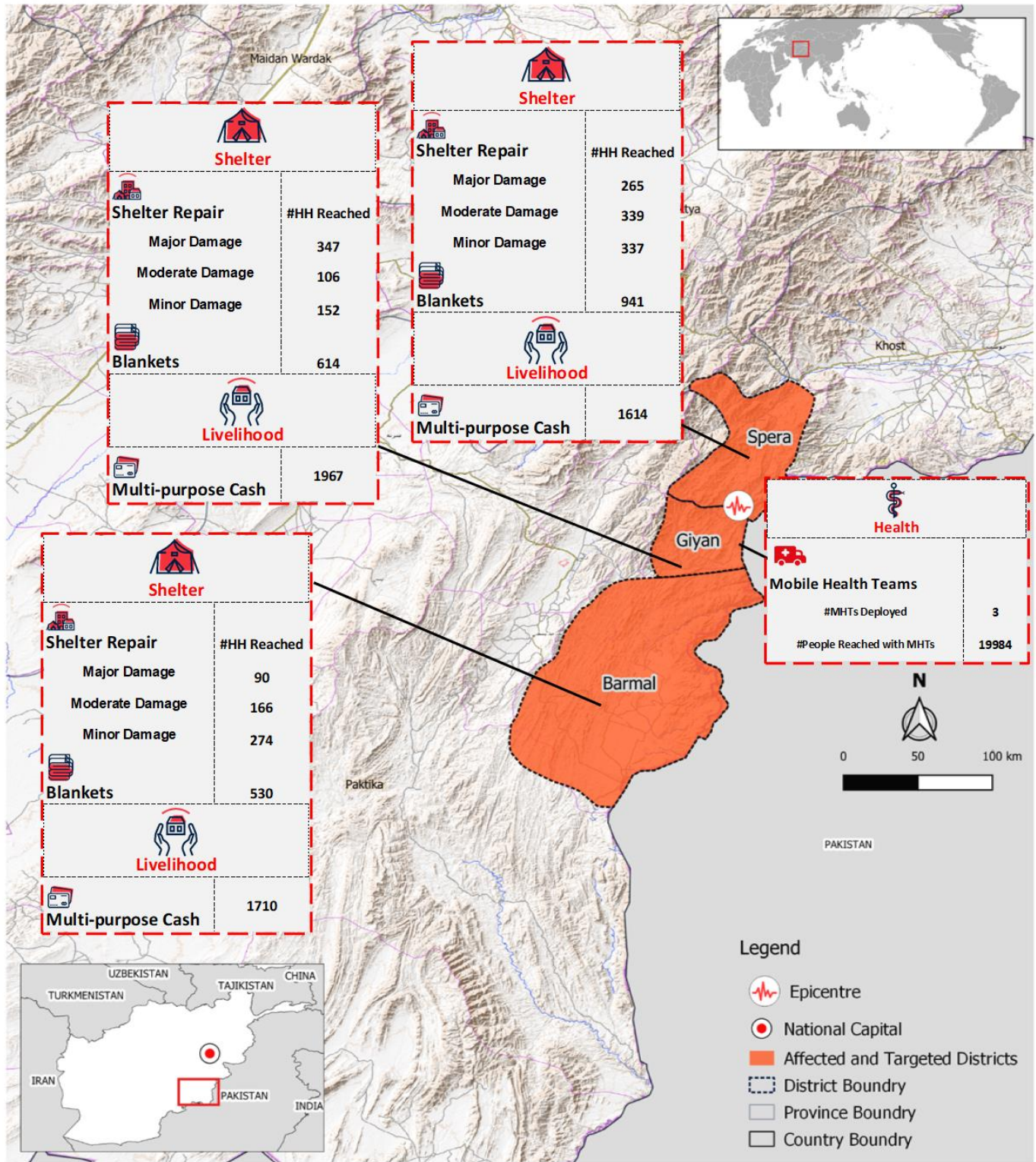
All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most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

Afghanistan: Khost and Paktika Earthquake

Operation Update #3

IFRC Contributions

As of 30 Jun 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. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC, Earthquake USGS.

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2023/6	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 02 Aug 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	3,983,000
AOF2 - Shelter	9,490,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	29,228,000
AOF4 - Health	12,288,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	6,827,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,196,000
AOF7 - Migration	8,808,000
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	10,875,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,592,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	1,102,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	3,611,000
Total Funding Requirements	90,000,000
Donor Response* as per 02 Aug 2023	41,950,172
Appeal Coverage	46.61%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	3,164,826	5,643,723	-2,478,897
AOF2 - Shelter	9,515,235	4,005,391	5,509,844
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	15,607,665	10,398,137	5,209,528
AOF4 - Health	3,346,482	2,591,727	754,755
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	564,119	741,241	-177,122
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	151,051	90,679	60,372
AOF7 - Migration	14,208	767	13,441
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	1,244,722	1,390,376	-145,654
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	2,452,961	1,749,082	703,878
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	872,273	540,683	331,590
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	2,774,813	1,944,326	830,487
Grand Total	39,708,354	29,096,132	10,612,222

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/06

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	39,877,836
Expenditure	-29,096,132
Closing Balance	10,781,704
Deferred Income	2,280,468
Funds Available	13,062,172

IV. DREF Loan

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

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2023/6	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 02 Aug 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
Albanian Red Cross	10,000				10,000		
Austrian Red Cross	458,817				458,817		
Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)	1,065,959				1,065,959		
Bahrain Red Crescent Society	48,175				48,175		
Bloomberg	1,142				1,142		
British Red Cross	2,806,841	11,977	115,731		2,934,548		
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	12,981,057				12,981,057		
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	5,032,559	49,987			5,082,546	2,188,413	
Japanese Red Cross Society	522,610				522,610		
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	123,550				123,550		
Kuwait Society for Relief	2,592,988				2,592,988		
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	15,620				15,620		
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	418,909				418,909	92,055	
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	71,713				71,713		
The Netherlands Red Cross	268,361				268,361		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	1,081,402				1,081,402		
The Philippine National Red Cross	9,044				9,044		
The Republic of Korea National Red Cross	37,695				37,695		
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		

Emergency Appeal

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Prepared on 02 Aug 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
Total Contributions and Other Income	39,445,009	268,821	164,005	0	39,877,836	2,280,468
Total Income and Deferred Income					39,877,836	2,280,468