

<p>Emergency appeal No: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/4/2021 Emergency appeal revised: 14/10/2023 (6th revision) Operational Strategy published: 10 /11/2023 (specific for Herat Earthquake Response)</p>	<p>Glide No: EQ-2023-000184-AFG</p>
<p>Operation update #1 Date of issue: 27/11/2023</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From 7/10/2023 to 7/11/2023</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 15 months (7/10/2023 - 31/12/2024)</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 50,000</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): 9 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal 20 million Federation-wide</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 750,000 (loan to Emergency Appeal)</p>

Revision six of Emergency Appeal MDRAF007 seeks CHF 120 million overall and is currently 37 per cent funded. The funding requirement for Herat earthquakes Operational Strategy is CHF 9 million, of which contributions amounting to CHF 3 million had been recorded as of 31 October 2023. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with humanitarian assistance to people affected by earthquakes in Herat province.



ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 2,000 families affected by the earthquakes in 35 villages of Gulran, Robat Sangi and Zinda Jan districts of Herat province. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

An earthquake with of magnitude 6.3, followed by multiple aftershocks, struck western Afghanistan on Saturday, 7 October 2023 at 11:00 local time¹. The earthquake’s epicentre was in Zinda Jan district, 40 km northwest of Herat City. It was felt strongly across four provinces (Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat), with Herat bearing the brunt. The initial earthquake was followed by several aftershocks and strong earthquakes. Refer to **Chart 1** for details of the earthquakes.

The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) indicated that the earthquakes mostly impacted 382 villages of nine districts (Enjil, Ghoryan Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Karukh, Kohsan, Robat Sangi and Zinda Jan). Official data indicates that over 2,000 people have been killed and over 9,000 injured.

There has been an extensive impact on structures, with some 48,000 houses destroyed or damaged². In several affected villages, not a single house remains standing. Thousands of people are living in open space under tents, tarpaulins or other locally made temporary make-shift structures as their houses were destroyed or are afraid of returning home due to frequent aftershocks.

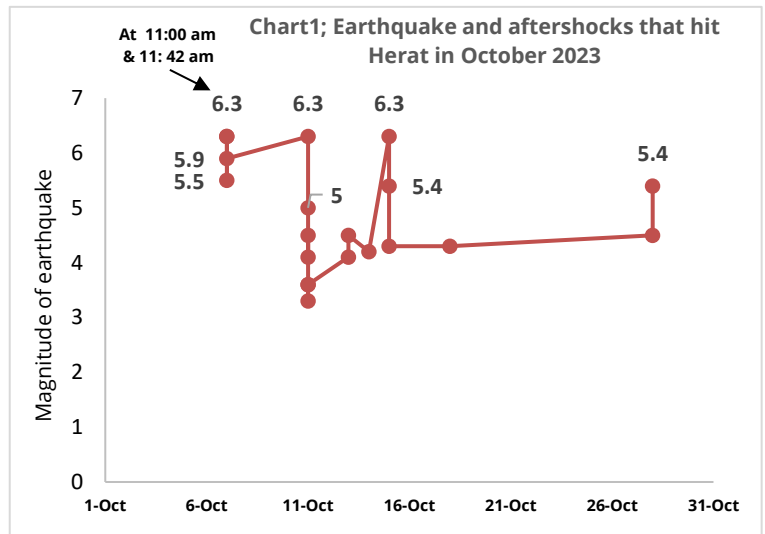
The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) staff and volunteers from the Herat branch were among the first responders. They were augmented by teams from neighbouring provinces, with 32 response teams deployed in the affected areas thus far.

ARCS has been engaged in lifesaving activities, including search and rescue, emergency first aid, distribution of ready to eat food and water, emergency shelter, household items, and transportation of injured people to the hospital.

Following the earthquakes of 7 October, the IFRC Secretariat dispatched emergency shelter and household items, allocated **CHF 750,000** from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the ARCS immediate response, and relaunched the [Emergency Appeal MDRAF007](#) to incorporate immediate and recovery needs arising from the earthquakes. The latest Emergency Appeal revision includes funding requirement of CHF 9 million for the Herat earthquakes response. The Herat Earthquakes response is among several others supported by the IFRC within a context of multiple humanitarian crises affecting Afghanistan.

Revision six of the emergency appeal now has four operational strategies:

- Initial operational strategy for the wide [humanitarian crisis](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2023.



An earthquake with of magnitude 6.3 struck western Afghanistan on Saturday, 7 October 2023 with epicenter in in Zinda Jan district, 40 km northwest of Herat. The earthquake was followed by multiple aftershocks on the same date and onwards. As of 31 October, 19 aftershocks of 3.3 magnitude and above were recorded. Out of which, three aftershocks were of 6.3 magnitude and five of between 5 to 5.9 magnitude.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Herat_earthquakes Plus secondary data from different websites

¹ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

² <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-herat-earthquake-response-situation-report-no-2-2-november-2023>

- Operational strategy for the [Khost and Paktika earthquake](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2023.
- Revised operational strategy for the wide humanitarian crisis ([Protracted Humanitarian Crisis](#))– timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.
- Operational strategy for [Herat earthquakes](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.

In the Herat earthquakes operation, ARCS has reoriented multisector interventions focusing on basic needs and livelihoods, health, shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), with community engagement and accountability (CEA), disaster risk reduction (DRR), national society development (NSD), and protection gender and inclusion (PGI) integrated. Cash and voucher assistance (CVA) will be the preferred modality for delivering assistance. Recovery interventions will be initiated alongside relief efforts, and the preparedness for effective response (PER) approach has been adopted from the outset of the operation.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

ARCS maintains a presence in all provinces of Afghanistan, including Herat, where it operates a regional office for the West and a branch office specifically for Herat. In its auxiliary capacity, the National Society sits in a committee established by the authorities and chaired by the local governor to coordinate the overall response.

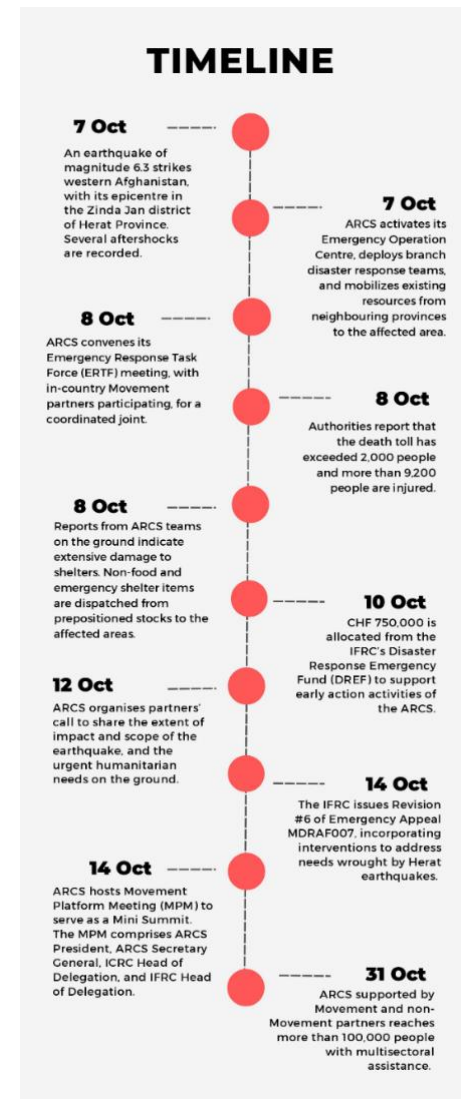
This operation is targeting 50,000 people with multisectoral assistance such as food, cash, shelter, health and care, livelihoods, and winterization and National Society response capacity enhancement components.

The first Operation Update (OU#1) covers the period 7 October to 6 November 2023. During the reporting period, ARCS delivered integrated assistance to 2,100 households comprised of **14,700 people** utilizing support mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal:

- 2,100 households (14,700 people) received emergency shelter and household items. Each household received tarpaulins-2 pieces or tent-1, blankets- 4 pieces, jerry cans -2 pieces and kitchen set-1.
- 2,000 households (12,872 people) received cash assistance of AFN 7,500 (equivalent of CHF 92) each.
- 4,574 people (1,255 men, 1,601 women, and 1,315 children), from 1,718 households received first aid and psychological first aid services.

Federation wide response

The National Society response is supported by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) and non-Movement partners. Since the start of the operation, ARCS has engaged in assessments, search and rescue, search and retrieval, rubbles clearance, emergency first aid, provided food, water, shelter and household items, managed injuries and offered health services through 16 health facilities comprising 13 mobile health teams (MHTs)



and three static clinics as well as transported injured people to hospitals after first aid.

As of 7 November 2023, ARCS had reached at least **112,000 people** from 17,000 households³ with a variety of services with the support of IFRC networks. In addition to the support provided utilizing resources mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal, Movement partners have supported the ARCS response as follows:

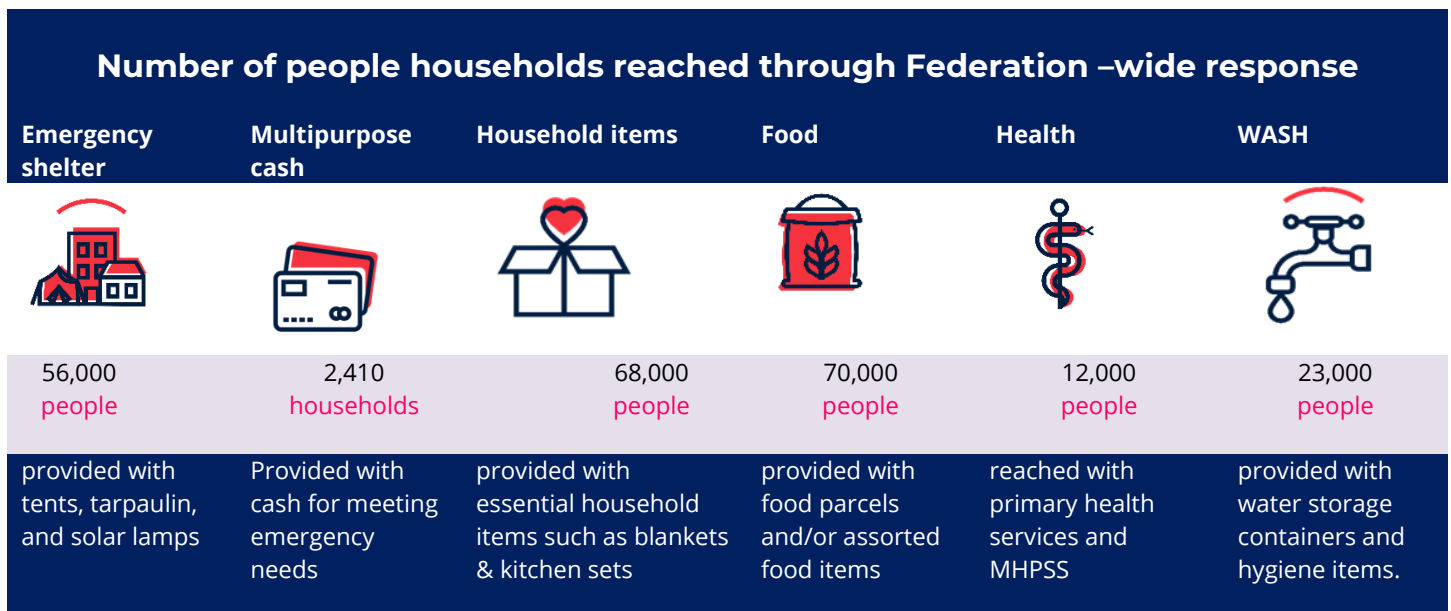
ARCS with support from the Danish Red Cross (DRC), trained 31 volunteers (female- 18 and male-13) and mobilized for rapid assessment of the mental health and psychosocial needs of the affected families. Furthermore, they provided psychological first aid and outreach support to 5,059 individuals, including 2,478 men and 2,581 women. The volunteers were deployed in various earthquake-affected districts, villages, and even open areas within Herat city, where people have sought shelter due to fear caused by the earthquake and the aftershocks.

Likewise, other in-country PNS supporting ARCS in the operation include the Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).



ARCS MHPSS volunteer providing psychological first aid to person affected by earthquake in Zinda Jan district. (Photo: ARCS)

Refer to the infographic below for the number of people/households reached through Federation –wide response to the Herat earthquake.



³ As the ARCS do not have centralized registration system for the people reached by all services and distributions, it has been difficult to avoid double counting. Hence, some double counting is expected.

Needs analysis

According to assessments conducted by ARCS with the support of in-country Movement partners, as well as assessments by the wider humanitarian community, the identified needs can be categorized as follows:

Immediate needs: food assistance, winterization assistance, cash assistance, emergency shelter, household items, emergency health, MHPSS including psychosocial first aid (PFA), restoring family links (RFL), emergency water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) support, including hygiene, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits and addressing protection needs of women, girls and children who have been orphaned and women who have been widowed.

Medium-term needs: support for transitional shelter, restoring livelihoods, provision of clean water and sanitation. Primary health and care and supporting rehabilitation and/or equipment of education and health facilities. The branch development framework will further strengthen the branch system process and procedure with volunteer management guidelines for integrated programme delivery. Continuous mental health and psychosocial support such as but not limited to PFA, recreational activities for children, and other activities to assist the recovery of the affected population.

Long-term needs: durable shelter, restoring livelihoods and income generating initiatives, improving food security, education, water and sanitation facilities, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities, National Society Development including preparedness for effective response.

Needs as per sector:

Shelter and household items

Table 1: Shelter needs

Households in need of Shelter needs	Emergency shelter covered by ARCS			Transition shelter planned by ARCS
	Supported by IFRC Secretariat	Supported by other Movement and non-Movement partners	Total	
48,000	6,221	9,152	15,373	500

Note: EN-NFI cluster is mapping shelter capacity and response. The data will inform shelter gap analysis

The series of earthquakes and subsequent aftershocks in Herat province have caused significant damage to structures, with an estimated 48,000 houses damaged or destroyed⁴. This has resulted in the displacement of the same number of families, and the remaining families were attempting to take shelter in their moderately damaged houses. Currently, Emergency Shelter and Non-food Items (EN-NFI) cluster is mapping shelter capacity and response.

There is an urgent need for immediate shelter solutions for the affected families. Many families are living in open or makeshift shelters, which do not provide adequate protection from the elements, particularly as winter approaches. As winter approaches, it is essential to provide more sustainable and durable shelter solutions to protect the affected families from the cold weather. Transitional shelters, designed to be more resilient and long-lasting, should be considered to provide a safer living environment for the displaced families.

⁴ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-herat-earthquake-response-situation-report-no-2-2-november-2023>

The cold desert climate of Herat requires special attention to be given to heat management and insulation in shelter designs. Adequate insulation, heating solutions, and protection from wind and moisture should be incorporated into the shelter interventions to ensure the well-being of the affected families during the winter months.

In addition to shelter, they have immediate needs of various household items to meet their basic daily living requirements. These include bedding and blankets, cooking utensils, water storage containers, lighting and energy sources, clothing and footwear:

Emergency Health and WASH

The earthquake in Herat province has resulted in a significant need for emergency health services and support. This includes providing first aid and basic health services to the affected population, deploying health teams to affected areas, and referring serious cases to well-equipped facilities. Medicines, medical supplies, and equipment are also required for health teams and facilities. Assessments have identified damage to health facilities, disrupting access to healthcare for an estimated 580,000 people. Trauma care, physical rehabilitation, and mental health support are crucial.

Initial assessment indicates that the earthquake and series of aftershocks and the pain of losing family members or relatives and properties have triggered or exacerbated mental health conditions, such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for the majority of the people in Herat province. Furthermore, the earthquake and displacement have disrupted social networks and support systems, causing feelings of isolation and distress. Hence, there are immediate needs for proper assessment and psychosocial support programmes, including group counselling, community activities, and support groups, which are essential to fostering resilience, restoring social connections, and promoting emotional well-being.

Additionally, the WASH sector requires the repair of damaged water facilities and latrines to address the needs of approximately 330,000 people. The earthquakes have increased the risk of communicable disease outbreak due to inadequate shelter and sanitation, necessitating disease outbreak prevention and response measures.

Likewise, the earthquakes destroyed at least 21 schools, as well as an estimated 70 community-based education facilities⁵. Immediate needs include setting up tents to create temporary learning spaces and replacing teaching and learning materials—such as textbooks, teaching and learning kits, and recreation kits. In the longer term, the education cluster will reconstruct and rehabilitate more than 20 destroyed schools to ensure children are able to safely access education.

Food Security, Cash and Livelihood

The affected families in the target districts were already living with very poor livelihood and food security due to widespread poverty, unemployment, severe prolonged drought, and economic hardship. Because of the earthquakes, many families lost their food stocks and herder households lost livestock. The families will need cash to address their immediate basic needs and inputs or cash for re-establishing their livelihood. Initial analysis indicates that markets in nearby urban areas are functioning.

PGI and CEA

According to Gender in Humanitarian (GiHA) Working Group, there are protection concerns for women and girls. Advocacy for women's participation is crucial because women are at risk of being left behind due to restrictions imposed in 2022. The restrictions continue to limit services provided to women, or by women. As such, ARCS will need to mobilize its vast volunteer network, which includes female volunteers, to support services for women by women.

The temporary and inadequate shelters in the wake of the earthquake present threats to the protection of women and girls' safety and security. Response actions should consider the provision of dignity kits, offering mental health

⁵ UNOCHA- Herat Earthquake response plan October 2024, page #7

and psychosocial support to men, women, and children, providing cash aid for protection, installing solar lights, and creating child-friendly areas, among other relevant interventions.

Because of inadequate systematic feedback mechanisms, questions and concerns may go unanswered. Such a scenario can increase misinformation and deprive communities of potentially lifesaving and life-improving information. It will be crucial to establish a systematic feedback mechanism using multiple channels (minimum two) to ensure that questions from community members can be answered promptly and that information and engagement with communities can be tailored according to their needs. The communication channels to communities in affected villages will include face-to-face interactions and utilization of local radio stations.

Preparedness and strengthening local response capacity

Following the initial earthquake on 7 October 2023, first responders came from the affected communities and included community members, the local business community, local authorities, staff and volunteers of the ARCS Herat branch, local civil society organizations, and community-based organisations, among others. Additional support, including by international Red Cross Red Crescent actors, was mobilised hours after the disaster but was slowed by initial limitations including remoteness of affected villages and a lack of cellular or Internet connectivity.

The earthquakes are a jolting reminder of the need to invest in institutional and community preparedness to maintain appropriate level of readiness. As such, in addition to addressing the immediate, medium-term and recovery needs of affected communities, it is of paramount importance that a portion of resources obtained for the operation be allocated to community preparedness and strengthening local response capacity.

Operational risk assessment

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1. Natural hazards such as harsh winter, floods and landslides, constraining access, and distributions.	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The districts affected by the earthquake are still accessible in terms of road condition. However, the preposition and replenishment of the stocks at regional and branch level are work in progress.
2. Situations of violence in target provinces/districts that impact on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Safety of staff and volunteers Supply chain 	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IFRC security plans apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated security plan Positioned security officer is in the field to provide advice and support. The security focal person conducted area-specific security risk assessment for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there. Engaged local volunteers and community leaders at all stages of service delivery. Provided security briefing to staff and volunteers travelling to the field. Started process for providing staff and volunteers with equipment, identification and visibility items during winter is in the process. Disseminated the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identified and implementing risk mitigation measures. • The IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses; Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Level 1-3 are mandatory and part of staff induction programmes.
<p>3, Major supply chain risks in Afghanistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Delay on supply chain mechanisms for medicine supply • Restricted banking services affect cashflow, including for payment of suppliers. • Number of checking, screening, and verifications must conduct due to sanction country. Lack of documentation like financial audited report during financial due diligence checking, hence this is not abundant by the local authority. • Fraud and/or corruption. 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen supply chain management team and continuously review processes to make improvements. • Based on need, urgency and available opportunities, PNSs support and sourcing process may adopt under the signed agreement between IFRC and PNSs under the Fund Transfer system for PNS present in Afghanistan whom have undergone the CRRA process • Diversify sourcing options, including from neighbouring countries. • Preposition readiness stocks in strategic locations across the country for timely response. • Engage financial service providers who are licensed by the Central Bank and thoroughly screened as well as use the UN Cash Bridge. • Undertake regular context analysis to inform adjustments in approaches or implementing modalities, and thus switching between cash assistance or in-kind modalities as needed. • Screen all vendors and service providers against UN and OFAC sanctions lists prior to entering contracts. • Socialize the IFRC fraud and corruption prevention policy to vendors and service providers. • Apply relevant control measures, including having the IFRC Country Delegation as the first-line defence.
4. Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established proper community engagement and accountability mechanism since the assessment phase. • Put in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres. •
5. With restrictions on the movement of women, there may be limitations or challenges in the deployment of female staff from the headquarters for distribution and monitoring in the field.	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained private diplomacy for the female staff and volunteers to continue operating in the fields and offices. • Ensured that all staff are equipped with identification and visibility items.

6. Transportation (road & air), Kabul to Herat	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The administration unit are monitoring and updating the list of available flights to Herat. The Security unit provided staff with refresher session on the essence and requirement of travel standard operating procedure.
7. Fragility of the national banking system affected liquidity and exchange rate	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to assess and monitor the situation and explore options to ensure adequate liquidity. The cash is secured and brought into the country now with the new bank a/c activation in AIB, also use of the financial service provider (FSP) as a back-up with cash delivery services when the flow of cash is affected by the bank.
3. Risk of outbreak such as AWD due to limited access to water, unsafe sanitation practices and disrupted health services.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train volunteers and mobilize for health promotion services.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

a) Integrated assistance:

The response strategy for addressing the needs of the affected communities has involved a comprehensive and coordinated approach. It aims to address the interconnected needs of the population by providing emergency and durable shelter solutions, household items, food, primary healthcare services, WASH support, as well as livelihood and socio-economic resilience initiatives. Additionally, the intervention will focus on supporting the affected population in coping with winter conditions, integrating risk reduction measures. This operation has planned the following interventions, to reach 50,000 people:

- Support for search, rescue, and retrieval
- Provision of food assistance
- Provision of multipurpose cash assistance
- Provision of emergency shelter assistance
- Provision of psychological first aid (PFA), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and referral pathways
- Deployment of health facilities, medical kits for emergency health services and referral pathways
- Screening and referral of malnourished children, and nutrition promotion
- Support for access to treatment for children with congenital heart defects
- Provision of safe water, water storage containers, and water treatment solutions
- Community health and hygiene promotion
- Provision of assistance to cope with winter.
- Provision of shelter repair assistance
- Provision of transitional shelter assistance
- Provision of assistance to build durable shelters.
- Awareness and technical support on 'building back safer' techniques.
- Provision of livelihood re-establishment (livestock and agriculture kits) support
- Rehabilitation/construction and equipment of health facilities
- Rehabilitation/construction of WASH facilities, including waste management.

- Provision of tailored and needs-based assistance to widows, widowers, and orphans
- Mainstreaming of PGI and CEA across all intervention areas
- Mainstreaming of safeguarding across all intervention areas
- Prepositioning of winterization kits and essential household items
- Enhancing the response capacity of ARCS headquarters and base units
- Support for green response and community environmental initiatives

b) Cash-based assistance:

The operation has adopted cash-based assistance to address the immediate emergency needs of the affected population and support their livelihoods and shelter needs. ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 2,000 families affected by the earthquake in the first week of November. This approach empowers individuals and communities to make decisions based on their own priorities, stimulates local markets, and offers cost-effective benefits compared to other aid options.

c) National Society Development and localized action:

As part of this operation, IFRC is supporting ARCS in developing its 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. Further, IFRC will support ARCS in institutionalizing capacities and establishing a stronger enabling environment where organisational policies and strategies are reviewed/updated/introduced that eventually govern future response, recovery, and community resilience engagement of ARCS.

d) Protection and prevention:

The operation has streamlined PGI as well as CEA in all activities. Through the initial assessment and household registration, ARCS is using 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 single-parent households in addressing their livelihood needs.

e) Safeguarding:

The ARCS will assess sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risks and conduct child safeguarding risk analysis, taking necessary mitigation actions accordingly. Staff and volunteers will receive training on IFRC's PSEA, Child Safeguarding, Anti-Harassment, and Whistle-blower Protection policies. Community members will be consulted to gauge their understanding of safeguarding and their preferences for receiving IFRC/ARCS services safely, without harm, abuse, exploitation, neglect, or discrimination. The community will be sensitized to key safeguarding issues and provided with information on available free services for vulnerable and eligible members.

f) Community mobilization:


Community members will be mobilized in different interventions such as dissemination of safer shelter awareness, environmental sanitation activities, health awareness activities.

Please refer to [Herat Earthquake Operational Strategy](#) page # 16-20 for more details on the operational strategy.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

Note: Progress under Migration, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, and Education sections will be provided in the next update (Operation Update #2).

	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	People reached: 14,700	
		Female > 18: 4,200	Female < 18: 2,750
		Male > 18: 4,300	Male < 18: 2,850
Objective:	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of earthquakes affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items,</i>	14,700	14,000
	<i># of households provided with cash/voucher/in-kind and technical assistance for transitional/durable shelter construction that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity,</i>	0	500
	<i># of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter.</i>	0	500

During the reporting period, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached 2,100 households, comprised of 14,700 people (Male –7,500 and female –7,200) with emergency shelter and household items such as tent or tarpaulin, blanket, jerry can, kitchen set and sleeping pads. Refer to **Table 2** for details of the distribution.

Table 2: Emergency Shelter and household items

Items	Unit	Target	Distribution	Remarks
Tent	piece	200	200	Government of Japan provided following items: Tent- 200, 21 Tarpaulin-21, blankets-2,940, jerry cans-250, sleeping pads-1,480, water purifiers/filters-5 and jerry cans-250. While remaining items were dispatched from the prepositioned stocks
Tarpaulin	piece	4,021	4,021	
Blankets	piece	12,940	12,940	
Jerry can	piece	6,250	6,250	
Kitchen sets	set	2,000	2,000	
Sleeping pads	piece	1,480	1,480	

ARCS deployed five tractors from Khost and Paktika to Herat to support debris-clearing efforts. The tractors were obtained with Government of Japan funding. The tractors assisted affected households in clearing up debris from

collapsed homes and transferring salvaged household items to temporary camps of designated locations. Additionally, they were used to clearing routes leading to homesteads that had been blocked. The tractors were obtained with Government of Japan funding. Likewise, the National Society deployed three engineers, who were part of the shelter technical team supporting the Khost and Paktika earthquake response, to join multisectoral assessment team in Herat.

Likewise, the National Society deployed three engineers, who were part of the shelter technical team supporting the Khost and Paktika earthquake response, to join the multisectoral assessment team in Herat.

Post-distribution monitoring

ARCS and IFRC PMER teams organized a data collection training for 11 volunteers (male -5 and female -6) in Herat on 5 November 2023. The main topics covered in the mentioned training were when to conduct exit survey and post-distribution monitoring (PDM), the importance of exit survey and PDM, ethical considerations of data collection, practical group work on how to collect data (exit survey and PDM) via Redrose. The expected outcomes of the training are improved data collection techniques, increased data quality and increased community engagement.

Subsequently, members of the PMER teams as well as the trained volunteers conducted PDM of emergency shelter and household items distributed in Robat Sangi and Zinda Ian. The findings of the PDM will be shared in the next update.

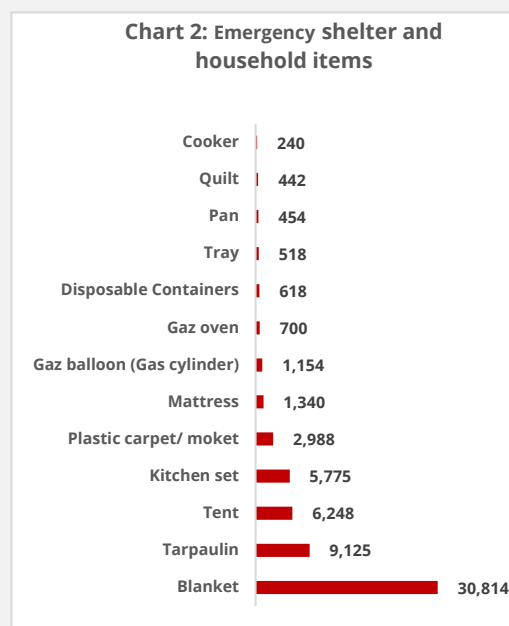


Table 3: Clothes and tools	
Items	Quantity (in piece)
Jumper/clothes	653
Women's Scarf	460
Coat/overcoat	398
Pants	192
Boot	184
Shovel	860
Pickaxe	820
Solar Lamp	700

Federation-wide response

ARCS supported an additional 3,500 households with emergency shelter and household items with the support of other partners in Herat province. Refer to **Chart 2** for details of emergency shelter and household items that have been distributed by ARCS.

Likewise, ARCS had distributed personal protective items, and tools for community members involved in debris clearing. Refer to **Table 3** for more details.



Livelihoods

People reached: 0

Female > 18: 0 Female < 18: 0

Male > 18: 0 Male < 18: 0

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

Indicator

Actual

Target

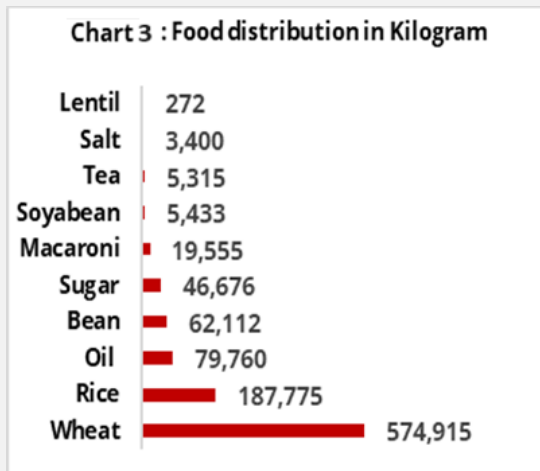
Key indicators	# of households assisted through emergency food security ⁶	2,000	2,000
	# of targeted households reached with livelihood support (livestock, agriculture) essential on-farm and/or off-farm and/or non-farm inputs/materials/tools for production.	0	1000
	# of people receiving temporary employment opportunities (cash for work)	0	500
	# of people receiving vocational/ soft skill training (disaggregated by types)	0	300 ⁷
	# of households receiving support for income generation activities	0	200
	# of households and/or community groups (disaggregated by types) received working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.	0	200

ARCS provided food assistance for 2,000 households supported by TRC utilizing resources mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Each 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.

ARCS will implement livelihood activities based on the needs and scopes in Herat province.

Federation wide response:

Additionally, ARCS reached more than 5,300 households with food items- with the support of other international/national non-government organisations and partners. Refer to **Chart 3** for more details on total items and quantity distributed.



	Multi-purpose Cash	People reached: 12,872	
		Female > 18: 2,994	Female < 18: 3,599
		Male > 18: 2,798	Male < 18: 3,481
Objective:	The most affected communities are able to access and purchase essential food and household items and services in a secure and dignified manner.		
Key indicators	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# of households that receive cash for basic needs	2,000	2,000

⁶ This indicator has been added.

⁷ Vocation training -300 people cum soft skill training

ARCS, supported by the IFRC, has provided multipurpose cash through a cash-in-envelope modality to 2,000 households comprising 12,872 people (6,593 females and 6,279 males), of which 213 households are women-headed and 52 households are child-headed. Each family received AFN 7,500 (equivalent of CHF 92) aligned with the minimum standards set by the Cash and Voucher Working Group and the FSAC Cluster. The provision of multipurpose cash to the 2,000 households was concluded on 5 November 2023. ARCS mobilised a financial service provider contracted by the IFRC Secretariat to distribute cash.

Table 4: Number of households reached with multipurpose cash

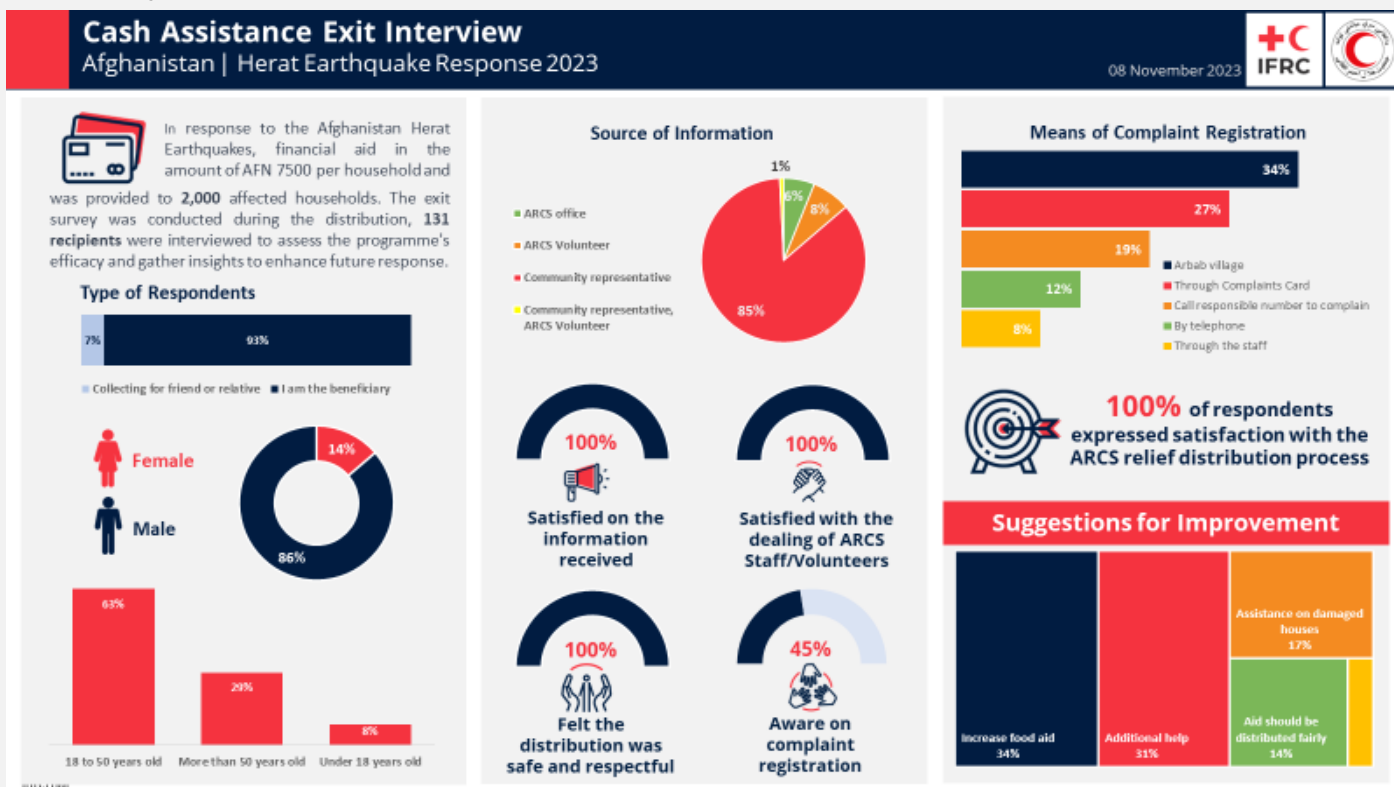
District	# of Villages	# of households Targeted	# of households Reached	# of people benefitted			# of female headed households	# of child headed households
				Male	Female	Total		
Gulran	12	500	500	1,928	1,892	3,820	60	7
Robat Sangi	10	500	500	1,720	2,012	3,732	83	9
Zinda Jan	13	1,000	1,000	2,631	2,689	5,320	70	36
Grand Total	35	2,000	2,000	6,279	6,593	12,872	213	52

Following criteria were used for the selection of the households to receive cash assistance:

- Households whose houses have been destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.
- Households whose breadwinners have been killed by the earthquake.
- Households whose livelihood assets/means have been destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.
- Host families accommodating people who have been displaced by the earthquake; and
- Households with two or more children under the age of five who are unable to meet their basic needs.

These criteria were discussed and finalised in consultation with community elders, relevant local authorities, and other (inter) national organisations that are operational in these provinces.

Exit survey



The ARCS PMER department carried out exit surveys at the distribution point to get feedback from the recipients so that immediate improvements could be made in the ongoing distribution. A total of 131 recipients were interviewed, of whom 14 per cent were female. ARCS trained 11 volunteers (male-5 and female-6) on interview techniques and mobilised for the survey while PMER staff from ARCS and IFRC Secretariat mainly focused on monitoring the data collection by the volunteers. **Key findings of the multipurpose cash exit survey are as shown earlier.**

 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	People reached: 6,092	
	Female > 18: 1,626	Female < 18: 1,646
	Male > 18: 1,586	Male < 18: 1,233

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 health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health services.	2
	# of people reached with primary health services.	1,518 ⁸	50,000
	# of staff and volunteers trained on CBHFA/ECV	21	450
	# of people reached with CBHFA services by trained volunteers.	4,574	31,500
	# of people provided with MHPSS interventions including PFA.	DRC is supporting ARCS in MHPSS	NA
	# of people trained on PFA and other MHPSS technical trainings	31	30

ARCS reached more than 1,500 people with primary health and care services such as first aid and transportation of serious cases to the hospital through two MHTs supported by the IFRC Secretariat.

ARCS deployed 22 CBHFA volunteers (male-11 and female-11) to assess the situation and provide assistance in the earthquake-affected areas. The volunteers were deployed in various earthquake-affected districts, villages, and even open areas within Herat city where people have sought shelter due to fear caused by the earthquake and the aftershocks. The volunteers provided first aid and psychological first aid services to **4,574 people** (male -1,255, female-1,601, and 1,315 children) from 1,718 households.

⁸ Field team provided aggregated data of people reached by all 16 health facilities deployed by the ARCS. Out of 16 health facilities, two were supported by IFRC Secretariat. Hence the number has been calculated as 12,141 divided by 16 and multiplied by 2. Exact number of people reached by the operation supported by the IFRC Secretariat will be reported in operation update 2.

Federation-wide response

Additionally, ARCS deployed 14 health facilities (11 MHTs and three static clinics) with the support of DRC (two MHTs) and NorCross (Nine MHTs) for the management of injuries in the affected areas. As of 30 October 2023, 11 health facilities provided health services to 10,623 people. The services include first aid and transportation of serious cases to the hospitals in Herat City.

ARCS with support from the DRC, trained 31 volunteers (female- 18 and male-13) and mobilized for rapid assessment of the mental health and psychosocial needs of the affected families. Furthermore, they provided psychological first aid and outreach support to 5,059 individuals, including 2,478 males and 2,581 females,

Likewise, the two MHTs supported by DRC are with psychosocial workers to provide essential medical services, such as first aid and psychological first aid. These MHT personnel were previously trained in PFA, PGI, and CEA. Moreover, the doctors in the MHTs are equipped with competencies in recognizing and supporting patients with mental health conditions through mhGAP. However, there is still a need to train other MHTs in the area with PFA, PGI, and safe referrals. In addition, existing volunteers need to be trained in child-friendly spaces, psychoeducation, and outreach PFA.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People reached: 14,700

Female > 18:
4,200

Female < 18:
2,750

Male > 18: **4,300**

Male < 18: **2,850**

Objective:	Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	# households provided with jerry can to store water	1,029	3,000
	# of water sources constructed or rehabilitated (wells with pumps, spring protection, community ponds with filtration).	0	5
	# of constructed household/communal sanitation facilities (this is more than excreta disposal)	0	500
	# of people reached with safe water	0	7,000
# of people (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities	0	28,000	

As of 31 October 2023, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat reached 1,029 households with jerry can for them to store water. Each household received 2 to 3 jerry cans based on their household size. Altogether 2,392 jerry cans were distributed in the Herat province.

Federation-wide response

Additionally, ARCS distributed 500 bottles of water, 8,866 jerry cans, and 867 hygiene kits with its own source or with the support of other Movement and non-Movement partners to meet the urgent water and hygiene needs of the people. Refer to **Table 5** below for the overall WASH items distributed by ARCS.

Table 5: Overall WASH items distributed by ARCS		
Items	Unit	Quantity
Jerry can	Piece	11,258
Hygiene kit	Kit	867
Dishwashing liquid	Bottle/Paket	700
Mazari broom	Piece	454
Water bottle (1 l)	Bottle	500
Water tank (small size)	Piece	3
Solar panel with batteries	System	3
Water purifiers	Piece	5
Kettle	Piece	10
Cups	Piece	60



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 0

Female > 18:
213

Female < 18: **0**

Male > 18:
1,735

Male < 18: **52**

Objective:

Ensure protection and safety through strengthening existing protection capacity of the affected community and ensuring all facilities, goods and services are dignified and safe to access for all backgrounds.

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming

0

4,000

of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been briefed or trained on protection, gender, and inclusion

0

250

Based on an initial analysis, there are children who have been orphaned and women widowed by the earthquake. ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat is planning for PGI CEA assessment together with distribution of dignity kit to 2,000 families.



Safeguarding, PSEA⁹

Objective:

Ensure safe programing and prevention of harm/SEA to people IFRC/ARCS serve

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of children and adults with access to safe and accessible channels to report SEA

2,000

35,000

⁹ Safeguarding, PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) is part of PGI (Protection, Gender and Inclusion)

# of children and adults reached through awareness raising activities and community mobilizations on PSEA	2,000	35,000
% of sites (villages) where awareness raising campaign activities on how to report SEA and how to access survivor centered assistance	0	100
# of staff and volunteers trained on PSEA guidelines and protocols	0	250
# of staff and volunteers trained in Child Safeguarding and whistle blower Protection Policies.	0	250
# of children and adults reached out on awareness about Child Safeguarding and Protection issues including available services for child protection in targeted community.	0	35,000
# of meetings with community (men, women, child, disable etc.) to know if the community has safe access to the services of IFRC/ARCS and know about the available reporting channels for sharing their feedback and complaints including sensitive feedback.	11	50

ARCS technically supported by the IFRC Secretariat conducted three focus group discussions (FGDs) and two key informant interviews (KIIs) to get community concerns about their safe access to the IFRC/ARCS services and their access to reporting channels in case they need information, share feedback or complaint from ARCS/IFRC services.

Currently the female volunteers are not available in Herat to provide services to the female community members and the safeguarding orientation including PSEA is planned for the female MHPSS and health staff and male volunteers and ARCS staff. This activity is pending for the ARCS approval and the Sr. Safeguarding Officer will be deployed to Herat for staff and volunteers training and conduct meetings with female community member for the assessment to know how they feel safe while receiving services from ARCS/IFRC and their access to the reporting channels to raise their feedback and complaint including sensitive feedback with IFRC/ARCS.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:	<i>Ensure the operation is integrating meaningful community participation, timely, open, and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen, respond to and act on feedback to collaboratively understand and address community needs, priorities, and the context.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>% of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information.</i>	0	75%
	<i># of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been briefed on community engagement and accountability and trained on the community feedback mechanism.</i>	0	250

# of feedback comments collected, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, including sensitive feedback linked to SEA, fraud, corruption or protection concerns	20	2,000
% of people who received a response to their feedback about the operation	100%	100%

Below are the key CEA activities conducted in the reporting period:

- Conducted a meeting with ARCS Gender Department and Volunteers Department to discuss CEA plan in Herat and arrange CEA orientation/briefing for ARCS volunteer's earthquake response in Herat.
- Developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) or key important information of ARCS/IFRC Herat Operation (Relief, MHPSS, Health) to volunteers.
- Conducted a discussion with BBC Media Action to produce a life-saving information talks with IFRC/ARCS expertise on MHPSS and health to share information to communities through four local radios in Herat.
- Developed CEA questions for CEA assessment to male and female-affected communities.
- Deployed CEA senior officer to Herat for CEA coordination.
- Activate Hotline to receive any community's concerns, questions, and complaints related to earthquake response in Herat. The National Society distributed 5,000 cards and 200 stickers with information about hotline service to communities in Herat.
- ARCS supported by IFRC CEA team conducted a community consultation activity with community members (males) registered for multipurpose cash assessment to men who were Cash assistance's beneficiary's and community members. It was conducted through 5 Key Information Interviews and 1 Focus Group Discussion in two affected districts.



ARCS supported by IFRC conducting CEA assessments to males' beneficiaries at Rabat Sangi district during cash distribution. (Photo IFRC)

Challenges:

- As per ARCS regulation, the mobilization of female staff/volunteers are banned, and the orientation of CEA in Herat is on hold as no female volunteer's involvement. There is a lack of female volunteers in ARCS Herat branches to reach communities, only Health and MHPSS are allowed. IFRC has sent a letter to ARCS, yet they mentioned verbally that it is still not approved to involve more female volunteers. This issue will relate to CEA assessment to female communities which only female staff/volunteers who can communicate with female beneficiaries/communities.

Next action:

- Discuss with the ARCS MHPSS coordinator to conduct a CEA orientation (together with PGI) to MHPSS female and male volunteers in ARCS.
- Continue working with ARCS Gender Department in CEA-PGI orientation and collect community feedback for females' beneficiaries.
- Conduct a recording interview with BBC Media Action with IFRC/ARCS Health and MHPSS
- Conduct CEA-PGI Assessment for female communities in Herat during Dignity Kit distribution

Enabling approaches

Note: Progress against National Society Strengthening section will be provided the next update (Operation Update #2).



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:	<i>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.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Movement wide coordination mechanism is described and active¹⁰</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

The ARCS Emergency Operation Center (EOC) has been coordinating the overall response in the Herat province. Emergency Response Task Force (ERTF) comprised of ARCS, IFRC, in-country PNSs and ICRC was held on 8 October 2023 to ensure a coordinated approach and common strategy for addressing humanitarian needs triggered by the earthquake.

A partner's call was organized on 12 October, with the primary objective of offering firsthand insights into the extent of the earthquake's impact, the scope of the disaster, and the urgent humanitarian needs on the ground. More than 50 representatives from the IFRC Secretariat and different PNS had participated the meeting demonstrating a collective determination to address the immense challenges posed by the earthquake and support the affected communities.

Besides, the IFRC Head of Delegation held an initial meeting with the ARCS leadership, with a Movement Platform Meeting (MPM) held on 14 October to serve as a Mini Summit. The MPM comprises the ARCS President, ARCS Secretary General, ICRC Head of Delegation, and IFRC Head of Delegation.



Secretariat Services

Objective:	<i>The IFRC network's capacity for influencing the prioritization, design, resourcing, implementation, and quality of shelter interventions in favor of affected populations is optimized.</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target

¹⁰ Indicator added to reflect ongoing movement coordination in country

Key indicators:	<i># of surge/rapid response personnel deployed to support the operation</i>	5	6
	<i># of evaluations conducted</i>	0	1

Surge capacity

As of reporting period, five people have been deployed as Rapid Response Personnel for the operation, two of which were deployed remotely (for the role of Information Management). The three role profiles that are supporting in country are Health Coordinator, Communications Coordinator and Shelter Programme Technical Officer.

Communications

- Images and video footage of ARCS response have been shared with Red Cross Red Crescent partners and media agencies to highlight the humanitarian impact of the earthquake as well as Red Cross and Red Crescent response efforts. The most recent photos and key message can be accessed [here](#)
- Representatives and spokespersons of the IFRC and PNS are participating in [media interviews](#) to [highlight](#) the humanitarian needs and to advocate for allocation of resources to support the Red Cross Red Crescent response.
- A communication surge personnel has been deployed to Kabul to support communication and media matters. Along with regular updates on key messages, images, and videos, [social media posts](#) and messaging, [earthquake profile video](#), and in-depth stories are currently in the process.

Community Engagement and Accountability

ARCS activated hotline service to receive community's concerns, questions, and complaints related to Herat earthquake response. The National Society distributed 5,000 cards and 200 stickers with information about hotline service to communities in Herat.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Supply chain management teams of ARCS and IFRC are supporting the operation to ensure timely and efficient mobilization of relief supplies to the affected areas. The mobilization table for Appeal MDRAF007 has been updated and is available [here](#).

The IFRC Secretariat will provide procurement, warehousing, and transportation services to Participating National Societies as may be needed.

PMER-IM

ARCS supported by IFRC established centralized database system of the earthquake response operation

D. FUNDING

As of 6 November 2023, the Emergency Appeal coverage is approximately 37 per cent 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 and 3 million for Herat Earthquake Operation Strategy against a funding ask of CHF 9 million.

Contact information

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

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For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

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Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

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: Herat Earthquake

Operation update #1

As of 7 Nov, 2023

