

# OPERATION UPDATE

## Afghanistan | Herat Earthquake

<b>Emergency appeal №:</b> MDRAF007 <b>Emergency appeal launched:</b> 10/4/2021 <b>Emergency appeal revised:</b> 14/10/2023 ( <a href="#">sixth revision</a> ) Operational Strategy published: 10 /11/2023 (specific for <a href="#">Herat Earthquake Response</a> )	<b>Glide №:</b> <a href="#">EQ-2023-000184-AFG</a>
<b>Operation update #3.</b> <b>Date of issue:</b> 10/07/2024 Operation timeframe: 15 months (7/10/2023 - 31/12/2024)	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> From 07/10/2023 to 31/05/2024 <b>Number of people targeted:</b> 50,000 <b>Number of people reached:</b> 87,000
<b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b> CHF 9 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal; CHF 20 million Federation-wide	<b>DREF amount initially allocated:</b> CHF 750,000 (loan to Emergency Appeal)

Sixth revision of Emergency Appeal MDRAF007 seeks CHF 120 million overall and is currently **41 per cent funded**. The funding requirement for Herat earthquakes Operational Strategy is **CHF 9 million**, of which contributions amounting to **CHF 4.95 million (55 per cent)** had been recorded as of 31 May 2024. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to continue with humanitarian assistance to people affected by the earthquakes in Herat Province.



ARCS supported by IFRC, provides construction material, cash and technical assistance to households displaced by the earthquake in Gulran district of Herat province. Specifically, ARCS/IFRC is supporting the construction of 300 owner-driven houses in Herat province.

**Photo: ARCS**

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

On 7 October 2023, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake, along with several aftershocks, struck western Afghanistan. The earthquake's epicenter was in the Zinda Jan district, approximately 40 km (about 24.85 mi) northwest of Herat City. Herat bore the brunt of the impact, although the earthquake was strongly felt across four provinces: Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat. The Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) stated that the earthquakes mainly affected 382 villages in 10 districts (Ghoryan, Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, Kohsan, Kushki Kohna, Robat Sangi and Zinda Jan) and resulted in over 2,000 human deaths. Displaced families are either living in the makeshift shelters, or informal settlement sites – making them highly susceptible to adverse weather conditions, health risks, and other hazards.



### TIMELINE

7 Oct 2023	An earthquake of magnitude 6.3 strikes western Afghanistan with its epicenter in the Zinda Jan district of Herat Province. Several aftershocks are recorded.
7 Oct 2023	ARCS activates its Emergency Operation Centre, deploys branch disaster response teams, and mobilizes existing resources from neighboring provinces to the affected areas.
8 Oct 2023	ARCS convenes its Emergency Response Task Force (RTF) meeting with in-country Movement partners participating for a coordinated joint.
8 Oct 2023	Authorities report that the death toll has exceeded 2,000 people and more than 9,200 people are injured.
8 Oct 2023	Reports from ARCS teams on the ground indicate extensive damage to shelters. Non-food and emergency shelter items are dispatched from prepositioned stocks to the affected areas.
10 Oct 2023	CHF 750,000 is allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support early action activities of the ARCS.
12 Oct 2023	ARCS organizes partners call to share the extent of impact and scope of the earthquake, and the urgent humanitarian needs on the ground.
14 Oct 2023	The IFRC issues 6th Revision of Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007), incorporating interventions to address needs wrought by Herat earthquake.
14 Oct 2023	ARCS hosts Movement Platform Meeting (MPM) to serve as a Mini Summit. The MPM comprises ARCS President, ARCS Secretary General ICRC Head of Delegation, and IFRC Head of Delegation.
31 Dec 2023	ARCS supported by Movement and non-Movement partners reaches more than 240,000 people with multisectoral assistance.
31 Mar 2024	ARCS continues to deliver primary health services through five MHTs and carries out technical assessment of shelter construction in the affected areas.
31 May 2024	ARCS/IFRC supports transitional shelter construction through owner driven approach

The affected communities suffered extensive damage, losing lives, homes, livestock, agricultural land, and livelihoods. Humanitarian assistance is needed to help rebuild lives, revive agriculture, develop business and job skills, and recover from this tragedy. Volunteers and staff from the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in Herat, supported by teams from neighboring provinces, were among the first responders. ARCS deployed 32 response teams and backed by Red Cross/Crescent partners, carried out lifesaving activities such as search and rescue, first aid, food and water distribution, shelter, and medical transport.

In response to the earthquake, the IFRC Secretariat dispatched emergency shelter and household items, allocated CHF 750,000 from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and relaunched the Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) to address immediate and recovery needs arising from the earthquakes. Furthermore, a separate operational strategy was developed for the Herat Earthquake Response, targeting 50,000 people with multisectoral assistance including food, cash, shelter, health, support for livelihoods, winter preparation, and enhancing the response capacity of the National Society, with a funding requirement of CHF 9 million. This response is among several others supported by the IFRC in the context of multiple humanitarian crises affecting Afghanistan.

In 2024, two operational strategies are still in effect as part of the existing Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007):

- [Protracted Humanitarian Crisis Operation Strategy](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.
- [Herat Earthquake Operation Strategy](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.

The situation has been exacerbated by the following crises and disasters:

#### **Population movement:**

On 3 October 2023, Pakistani authorities mandated the voluntary departure of undocumented migrants by 1 November 2023. This led to a surge in Afghans returning from Pakistan, reaching 4,500 daily since 15 September 2023, compared to 260 per day earlier in 2023. The IFRC allocated CHF 750,000 from its DREF, targeting 50,000 people in Badakhshan, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunar, Khost, Nangarhar, Paktika, Paktiya, Nimroz, and Zabul. Detailed information about the operation is available in [Afghanistan Population Movement Operation \(MDRAF013\) Update 1](#).

#### **Cold wave:**

An uncharacteristically late winter season impacted multiple provinces across Afghanistan, resulting in heavy snowfall and extreme cold temperatures. Several high-altitude provinces suffered significant losses of livestock, blocked roads, and disruptions to economic activities. More than 325,000 people were affected across at least 18 provinces, and thousands of livestock perished, significantly affecting households and livelihoods. The IFRC allocated CHF 500,000 to target 22,400 people in 11 provinces: Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Sari-e-Pol, Uruzgan, and Zabul. Detailed information about the operation is available in [Afghanistan Cold Wave Operation \(MDRAF014\) Update 1](#).

#### **Floods:**

Heavy rains since April 2024 caused a series of devastating flash floods in 33 out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan until mid-May 2024. The floods affected more than 280,000 people directly, putting 1 million people at risk across 33 provinces, and resulting in at least 300 human deaths. The IFRC allocated CHF 750,000 from its DREF to support the ARCS in carrying out immediate lifesaving activities and launched another Emergency Appeal to support ARCS in delivering multisectoral assistance to 20,000 households in the 14 most affected provinces: Badakhshan, Baghlan, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nimroz, Parwan, Takhar, Uruzgan, and Zabul. Detailed information about the operation is available in [Afghanistan Floods Operation \(MDRAF015\)](#).

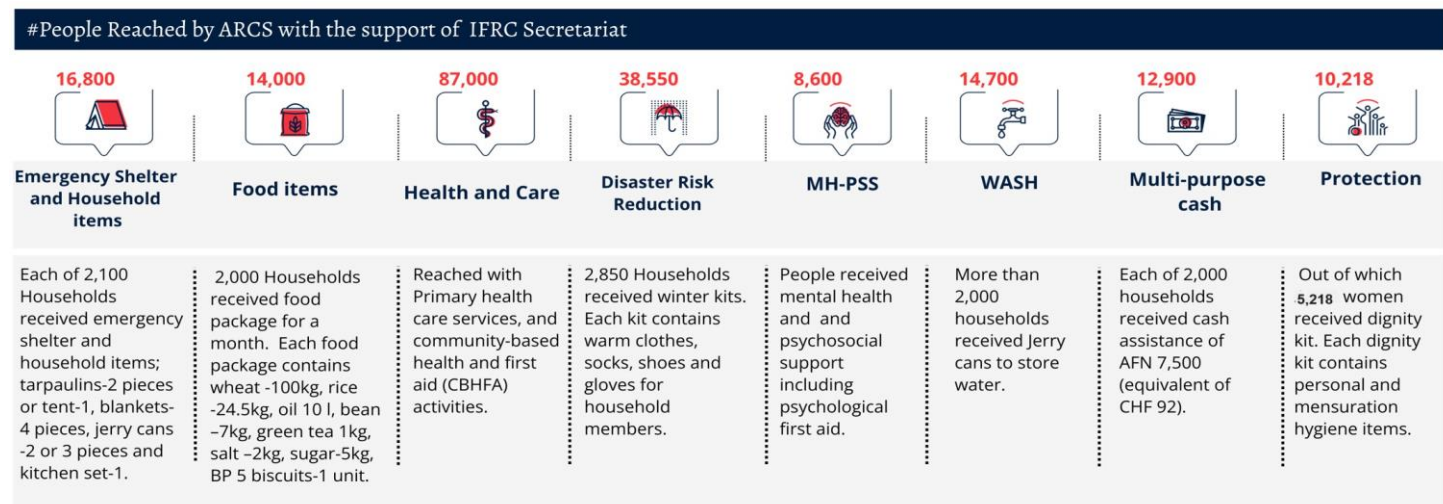
## **Summary of response**

#### **Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response**

ARCS has a presence in every province of Afghanistan, including Herat, where it runs a regional office for the West and a branch office dedicated to Herat. As part of its support role, the National Society participates in a committee set up by the authorities and led by the local governor to organize the overall response.

During the reporting period, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat provided multisectoral assistance to **87,000 people**.

This support was facilitated by the resources mobilized through the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Key achievements include reaching 2,100 households with emergency shelter and household items, 2,000 households with food package, 2,000 households with multipurpose cash, 5,218 households with winterization kit, 5,218 women provided with dignity kits and 87,000 people with health and care services.



Furthermore, ARCS/IFRC is constructing 300 shelters through an owner-driven approach in Gulran (297) and Zinda Jan (3) districts of Herat province. Each shelter costs AFN 356,500 (CHF 4,800), including AFN 82,000 (CHF 1,104) in construction materials and cash assistance in three tranches: 45 per cent (AFN 123,500/CHF 1,663), 45 per cent (AFN 123,500), and 10 per cent (AFN 27,500/CHF 370). First tranche of cash was provided in May 2024 while the second tranche will be provided in July 2024 after completing foundation till plinth level tie-beam.

### Federation wide response

Apart from the aid facilitated through resources mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal, Movement partners have contributed significantly to the ARCS response. As of 31 May 2024, ARCS had provided humanitarian assistance to over 240,000 people from 34,000 households, offering a range of services with the backing of IFRC networks.

From the beginning of the operation, ARCS has actively collaborated with the IFRC networks to provide assistance in various activities, including assessments, search and rescue, rubble clearance, emergency first aid, and the distribution of cash and relief items. ARCS also managed injuries and provided health services through 16 health facilities, consisting of 13 mobile health teams (MHTs) and three static clinics. Injured individuals were transported to hospitals after receiving initial aid, particularly during the initial two months of the operation in 2023. The health facilities received support from the Danish Red Cross (DRC), Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), and the IFRC Secretariat.

Since December 2023, ARCS has operated five new emergency mobile health teams (EMHTs) with the backing of the IFRC Secretariat and NorCross through the IFRC Emergency Appeal fund. The EMHTs assisted 86,864 people (57,665 males and 29,199 females) through outpatient consultations and treatment, maternal and newborn services, nutrition screening, and community mobilization. Additionally, NorCross procured and provided 1,000 hygiene kits for women and 1,000 safe delivery kits through the EMHTs. NorCross also dispatched 1,000 winterization kits for distribution through the five EMHTs.

The DRC supported ARCS in training and mobilizing 31 volunteers (18 females, 13 males) to assess the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs of affected households. These volunteers provided psychological first aid and outreach support to 7,588 people. They were deployed in earthquake-affected districts, villages, and open areas within Herat City, where people sought shelter due to fear of the earthquake and aftershocks. Additionally, the DRC

supported ARCS in providing winterization assistance to 500 households in Herat. The IFRC cross-cutting team conducted community engagement and accountability (CEA), protection gender and inclusion (PGI), and safeguarding training for 31 volunteers in Herat Province.

Similarly, the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) supported ARCS by providing food and household items for distribution to people affected by the earthquake. The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran assisted with search and rescue operations, and provided food and household items (refer to [Herat Earthquake Response Situation Report # 2](#) for more details).

Furthermore, TRCS supported ARCS in assessments and provided food packages to 2,000 households through funds mobilized by the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Additionally, with TRCS support, ARCS offered winter heating assistance to 700 households and distributed 500 four-season tents to those affected by the earthquake. These durable shelters provide crucial protection and comfort during harsh winter conditions.

## Needs analysis

Priority needs observed in affected communities are:

- **Immediate needs:** Food assistance, cash assistance, support for winterization, emergency shelter, household items, emergency health, MHPSS encompassing psychosocial first aid (PFA), reestablishing family connections (RFL), emergency water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance, including hygiene, menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, and addressing the protection needs of orphaned children, widowed women, and women and girls.
- **Medium-term needs:** Health and care, MHPSS, WASH including MHM, transitional shelter, livelihoods and protection.
- **Long-term needs:** Health and care, WASH, shelter, educational outreach, livelihood restoration and income-generation, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation efforts, as well as preparedness for effective response preparedness.

Needs per sector are as follows:

### Shelter

An earthquake and subsequent aftershocks caused damage to 48,000 houses in Afghanistan, displacing families and leaving many in inadequate shelters, especially during the harsh winter season. With 20,430 houses severely damaged, 10,002 destroyed, and 5,370 under construction or committed to, the demand for 25,066 shelters and latrines remains urgent. For further information, please refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation Strategy](#).

Zindajan, Enjil, and Herat districts are among the most impacted, with Zinda Jan reporting the highest number of houses destroyed—2,573 homes reduced to rubble, according to cluster reports. These districts have received attention from various donors and private sector support. In contrast, due to its remote location and lack of engagement or priority from humanitarian partners, Gulran remains one of the most neglected districts despite significant devastation.

The findings revealed significant structural vulnerabilities in the targeted communities, particularly in the Gulran



ARCS/IFRC engineers carrying out detailed technical shelter assessment in earthquake affected areas in Herat province. **(Photo: ARCS)**

District of Herat Province. Homes were constructed using traditional methods like cob and adobe, lacking proper foundations and structural integrity, with domed adobe roofs susceptible to collapse during disasters. Joint families without compound walls indicated further vulnerabilities. There is a pressing need for shelter awareness programs, building back safer activities, and increasing the number of masons in the community, as there are currently very few people with masonry skills integrated with the "build back safer" approach.

### **Health and WASH**

The series of earthquakes have also caused substantial damage to water systems, healthcare facilities, and other critical infrastructure. Communities face significant challenges related to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Many residents lack knowledge of safe hygiene practices, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, particularly acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and other health concerns. In some areas, water sources are scarce, worsening water scarcity issues, especially during dry seasons. These findings highlight the urgent need to improve hygiene practices, enhance access to healthcare services, and address water scarcity within the communities.

Access to healthcare services is severely limited in these communities, with villages located far from hospitals or clinics. Poor road conditions, particularly during the rainy season, further hinder access to healthcare facilities and exacerbate health-related challenges. Moreover, residents' lack of awareness about preventive health measures increases the risk of waterborne diseases and other health issues. Addressing these challenges is crucial to improving healthcare access, enhancing health education, and resolving infrastructure issues to improve community well-being. Community members were found to be experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues due to rural destitution and poor living conditions.

### **Food, cash, and livelihood**

Households in the affected districts were already facing severe poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, worsened by prolonged drought and economic difficulties. The earthquake further intensified these challenges, resulting in the loss of food stocks for many households and livestock for herder families. To meet their immediate needs and rebuild their livelihoods, households require skills and resources to restore their sources of income. Residents heavily rely on agriculture and livestock, especially herding, for their livelihoods. However, limited market access, poor road conditions, and distant urban centers present significant barriers to economic opportunities. Additionally, the lack of alternative ways to earn a living and vocational training further restricts economic diversification efforts. Seasonal agricultural activities and dependence on natural resources also expose communities to environmental risks and market price fluctuations. Addressing these challenges requires initiatives that enhance livelihood opportunities, improve market access, and foster economic resilience. Efforts focusing on income diversification, vocational training, and sustainable agricultural practices are essential for long-term poverty reduction and livelihood stability in the region.

### **Community engagement accountability**

ARCS, supported by the IFRC, conducted community engagement and accountability orientations for its volunteers and staff, integrating mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and safeguarding. However, there are still gaps in implementation, particularly in feedback collection. Although ARCS, with IFRC support, had provided a hotline service for the Herat operation, it is currently inactive due to a contract issue with the hotline administrator. The community lacked crucial information about ARCS assistance because the information was not distributed properly or inclusively, due to access and awareness issues. Some community members were unaware of aid criteria, distribution processes, and assisting agencies.

### **Protection**

Women are disproportionately affected by the earthquakes and required targeted assistance. Women and girls require culturally appropriate dignity kits. Lack of awareness about ARCS services for women and female humanitarian workers at distribution points has limited women's access to information and services. The lack of functioning WASH facilities raises concerns for protection and health, and efforts should be made to register and

assist women whose husbands are working abroad. Protection support, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, is paramount in ensuring the well-being and safety of the affected population.

### **Preparedness and local response capacity**

After the initial earthquake on 7 October 2023, the first responders included community members, local businesses, authorities, ARCS Herat branch staff and volunteers, local civil society organizations, and community-based organizations from the affected communities. Although additional support from International Red Cross and Red Crescent actors was mobilized shortly after the disaster, its deployment was initially hindered by challenges such as the remoteness of affected villages and the lack of mobile or internet connectivity.

The earthquakes highlight the critical need to invest in both institutional and community preparedness to ensure adequate readiness for future disasters. Therefore, in addition to addressing the immediate, medium-term, and recovery needs of affected communities, it is essential to allocate a portion of the resources obtained for the operation to enhance community preparedness and response capacity. This proactive approach will help mitigate the impact of future disasters and enable communities to respond effectively and efficiently during crises.

Strengthening the capacity of local actors to prepare, respond, and recover from events promotes ownership by engaging communities as agents in their own response and recovery. Furthermore, it advances and reinforces community resilience by preparing for anticipated threats, adapting to changing conditions, and rapidly recovering from disruptions. Preparedness, a fundamental tenet of disaster risk management, is championed by the IFRC through its support to National Societies to continually improve their local preparedness and response capacity, ultimately preventing and reducing the impacts of disasters on communities.

## **Operational risk assessment**

There are various risks and challenges encountered in the context of humanitarian operations in Afghanistan. These include natural hazards affecting access and distributions in earthquake-affected areas, situations of violence impacting access and safety, major supply chain risks, risks associated with community-based distribution activities, limitations on the movement of women, transportation challenges, fragility of the national banking system, and the risk of disease outbreaks. To mitigate these risks, measures such as prepositioning of stocks, updated security plans, supply chain management improvements, community engagement mechanisms, sustained private diplomacy for female staff, transportation monitoring, liquidity assessment, and volunteer training for health promotion have been implemented. Additionally, steps have been taken to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers, manage supply chain delays, address banking system fragility, and prevent disease outbreaks.

Please refer to the [Herat Operation Update 2](#) for further information on risk assessment.

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Update on the strategy**

The [Operational Strategy](#) for the operation remains the same. ARCS has reoriented its approach to focus on various sectors, prioritizing basic needs, livelihoods, health, shelter, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). This strategy incorporates community engagement and accountability, disaster risk reduction (DRR), National Society Development (NSD), and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) aspects. The operation has also integrated preparedness for effective response action alongside relief efforts to strengthen the capacity for future disasters and crises.

## **Integrated Assistance**

The operation strategy addresses the needs of affected communities through a comprehensive approach. It aims to provide emergency and transitional shelter solutions, household items, food, primary healthcare services, WASH support, and initiatives for livelihood and socio-economic resilience. The intervention focuses on helping the affected population cope with winter conditions while integrating risk reduction measures. The IFRC Emergency Appeal aims to reach 50,000 people with these integrated services.

## **Cash-Based Assistance**

The operation implemented cash-based assistance to meet immediate emergency needs and support livelihoods and shelter requirements. ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 2,000 households impacted by the earthquake in three districts, empowering individuals to make decisions based on their priorities and stimulating local markets.

## **Shelter Programme**

Under the Shelter sector, household kits containing essential supplies such as cooking utensils and hygiene products, along with winterization kits, were distributed to ensure families remain warm during the harsh winter months. Additionally, six demonstrative shelters are under construction, serving both as transitional shelters and training venues for local masons. Safe shelter awareness campaigns have been planned to educate the community on building back safer in preparation for future seismic events and flooding.

Three tranches of conditional cash grants, totaling AFN 274,500 (equivalent to CHF 3,696), are allocated to house owners. Based on previous project experience, efforts are made to ensure beneficiaries have access to good quality materials to maintain minimum quality benchmarks. Given the limited availability of materials in the local market, efforts include providing essential materials such as iron girders, planks, doors, and windows in addition to conditional cash grants to ensure quick and secure shelter solutions during the recovery phase.

Household registration and assessment ensure targeted assistance to the most vulnerable individuals. The strategy emphasizes coordination between IFRC, ARCS, and stakeholders at various levels to ensure tailored assistance and community ownership.

## **National Society Development and Localized Action**

IFRC is assisting ARCS in enhancing human resource capacity through training and logistics support. The operation aims to institutionalize capacities and establish a robust enabling environment for future response and community engagement.

## **Protection and Prevention**

The operation integrates protection and prevention measures, prioritizing assistance based on vulnerability criteria. ARCS utilizes vulnerability criteria to support various layers of the community, including single-parent households, in addressing livelihood needs. PGI sessions have been conducted for ARCS volunteers in Herat to understand the PGI minimum standards and the Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety (DAPS) components in the operation.

## **Safeguarding**

PGI and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are integrated into all activities, with training provided to ARCS volunteers to ensure dignified programming in humanitarian services. Safeguarding sessions were also conducted for ARCS volunteers in Herat, integrated with MHPSS.

## Community Engagement, Accountability, and Mobilization

Community mobilization efforts have been intensified to actively involve affected communities in decision-making and recovery processes. Community task forces have been established to assess needs and allocate resources effectively. This comprehensive summary highlights the integrated approach taken by IFRC and ARCS to address the needs of affected communities and promote resilience and recovery.


To improve accountability and ensure the community's voices are heard, ARCS, with IFRC support, will continue community engagement and accountability approaches. This includes door-to-door outreach, community meetings, and involving local leaders, elders, and women representatives.

Additionally, ARCS plans to re-establish the hotline to provide a two-way communication channel with the community. The hotline will be strengthened with trained operators and referral pathways for sensitive feedback (e.g., fraud, violence, protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment—PSEAH, code of conduct breaches), integrated with protection, gender, and inclusion components.

Moreover, CEA underscores the importance of building resilient communities better prepared to withstand and recover from future disasters. In addition to immediate relief efforts, community mobilization focuses on implementing sustainable initiatives such as disaster risk reduction education, infrastructure improvements, and livelihood diversification programs. By fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility among community members, these initiatives not only enhance the overall effectiveness of earthquake response efforts but also lay the foundation for long-term resilience and sustainable development in disaster-prone areas.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	<b>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</b>	<b>People reached: 15,857</b>	
		Female > 18: <b>4,500</b>	Female < 18: <b>2,900</b>
		Male > 18: <b>5,143</b>	Male < 18: <b>3,314</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i># of earthquakes affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items</i>	15,857	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>	Started construction of 300 houses	500
	<i># of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter.</i>	150	500

## Emergency shelter and household items distribution

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached 2,100 households, comprised of 15,857 people (Male -7,500 and female -7,200) with emergency shelter and household items such as tents or tarpaulins, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and sleeping pads (refer to page 11 of [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#) for details of the distribution).

## Post distribution monitoring of household items

ARCS PMER teams conducted PDM of emergency shelter and household items in Robat Sangi and Zinda Ian districts. A total of 148 people were interviewed, of which 43 per cent were female. The survey results indicate a high level of satisfaction with the assistance provided by ARCS. Nearly all respondents – 99 per cent, reported that the assistance met their main urgent needs, demonstrating the organization's success in addressing emergency shelter and household item requirements. Additionally, the overwhelming majority – 98 per cent, found the quantity of assistance to be adequate for their household size. When assessing the quality of the assistance, 80 rated it as excellent, while 14 per cent rated it as good. However, 6 per cent expressed concerns about the quality, citing issues such as poor blanket quality and non-functional tents for winter use. For further information, please refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 2](#), page#12-13.

## Mobilization of tractors

ARCS mobilized five tractors from Khost and Paktika to Herat, financed by the Government of Japan, to facilitate debris-clearing operations. The tractors played a crucial role in assisting affected households by clearing debris from collapsed homes, relocating salvaged household items to temporary camps at designated sites, and opening up pathways to transport construction materials.



ARCS supported by IFRC provides financial and technical assistance to 300 households who were displaced by an earthquake in Herat province, enabling them to build their own homes. (Photo: ARCS)



Supported by IFRC, ARCS constructs demo shelters in Gulran district, Herat province. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)

## Shelter assistance

**Rapid assessment, shelter strategy development and shelter orientation:** To initiate shelter activities, IFRC/ARCS conducted joint rapid assessments, coordinated with local authorities, engaged with the shelter cluster, and developed a community-driven shelter strategy. After endorsing the shelter strategy and recruiting staff (including 4 IFRC engineers, 10 ARCS engineers, and 4 ARCS social mobilizers), all personnel underwent orientation sessions. These sessions focused on construction procedures, safe shelter awareness, and community engagement, equipping them with essential skills for effective humanitarian response.

**District selection and detail assessment:** Initially, ARCS had planned 300 shelters in Zinda Jan district, conducting detailed assessments in seven villages. However, due to tribal disputes and allocation changes, ARCS shifted 297 of these shelter interventions to Gulran district. Leveraging its grassroots network and capacity, ARCS has focused on remote areas where other organizations are hesitant to operate, prompting a reassessment of the intervention areas.

Out of the 300 target transitional shelters, as of the reporting period, six demo transitional shelters have nearly been completed and 283 transitional shelters are ongoing in Gulran and Zinda Jan districts, with eight household under dispute. These eight households were excluded due to an issue with the Shora-e-Ulama (Religious Scholars Committee), which stated that these households were living in the city before the earthquake and moved to the site afterward, making them ineligible for shelter support. However, based on assessments and consultations with the elderly community group, it is claimed that these eight households were residing in the community even before the earthquake. Their cases are on hold, and a resolution is expected by July 2024.

**Shelter construction through owner driven approach:** ARCS has allocated AFN 356,500 (Equivalent to CHF 4,800) for each shelter construction support in Herat province. Out of which, ARCS is providing partial construction materials amounting AFN 82,000 (Equivalent to 1,104), while AFN 274,500 (Equivalent to CHF 3,696 is being distributed in three tranches; the first tranche- AFN 123,500 (equivalent to CHF 1,663), which is 45 per cent of the total amount, the second tranche of AFN 123,500 (45 per cent of the total amount), and the third tranche of AFN 27,500 (equivalent to CHF 370 (10 per cent of the total amount). IFRC procured items like doors, windows, girders, and equipment, now being gradually distributed to eligible households for shelter support. IFRC/ARCS stored them at the ARCS warehouse in Herat to mitigate shortages in the local market, timely delivery and ensure quality.

The household selection criteria for shelter assistance focus on identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable. This includes assessing the level of damage to homes, with priority given to those that are completely, severely, or partially damaged. Vulnerable group, such as women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limited resources, are also prioritized.

ARCS/IFRC have prepared information, education, and communication (IEC) materials for build back safer sessions and technical guidance on shelter construction. These materials combine insights from various reliable resources on shelter operations. Likewise, ARCS and IFRC have coordinated with the shelter cluster to present, endorse, and share the IEC materials with other partners.

**Mason training:** A total of 150 people from Gulran district, received a two-week on-the-job mason training and gained practical skills on safer shelter construction. The training also included construction of demo houses construction in Gulran district. ARCS/IFRC supported construction of three demo houses in Zinda Jan district.

**Federation-wide response**

Additionally, ARCS distributed 900 tarpaulins, 950 tents, 6,100 blankets, 500 kitchen sets, 1,234 mattress/carpet/beds, 60 quilts and 67 jackets to households in Herat with the bilateral in-kind support from PNS. Refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#), page #14 for detail information.



**Livelihoods**

**People reached: 13,994**

Female > 18: <b>4,000</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,503</b>
Male > 18: <b>4,000</b>	Male < 18: <b>2,491</b>

<b>Objective:</b> <i>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</i>			
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i># of households assisted through emergency food security<sup>1</sup></i>	2,000	2,000
	<i># 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.</i>	0	1000
	<i># of people receiving temporary employment opportunities (cash for work)</i>	0	500
	<i># of people receiving vocational/ soft skill training (disaggregated by types)</i>	0	300 <sup>2</sup>
	<i># of households receiving support for income generation activities</i>	0	200
	<i># of households and/or community groups (disaggregated by types) received working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.</i>	0	200

### Food distribution

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat/TRC reached 2,000 households, comprised of **13,994 people** (male-7,503, female-6,491) with food package. For further information, please refer [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 2](#).

### PDM of food distribution

During the survey, 150 respondents were interviewed, comprising 45 per cent males and 55 per cent females. ARCS employed specific vulnerability criteria to select households for food assistance, including seniors responsible for children, households with a member with a disability, households headed by widows or single mothers with young children, pregnant and lactating women, and households without livestock.

Post-distribution monitoring confirmed that ARCS's vulnerability criteria were appropriate, as respondents indicated the criteria they met to receive the food package. A small percentage of respondents mentioned additional selection criteria related to human and financial losses from the earthquakes. Feedback indicated that urgent needs were successfully met, with all respondents finding the distribution point location convenient. The majority expressed satisfaction with the quantity and quality of the assistance, and all reported not having to provide any form of payment or benefits to receive it.



ARCS female volunteer conducting PDM with female respondent in Zenda Jan district, Herat Province. (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh)

<sup>1</sup> This indicator has been added to better reflect operation results.


<sup>2</sup> Vocation training -300 people cum soft skill training

However, areas for improvement were identified, particularly in community engagement and feedback mechanisms. Overall, the findings demonstrate that ARCS, supported by the IFRC network, effectively addressed urgent needs, ensured access to assistance, and maintained accountability in the distribution process while highlighting opportunities for enhancing community engagement and feedback mechanisms. For further information, refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation update 2](#).

ARCS will implement livelihood activities based on the identified needs and scopes in Herat province. Furthermore, the IFRC is exploring resources for supporting ARCS to implement livelihood activities.

#### 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.

	<h3>Multi-purpose Cash</h3>	People reached: <b>12,872</b>	
		Female > 18: <b>2,994</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,599</b>
		Male > 18: <b>2,798</b>	Male < 18: <b>3,481</b>

<b>Objective:</b>	The most affected communities are able to access and purchase essential food and household items and services in a secure and dignified manner.
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Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of households that receive cash for basic needs</i>	2,000	2,000

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached 2,000 households, comprised of 12,822 people (male-6,279 and female- 6,395) with multipurpose cash.

#### PDM of multipurpose cash

In December 2023, the ARCS PMER department carried out a PDM of multi-purpose cash assistance provided to households affected by an earthquake in Herat province. A total of 202 respondents, consisting of 178 males and 24 females, were surveyed.

The key findings revealed that 91 per cent of respondents found the amount sufficient to meet their urgent household needs, while the rest felt it was inadequate due to having large households and expensive food. In terms of access to assistance and information, the survey showed that varying wait times were experienced by the recipients, with 97 per cent spending up to AFN 200 (equivalent to CHF 2.5) on transportation, and 19 per cent receiving a sensitization session before cash distribution. Additionally, all respondents reported feeling safe during the cash distribution process, and 98 per cent expressed satisfaction with the information provided by the ARCS regarding distribution details, while 2 per cent were neutral or dissatisfied. Please refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation update 2](#) for further information:



## Health & Care

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

People reached: **86,864**

Male <18: **33,446**

Female <18: **16,935**

Male >18: **24,219**

Female >18: **12,264**

### Objective:

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

	Indicator	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i># of health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health services.</i>	15	5
	<i># of people reached with primary health services.</i>	86,864	50,000
	<i># of staff and volunteers trained on CBHFA/ECV</i>	420	450
	<i># of people reached with CBHFA services by trained volunteers.</i>	6,038	31,500
	<i># of people provided with MHPSS interventions including PFA.</i>	7,588 <sup>3</sup>	NA
	<i># of people trained on PFA and other MHPSS technical trainings</i>	37	30

ARCS reached 86,864 people (male-57,665 and female –29,199) with primary health and care services such as OPD, first aid, and transportation of serious cases to the hospitals in Herat province.

### Mental health and psychosocial support

ARCS supported by IFRC and DRC conducted a three-day training session on psychological first aid, gender and inclusion protection, and safe referrals for 25 participants from five MHTs in Herat. These teams also provided primary health care services, screenings for malnutrition, immunizations, and health education sessions, reaching many people. Additionally, the ARCS trained 420 volunteers in community-based health and first aid, established committees, and conducted awareness sessions on health and hygiene topics, reaching a total of 6,038 individuals in the earthquake-affected areas of Herat province until 30 April 2024.

### Emergency MHTs mobilization

Following consultations with key partners, ARCS supported by NorCross through the IFRC Emergency Appeal fund mobilized five emergency MHTs since December 2023 in Adraskan, Gulran, Shendan districts of Herat. Key accomplishment under the emergency MHTs include:

- Outpatient department/consultations services reaching to 20,031 people (male- 7,817 and female-12,214).
- Maternal and newborn health services focusing health facilities delivering antenatal care (937 antenatal visits), postnatal care (473 postnatal visits) and delivery care services (22 delivery cases).

<sup>3</sup> DRC is supporting ARCS in MHPSS

- Nutrition screening procedures for malnutrition, identifying and providing necessary medical prescriptions and referrals for cases of moderate and severe malnutrition. Emergency MHTs conducted 1,959 screenings for malnutrition, identifying cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- Community mobilization and health education creating awareness about essential health-related issues. The community mobilizers played a critical role in connecting the community with healthcare providers, conducting health education sessions, and disseminating information on key health practices. A total 29,693 people (male-13,466 and female-16,227) were reached with various health topics including immunization, breastfeeding, nutrition, family planning, hygiene, and sanitation.


### Mobilization of CBHFA volunteers

ARCS deployed 22 CBHFA volunteers (male-11 and female-11) to assess the situation and provide humanitarian 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. For further upcoming intervention, the coordination meeting was held at the field level in December 2023, with the head of the ARCS west region, the head of Herat ARCS branch, CBHFA supervisors, and CBHFA trainers. Orienting CBHFA supervisors and trainers and developing action plans with CBHFA field staff.

### 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) in the early days of the operation. The services included first aid and transportation of serious cases to the hospitals in Herat City. ARCS with support from the DRC, trained 35 volunteers and two CBHFA trainers (female- 19 and male-18) in October 2023. The trained volunteers provided psychological first aid and outreach support to 7,588 individuals.

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.

 <b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	<b>People reached: 14,700</b>		
	Female > 18: <b>4,200</b>	Female < 18: <b>3,000</b>	
	Male > 18: <b>4,300</b>	Male < 18: <b>3,200</b>	
<b>Objective:</b>	Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# households provided with jerry cans to store water	>2,100	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 December 2023, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat reached more than 2,100 households with 6,250 jerry cans for them to store water. Each household received 2 to 3 jerry cans based on their household size.

### 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 [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#) for the overall WASH items distributed by ARCS.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

**Objective:** *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.*

	Indicator	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i>% of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information.</i>	99% <sup>4</sup>	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>	45	250
	<i># of feedback comments collected, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, including sensitive feedback linked to SEA, fraud, corruption or protection concerns</i>	221	2,000

<sup>4</sup> 150 respondents were interviewed for food and household items, of which 99% reported receiving useful information. 202 respondents were interviewed for MPC assistance, of which 98% reported receiving useful information. Likewise, 176 respondents were interviewed for Winterization kits assistance, 100% of them reported receiving useful information. Hence the average is 99%.

% of people who received a response to their feedback about the operation

100%

100%

ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat accomplished following activities:

- Developed frequently asked questions or key information about the earthquake response for staff and volunteers.
- Engaged in discussions with BBC Media Action to collaborate on producing life-saving information talks, leveraging expertise of IFRC networks in mental health and psychosocial support. The aim was to disseminate vital information to communities through four local radio stations in Herat.
- Formulated questions for the CEA assessment targeting the communities affected by the earthquake, both male and female.
- Established a hotline to address concerns, questions, and complaints from the community regarding the earthquake response in Herat.
- Distributed 7,000 cards and 200 stickers containing information about the hotline service to the communities.
- Conducted CEA orientation for 33 ARCS psychosocial volunteers (15 males, 18 females).
- Community feedback collected through interviews and focus group discussion played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of the response. Direct engagement with affected community members provided invaluable insights into their immediate needs and priorities. The identification of major needs, such as the necessity of adequate shelter for all household members, including livestock, highlighted the urgent requirements for ensuring the safety and well-being of the affected population. Additionally, the recognition of food storage needs underscored the importance of addressing food security concerns in the disaster's aftermath.
- Furthermore, the acknowledgment of the need for psychosocial support emphasized the operations commitment to addressing the holistic needs of the community beyond just physical infrastructure.

#### Challenges:

- Training and mobilization of female volunteers in field has been challenging. However, ARCS is discussing within the organization and public authorities for finding the way to mobilize female for reaching the most vulnerable groups such as women and children in the earthquake affected areas.



### Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

People reached: **38,545**

Female > 18: **12,262**      Female > 18: **12,262**

Male > 18: **11,219**      Male > 18: **11,219**

#### Objective:

*Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

#### Key indicators:

##### Indicator

**Actual**

**Target**

*# of households receiving winterization kit*

5,218

2,000

*# of multi hazard contingency plan developed and tested*

In progress

1

## Winterization assistance and post distribution monitoring

ARCS with the support of IFRC Secretariat, provided winterization kit to 2,000 household comprise of 14,774 people in 41 villages of Kushk-e Kohna district of Herat province in November -December 2023. The kit contains warm clothes for household members to cope with harsh winter in Afghanistan. In addition, the ARCS with the support from IFRC distributed 3,218 winterization Kits in Guzara, Gulran, Injil, Zinda Jan and Kushk districts of Herat Province.

Winterization kit distribution								
District	# of Villages	# of households Targeted	# of households Reached	# of people benefitted			# of female headed households	# of child headed households
				Male	Female	Total		
Kushk-e Kohna	41	2,000	2,000	7,282	7,492	14,774	22	13
Guzara Gulran Injil	22	3,218	3,218	11,717	12,054	14,935		
<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>5,218</b>	<b>19,336</b>	<b>8,697</b>	<b>29,712</b>	-	-

Following the distribution of winterization kits, the ARCS PMER department carried out post distribution monitoring (PDM). A total of 176 respondents (175 male, 1 female) were interviewed for the survey. Among them, 67 per cent were between 18 and 50 years old, 17 per cent were over 50 years old, and 16 per cent were under 18 years old. Please refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#), for key findings of the PDM and composition of the winterization kit.

## Adoption of preparedness for effective response

The preparedness for effective response approach emphasizes the development of local capacities to ensure National Societies are well-equipped to provide services during disasters. Given Afghanistan's vulnerability to disasters, ARCS is actively working to strengthen its response capabilities, with a particular focus on institutional readiness. As part of the Herat earthquake response, ARCS, supported by the IFRC Secretariat, is currently engaged in developing a multi-hazard contingency plan and enhancing the capacity of its volunteers and staff.

## Adoption of climate smart and seismic shocks

The performance of the transitional shelter under gravity loads is adequate. The foundation is made of stone masonry lying on a well compacted natural soil. Bracing is provided in the walls of different heights and ring beams are provided at the plinth and lintel top levels to improve the lateral stability and make the structure safe.

For better structural integrity it is recommended to provide several vertical reinforcement steel bars in the corners as it will ensure proper connection of the horizontal ring beams and will enhance the overall structural stability. Consequently, it will guarantee the resilience to future seismic shocks to ensure 'build back better'. Furthermore, to make the design climate smart, mud-gypsum plaster is provided to keep the rooms warm and cold in the winter and summer sessions, respectively. Moreover, adequate opening is provided to add the max natural daylight to the rooms possible.

Multidisciplinary coordination has been conducted on the challenges and opportunities in land allocation for households with ARCS and other stakeholders to ensure an effective and streamlined response for the affected people. It is important to note that most of the people are willing to move from the current locations affected by the earthquake. Thus, it is imperative to ensure that the newly allocated land is less vulnerable

to future seismic shocks.

### Federation wide support

DRC supported ARCS to provide winterization assistance to 500 households affected by earthquake in Herat. Each household received one heater and 500 Kg of charcoal. Likewise, TRC supported ARCS to distribute winterization kits, including stoves and coal to 700 households across Gulran and Robot Sangi districts. These kits are essential for households affected by the Herat earthquake, helping them cope with the harsh winter conditions.

## Enabling approaches



### National Society Strengthening

Objective:	<i>Ensure that the ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of ARCS staff and volunteers trained in different sector(s)(disaggregated by sector and gender)</i>	42 <sup>5</sup>	NA
	<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 National Society are visible, trusted, and effectively advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	Ongoing	Yes

<sup>5</sup> ARCS supported by DRC trained 31 ARCS staff and volunteers on MH-PSS and same people were oriented on PGI/CEA with the support IFRC Secretariat. Likewise, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat trained 11 staff and volunteers on data collection.

In partnership with the NorCross, the IFRC is coordinating the support for the ARCS to assess their financial system and support developing a robust finance system by upgrading the software and creating access for the branches to share real-time data to bring more accountability and sustainability.

### **Optimizing human resource**

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

### **Enhancing digital capacity at the branch level.**

IFRC established a field office in Herat with internet access and laptops to support ARCS in delivery services. Some new equipment such as monitors, printers, and other information technology accessories are being procured. In addition, training for staff to use technology and Microsoft 365 and other platforms is a priority.

### **Strengthening PMER-IM capacity of National Society**

ARCS and IFRC PMER teams organized a data collection training for 11 volunteers (5 males and 6 females) in Herat on 5 November 2023. The training aimed to enhance data collection techniques, data quality, and community engagement. Key topics covered during the training included the objectives and timing of exit surveys and PDM, and ethical data collection considerations. The training also included practical group exercises on collecting data using Redrose.

### **Strengthening the logistics structure**

Development of terms of reference for the logistics structure assessment for all the seven regions is underway and will be completed by February 2024. One of the deliverables will be a plan of action for capacity enhancement. By systematically implementing the action plan, the delegation will fortify ARCS logistics structure, ensuring defined criteria are met across warehouses, procurement, and fleet management, thereby enhancing the capacity to deliver logistics services in both normal and emergency situations.

### **Developing ARCS warehousing capacity**

The IFRC has installed four rub halls in Kabul to support ARCS in its operations in 34 provinces. Plans are underway to design and develop a medical warehouse set up in Kabul to serve as a central medical supply chain hub for the rest of the regions. It is planned that the warehouse enhancement will move to the 7 regions gradually on a need-by-need basis.

### **Establishing software-based warehouse operation**

ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat is assessing the warehousing and stock management procedures to improve the reporting systems. Terms of reference for the warehousing management system is underway and will be completed by the end of February to give way for the tendering process.

### **Developing logistics and procurement capacity**

ARCS, with support from the IFRC Secretariat, organized logistics management training for 60 logistics officers from different regions and branches in December 2023. The training emphasized essential aspects of warehousing, procurement, fleet, medical logistics management, and emergency logistics. The training was well received, with participants expressing satisfaction during the question-and-answer sessions. The engagement showcased improved understanding of logistics procedures among the participants, who also gained practical knowledge.



## 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.*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Movement wide coordination mechanism is described and active</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i>ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention,</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues,</i>	Ongoing	Yes

### Membership Coordination

- ARCS convened five joint meetings with IFRC and PNS to extend timely and coordinated response to the population affected by the earthquake in Herat. Heart Earthquake Operation Strategy was developed in a coordinated and participatory way to respond to the disaster.
- Likewise, ARCS hosted a quarterly Movement coordination meeting participated by ICRC, IFRC Secretariat, and PNS. ARCS senior management and IFRC secretariat updated the humanitarian situation and discussed the ARCS priorities in which the National Society was expecting support of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.
- Two meetings took place in Herat region at the operational level between the partners which was asked for by the ARCS and participated by IFRC secretariat and the PNS (DRC and the NRC). The main purpose of these meetings was to discuss humanitarian service delivery and to distribute the relief provided (non-food items) by the partners.

### Engagement with external partners

ARCS and IFRC Secretariat have been coordinating with diverse stakeholders to deliver a unified and effective response to the earthquake-affected communities in Herat. It encompasses aligning the coordinating efforts with shelter cluster, different private organizations such as Azizi Foundation, Qamar foundation and Khawafi organization; public authorities, and other national and international non-governmental organizations such as Rahila Afghan Aid and Rehabilitation (RAAR), IOM and UNHCR to maximize resources, avoid duplication, and address the multifaceted needs of the affected populations.

### Shelter Cluster Coordination

IFRC/ARCS actively engages with the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster to enhance collaboration and ensure effective delivery of shelter interventions. Participation in monthly cluster meetings, both in-person and online, allows the teams to contribute significantly to discussions, helping to shape strategic decisions and productive outcomes. A Shelter and Settlements Coordinator is providing support and ensuring dedicated shelter officers are engaged for the coordination with Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster coordination at regional and NHQ level for necessary updates and to keep them up to date and discuss the challenges faced in the field.

The team plays a crucial role in ensuring that all technical standards are met and that operations are efficiently executed across the affected areas, Further involvement includes active participation in Shelter Technical Working Groups (TWIGs). These groups focus on addressing specific technical issues related to

shelter design, drawing, specifications, and the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) of the current shelter modality in Herat and future interventions. Participation in these technical discussions ensures that the shelter solutions are appropriate and sustainable.

## D. FUNDING

As of 31 May 2024, the **overall Emergency Appeal coverage** is approximately 41 per cent per cent (including in-kind donations) against a funding requirement of CHF 120 million. The donor response can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, an interim financial report for the overall Emergency Appeal is attached at the end of this report for more details.

**Specific for the Herat Earthquake Operational Strategy**, CHF 4.95 (55 per cent) million has been obtained (income) against a funding ask of CHF 9 million. As of reporting period, the Herat Earthquake operation has recorded an expenditure of CHF 2.9 million (59 per cent against income).

## Contact information

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

### At the Afghan Red Crescent Society:

- Mohammad Nabi Burhan, Secretary General; email: [sg@arcs.af](mailto:sg@arcs.af)
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### At the IFRC Country Delegation, Afghanistan:

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### At the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur:

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- Olof Collin, Operations Coordinator; email: [opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org](mailto:opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org)
- Afrhill Rances, Communications Manager; email: [afrhill.rances@ifrc.org](mailto:afrhill.rances@ifrc.org)

### At the IFRC Geneva:

- Christina Duschl, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: [christina.duschl@ifrc.org](mailto:christina.duschl@ifrc.org)

### For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- Homa Nader, Manager of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; email: [homa.nader@ifrc.org](mailto:homa.nader@ifrc.org)
- Maz Afiqah Mohammad Khairrul Azmi, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; email: [PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Nuraiza Khairuddin, Manager – Regional Logistics Unit; email: [Nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org](mailto:Nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org)

### For IFRC PMER and Quality Assurance and Performance and Accountability support:

- Mursidi Unir, PMER in Emergencies Coordinator, email: [mursidi.unir@ifrc.org](mailto:mursidi.unir@ifrc.org)

## 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.

**Annex I: Map for number of people reached through different sectoral intervention in different districts of Herat province.**



**+CIFRC**

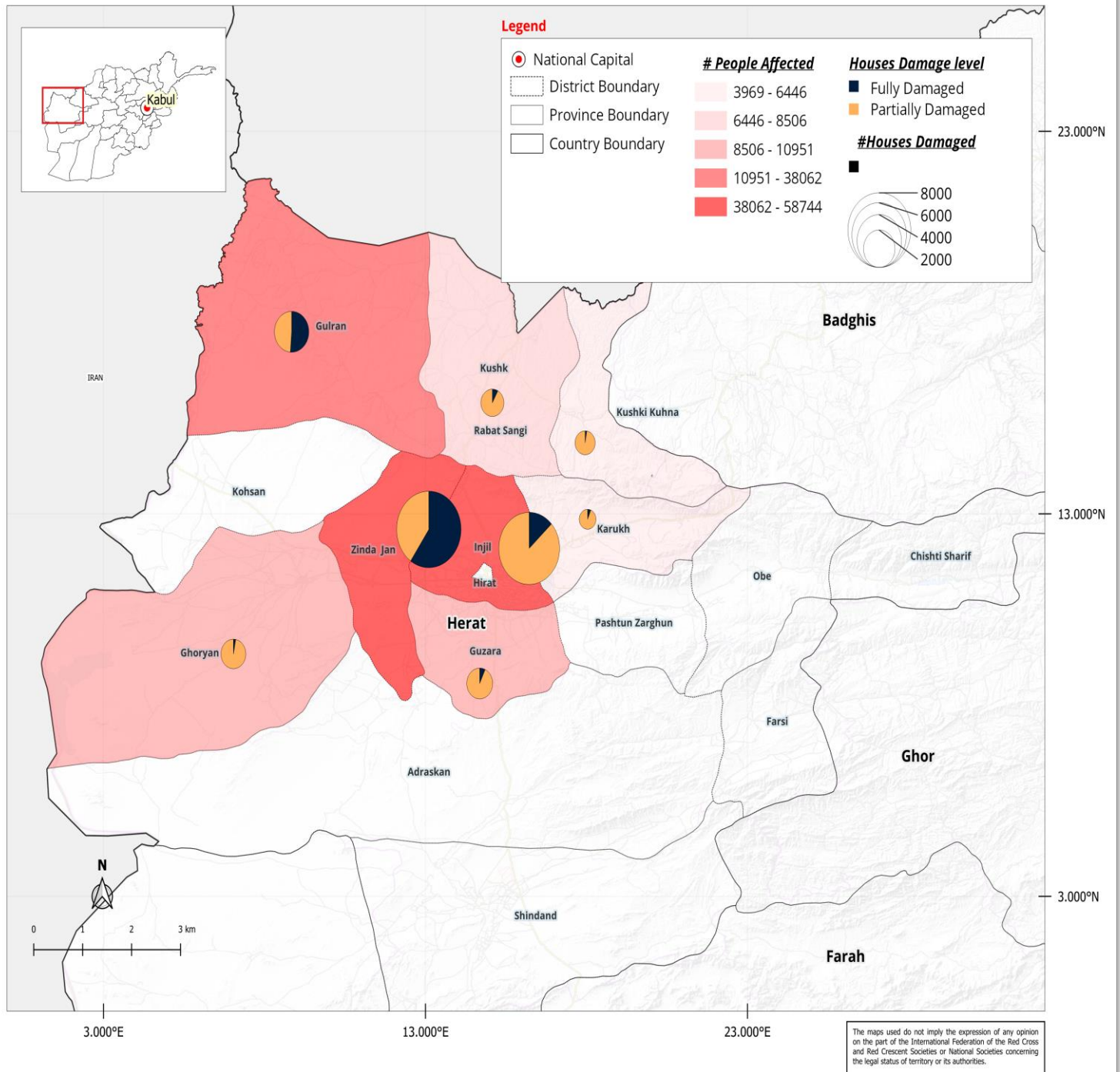


**Afghanistan: Herat Earthquake**

Disaster Impacts

Operation Updates #3

As of 31 March 2024



# Operational Strategy

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2024/5	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 05 Jul 2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

## I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

<b>Total Funding Requirements</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>
<b>Donor Response* as per 05 Jul 2024</b>	<b>49,203,364</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>41.00%</b>

## II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Strategy	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	12,127,000	12,538,914	6,559,990	5,978,924
PO02 - Livelihoods	20,086,000	9,037,885	6,469,775	2,568,110
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	18,248,000	4,131,540	6,175,426	-2,043,886
PO04 - Health	18,927,000	4,715,790	4,190,305	525,485
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,294,000	870,284	843,312	26,972
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,703,000	263,878	538,985	-275,107
PO07 - Education	379,000	0	1,590	-1,590
PO08 - Migration	9,426,000	14,208	3,686	10,522
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	8,702,000	5,401,684	12,158,246	-6,756,562
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	1,513,000	53,233	64,647	-11,413
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	53,000	1,714,162	274,986	1,439,176
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>99,458,000</b>	<b>38,741,578</b>	<b>37,280,948</b>	<b>1,460,630</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	7,779,000	1,210,630	1,570,429	-359,800
EA02 - Secretariat Services	4,571,000	6,174,504	5,780,638	393,866
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	8,278,000	2,160,776	1,546,383	614,394
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>20,628,000</b>	<b>9,545,910</b>	<b>8,897,451</b>	<b>648,460</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>120,086,000</b>	<b>48,287,488</b>	<b>46,178,398</b>	<b>2,109,090</b>

## III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2024/05

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	49,129,802
Expenditure	-46,178,398
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>2,951,403</b>
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	2,951,403

## IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	2,500,000	Reimbursed :	2,500,000	<b>Outstanding :</b>	<b>0</b>
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# Operational Strategy

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2024/5	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 05 Jul 2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

#### V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
AAWAG-Asian Ambassadors Wives Association	5,000				5,000		
Albanian Red Cross	10,000				10,000		
American Red Cross	426,531				426,531		
Austrian Red Cross	458,917				458,917		
Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)	1,065,859				1,065,859		
Bahrain Red Crescent Society	48,175				48,175		
Bloomberg	1,142				1,142		
British Red Cross	2,860,976	11,977	161,331		3,034,284		
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	15,400,006				15,400,006		
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	959,041				959,041		
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)	1,995,115				1,995,115		
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	66,804				66,804		
Hong Kong Red Cross (from Government of Hong Kon	498,531				498,531		
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	8,113,793	206,582			8,320,375		
Japanese Red Cross Society	1,071,719	1,331			1,073,050		
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	123,550				123,550		
Kuwait Society for Relief	2,623,452				2,623,452		
Luxembourg Government	524,175				524,175		
Luxembourg Red Cross	1,488				1,488		
New Zealand Red Cross	57,876				57,876		
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	1,039,245				1,039,245		
On Line donations	16,174				16,174		
Other	0		245		245		
PricewaterhouseCoopers	85				85		
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	111,791				111,791		
Slovenian Red Cross	5,184				5,184		
Spanish Government	655,506				655,506		
Supreme Master Ching Hai	29,100				29,100		
Swedish Red Cross	1,651,967				1,651,967		
Swiss Government	800,000				800,000		
Tahir Foundation	259,285				259,285		
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	85,028				85,028		
The Netherlands Red Cross	268,361				268,361		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	1,370,077				1,370,077		

# Operational Strategy

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2024/5	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 05 Jul 2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

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

Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
The Philippine National Red Cross	9,044				9,044	
The Republic of Korea National Red Cross	137,695				137,695	
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	
<b>Total Contributions and Other Income</b>	<b>48,493,204</b>	<b>426,748</b>	<b>209,850</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,129,802</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Income and Deferred Income</b>					<b>49,129,802</b>	<b>0</b>