

<p><b>Emergency appeal №:</b> MDRAF007  <b>First launched on:</b> 21/04/2021  <b>Emergency appeal revised:</b> 14/10/2023 (6<sup>th</sup> revision)  <b>Operational timeframe:</b> 10/04/2021 – 31/12/2024 (44 months)</p>	<p><b>Glide №:</b>  <a href="#">DR-2021-000022-AFG</a>  <a href="#">EQ-2022-000232-AFG</a>  <a href="#">EQ-2023-000184-AFG</a></p>
<p><b>Final report issued on:</b> 26/06/2025</p>	<p><b>Timeframe covered by final report:</b>  10/04/2021 – 31/12/2024</p>
<p><b>Number of people targeted:</b>  2 million people (286,000 households)</p>	<p><b>Number of people assisted:</b>  &gt;2 million people  (&gt;286,000 households)</p>
<p><b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b>  CHF 120 million through the IFRC Secretariat (42% funded)  CHF 300 million Federation-wide</p>	<p><b>DREF amount initially allocated:</b>  CHF 500,000</p>



IFRC supported ARCS in reaching over 134,600 people with winterization kits to contend with the harsh winters in Afghanistan. Distribution of these kits were part of emergency relief as well as in supporting risk reduction and climate adaptation efforts. (Photo: IFRC)

## About this report

This final report covers the progress and achievements under the **MDRAF007 Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crises** emergency appeal. The appeal itself comprises four separate operational strategies that focus on different aspects of the humanitarian crisis addressed through this appeal. These are:

- Operational Strategy 1 – Humanitarian Crisis (OS1).
- Operational Strategy 2 – Khost and Paktika Earthquake (OS2).
- Operational Strategy 3 – Protracted Humanitarian Crisis (OS3); and
- Operational Strategy 4 – Herat Earthquake (OS4).

While OS1 and OS2 concluded on 31 December 2023, their operational progress and achievements are reported here together with OS3 and OS4, being part of this emergency appeal in terms of funding, sectors of implementation and geographical coverage.

The MDRAF007 emergency appeal was launched on 10 April 2021 as La Niña Drought to address food insecurity and the loss of livelihoods related to drought. The first revision renamed it to Afghanistan: Drought; and following six revisions to accommodate the increasing and varying needs of vulnerable people in the country, has maintained the final iteration as **Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crises**.

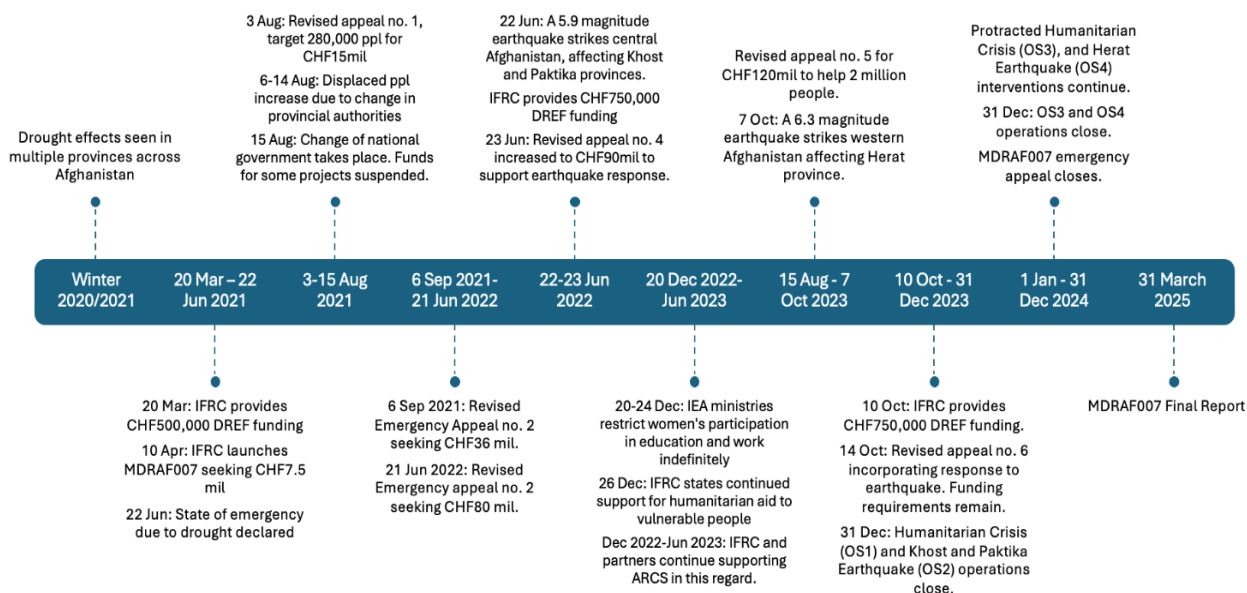
Among the revisions, however, revision no. 4 expanded to include response to address needs stemming from the Khost and Paktika earthquake in June 2022, and revision no. 6 further included response to those of the Herat Earthquake in October 2023. In the sixth and last revision of the emergency appeal, funding requirements were maintained at CHF 120 million under IFRC multi-lateral funding, and CHF 300 million Federation-wide, with the funding requirements for the Herat earthquake response incorporated. This approach aligned with the framework outlined in the previous revision and focused on delivering urgent humanitarian assistance and addressing recovery needs. Under each operational strategy, funds have been earmarked where required, identifying donor assistance needs and streamlining monitoring, evaluation and reporting. All appeal revisions, operational strategies and operations updates are available [here](#).

After 31 December 2024, interventions will continue under the IFRC [Afghanistan Network Country Plan for 2025](#). The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs of the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way.

Operational Strategy	Funding requirements	Number of people assisted
<b>Humanitarian Crisis</b> Operational Strategy 10/04/2021-31/12/2023 (32 months)	IFRC Secretariat: CHF 80 million Federation-wide: CHF 200 million	>1,008,000 individuals (144,000 households)
<b>Khost and Paktika Earthquake</b> Operational Strategy 10/06/2022 - 31/12/2023 (18 months)	IFRC Secretariat: CHF 10 million Federation-wide: CHF 10 million	>70,000 people
<b>Protracted Humanitarian Crisis</b> Operational Strategy 1/1/2024 - 31/12/2024 (12 months)	IFRC Secretariat: CHF 30 million Federation-wide: CHF 100 million	750,000 people
<b>Herat Earthquake</b> Operational Strategy 7/10/2023 - 31/12/2024 (14 months)	IFRC Secretariat: CHF 9 million Federation-wide: CHF 20 million	50,000 people

The evolution of this emergency appeal can be found below.

## MDRAF007 Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crisis - timeline



### Executive Summary

The MDRAF007 Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crises emergency appeal was launched in April 2021 to address the needs of vulnerable people affected by drought. Six revisions of the appeal have been made in terms of funding requirements, target people, and geographical reach to incorporate more widespread needs following decades of conflict, extreme climate events and earthquakes in Khost and Paktika (2022) and in Herat (2023). In its final iteration, the appeal sought CHF 120 million in IFRC Secretariat funding to reach 2 million people (some 286,000 households) adversely affected by overall acute humanitarian needs in Afghanistan.

Closing on 31 December 2024 with 42 per cent funding coverage, the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) reached its target of 2 million people with at least one form of humanitarian assistance. The ARCS and IFRC wholeheartedly thank all donors and contributors who have supported the people of Afghanistan through this appeal.

There are four separate operational strategies under this appeal code; two of which address the multi-faceted Humanitarian Crisis, and two responding to earthquakes in Khost and Paktika (2022), and in Herat (2023).

Using a Federation-wide approach, the ARCS worked in coordination with IFRC and RCRC Movement partners in-country as well as in cooperation with the country's authorities at multiple levels and in consultation with affected communities.

Through the interventions under this appeal, ARCS reached the following people affected by crises across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan:

- 158,500 people with emergency shelter and household items.
- 2,676 households with repair/constructing their homes.
- Over 614,720 people with food assistance.
- Over 39,600 people with cash assistance for livelihoods restoration/enhancement.
- Over 226,030 people with multi-purpose cash assistance to meet household/personal needs.
- Over 1.4 million<sup>1</sup> people with primary health care and medical services.

<sup>1</sup> People reached may include duplicate counting as monitoring is based on the number of cases treated

- 193,000 people with health and hygiene promotion services through 2,408 trained volunteers
- 350,000 people with WASH support, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and hygiene promotion.
- Over 69,100 women and girls with dignity kits.
- Over 247,300 internally displaced persons (IDPs) with WASH, healthcare, in-kind and cash assistance, risk reduction and protection services; and,
- 134,600 people with winterization kits.

Key approaches used throughout this appeal included: integrated assistance to address multifaceted interconnected needs of affected people; prioritization of cash-based assistance through financial service providers (FSPs); streamlining protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and community engagement and accountability (CEA) measures, and observing vulnerability criteria in all interventions; encouraging community mobilization to ensure needs are met using culturally acceptable approaches; safeguarding measures to ensure vulnerable people, especially children, are protected; and anticipating climate related risks and making alterations to interventions where needed to better serve affected people.

Operational risks considered included: potential situations of violence, restrictions on women's movement nationwide, community perceptions of ARCS and RCRC Movement members; supply chain risks and bottlenecks; risks associated with cash/in-kind distributions, fraud and corruption, data manipulation; an overstrained national banking system; extreme winter conditions; and difficult topography in quake-affected areas.

Challenges experienced during the operations under this appeal included: limited participation by women and girls in field work, training opportunities, and community engagement; delays in contracting financial service providers (FSPs) for cash disbursements to affected people; and potential conflict and security concerns in certain areas that delayed implementation of activities. ARCS and IFRC continue to advocate for and support the participation of women and girls in all work and learning opportunities.

Since August 2021, most international assistance to Afghanistan has been only for humanitarian purposes and little, if any, for development purposes, which may make gains under these interventions unsustainable in the long term.

The IFRC, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society and Turkish Red Crescent in-country continued to support ARCS throughout the duration of this appeal through staff and volunteer capacity development training in technical skills, enhancement of logistics structure and capacity, and digital transformation. The Turkish Red Crescent also led several sectoral initiatives through this appeal, using the IFRC Agenda for Renewal shared leadership approach. Coordination among IFRC members, ICRC, the Cluster system, local authorities and other external partners was maintained throughout this appeal. IFRC maintained the lead in security management, accommodation, transport and procurement for in-country Participating National Societies (PNS), and supported ARCS in updating its safety and security procedures where needed. ARCS and IFRC also ensured comprehensive risk management for all staff and volunteers conducting field work.

The IFRC Country delegation was restructured for more efficient support to ARCS and partners, and maintained quality and accountability through regular reviews, post-distribution monitoring, third-party monitoring, and prioritizing community feedback. ARCS has also established a central online database to improve data collection and management for all its activities.

After 31 December 2024, interventions will continue under the IFRC [Afghanistan Network Country Plan for 2025](#), which provides an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming for existing needs, including what the Federation is doing as a whole in Afghanistan. All appeal revisions, operational strategies and operations updates can be found [here](#). Contact details can be found on the last page of this final report.

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

For the sake of clarity per operational strategy, the description for each crisis has been separated below. While the Khost and Paktika, and Herat earthquakes have clear boundaries in terms of interventions and geographical area, the Humanitarian Crisis, and Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operations are overarching across all operations, and address concerns that also affect both earthquake operations.

### Humanitarian Crisis

Following decades of conflict involving internal and external parties, generations of Afghan people have lived with constant insecurity, and the lack of development and humanitarian assistance, including poor access to health, clean water and education. Following the change of government in August 2021, there has been some respite in conflict, and increased access to previously unreachable areas. However, the security situation remains tenuous, and the possibility of new conflict situations cannot be discounted.

The current humanitarian crises faced by Afghanistan is one where more than 50 per cent of Afghanistan's population is in dire need of humanitarian assistance due to a combination of crises: the effects of decades of conflict; a protracted and severe drought; the effects of other intense climate-related disasters; extreme economic hardship exacerbated by sanctions-related impacts and unemployment; acute food insecurity; lack of adequate safe water and proper sanitation; a weak health system which was already stretched by COVID-19; and most recently, by the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, and system-wide gaps affecting the health, water, education, energy, and public service sectors. (Refer to the [Humanitarian Crisis Operational Strategy](#) for more details)

### Khost and Paktika Earthquake

On 22 June 2022, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake struck southeast Afghanistan, leading to wide-scale destruction across vulnerable districts in Khost and Paktika provinces. Over 1,160 deaths and almost 3,000 injured were reported. Deaths were mostly caused by collapsed structures, with some 70 per cent of houses in the affected areas either damaged or destroyed. Health facilities, schools and water networks were also severely damaged, increasing the risk of communicable diseases, particularly acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera.

Prior to the earthquake, Khost and Paktika provinces were already suffering from widespread cases of AWD and measles, compounded by a lack of health services and reduced humanitarian support. Lack of protection and psychosocial support in affected communities was also critical. Furthermore, being culturally conservative localities, the constraints on female participation in society announced in December 2022 further limited women's participation in addressing needs resulting from the earthquake. (Refer to [Khost and Paktika Earthquake Operational Strategy](#) for more details)

### Protracted Humanitarian Crisis

Further devastation was caused between April and July 2024 with heavy rains triggering destructive flashfloods across 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. Over 295,000 people were directly impacted with at least 350 fatalities, and an additional one million others at risk. Over 185,200 hectares of farmland were impacted and thousands of livestock perished, further straining affected communities<sup>2</sup> among the 80 per cent of Afghan people relying on agriculture for their livelihoods. The country's economy also depends heavily on foreign aid and remittances which have declined significantly since the change of authorities in 2021.

Significant gaps in access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas, are exacerbated by increasing poverty, and heighten the possibility of outbreaks and epidemics. Also, congenital heart defects (CHD) are a widespread health

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<sup>2</sup> Afghanistan: Floods Operation MDRAF015

concern across the country. Women, children and minority groups are disproportionately affected, and are particularly vulnerable, requiring comprehensive support overall. Furthermore, with the announcement in December 2022 on measures limiting participation of women in education and the workplace, women and girls have been forced to be more dependent on humanitarian support, which, in turn, creates a cycle of escalating needs and consequently further limits women's economic capacities. (Refer to the [Protracted Humanitarian Crisis Operational Strategy](#) for more details)

### **Herat Earthquake**

On 7 October 2023, a 6.3 earthquake hit western Afghanistan, severely impacting the districts of Guzara, Injil, Khushk and Zinda Jan in Herat province. Over 2,000 fatalities and 9,000 injured were reported. Some 21,500 houses were destroyed or damaged, with some villages completely flattened, leaving thousands without safe or adequate shelter. The impacted communities suffered loss of life and home, livestock, farmland, livelihoods, public amenities and health services. Exacerbating the situation were some 970,000 Afghans returning from abroad, increasing the need for shelter and basic living amenities; a severe cold wave across 11 provinces, affecting over 325,000 people, killing thousands of livestock and further affecting livelihoods. The earthquake further reduced existing food stocks and agricultural inputs, increasing household debt and further exposing vulnerable people to risk, especially children, widows, widowers, older people, those with disabilities, and those whose identification documents had been lost or destroyed. (For more details, refer to [Herat Earthquake Operational Strategy](#).)

## **Summary of response**

### **Organizational capacity and modality of response**

The **ARCS**, as a public authority auxiliary, is a key national partner in disaster response. The National Society has some 26,500 volunteers and 3,900 staff involved in humanitarian assistance to people in need across the country. ARCS presence and local networks in all 34 provinces across the country are exceptionally well-established, enabling the National Society to reach vulnerable populations not served by other humanitarian actors in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas.

**Federation-wide approach:** ARCS response was implemented using a Federation-wide approach with support channeled through the IFRC MDRAF007 emergency appeal, including support by in-country PNS namely Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society, and Turkish Red Crescent<sup>3</sup>, as well as other National Societies supporting ARCS's response bilaterally from outside Afghanistan. This approach was complementary to the existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms in Afghanistan.

The **IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan**, established in 1990, continues to support ARCS in: humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in under-served areas; longer-term resilience-building programmes; strategic and operational coordination of the IFRC membership support to ARCS; advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy; enhancement of ARCS organizational development, and representing ARCS internationally. The Country Delegation continued to strengthen its systems in financial compliance and accountability to support ARCS in managing resources and delivering humanitarian assistance, especially under financial sanctions imposed. Several levels of screening and verification were employed in making payments and procurement, ensuring alignment with IFRC standards when using IFRC funds.

The application of the [Agenda for Renewal](#)<sup>4</sup> and a New Way of Working in Afghanistan is geared towards achieving effective membership coordination, leadership, and transformation. The Secretariat taps into the sectoral

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<sup>3</sup> More details on ARCS, RCRC Movement and in-country partner support is available in all Operation Updates available [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> The Agenda for Renewal aims to position the IFRC Secretariat as an organization that is cost effective, innovative, transparent and accountable-serving its membership to respond to global challenges and supporting community-based action.

specialty/technical expertise the PNS have, by channelling funds through them so that they may assist the National Society in implementing the wider Humanitarian Crises Operational Strategy. Under this appeal, this approach was used with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) leading food distributions.

The **ICRC** has been present in Afghanistan since 1986 and continues to be operational through its main delegation in Kabul and its field-based offices. The ICRC's key operating areas in Afghanistan include the promotion and respect of international humanitarian law (IHL); health services for the wounded and sick; ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration; monitoring the treatment of detainees across the country; and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions.

Collectively, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country has established coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored under the Movement Cooperation Agreement, including Movement Platform Meetings at leadership level, Movement Operational Coordination meetings, and other scheduled virtual multi-lateral and bilateral meetings.

IFRC continues to represent the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement at weekly Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and at Inter-Cluster Coordination meetings and together with ARCS, participates in monthly Cluster meetings for Food Security and Agriculture (FSA), Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (ES-NFIs), Health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) as well as the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG). ARCS and IFRC continue to coordinate with the public authorities, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to avoid duplication and to build synergies.

### **Funding requirements and contributions**

The overall MDRAF007 Humanitarian Crises emergency appeal sought CHF 120 million through the IFRC Secretariat and CHF 300 million through Federation-wide support (which includes contributions outside this Appeal) to cover the needs of 2 million vulnerable people (some 286,000 households). Up to the close of the appeal, funding was 42 per cent realized. In its initial emergency plan of action in May 2021, this appeal sought CHF 7.5 million to support drought-afflicted people. However, following revisions of the Appeal, funding requirements were increased to cover the expanding needs and increasing numbers of multiple disaster-affected and displaced people.

The Humanitarian Crisis, and the Khost and Paktika operational strategies were slated to end in December 2023, and as such, were streamlined into the Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operational strategy in August 2023 with the new timeframe up to end-December 2024. When the Herat earthquake struck in October 2023, the response to address new needs resulting from the earthquake were absorbed into the MDRAF007 appeal as an additional operational strategy but without change to funding requirements. However, the overall Appeal retained the name Humanitarian Crises in the IFRC system to ensure institutional consistency and transparency in financial reporting.

National Societies who have contributed towards the IFRC MDRAF007 Emergency Appeal either in cash, kind or technical assistance include Albanian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent, British Red Cross, The Canadian Red Cross Society, Red Cross Society of China, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hong Kong Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Irish Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Kuwait Red Crescent, Red Cross of Monaco, Netherlands Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross Society, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, and Taiwan Red Cross Organization. This appeal has also received contributions from institutional donors, governmental organizations, charitable foundations, not-for-profit organizations, corporations and private individuals. **The ARCS and IFRC would like to wholeheartedly thank all donors and contributors who have supported the people of Afghanistan through this appeal.**

### **People reached**

The approach used in these operational strategies was integrated, wherein one affected household or household member may have received more than one form of humanitarian support. By 31 December 2023, under the **Humanitarian Crisis operational strategy** interventions, IFRC had supported ARCS in reaching [some 2 million](#)

[people](#) (beyond its original targeted 1 million) across the country with multisectoral humanitarian interventions. ARCS helped reach:

- 8,750 people with emergency shelter and household items
- 92,500 households with food packages
- 1.2 million people with medical and healthcare assistance
- More than 790,600 people with primary health services through 16 mobile health teams (MHTs)
- 650,000 people with food and livelihood support
- 173,000 people with emergency cash assistance
- 247,000 people with WASH support
- 68,200 people with risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery support
- Some 193,000 people with health and hygiene promotion services through 2,408 trained volunteers

By the end of the **Khost and Paktika earthquake** operation in December 2023, ARCS with IFRC support, had reached more than 106,000 people (above its targeted 70,000) through multisectoral interventions in the earthquake-affected areas. Up to 106,070 people were assisted with health services, over 56,400 with multipurpose cash assistance, some 35,000 with non-food items (NFIs) and shelter repair assistance, almost 19,000 with household items, and more than 93,700 people with risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) for disease prevention and mitigation. Here, funding for the operation also supported the mobilization of branch disaster response teams (BDRTs), staff and volunteers for assessments, distributions and field monitoring. Cash assistance allowed the National Society to respond quickly to emergency needs of 5,292 affected households within the first week of the disaster.

By 31 December 2024, IFRC had supported ARCS in reaching some 213,500 people with livelihoods support, health and care services, winterization support and dignity kits through the **Protracted Humanitarian Crisis** operational strategy. These included providing some 160,000 people with healthcare through mobile health teams (MHTs), reaching 25,337 women with dignity kits, helping 28,177 people get through the harsh winter with winterization kits, and providing cash grants to 10 women in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons to start up their new tailoring businesses. Funding specifically to this operational strategy was limited, comprising one of the challenges towards reaching the original 750,000 people targeted under this operation.

Through its branch offices working in cooperation with local authorities, and with IFRC support, ARCS helped families affected by the **Herat Earthquake**, reaching some 16,000 people with emergency shelter, NFIs, transitional shelters, and safe shelter practices; 14,000 people in restoring/enhancing their livelihoods; providing food packages to 2,000 households, and reaching 87,000 people with improved access to healthcare, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). ARCS also distributed jerry cans and hygiene kits to 14,700 people; and provided winterization kits to 37,943 people (5,218 households) in preparation for the extreme winters experienced in Afghanistan. The Danish Red Cross (DRC) also supported ARCS distribute solar panels and batteries to 920 households.

Taking into account the modality of integrated assistance and some geographical overlap, support under this MDRAF007 emergency appeal has helped ARCS reach its overall appeal target of 2 million people (286,000 households) with at least one form of humanitarian assistance, despite only 42 per cent of the funding requirements being fulfilled.

*More comprehensive detail on the achievements of each Operational Strategy per sector can be found under the Detailed Operational Report section below.*

## Operational risk assessment

Afghanistan's context is complex and challenging, especially in view of the existing acute humanitarian needs nationwide. Operational risks that were gauged and prepared for included:

### Security, restrictions and perceptions

- Situations of violence in target provinces/districts that impact access and delivery of assistance to affected people, and the safety of staff and volunteers.
- Restrictions on movement of women nationwide, causing challenges in the deployment of female staff to the field for distribution, monitoring and female-centered activities.
- Perception issues related to conducting the operation or activities that could impact access to and acceptance of ARCS among communities.

### Supply chain and banking facilities

- Major supply chain risks such as logistics bottlenecks, limited supplies of essential goods in the market, delays in international procurement, complicated multi-level checks, screening and verifications on goods due to sanctions, lack of documentation and due diligence, fraud and/or corruption.
- Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities, such as lack of community acceptance of the cash recipient selection process or an inability to reach the most vulnerable, possible fraud and corruption in selection of recipients due to gaps in the verification process, and/or data manipulation, unauthorized access to, or destruction, loss, alteration or disclosure of personal data.
- Fragility and strain on the national banking system that could affect liquidity and the exchange rate.

### Weather and topography

- Extreme winter conditions that delay or hinder intervention activities. Other disasters such as floods and landslides could cause challenges in providing access and conducting distributions.
- Topography and safety concerns in quake-affected areas result in significant response challenges.

### Suspension or repurposing of long-term international assistance to Afghanistan

Prior to August 2021, more than half of Afghanistan's annual budget and up to 80 per cent of total public expenditures were funded internationally. Since August 2021, most international assistance has been only for humanitarian purposes and little, if any, for development purposes. The latter has had severe impact on the provision of basic health services and developing essential infrastructure to ensure localization gains continue.

*For more information on the operational risks and mitigative measures taken, refer to [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#), [Protracted Humanitarian Strategy OU1](#), and [Herat Earthquake OU2](#).*

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

This emergency appeal is part of a Federation-wide approach based on the response priorities of the ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025, with the IFRC network collectively contributing to the overall response. This complemented existing Movement coordination and cooperation mechanisms; and supported engagement with various National Societies in moving forward with the *Agenda for Renewal - New Way of Working* mechanism.

The approach used throughout all the Operational Strategies under this Appeal was integrated, ensuring linkages among all response activities, including bilateral and those domestically funded, and leveraging all capacities of the IFRC network in-country to maximize the collective humanitarian impact. IFRC's financial and procurement services were used, resulting in a more cost-effective timely response, especially through established framework agreements.

The main objective thread running throughout all operational strategies was to address the multisectoral needs of people most affected by the humanitarian crises. Three main considerations when designing interventions included: focusing on specific areas prioritized by ARCS and/or not covered by other organizations; making the most of ARCS capacities; and, ensuring gains made under this appeal are sustainable in the long term, both for people reached and ARCS itself.

Interventions across all operational strategies were conducted in an integrated manner and included: meeting urgent cash, food and non-food needs; delivering quality health assistance through ARCS capacities, providing shelter solutions; supporting livelihood restoration and diversification; strengthening socio-economic resilience; improving access to WASH; providing support for coping with winter; and integrating risk reduction measures as well as streamlining PGI and CEA across all interventions. All operations included programmes to strengthen ARCS response capacity and state entities for humanitarian services.


Some key approaches used in all operational strategies under this appeal prioritized:

- **Integrated assistance** combining various components to address multifaceted interconnected needs of affected people.
- **Cash-based assistance** for greater community empowerment, disbursed through financial service providers.
- **National Society Development and localized action** through organizational capacity building for ARCS, and national/provincial training for staff and volunteers.
- **Protection and prevention** streamlining PGI and CEA in all activities, and prioritizing households who fulfil ARCS established vulnerability criteria.
- **Community mobilization** in consultation with community members to ensure community needs are met using culturally acceptable approaches, especially for women and girls.
- **Safeguarding** throughout all programmes to ensure prevention and mitigation measures against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risks are in place for vulnerable people, especially children.
- **Anticipated climate related risks and adjustments in interventions** to minimize disruptions to ongoing activities.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

Given there are four operational strategies covered by this final report, the following sectors provide achievements under selected indicators. The full list of indicators with achievements and respective maps of the operational areas for each operational strategy are available following this section of the report. **Figures in this Final Report have been reconciled, and as such, may differ from figures previously reported.**

[OS1: Humanitarian Crises](#) | [OS2: Khost and Paktika Earthquake](#) | [OS3: Protracted Humanitarian Crises](#) | [OS4: Herat Earthquake](#)

	<h3>Shelter and Settlements</h3>	<p><b>People Reached: 158,000</b></p>
<h3>Key Objectives</h3>	<p>Communities in disaster and crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions. (OS1, OS2, OS4)</p> <p>Households affected by humanitarian crises meet their immediate non-food item priorities, and restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through culturally appropriate shelter and settlement solutions. (OS3)</p>	



**Table 1: Distribution of emergency NFIs and cash assistance, Herat Earthquake as of 31 December 2024**

Districts	Assistance Type	Households		People Reached		
		Targeted	Reached	Men/boys	Women/girls	Total
Zindajan, Gulran, Robat Sangi, Injil	Emergency shelter, household items	2,100	2,100	7,500	7,200	<b>14,700</b>
Zindajan, Gulran	Shelter Assistance (Conditional Cash)	300	288	848	782	<b>1,630</b>
Kushk-e Kohna	Winterization Kit	2,000	2,000	7,282	7,492	<b>37,943</b>
Gulran, Guzara, Injil, Kushki, Zindajan		3,218	3,218	11,639	11,530	

Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, by December 2023, IFRC had supported ARCS in distributing household kits to 1,250 households (8,750 people), winterization kits to 9,744 households (93,136 people), and 8,255 blankets to 2,483 households in Khost and Paktika provinces as well.

Under the Khost and Paktika earthquake response, ARCS distributed 6,249 blankets to 2,083 households (1,142 in Paktika, 941 in Khost), and 2,077 households with winterization kits. Additionally, 2,077 households also received blankets, and support for house repair.

### Shelter Assistance

Under these four operations, IFRC and partners supported ARCS help families repair 2,083 houses damaged by earthquakes, reconstruct 305 others (Khost/Paktika, Humanitarian Crisis), and build 288 transitional shelters (Herat/Protracted Humanitarian Crisis) for people affected by these crises. Collectively, these shelter interventions have been able to provide safety and shelter for some 18,700 people.

Household registration and assessments ensured targeted assistance to the most vulnerable affected individuals. Households eligible for shelter assistance included those:

- Whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged but owned their own land.
- Whose homes were beyond repair or whose repairs exceeded the cost of transitional shelter. Households receiving other shelter assistance from ARCS were ineligible for transitional shelter support.
- Whose existing shelter was in extremely poor condition, or had badly cracked walls, and would collapse despite repairs or upgrading.
- Located in disaster-prone areas, and had been already directly affected.
- With poor foundations or for which creating additional space would weaken or damage the overall structure.
- That were in danger of eviction due to lack of secure tenure following repairs/upgrading.

The shelter strategies for the respective operations under this appeal emphasized coordination among ARCS, IFRC, RCRC Movement members and stakeholders at multiple levels to ensure tailored assistance and community ownership.

Under the Protracted Humanitarian Crisis and the Herat earthquake, the shelter strategy was jointly prepared by IFRC and ARCS in coordination with the Shelter Cluster, focusing on providing safe, resilient shelters to affected communities. This strategy was integral, supported by comprehensive training and cash assistance, and ensured clear analysis, approaches and goals with timelines, as well as estimation of resources required. Initially developed for the Herat response, the shelter strategy is flexible and can be applied in similar shelter interventions in the future. The shelter strategy for the Khost and Paktika earthquake operation also focused on multi-sectorial integrated assistance to affected people.

As part of the Khost/Paktika earthquake shelter strategy, IFRC procured 10 tractors with trolleys, and the government of Japan financed transporting five tractors from Khost and Paktika to Herat to support clearing of rubble, to relocate salvaged household items and materials to temporary designated camps, and to transport construction materials under both Khost and Paktika, and Herat response operations. The tractors were also fitted with ploughs to be used for land preparation for agricultural activities under Livelihoods interventions.

The transitional shelter assistance procedure comprised: assessing damage to identify needs of those affected; conducting community sessions on safe shelter awareness and best practices in this regard; disbursing conditional cash assistance for construction of the shelter includes two-room transitional shelters to target households; and providing technical support during construction of these shelters.

To initiate shelter activities under the Herat operation, IFRC and ARCS conducted joint rapid assessments, coordinated with local authorities, engaged with the Shelter Cluster, and developed a community-driven shelter strategy. Four IFRC engineers, 10 ARCS engineers and four ARCS social mobilizers were recruited, oriented in safe shelter awareness and procedures, and community engagement skills. Following further assessments and selection of eligible households, 300 transitional shelters were planned for Zinda Jan district. However, ARCS relocated to Gulran district [following land and resident issues among community members](#).

By end-2024, ARCS had supported completing 288 out of 300 target transitional shelters in Gulran district, including six demonstration shelters. Due to budget constraints and time limitations, [the remaining 12 had to be cancelled](#). Handover of the 288 completed houses was made in November 2024, and families were able to move into their newly constructed homes.

Also under the Herat operation, conditional cash grants of AFN 356,500 (some CHF 4,800) were [allocated for construction of the shelter to house owners](#) in three tranches. Apart from the cash assistance, efforts were made to ensure target households had access to good quality materials such as doors, windows and girders to maintain quality standards in constructing their houses. Safe shelter awareness campaigns were planned to educate at-risk communities in building back safer in preparation for future potential seismic events and flooding.

Apart from the 2,083 houses repaired under the Khost and Paktika operation, IFRC/ARCS also supported building transitional shelters for 305 households in Khost (Spera district), and Paktika (Giyan and Barmal districts) following detailed damage assessments by engineers and volunteers.

Households whose homes were destroyed but left without repair assistance previously were given priority. Cash-based assistance in this regard helped households select their own construction materials, pay for labour and other necessary construction services. ARCS also supported 305 households in building their individual latrines. (For more information on these Shelter interventions, refer to [Khost and Paktika OU2 and OU3](#).) Overall cash assistance provided under shelter support reached 1,281 households in different provinces across the four operations as follows:

**Table 2: Details of cash assistance, as of 31 December 2024**

Activity	Province	District	Households		People Reached		
			Target	Reached	Male	Female	Total
<b>Shelter Assistance</b>	Herat	Zinda Jan	3	3	5	9	14
		Gulran	297	285	843	773	1,616
<b>Cash for Work</b>	Maidan Wardak	Jalrez	150	148	148	0	148
		Narkh	70	69	69	0	69
		Chak-e Wardak	80	79	79	0	79
	Badakhshan	Yamgan	100	100	100	0	100
		Teshkan	50	50	50	0	50
	Tagab	50	50	50	0	50	
<b>Shelter Construction</b>	Khost	Spera	100	100	814	760	1,574
	Paktika	Giyan	193	193	982	995	1,977
		Barmal	12	12	58	58	116
<b>Latrine Construction</b>	Khost	Spera	81	81	680	616	1,296
	Paktika	Giyan	106	106	536	531	1,067
		Barmal	5	5	28	27	55
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>8,211</b>

## Handover and Communications



*IFRC/ARCS held a handover ceremony on 7 November 2024 to mark completion of 288 shelters in Herat. These were officially signed over to families in three affected villages, including this one in Shakar Aab in Gulran district. (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)*

IFRC and ARCS held a handover ceremony on 7 November 2024 to mark the completion of the 288 completed shelters in Herat. These shelters were officially handed over to families in three affected villages in Gulran district. The timely handover of these completed houses ensured adequate shelter and protection to families who have had to endure extreme weather without proper shelter for more than a year. Many others, however, still lack proper housing and protection from harsh weather, and require support in addressing this situation.

IFRC has also sought to highlight the shelter initiative through documenting activities, collecting photos, videos, stories and quotes from field visits to shelter intervention sites under the Herat operation. These photos and videos can be found on the [IFRC shared drive](#) while stories can be found [here](#). The handover ceremony was also covered by national and international news outlets. IFRC developed a press release with key messages to commemorate the first anniversary of the earthquake. All IFRC press releases on Afghanistan are available [here](#).

### Capacity Development and Community Mobilization

In Gulran district, Herat, 150 people underwent two weeks hands-on training as masons and gained practical skills on safer shelter construction. This included building demonstration houses in Gulran district. ARCS/IFRC also supported building three demo houses in Zinda Jan district.

Under the Khost and Paktika operation, technical training organized by Miyamoto International was attended by 11 engineers (six ARCS, five IFRC) to enhance technical know-how in damage assessment and implementing Build Back Safer techniques. Miyamoto International helped train 25 masons in the affected communities.

The IFRC shelter team also provided training in safe shelter awareness messaging training, for 109 volunteers, social mobilizers, technicians, masons and shelter engineers in Khost and Paktika. The team also conducted shelter

orientation/induction training for 60 engineers, volunteers and ARCS branch disaster response team (BDRT) members. Topics covered were the shelter strategy, RCRC principles and rules, household selection criteria and key messages for Build Back Safer approaches. All trained staff and volunteers were mobilized for community sensitization and transitional shelter construction activities. (For more information on shelter capacity building, refer to [Khost/Paktika OU2 and OU3](#)).

Affected [communities also actively participated in the repair](#) and reconstruction of their homes through involving local masons in these trainings and subsequent house repair works, while social mobilizers and volunteers conducted community sessions to disseminate Safer Shelter messages for participating households. This interactive cooperative work approach allowed the team to garner the best of both indigenous and modern building practices and incorporate these into the works.

ARCS and IFRC also prepared information, education and communication (IEC) materials to support Building Safer sessions and technical guidance on shelter construction garnered from reliable resources, and coordinated with the Shelter Cluster for endorsement.

### **Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and exit survey**

Following the distribution of emergency shelter and household items in Herat, ARCS PMER teams conducted a PDM in Robat Sangi and Zinda Jan districts. Of the 148 people interviewed, 43 per cent were women. Up to 99 per cent of respondents reported the assistance received met their main urgent needs while 98 per cent found the quantities adequate for their households. Up to 80 per cent rated the quality of assistance as excellent. However, [findings](#) showed 6 per cent found the blanket quality poor and some tents inadequate for winter use.

An [exit survey](#) was also conducted on the conditional cash assistance distribution for shelter construction in Khost and Paktika provinces. ARCS PMER interviewed 45 men with the following findings highlighted: 60 per cent obtained distribution information from the ARCS office, 31 per cent from volunteers and 9 per cent from community representatives. Up to 58 per cent waited about three hours to receive their grants; and 67 per cent knew where to register their complaints. Respondents also spent between AFN 200 and AFN 500 on transport to the distribution points.

### **Support to Marastoons**

The ARCS [Marastoon](#) provides shelter for destitute families and education for orphans. In the first half of 2023, IFRC helped refurbish items for the Marastoon, including 300 single beds, 80 chairs, 50 English language literature books, 70 essential white goods including fridges, four sofas and 100 volumes of children's educational materials. To date, 223 widows and 203 children currently benefit from the facilities and activities conducted in the Marastoon. Renovation and refurbishment of the Marastoons in Kabul, Balkh and Herat were planned, but these plans have been put on hold for the time being.

### **Challenges/Mitigations**

Some challenges faced in shelter interventions included:

- The initial lack of transportation facilities for ARCS/IFRC field staff delayed implementation. This was temporarily addressed by leasing vehicles locally until more viable solutions were found.
- Due to cultural contexts and conditions in affected districts, key messages on safer shelter construction could not be delivered to women and girls in the target areas. To address this, 13 women volunteers from Spera district in Khost province were mobilized and reached the women in the target areas.
- Through PDM findings, several families living in one compound and counted as one household found the cash provided per household insufficient. Adjustments were made to accommodate the needs of such households through additional cash so that shelter works could be completed.
- Some households in target villages were missed out from the PDMs. ARCS PMER took note of including such households in the next assessments to ensure they receive the support they may need.

## Lessons Learned

- Cash-based assistance offers flexibility and adaptability in shelter repairs; builds ownership and autonomy for households; empowers people to decide according to their own priorities; boosts local markets and costs less than other aid options. For cash disbursements, the contracted financial service provider was deployed in all districts.
- Continuous technical supervision and monitoring by ARCS/IFRC engineers and masons helped ensure quality standards were maintained throughout construction. On-site coaching and mentoring of local masons and builders also took place in parallel.
- Integration of traditional practices and materials helped affected communities in remote areas to rebuild their homes. Damage to the road network made it difficult to bring in building materials. ARCS/IFRC encouraged households to use local materials guided by safer shelter techniques to accelerate repairs.
- Construction activities in Afghanistan require consideration of the extreme winter season which delays implementation, such as the setting of mortar in frigid conditions. ARCS/IFRC prioritized conducting shelter repair assistance beginning in the Spring.

Detailed information on findings from the exit survey and post-distribution monitoring can be found [here](#).



## Livelihoods

People reached: 682,000

### Key Objectives:

Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods. (OS1, OS2, OS4)

Households and community groups affected by humanitarian crises have received life-saving resources and enhanced capacities for restoring or diversifying their livelihoods through the provision of CVA and/or in-kind support. (OS3)

**614,723 people reached with food assistance | 3,472 people with cash-for-work interventions | 39,636 people reached with cash assistance for livelihoods restoration and strengthening**

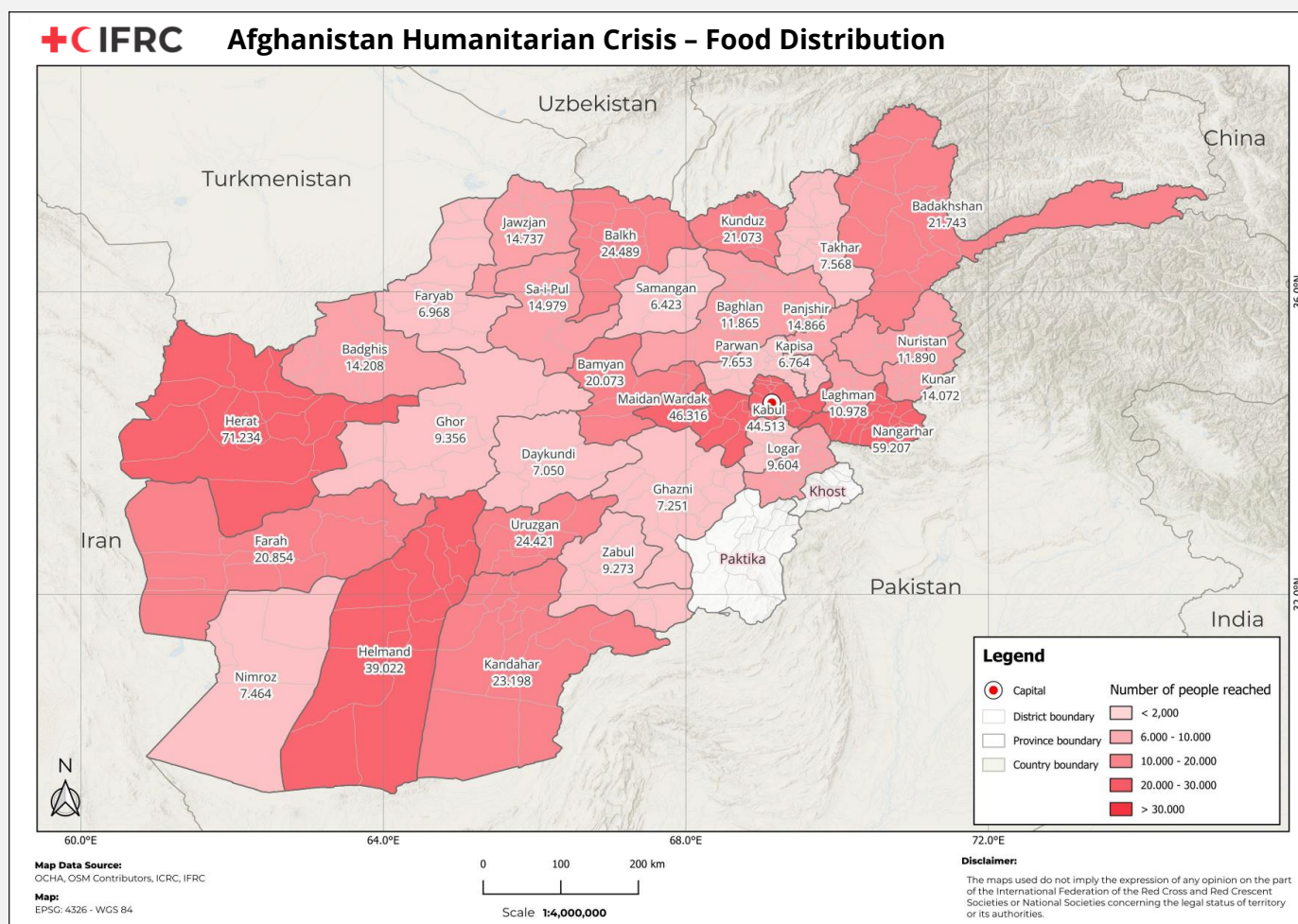
Food security and restoration of livelihoods were the key focuses on the beginning of this appeal in 2021, but scope of this appeal broadened to support shelter, primary healthcare and WASH following the subsequent earthquakes, floods, cold wave and overall political developments in the country.

Both the Khost/Paktika and Herat earthquakes exacerbated food insecurity in the country with the destruction of livelihoods, agricultural crops and land, and affecting supplies to local markets. Individual households also lost food stocks, agricultural produce and tools, and livestock. As such, under both earthquake operations, food and restoration of livelihoods were priority. Likewise, under the overall Protracted Humanitarian Crisis, meeting urgent food needs, and both restoring and diversifying livelihood options were also at the forefront of interventions.

### Food distributions

IFRC and partners supported ARCS to reach 95,100 households (614,723 people) with food assistance from 2021 through 2023. This was done through the distribution of ready-to-eat meals, food parcels, and cash assistance. Vulnerability criteria for food assistance prioritized households: with older people responsible for children; with disabled members; headed by widows or single mothers with young children; with pregnant or lactating mothers; without livestock assets; and with members suffering from chronic diseases. Data collected systematically from all food distributions under this appeal are summarized in the map below:

## MDRAF007: Food distributions as of 31 December 2024



Largely under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, IFRC helped support ARCS to reach 95,100 households (614,723 people) since the beginning of this appeal. Here also, TRC supported the distribution of food parcels under this appeal funding to 40,000 households in 31 provinces. These food parcels were valued at AFN 13,000 (CHF 148) and comprised of 100kg wheat flour, 24.5kg rice, 10lt cooking oil, 7kg beans, 1kg green tea, 2kg salt, 5kg sugar, and 1 unit of high-energy BP5 biscuits.

Specifically, under the Herat earthquake operation, food distributions for 2,000 affected households were reached with the TRC leading distributions through ARCS, using resources funded under this appeal<sup>6</sup>.

**Table 3: Food distribution for households affected by the Herat Earthquake**

District	# of villages	Households		People reached		
		Targeted	Reached	Men	Women	Total
Zinda Jan	27	1,754	1,754	5,692	6,580	12,272
Gulran	1	106	106	344	398	742
Injil	1	140	140	455	525	980
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>6,491</b>	<b>7,503</b>	<b>13,994</b>

Specifically, under the Khost/Paktika response in 2022, ARCS provided affected households with 2,598 food parcels; 2,128 bottles of oil; 2,028 rice parcels; 738 cartons of beans; 600 cartons of biscuits; 1,150 cartons of dates; 2,028 flour packages; and 138 packets of sugar as part of food distributions to fill gaps identified in coordination with the Food

<sup>6</sup> See Agenda for Renewal – New Way of Working modality above

Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). This food was supported through funding by the Government of China, German Peace Society, Human Aid, Iranian Red Crescent, and Turkish Red Crescent.

While food distributions helped sustain households for a limited time, more long-term and sustainable solutions were employed to alleviate food insecurity for target households assisted under this appeal. This included community-managed livelihood projects; entrepreneurial training and seed capital to vulnerable youth and women; provision of livestock and agricultural kits to impoverished households; and other skills training and material provisions to help support livelihood restoration and diversification to ultimately strengthen socio-economic resilience of households facing destitution.

Early in this appeal, ARCS conducted household assessments and selected 2,100 drought-affected households (6,300 people) for emergency food assistance through cash grants in August 2021. However, distributions were delayed due to the disruption of banking services following changes in operational context. Prior to August 2021, however, ARCS was fully engaged in discussions with the country's Department of Agriculture, ANDMA, UN-OCHA, provincial and district authorities and local communities (including Community Development Councils -CDCs) in addressing the food insecurity situation. Using assessment forms and established criteria, ARCS staff and volunteers visited households recommended by the CDCs for food assistance, to assess vulnerability, ascertain participation and avoid double counting.

A total of 3,500 households in Badghis (1,100), Baghlan (1,200), and Faryab (1,200) provinces were selected to receive AFN 10,000 (CHF 114) in two installments over two months. While the first installment of AFN 5,000 (CHF 57) was made in Badghis and Faryab, distribution in Baghlan was unable to proceed due to armed conflict in the province at that time. (Refer to [Drought OU1](#) for more details)

### **Livelihood restoration and diversification**

Funding specifically for livelihood support for this appeal was limited overall, though several vocational training sessions were conducted, and some income generation activities were initiated.

In 2024, five women residents from the [Marastoons](#) in Kabul and Kandahar, received AFN 22,500 (CHF 280) cash each to start livelihood activities based on their prepared business plans. Prior to this, these women had participated in vocational training for tailoring conducted by ARCS in 2023. This training and cash assistance have helped these women to begin tailoring clothes for women and children. ARCS and IFRC livelihood teams had also explored opportunities to channel their products into the mainstream market to help them earn a sustainable income and become self-sufficient.

Livelihood support under the Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operational strategy has had limited reach due to funding constraints. IFRC pursued funding opportunities seeking support for livelihood interventions, given the ongoing critical need in Afghanistan. However, though this appeal has now ended, funding for livelihood support has been gained through the [IFRC Unified Plan 2024](#) and with Japanese Red Cross aid, helping ARCS support 300 households in Herat and Samangan provinces to pursue restoration of their livelihoods activities. Funding for livelihood support activities was also limited under the Herat earthquake operation, though IFRC explored resources to support ARCS in this regard.

Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, some [livelihood activities](#) included:

**Vocational training** was conducted for 20 women from the Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons from January through June 2023, with 14 participants doing tailoring training for women and children in Kabul, and six others doing embroidery in Kandahar. These trainings were conducted by professional trainers engaged by IFRC. ARCS also provided a daily allowance of AFN 75 for each participant, of which each person put aside AFN 20 (CHF 1.00) every

day towards her individual business seed capital. Each participant also received an equivalent of USD 2,000 towards starting up their own businesses as well.

**Soft skills training** for 500 women in the Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces. This included one month of training in bookkeeping, business management, financial literacy, market strategy and business plan development in Marastoons. This training aimed to help empower underprivileged women to be self-sufficient and regain their dignity following the aftermath of climate-related shocks and prolonged conflict. In October 2023, 433 participants began a three-month vocational training in tailoring and embroidery while the other 57 began poultry farming training in November 2023. (see [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#))

**Cash-for-work interventions:** Up to 500 people were supported through cash-for-work programmes in flood-affected areas in Badakhshan (300) and Maidan Wardak (200) provinces. These programmes provided temporary paid employment to people affected by the flash floods in 2023, and involved repairing irrigation canals, public roads and bridges, and renovating hospitals, schools and shelters in their own communities. Remuneration was AFN 400 (CHF 80) per day per worker for 52 working days over two months until December 2023, in line with guidelines provided by the Cash Voucher Working Group (CVWG). This intervention aimed to support individuals between 20-45 years of age, who were ineligible for IFRC DREF support, with temporary paid employment.

These 500 individuals were selected in consultation with their communities. The project team engaged with community members and explained the objectives of the cash-for-work initiatives, clarifying any questions raised. Subsequently, a 12-member local community committee was formed in each district. All committee members were men. These committees were responsible for prioritizing community projects, selecting individuals for the cash-for-work programmes, monitoring these programmes, and resolving related conflicts within the community, if necessary, throughout the project. Key selection criteria included being personally affected by the floods in 2023; being the breadwinner of their household but having no paid employment; and, being interested in participating in the cash-for-work project.

**Table 4: Households reached with cash-for-work assistance, December 2023**

Activity	Provinces	Districts	Households		People reached
			Target	Reached	Estimated <sup>7</sup>
Cash for Work	Maidan Wardak	Jalrez	150	148	1,036
		Narkh	70	69	483
		Chak-e Wardak	80	79	553
	Badakhshan	Yamgan	100	100	700
		Teshkan	50	50	350
		Tagab	50	50	350
<b>Total</b>			<b>500</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>3,472</b>

**Urea fertilizer and agriculture kit intervention:** In March 2023, ARCS provided 3,125 households in Ghor, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Sar-e-Pul with 150kg of urea fertilizer each for agricultural purposes. Of these, 30 households were headed by women, with 28 from Kunduz, and 2 from Sar-e-Pul. March is the time of year when farmers apply urea fertilizer to their wheat crops, thus influencing the timing of this distribution. (Refer [Humanitarian Crisis OU8](#) for more details)

Supported by IFRC, ARCS provided conditional cash assistance of AFN 9,000 (CHF 105) each to 1,200 households in Badakhshan, Bamyan, Ghazni, and Kunar provinces to purchase agriculture kits. These kits comprised 50kg of wheat certified seeds, 50kg of urea fertilizer, and 50kg of diammonium phosphate fertilizer. Of these 1,200 households, 29 were led by women. In total, 9,841 people were supported with this assistance of whom 4,997 were women, and 4,844 were men.

<sup>7</sup> With an average of seven people per household

Both the provision of urea fertilizer and agriculture kits aimed to enhance livelihood support and food security of farming households affected both by drought and floods in recent years. ARCS was guided by the FSAC on the items chosen based on estimated current market prices for similar packages.

**Wheat agriculture practices and pest management training:** IFRC supported ARCS in conducting a two-day wheat agriculture practice and integrated pest management training for 120 local stream community committee members in Badakhshan, Bamyan, Ghanzi and Kunar provinces where the agriculture kit support project was conducted. Each committee comprised 30 members, all men. Topics covered included the history and types of wheat, the importance of certified seeds, land preparation, fertilizer use, integrated pest management, post-harvest, storage and marketing of the crop.

From March to October 2023, ARCS formed six community groups of 20 members each in Ghor, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar and Sar-e-Pul provinces. All 120 community members underwent a two-day agriculture technical training on wheat growing practices and pest management as well. (Refer to Table 4, [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#) for more detail.) Following training, committee members shared their newly gained skills and knowledge with other farmers in their communities through orientation and on-site mentoring.

Livelihood interventions under the Khost/Paktika operation saw:

- Procurement and handover of 10 tractors to ARCS for deployment in Khost and Paktika provinces to, among others, transport agricultural inputs to farms and produce to local markets or collection points. Each tractor was equipped with a mould/chisel plough used to prepare farmland for agricultural activity.
- Market assessments and provision of livestock rearing support to 305 households in Spera (Khost), Gayan and Barmal (Paktika) districts. These households which had received transitional shelter support from IFRC/ARCS also received cash assistance and technical training for livestock rearing.

Cash assistance for livelihood support reached 4,357 households as summarized below:

Activity	Province	District	Households		People Reached		
			Target	Reached	Male	Female	Total
<b>SME- IGA tools</b>	Jawzjan	Fayzabad	300	300	1,071	840	1,911
	Nangarhar	Jalalabad	300	300	1,071	840	1,911
<b>Poultry Support</b>	Kabul	Kabul	11	11	58	45	103
	Kandahar	Kandahar	2	2	5	9	14
	Nangarhar	Jalalabad	20	20	11	40	51
	Herat	Herat	7	7	7	15	22
	Balkh	Mazar-e Sharif	17	17	7	7	14
<b>Agriculture Kit</b>	Badakhshan	Bahrak	300	300	1,381	1,365	2,746
	Kunar	Noor Gul	300	300	999	1,302	2,301
	Bamyan	Panjab	300	300	1,097	1,136	2,233
	Ghazni	Andar	300	300	1,367	1,464	2,831
<b>Fertilizer</b>	Ghor	Feroz Koh	625	625	2,859	2,617	5,476
	Kunduz	Panjwayee	625	625	4,462	3,901	8,363
	Nangarhar	Hesarak	625	625	2,299	2,461	4,760
		Sherzad	313	313	1,613	1,736	3,349
	Sar-e-Pol	Sozma Qala	312	312	1,676	1,875	3,551
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,357</b>	<b>4,357</b>	<b>19,983</b>	<b>19,653</b>	<b>39,636</b>

### **Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)**

Under the Herat operation, ARCS conducted a PDM following food assistance distribution in October 2023; wherein 150 respondents (45 per cent men, 55 per cent women) expressed satisfaction with the selection criteria employed, having urgent needs met, quality and quantity of the items, distribution location, and that no payment was required. Areas for improvement were, however, identified in community engagement and feedback mechanisms, but overall, most responses showed ARCS, with IFRC support, had effectively addressed urgent needs, provided access to

assistance and maintained accountability to its stakeholders. (Details of this PDM are available in the [Herat Earthquake OU2](#)).

Another PDM was conducted under the Humanitarian Crisis operation regarding the distribution of urea fertilizer in November 2023. Up to 331 respondents of whom one was a woman, were interviewed. Key findings indicated that 90 per cent of the respondents found the quality of the fertilizer excellent with the other 10 per cent finding it good; that they all used the fertilizer for wheat crops; and that none made any payments in cash or kind to receive the assistance.

### Challenges/Mitigations

- Delays in establishing a long-term framework contract with FSPs. There were also delays in selecting the FSPs, which in turn, delayed distribution to target households. While households had been assessed and identified in April 2021, actual cash distribution only took place in the third week of June 2021.
- Badghis, Baghlan and Faryeb provinces where ARCS commenced cash assistance under this appeal, were experiencing an increase in conflict and security clashes which delayed emergency response activities. However, following careful monitoring and consultation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders, and preparations with field staff, ARCS was able to resume field activities and carry out planned distributions when conditions were safe enough to do so.

### Fatima's Journey: A Story of Resilience and Empowerment

At 32, Fatima from Kandahar, is a beacon of hope and strength for many.

Five years before, a tragic roadside explosion took her husband leaving Fatima on her own – pregnant, grieving and left to raise eight children by herself. But Fatima did not dwell on her circumstances. Spurred to create a better life for her children, she began work at a carpet weaving workshop while doing domestic work as well. Every day was a struggle; Fatima often went to bed hungry, with her meagre earnings barely covering her family's basic needs.

But Fatima was dauntless. For six months, she worked late into the night, learning how to weave and gradually honing her skills, balancing between being a mother and learning the craft. Her first completed carpet marked a significant turning point in her life.

Five years later however, financial rewards were still minimal, though Fatima was already a skilled carpet weaver. Finally, a friend suggested she seek assistance from the ARCS Marastoon. ARCS provided the funds needed to start up her own business which helped her buy raw materials and focus on creating carpets, while managing her domestic work and raising her children.



*With two of her children, Fatima tells her inspiring story to a volunteer. Her journey is a testament to the resilience, tenacity and community spirit of women in Afghanistan. (Photo: Muzhgan Sabori, IFRC)*

Fatima's perseverance led her to sell her first carpet for a profit of AFN 10,000, which enabled her to begin a second carpet, and even engage a young girl apprentice to learn her craft. Three years later, Fatima had established her own carpet weaving workshop at home with many women in her community joining her, eager to learn and to foster community spirit in the process. Her small business flourished, and now she employs 20 women and girls in her workshop.

Knowing the restrictions women face in working outside the home in Afghanistan, Fatima shares her knowledge of essential business skills with other women. These skills empower women to work from home, be self-sufficient, and create better futures for themselves and their families.

Fatima's journey is a testament to resilience and the power of community support. Her personal success uplifts other women to improve their own lives. She believes women must learn skills to navigate life's challenges, and her mission is to provide the tools and opportunities to help them face their own hardships and thrive in a difficult environment. The way in which Fatima lives her life continues to inspire and support the women around her, proving that determination and community support are key to overcoming adversity, and help create a brighter future for themselves and those they love.

*Under this appeal, ARCS helped support over 500 women in learning new technical skills and basic business skills to begin their own enterprises for greater resilience and self-sufficiency.*



**Multi-purpose Cash**

**People Reached: 226,037**

**Key Objectives**

*Socio-economically vulnerable households have the ability to meet their basic needs. (OS2)*

*Underprivileged households affected by humanitarian crises meet their immediate multi-sector needs. (OS3)*

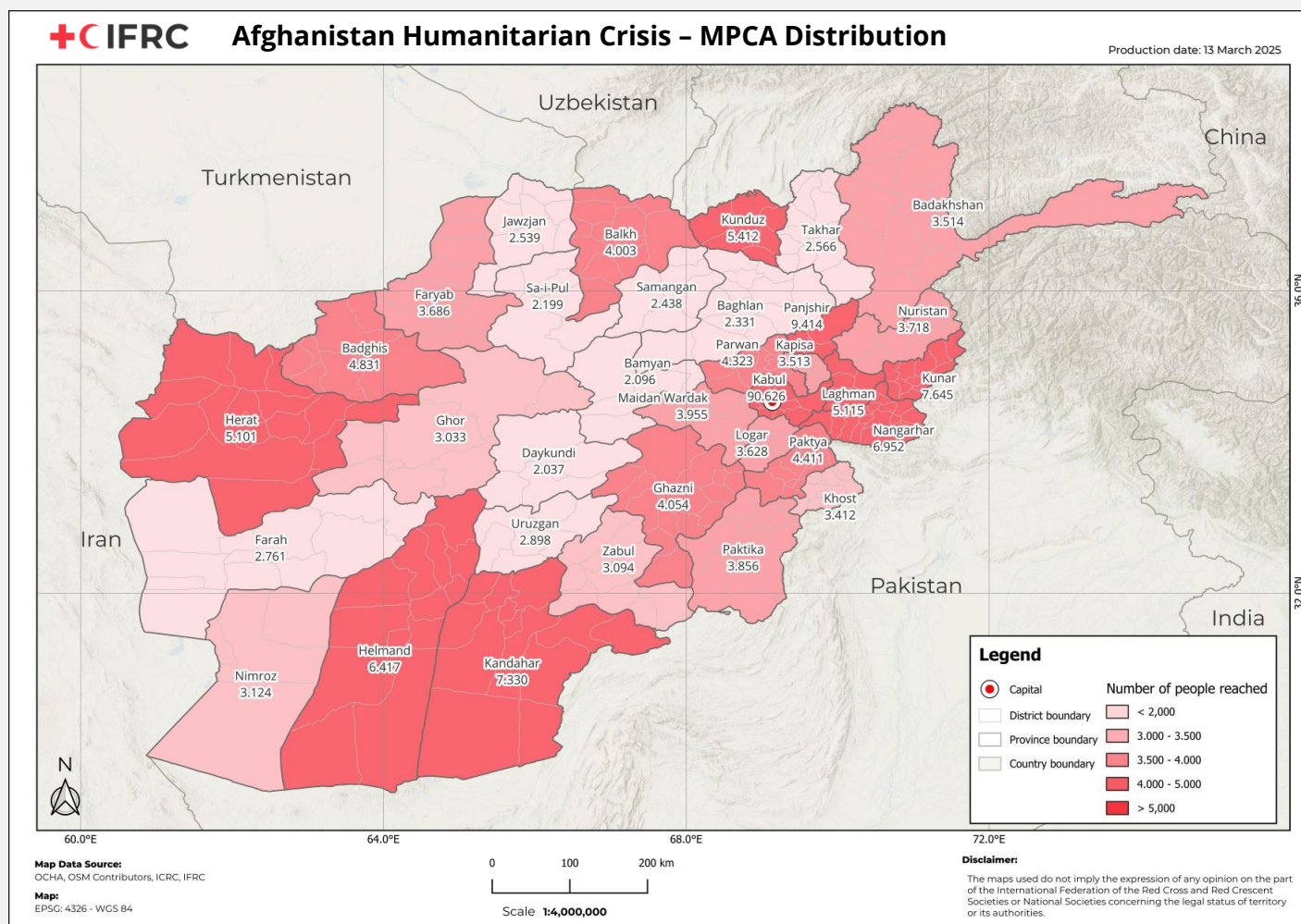
*The most affected communities are able to access and purchase essential food and household items and services in a secure and dignified manner. (OS4)*

**226,037 people supported with multipurpose cash assistance**

Under this appeal, IFRC and ARCS sought to reach 32,600 households (168,000 people) with multipurpose cash assistance. At the close of the appeal, the National Society, with IFRC and partner support, reached 35,440 households (226,037 people) with multipurpose cash assistance across the four respective operations.

Cash assistance was prioritized as the primary medium of assistance to address the immediate needs of affected people as well as in supporting their livelihoods and shelter needs. Cash in hand empowers individuals and communities to make decisions based on their own priorities, stimulate the local economy, and offer cost-effective benefits compared to other aid options. In this way, families had more flexibility in rebuilding their destroyed or damaged homes, restoring income generation activities, and supporting their families' everyday household and healthcare needs. Under shelter, cash assistance through grants, cash-for-work and construction supported 8,211 people (1,281 households) while under livelihoods, cash support helped 14,137 people (1,857 households) to restore and/or diversify their means of income generation.

## MDRAF007: Distribution of multipurpose cash assistance as of 31 December 2024



Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, 651 households across 34 provinces with children suffering congenital heart defects (CHD) received exceptional cash distributions to support their need for specialized medical treatments. These distributions ranged between USD 750 and USD 2,350 based on the severity of the disease.

Under the Herat earthquake response, ARCS provided multipurpose cash assistance to its target 2,000 households affected by the earthquake in Gulran, Injil, Robat Sangi and Zinda Jan districts, empowering individuals to decide on their own priorities, and to support the local economy. Recipients comprised 12,782 people (6,593 women/girls, 6,279 men/boys). This distribution included 213 women-headed households, and 52 others headed by children, and comprised AFN 7,500 (USD 92) by envelope in alignment with the minimum standards set by the Cash and Voucher Working Group (CVWG) and the Food, Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). This distribution was facilitated by the FSP contracted by IFRC and was completed on 5 November 2023. Details of this distribution are found in [Herat Earthquake OU1](#) together with its exit survey findings.

Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, households received multipurpose cash in different quantities ranging from AFN 8,500 to AFN 17,500 depending on the severity of needs in the respective locations, and the weather conditions there. At its minimum, the amount of cash assistance distributed was sufficient to fully cover the cost of a monthly food basket for a family of seven, which is calculated as the average family size in Afghanistan.

Priority groups for cash assistance were people at risk, and included:

- Widows with no means of income.

- Households led by women/girls assuming a parental role due to physical and/or mental incapacity of their spouse as certified by a public medical practitioner.
- Households led by women/girls with one or more members with disability or chronic illness.
- Lactating mothers with one or more infants.
- Households led by women/girls with no stable source of income.
- Households led by children;
- Households led by older persons, with children and no able-bodied adult breadwinner; and,
- Households whose breadwinner had been severely impacted by drug addiction.

Cash disbursements were made through FSPs vetted and contracted by IFRC, while recipient households were registered by ARCS, verified by IFRC and assigned recipient cards with individual QR codes for use in all transactions.

The response operation following the Khost and Paktika earthquakes in 2022 also sought to supplement food and in-kind relief distributions with cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to support affected communities. However, due to the contraction and reconfiguration of the Afghan economy in August 2021, financial services and national cash flow experienced disruptions resulting in operational delays. Through concerted efforts, two FSPs (Salim Jawed & Gain Margin FSP) were contracted by IFRC through which the operation was able to provide cash-based assistance to 5,291 households in the Barmal and Giyan districts (Paktika) and Spera district (Khost) in June/July 2022. Each household received AFN 13,000 (CHF 140) as recommended by the FSAC. A Quality and Accountability team monitored implementation to ensure CEA measures were observed and for performance feedback.

### **Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and feedback**

PDM on multi-purpose cash assistance was conducted on several occasions following distributions. This was conducted by the ARCS PMER department across all operations under this appeal. Some findings are as follow:

In December 2023, under the Herat earthquake response, feedback from 202 respondents (178 men, 24 women) showed that:

- 100 per cent felt safe during the distribution process and knew how much cash they were to receive.
- 98 per cent were satisfied with information provided by ARCS regarding the distribution.
- 97 per cent spent AFN200 or less on transport to/from the distribution location.
- 91 per cent found the amount provided was sufficient for urgent household needs while the rest did not, having large households or contending with high food prices.
- 79 per cent preferred cash assistance versus in-kind, 14 per cent preferred food, and the rest preferred either a combination of cash/food or other forms of assistance.
- About 63 per cent prioritized purchasing food; 19 per cent, house repairs; 13 per cent medical expenses and the remaining clothes or hygiene items.
- In 62 per cent of households, husbands made purchasing decisions; 24 per cent included both husband and wife, and 14 per cent were decided by wives.
- Only 19 per cent had received a sensitization session prior to distribution.
- The majority of respondents favor the complaint desk (28.22 per cent) and phone calls (27.72 per cent), while community or village elders account for 23.76 per cent. Other options include the ARCS branch office (10.89 per cent), ARCS central office (6.44 per cent), ARCS volunteers (2.48 per cent), and Mula Imam (0.50 per cent). Overall, the data highlights a clear preference for direct, personal communication channels.

Overall, PDM findings reflect satisfaction by people reached with the assistance received, information provided and safety measures during distribution. For more details on this PDM, refer to the [Herat Earthquake OU2](#).

Also under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, ARCS PMER conducted PDMs following cash distributions. Across 10 provinces where distributions were conducted, 801 recipients (771 women, 30 men) were interviewed, highlighting that:

- 55 per cent received distribution information from the ARCS office; 41 per cent from community representatives, and 4 per cent from ARCS volunteers.
- 33 per cent waited some 30 minutes for their allocation; 16 per cent an hour; 35 per cent two hours; and 5 per cent four or more hours. More time-efficient approaches will be needed for future distributions.
- 90 per cent spent between AFN20 to AFN300 on transport to/from the distribution point.
- No recipient paid anything to receive assistance.
- The majority of respondents (36 per cent) prefer providing feedback through the ARCS branch office, followed by 21 per cent who choose community or village elders. Phone calls represent 18 per cent, while the complaint desk is preferred by 11 per cent. Other options include ARCS volunteers (6 per cent), the ARCS central office (5 per cent), and Mula Imams (3 per cent). These preferences underscore the significance of local engagement and accessible communication channels for addressing community concerns.

Following cash distribution for women at-risk, ARCS conducted a PDM in Helmand and Urozgan provinces, covering 110 respondents of whom only one was male. All respondents were host residents with 57 per cent below 50 years of age. Responses showed that:

- 99 per cent reported the cash received as sufficient to cover their urgent family needs.
- 65 per cent preferred cash while 34 per cent preferred a combination of cash and in-kind assistance. Cash remains IFRC's preferred assistance modality pending the functionality of local markets and availability of necessary items.
- No respondents had paid anyone to receive this assistance.
- The four priority purchases were food, debt payment, livestock inputs and medical expenses respectively.
- The preferred channels for feedback, showing that the ARCS branch office is the most favored option, with 71 (64.55 per cent) responses. Community or village elders received 18 (16.36 per cent) respondents, while the complaint desk garnered 21 (19 per cent) respondents provided their preferences.

More details on both surveys can be found in the [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#).

Under the Khost and Paktika operation, three PDM surveys following cash distributions were conducted, covering 643 people of whom only three were women. Of these, 73 per cent were 18-50 years old, 23 per cent over 50, and the rest were below 18 years of age. Only 2 per cent held refugee status in these distributions. The average monthly income among the recipients was some AFN 3,700. Some key findings indicated that:

- 99 per cent felt safe during distribution, with keeping the cash at home, and moving with cash in public places.
- 93 per cent said the cash received helped cover their needs, whereas 6 per cent said the one-time distribution was insufficient and should be continued, while the rest provided no information.
- 89 per cent stated ARCS had conducted a sensitization session prior to distribution, with 4 per cent indicating No, while 7 per cent were unaware of such a thing.
- 52 per cent preferred a combination of cash and food, 44 per cent was pleased with only cash, while 4 per cent would have preferred food.
- Only 35 per cent of respondents understood how to reach ARCS with feedback and complaints, whereas the remaining 65 per cent did not.
- All respondents were satisfied with the selection process, and information provided regarding distributions.

More information on this PDM including the priority areas of expense is available in [the Khost and Paktika Earthquake OU2](#).

### **Capacity Development**

IFRC and British Red Cross supported ARCS in drafting its CVA standard operating procedures (SOPs) which outline the systems, roles, responsibilities, and critical actions required for effective implementation. These SOPs seek to:

- Inform ARCS key management involved of the design, implementation and oversight of CVA programming;

- Document agreed and accurate procedures for timely, efficient, effective, accountable and safe delivery of CVA interventions.
- Provide guidance on using CVA in shelter and WASH interventions.
- Ensure clarity on CVA across all facets of ARCS management, programmes, operations and support services.

These SOPs align with ARCS’s Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and their implementation will begin upon approval from ARCS leadership. Lack of funding, however, slowed progress in this due to overall focus on disaster response due to multiple climate events. Moving forward on implementing these SOPs will, however, continue.

### Challenges/Mitigations

As mentioned under Livelihoods, delays in contracting FSPs caused some delays. However, once these were in place, target households were able to access cash assistance following the prescribed procedures.



## Health & Care

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

**People reached: > 1.5 million<sup>8</sup>**

<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Medical and psychosocial health risks stemming from the emergency are reduced for the affected communities. (OS1)</i>
	<i>The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care. (OS2, OS4)</i>
	<i>Households and communities affected by humanitarian crises reduce immediate and medium-term risks to their health. (OS3)</i>

**More than 1.5 million people reached with primary, psychological and community health care services and awareness-raising of safe health practices.**

### Primary Health Care (PHC)

Across all four operations, PHC was delivered mainly through mobile health teams (MHTs) which provided a wide range of essential healthcare services and referrals to affected people. Also supporting in ARCS’s delivery of PHC were eight health sub-centres and 40 health camps. In total, ARCS reached over 1.4 million people with First Aid, outpatient services, maternal and newborn care, child health and immunization, treatment for communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases, reproductive health services, dressing of wounds, health education, referrals and transportation to medical facilities where needed.

Through the Herat earthquake operation, ARCS reached 86,864 people (57,665 male, 29,199 female) with primary health care services in Herat province. Screening for malnutrition was also conducted for 466 people with severe cases referred to nutrition specialists. Up to 181 children and eight pregnant women received age-appropriate vaccinations. Also, 9,350 people participated in group and individual health education sessions covering immunization, good hygiene and sanitation practices, family planning, and maternal and childcare.

Under the Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operation, IFRC supported ARCS in providing primary health services to 445,713 people. Progress under this operation was limited due to funding constraints. However, community

<sup>8</sup> People reached may include duplicate counting as monitoring is based on the number of cases treated.

health activities progressed through support under the Herat earthquake operation and the IFRC Afghanistan Unified Plan 2024. More details can be found in the [Afghanistan Unified Plan Annual Report 2024](#).

Through the Khost/Paktika operation, 822 ARCS trained volunteers implemented community health and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) interventions through health and hygiene promotion activities. Through a variety of health and hygiene promotion sessions, and RCCE interventions, ARCS reached 166,043 people (106,963 male, 59,080 female) in Khost and Paktika and neighbouring provinces in the central south region of the country. Of these, 93,725 people (70,397 male, 23,328 female) were specifically from the earthquake-affected areas of Khost and Paktika. (Refer [Khost/Paktika OU3](#) for more details)

Through the Humanitarian Crisis operation, some 1,523,300 people were reached with community-based health and First Aid (CBHFA); mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS); primary health services, and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services; and integrated awareness-raising sessions. This included 83,254 children below 12 months with immunization services, and 22,420 internally displaced persons (7,371 men, 15,049 women).

### Mobile health teams (MHTs)

MHTs were the main arm of delivery of primary health care services by ARCS. In total, 164 MHTs were deployed across all four operations, reaching almost 1.5 million people affected by crises. Each MHT was fully equipped with the necessary equipment, medicines and medical consumables.

**Table 6: People reached with MHT services as of 31 December 2024**

Operation	# MHTs deployed	People reached		Provinces reached
		Total	Number	Province names
<b>Humanitarian Crisis</b>	36	991,601	16	Badghis, Bamyan, Herat, Jawzjan, Kandahar, Kunar, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktika, Parwaan, Sar-e Pol, Urozgan, and Zabul
<b>Khost/Paktika</b>	44	166,043	6	Paktika, Khost, Paktiya, Logar, Ghazni and Wardak
<b>Protracted HC</b>	69	159,946	28	Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Bamyan, Daikundi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Maidan Wardak, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Parwan, Sar-e Pol, Takhar, Urozgan, and Zabul
<b>Herat</b>	15	86,864	1	Herat
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>1,404,454</b>	<b>51</b>	

Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, 36 MHTs were funded through this operation while 11 others, eight health sub-centres (HSCs) and 40 health camps were supported through the IFRC Operational Plan 2022/Unified Plan 2023. In 16 provinces, MHTs operated in remote areas where affected people had especially difficult access to PHC services. Apart from health services, MHTs also helped target communities in enhancing health knowledge and promoting good health practices through awareness raising. These helped mobilize target communities for vaccinations and disease prevention measures, and ensured community elders and local provincial health staff were included in the project implementation cycle.

MHTs reached 484,914 community members in over 16 provinces through more than 7,700 awareness sessions, including 14,233 people with RCCE and COVID-19 awareness sessions. These parallel sessions were designed to encourage behavioural change in personal and environmental hygiene practices, proper waste management and safe water for household use. MHTs also helped ARCS reach over 500,000 children with oral polio vaccinations; over 3,300 with routine immunization; over 4,100 women of childbearing age with anti-tetanus vaccines; and integrated health education for some 143,000 people from the eight health sub-centres and 40 health camps in Kandahar and Paktika provinces. (For more details on the MHT services, refer to [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#))

Eight MHTs were deployed to support the PHC, medical and referral needs of people affected by the Khost/Paktika earthquakes, reaching:

- 19,984 people with primary health care services.
- 5,359 women with reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health (RMNCH) clinical services.
- 5,995 children (3,122 boys, 2,873 girls) with routine immunization.
- 739 people (626 men/boys, 113 girls/women) with referrals for higher-level treatment at health facilities.

For the Herat operation, Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross) funding through the IFRC appeal helped ARCS rapidly deploy five emergency MHTs in the Adraskan, Gulran and Shendan districts in the Herat province. These MHTs initially supported over 20,000 people with outpatient consultations, maternal, delivery and newborn health services, nutrition screening and advice, medical prescriptions and health referrals. (For more details, refer to [Herat OU3](#).)

Also particular to the Herat operation, IFRC supported ARCS in reaching more than 2,735 people with first aid and transporting serious cases to hospitals using two MHTs initially. Five new emergency MHTs were established in December 2023, under the shared leadership of NorCross and IFRC. New health staff included medical doctors, midwives, nutrition counsellors, pharmacists, nurses and community mobilizers; one of each for the five MHTs. All new staff underwent comprehensive training sessions in health emergency response and induction programmes. As of 31 December 2024, all five MHTs had served a total of 86,864 people (57,665 males, 29,199 females) including outpatient consultations and treatment, maternal and newborn services, nutrition screening and community mobilization.

With IFRC support, ARCS plans to provide accommodation for the emergency MHTs using Connexus facilities and infrastructure at selected sites. First Aid kits for CBHFA activities have also been procured for earthquake-affected areas.

### **Ambulance and MHT vehicle support**

For response to the Khost and Paktika earthquake, IFRC procured and handed over 10 MHT vehicles and four ambulances to ARCS to enhance its PHC services and support its health referrals in transporting patients to more advanced medical facilities. (For details on the equipment and accessories used in the MHTs and ambulances, refer to [Khost/Paktika OU3](#).) The addition of these vehicles helped provide safer referrals and greater access to health care services for vulnerable women, children and IDPs in Khost and Paktika provinces. ARCS also distributed 596 medical kits in affected areas of which 500 were donated by the Government of China, and the remaining 96 financially supported by IFRC.

### **Nutrition screening, referral and promotion**

Through the MHTs, nutrition screening of 466 people identified 47 cases of malnutrition that required immediate attention. For the 41 cases of moderate acute malnutrition, MHT staff provided the necessary medical prescriptions and recommendations, whereas six severe cases were referred to nearby nutrition service providers for further examination and appropriate treatment.

### **Support for congenital heart disease treatment**

Currently, ARCS is the only organization in Afghanistan that provides support for treatment of congenital heart disease (CHD). ARCS provided 651 people (383 male, 268 female) access to treatment for CHD in 34 provinces.



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

*With IFRC support through this appeal, ARCS provided oral polio vaccines to children in Kandahar. (Photo: Dr. Sohail Ahmad, ARCS)*

Each person received the equivalent of USD 750 to USD 2,350 according to the severity of their disease. The FSP contracted by IFRC for cash assistance interventions facilitated the cash transfers to the respective recipients.

### Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

In response to the Herat earthquake, ARCS deployed 22 CBHFA volunteers (11 male, 11 female) to assess the situation on-site in affected districts, villages and other public areas, and provide humanitarian assistance as needed. These volunteers provided First Aid and psychological first aid (PFA) services to 4,574 people, including 1,315 children from 1,718 households. (For more details on MHPSS, refer to [Herat OU3](#).)

DRC actively supported MHPSS interventions in the Humanitarian Crisis operation, focusing on ARCS providing PFA and safe dignified referrals for those requiring specialized mental health and protection services. Up to 520 community volunteers were trained in PFA, and subsequently helped provide this service to affected people in the target areas. ARCS also conducted eight PSS sessions in Kabul and Kandahar Marastoons for 160 women. These included creative handicraft activities, drawing, relaxation and physical exercises. ARCS also provide child-friendly spaces at the same Marastoons which have given 50 children in Kabul and 32 in Kandahar a safe place in which to play.

### Training and Capacity Development

Up to end-December 2024, trained ARCS health volunteers had reached 192,869 people, including 87,920 women and girls through household visits and awareness raising sessions.

IFRC/ARCS also conducted a training needs assessment to determine the needs of the health staff and developed a plan to conduct the required training based on the needs identified. Training for ARCS health staff and volunteers across all operations was conducted as below.

**Table 7: Health and WASH training conducted for health staff and volunteers as of 31 December 2024**

Training type	Operation	# of training sessions	People trained		
			Total	Men	Women
First Aid	Humanitarian Crisis	55	868	486	382
	Khost and Paktika earthquake	-	346	-	-
	Herat earthquake	1	420	-	-
Psychological First Aid	Humanitarian Crisis	26	520	300	220
	Khost and Paktika earthquake	-	343	-	-
	Herat earthquake	1	25	-	-
ECV and HHWT	Humanitarian Crisis	76	1,600	860	740
	Khost and Paktika earthquake	-	473	-	-
Hygiene promotion	Humanitarian Crisis	32	700	390	310
	Khost and Paktika earthquake	-	283	-	-
eCBHFA	Humanitarian Crisis	58	1,160	640	520
Nutrition screening		7	140	80	60

Under the Herat earthquake response, IFRC and DRC supported ARCS to conduct a 3-day training on PFA, PGI and safe referrals for 25 MHT members in Herat. ARCS also trained 420 volunteers in CBHFA.

Supported by the Humanitarian Crisis operation, ARCS trained 2,060 volunteers in First Aid, PFA, ECV and HHWT, hygiene promotion, nutrition screening and eCBHFA. Some volunteers were trained in more than one topic. Volunteers were then mobilized for RCCE and CBHFA activities in 20 provinces. RCCE activities were conducted in parallel with hygiene promotion, environmental hygiene and water treatment training among target communities. (For more details, refer to [Humanitarian Crisis OU9](#).)

Under the Khost and Paktika earthquake operation, ARCS trained 822 volunteers (512 men, 310 women) in First Aid, PFA, ECV, HHWT and hygiene promotion in Ghazni, Khost, Logar, Paktika, Paktiya and Wardak. Among these,

378 volunteers (294 men, 84 women) were from the Khost and Paktika provinces which were directly affected by the earthquake. These volunteers reached 166,043 people (106,963 male, 59,080 female) using the skills and knowledge in which they were trained. They also raised awareness among communities on rumour prevention, and taught mothers how to prepare oral rehydration salts (ORS).

### **First Aid in Schools**

ARCS also successfully conducted First Aid training in 29 schools for 348 volunteers (166 males, 182 females) in 29 schools in Herat, Kabul, Kapisa and Khost provinces. These new-found skills benefit anyone needing First Aid during school hours and contribute towards a sense of reassurance that immediate medical assistance is available within the school environment as well.

### **Community Health Committees**

Comprising community members themselves, community health committees aim to work with relevant health stakeholders to help their community members identify and respond to important health issues and contribute to the overall improvement of community health. The most vulnerable and marginalized groups are prioritized.

These committees played an important role under the Humanitarian Crisis, and the Khost and Paktika earthquake operations. As reported under the former, 77 committees with 893 members were formed in the 18 provinces of Badghis, Bamyan, Daykundi, Farah, Ghor, Herat, Jawzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Panjshir, Paktika, Parwan, Sar-e-Pul, Wardak and Zabul.

Grandmother committees were also formed to help identify, respond and address community health issues, but with greater focus on women and girls. Through grandmother committees, ARCS women volunteers reached women and girls in target communities with health promotion, hygiene promotion and awareness raising, as well as with messages on reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health (RMNCH). In the 18 provinces mentioned, 42 grandmother committees with 665 members were also established along with five community health committees and three grandmother committees with 118 members (74 men, 44 women) in Khost and Paktika provinces.

### **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.

Particularly under the Herat operation, ARCS collaborated with the IFRC networks in 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 13 MHTs and three static clinics, particularly in transporting injured people to hospitals in the initial two months of the operation. The health facilities were supported by DRC, NorCross and IFRC. NorCross also provided 1,000 hygiene kits for women, 1,000 safe delivery kits and 1,000 winterization kits for distribution through the emergency MHTs.

Together with IFRC, DRC supported ARCS to train and mobilize 31 volunteers (18 women, 13 men) to assess the MHPSS needs of affected people in Herat province. These volunteers provided 7,588 people with PFA and outreach support in the earthquake-affected areas. DRC also helped ARCS provide 500 households in Herat with winterization assistance.

Similarly, the Qatar Red Crescent Society provided ARCS with 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 SitRep2](#) for more details).

Furthermore, TRC supported ARCS in assessments and provided food packages to 2,000 households through funds mobilized by the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Additionally, with TRC 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.

More information on Federation support can be found in [Herat OU2](#), and [OU3](#).

### Health sub-clinic project in Khost and Paktika

IFRC supported ARCS in planning the set-up of 10 health sub-clinics with two in Khost and eight in Paktika. Work began on 10 July 2023, and as of end of 2023, the clinics in Omna, Jani Khail, Waza Khwa (Woch Khwar), Deela, Khoshamand and Surabi in Paktika province, and Hasan Kot in Khost province were almost complete. The two in Yousuf Khil and Wazikhwa in Paktika, and Bak in Khost were delayed due to land issues, incorrect location, and geophysical concerns.

### Medical warehousing

IFRC is providing technical and financial support to ARCS in building a medical warehouse on ARCS premises. Assessment of the existing buildings was conducted but due to its lack of suitability, a new design was prepared and reviewed.

### Moving Forward

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

#### Asma: A Survivor's Story

*"My name is Asma and I am 45 years old. I live with my daughter and grandchildren in Gulran district of Herat province. We had a good and peaceful life. We owned a poultry farm, where my daughter and I worked together, selling our produce at the market for a living.*

*Then in 2023, an earthquake struck Herat. It was night and we were sleeping when the earthquake hit. It was terrifying. My daughter and I hurried out of the house, but my young grandchildren could not escape. We turned back to rescue them, but they were trapped under the rubble. Finally, with the help of our neighbours, we managed to pull them out, and run away.*

*The earthquake took everything from us. Our poultry farming equipment, our chickens, our produce, all were buried under the debris. We felt the earth shake for several nights, and we were too afraid to go back to where we lived. Our situation seemed hopeless.*

*But not long after, volunteers from the Afghan Red Crescent came to help us. They brought us food and medicine, and set up tents to give us shelter. We spent three weeks living in those tents, but while we had food, medicine and shelter, we were still unable to sleep for fear of waking up to another earthquake."*



*In Gulran, Herat province, earthquake survivor, Asma speaks of her experience following the earthquake in 2023 to an ARCS/IFRC volunteer.  
(Photo: Muzhgan Sabori, IFRC)*



It has taken months for Asma and her family, and many other families like hers to overcome the trauma caused by being affected by the earthquake. But with support from ARCS, many are now better able to cope. ARCS volunteers provided psychological first aid (PFA) for over 7,500 people, including 1,300 children, with the aid of DRC. ARCS also supported some 40,000 people with livelihood restoration and diversification interventions through this appeal. ARCS continued to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to households through its volunteers throughout the duration of this appeal.

ARCS volunteers provided PFA to over 1,300 children following the Herat earthquake in 2023. (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People reached: >349,606 people

### Objective:

*Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in target communities. (OS1, OS2, OS4)*

*Households, communities and schools affected by humanitarian crises reduce their immediate and medium-term risk of waterborne, water-related and vector-borne diseases. (OS3)*

**349,606 people reached with RCCE and hygiene promotion activities | 20 water tanks installed in 10 villages**

WASH interventions across the four operations under this appeal sought to support affected people with community-based water, sanitation and hygiene promotion assistance. This included the provision of safe water for household and community use through trucking or safe storage, rehabilitation or construction of WASH facilities in schools; rehabilitation or construction of community water facilities; and improving access to WASH facilities overall.

Under the Herat earthquake operation, provision of safe water and water storage containers and hygiene needs were the primary interventions conducted.

By the end of 2023, IFRC had supported ARCS in reaching over 2,100 households with 6,250 jerry cans for safe household water storage. Each household received two or three jerry cans based on their household size. Further support from other Movement and external partners also helped ARCS distribute 500 bottles of water, 8,866 jerry cans and 867 hygiene kits to affected people. All in all, ARCS distributed 11,258 jerry cans, 867 hygiene kits, 700 bottles/packets of dishwashing liquid, 454 Mazari brooms, 500 1-litre water bottles, 3 small water tanks, 3 solar panel systems with batteries, 5 water purifiers, 10 kettles and 60 cups.

With the damage caused to primary water sources and the loss of household water storage and hygiene supplies, six water trucks were sent to distribute 40,000 litres of safe water per day to affected households in 10 villages in Barmal district, Paktika province. These 10 villages also had 20 water tanks of 5,000-litre capacity each installed individually to ensure water needs of community members were consistently met. Supported financially through

this appeal, TRC provided technical support for water supply while the Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR) tested water quality at source.

ARCS also distributed 1,280 jerry cans for safe water storage and 500 hygiene kits to affected households. Each hygiene kit contained 7 bars of antiseptic soap (125 gram), 1 plastic soap case, 7 bars laundry soap (200 gram), 2 plastic jerry cans (10 to 20-litre), 1 plastic bucket (10 to 20-litre), 1 plastic mug (2-litre), 2 soft cotton cloth pieces (2m<sup>2</sup>/piece), 3 adult toothbrushes, 4 children's toothbrushes, 2 tubes toothpaste, 5 bath towels, 2 units shampoo, 2 boxes sanitary pads, 5 sheets hygiene promotion IEC materials with key messages, and 1 bag.

WASH focus under the Humanitarian Crisis operation prioritized community-based WASH assistance conducted mainly through the distribution of hygiene kits, dignity kits and soap. By the end of the operational timeframe, ARCS had distributed 8,450 family hygiene kits to an equivalent number of households (59,150 people) in Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Nangahar, Panjshir and Sar-e-Pul provinces. Composition of the hygiene kit is the same as under the Herat operation (*see above*). Between July and September 2023, ARCS also distributed 200,000 bars of soap to 14,286 households (100,000 people) affected by AWD in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Helmand, Kunduz and Jawzjan. AWD is recurrent in Afghanistan and remains a major public health threat. (For more details, refer to Table 9, [Humanitarian Crisis, OU9](#))

The Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operation sought to improve affected communities' overall access to WASH facilities and better hygiene practices. To support this, IFRC and ARCS developed a CEA/PGI assessment tool to be applied in emergency operations, and once finalized and approved, will be integrated into future operational interventions. Funding towards this specific operational strategy has been limited; however, in tandem with Livelihoods interventions, support under the IFRC Unified Plan 2024 and from Japanese Red Cross, ARCS installed 10 deep wells with solar pumping systems to provide water for 4,000 households in Herat and Samangan provinces.



*With the installation of the 10 deep wells with solar pumps, at least 28,000 people in Herat and Samangan provinces now have consistent household water supply. (Photo: ARCS)*

## Hygiene promotion

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

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

Assessments were needed to plan for sustainable preventive measures against disease outbreaks such as AWD and measles. As such, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) approaches were included in volunteer visits to communities on hygiene promotion, waterborne disease prevention, COVID-19 risk communication and prevention of infection, prevention and mitigation of rumours, and educating mothers on preparation and use of oral rehydration salts (ORS).

Trained volunteers visited households with health and hygiene messages, and held integrated sessions on hygiene promotion, waterborne disease prevention, COVID-19 risk communication and prevention of infection, prevention and mitigation of rumours, and educating mothers on preparation and use of oral rehydration salts (ORS). In this way, ARCS volunteers reached 193,092 people (94,600 women) in Badghis, Daykundi, Farah, Ghor, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Panjshir and Sar-e-Pul provinces under the Humanitarian Crisis operation.

In 2023, five training sessions on hygiene promotion were held for 100 volunteers (80 men, 20 women), and 10 sessions on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV) and household water treatment (HHWT) for 200 volunteers (160 men, 40 women) in Khost and Paktika provinces.

These volunteers reached 93,725 people (70,397 male, 23,328 female) through RCCE activities, including 1,973 awareness-raising sessions on hygiene promotion, prevention of infectious and waterborne diseases, and the use of ORS, among others. Of these 93,725 people reached, 88,507 were from host communities, 3,309 were internally displaced and 1,909 with disabilities.

Under the Herat earthquake operation, CBHFA volunteers reached 62,789 people (32,274 male, 30,515 female) through awareness raising sessions and households visits, with hygiene promotion messages that covered handwashing, safe water storage and household water treatment.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

### Key Objectives

*Target people and communities with timely, accurate, trusted and accessible information regarding Red Cross Red Crescent services while engaging with the National Society to share feedback that is used to adapt and guide programmes and operations. (OS2)*

*Ensure the operation integrates 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. (OS4)*

*Communities receive timely, accurate, trusted and accessible information regarding the services they are entitled to get from the IFRC network as well as on the channels through which they may provide feedback to guide programmes and operations. (OS3)*

## **Hotline established for community feedback | CEA/PGI assessment tool finalized for future operations | 136 ARCS volunteers orientated in CEA**

Supported by IFRC and partners, ARCS accomplished several significant steps towards further establishing CEA across its programme and operational activities. While many of these were achieved under the Herat Earthquake operation, previous meticulous ongoing discussions with the National Society and community members helped to set the path towards these achievements. These included:

- Establishing a hotline to address concerns, questions and complaints from communities, particularly under the Herat earthquake operation. This also involved awareness raising of the hotline through distribution of 7,000 cards and 200 stickers with information on hotline services. Discussions with Netherlands Red Cross and TRC to establish a multi-channel community feedback mechanism are currently ongoing.
- Developing gender-sensitive questions to be used in CEA assessments for earthquake-affected communities. In this instance, 288 responses were gathered through face-to-face interviews.
- Finalizing a CEA-PGI assessment tool for emergency operations to be used in future operations.
- Developing frequently asked questions (FAQs) or key information about earthquake response for staff and volunteers, that can act as a guidance template and be adapted for CEA in future emergencies.
- Enhancing ARCS collaboration with international partners such as BBC Media Action to work together on producing vital life-saving information programmes for local communities, leveraging on expertise of IFRC mental health and psychosocial support networks.
- Conducting CEA orientation for 136 ARCS psychosocial volunteers.
- Developing a CEA strategy and a localized brief guide for distribution to all staff and volunteers.
- Printing IEC and behaviour change communication materials with awareness messages on different topics such as hygiene promotion for distribution to affected communities.

### **Community Feedback**

Community feedback gathered through interviews and focus group discussions were pivotal in enhancing the overall quality of response throughout this appeal as CEA is being better recognized as a vital part of any operation supporting affected people. Through direct engagement with community members, ARCS and partners could better support the immediate needs and priorities of those affected while ensuring quality and reach of operational activities were maintained. CEA activities also highlighted the need for mental health and psychosocial support, emphasizing the need for integrated programming to support the overall needs of affected communities.

Women were found to be disproportionately affected by crises, in ways such as the lack of ARCS awareness activities for community women; the lack of adequate safe WASH facilities for women, raising health and protection concerns; and the lack of access to registration for humanitarian assistance among households where husbands were absent. Women humanitarian workers at distribution points also had limited access to reaching affected people.

As reported in [Humanitarian Crises OU9](#), ARCS gathered community feedback as part of the exit survey and post-distribution monitoring following all distributions. ARCS/IFRC also supported 50 focus group discussions (FGDs) in the Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Nangarhar Marastoons for feedback on soft skill training provided. Ten individual FGDs were conducted in each Marastoon for 500 women participants in total.

Under the Khost/Paktika operation, ARCS/IFRC conducted [a survey](#) of 100 people (50 in Khost and 50 in Paktika) on if cash distribution was made using given vulnerability criteria. The team also observed the distribution process itself and if the programme was progressing as planned. Key findings showed:

- 100 per cent of respondents said they did not pay to be included in the list of assistance recipients.
- 99 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the recipient selection criteria in both provinces.

- 90 per cent of respondents were satisfied with the distribution location, though the remaining 10 per cent found it very far from their homes.
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The CEA team also conducted eight community meetings in Khost and Paktika provinces with four covering people not included for registration for humanitarian services, and the other four with those affected by the disaster but not included in the list for receiving such services. From these meetings, ARCS/IFRC were able to identify and confirm the barriers to accessing cash and household item support faced by people of various gender identities, ages, disabilities and backgrounds; and determine actions to fill these gaps.<sup>9</sup>

### **Capacity Development**

Through this appeal, IFRC supported ARCS in:

- A 3-day training on CEA, PGI and Safeguarding in Herat province for 63 ARCS staff and volunteers comprising 32 women and 31 men.
- Two CEA/PGI/Safeguarding orientation sessions for 54 ARCS staff and volunteers (26 women, 28 men) in Nangarhar province. This included MHPSS counsellors from MHTs supported by DRC and aimed to integrate CEA into operational and health interventions for greater community engagement.
- In May 2024, a [3-day training on CEA/PGI](#) in Samangan province was conducted for 13 staff and volunteers from the Climate Change project.
- In December 2023, a 3-day CEA/PGI/Safeguarding training was held for 26 male staff from various ARCS departments.

ARCS/IFRC also conducted a basic introduction to CEA as part of other sectorial trainings, such as CBHFA and NDRT. Up to 85 staff and volunteers participated in these sessions in September/early October 2023.

### **Challenges/Mitigations**

Training and mobilization of women volunteers in the field has been a continuous challenge. However, ARCS has been seeking ways of resolving this issue through advocacy and discussion within the organization and with the public authorities as women volunteers are essential in reaching the most vulnerable women and children in the crises-affected areas.

### **Moving Forward**

CEA efforts throughout this appeal have helped enhance community mobilization efforts to actively engage affected communities in decision-making, recovery and resilience building. Community members themselves have teamed up to assess needs and allocate resources more equitably and effectively. With IFRC and partner support, ARCS will continue its CEA initiatives, including door-to-door outreach, community meetings, and the involvement of local leaders, community elders and women representatives.

ARCS plans to re-establish a hotline to facilitate two-way communication with communities. ARCS will put trained operators in place and ensure referral pathways for sensitive feedback regarding issues such as fraud, violence, protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH) as well as breaches of the IFRC Code of Conduct integrated with Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) components.

Beyond immediate relief efforts, CEA emphasizes building resilient communities better prepared to withstand and recover from future emergencies including communities implementing sustainable disaster risk reduction initiatives and education, setting the groundwork and enhancing rapid response efforts for collective responsibility and sustainable action.

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<sup>9</sup> For further details on findings from community engagement and accountability interviews and meetings, refer to previous operations updates.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: >69,113 people

### Key Objectives

*Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable. (OS1, OS2)*

*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. (OS4)*

*Inclusive and principled humanitarian actions are meeting the needs of the affected population following the IFRC minimum standards for PGI in emergencies. (OS3)*

**69,113 women and girls benefitted from dignity kits | 50 volunteers trained in PGI/CEA for operations  
7,000 children/adults reached with Child Safeguarding awareness raising**

With IFRC support, ARCS has been advocating for women’s participation in all its interventions and ensuring that women support women according to cultural requirements and to mitigate protection risks. Of ARCS’s 3,900 staff and 24,000 volunteers, 7,600 (31 per cent) are women, actively ensuring women benefit from the National Society’s services, such as receiving dignity and winterization kits, receive cash assistance, and attend training sessions.

All operations under this appeal were planned with protection and prevention measures in all interventions, prioritizing assistance based on vulnerability criteria. PGI and CEA are integrated into all activities, and all ARCS staff and volunteers were trained to understand the PGI minimum standards and the Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) components to be applied. Safeguarding sessions integrated with MHPSS were also conducted for ARCS volunteers in Herat. ARCS also engaged with community leaders to support women’s participation in all activities. Selection for assistance also prioritized women/girls at risk.

Since the Humanitarian Crisis response in 2021, the IFRC Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies has been well-integrated into interventions with the ARCS PGI focal point working to ensure equitable access to essential service, and safeguarding DAPS of affected people. The IFRC PGI manual was adopted and translated into Dari and Pashto for use by ARCS, and practical guidance was given by the PGI focal point on mainstreaming these principles across all sectors. This included limiting people’s exposure to risks of violence and abuse, and following the “do no harm” principle along with guidance on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and protection for all affected people, especially children.

ARCS PGI supported the operations team in analysing the gender and protection needs of affected people and developing indicators for observation during operational activities. The team collected related data through focus group discussions (FGDs) and interviews with women and men of different ages including persons with disabilities.

IFRC is also in discussion with ARCS to build capacity for protection and social inclusion among ARCS staff and volunteers as well as establishing an inclusive feedback mechanism for sensitive issues.

### **Dignity kit distribution**

Under this appeal, IFRC supported ARCS to reach women and girls in 19,718 households with dignity kits to support female personal hygiene and sanitary needs. For more information about dignity kit distribution, refer to [Protracted Humanitarian Crisis OU1](#), [Humanitarian Crises OU8](#) and [OU9](#).

**Table 8: Distribution of Dignity Kits as of 31 December 2024**

Operation	Districts	Households		Women/girls reached		
		Target	Reached	>18yrs	<18yrs	Total
Herat Earthquake	Kushk-e-Kohna	2,000	2,000	3,167	3,391	6,558
	Gulran, Guzara, Injil, Kushki, Zinda Jan	3,218	3,218	5,729	5,801	11,530
	Gulran	4,500	4,500	6,777	9,261	16,038
Humanitarian Crises	Badghis	1,000	1,000	2,318	1,897	4,215
	Daikundi	1,500	1,500	2,362	1,932	4,294
	Farah	1,000	1,000	1,978	1,619	3,597
	Ghor	1,600	1,600	3,671	3,004	6,675
	Ghazni	500	500	771	630	1,401
	Kunduz	1,000	1,000	2,775	2,271	5,046
	Sar-e-Pol	500	500	593	485	1,078
	Badakhshan	600	600	1,078	882	1,960
	Bamyan	450	450	565	462	1,027
	Kabul	700	700	1,321	1,080	2,401
	Nuristan	600	600	1,002	820	1,822
	Zabul	550	550	809	662	1,471
	<b>Total</b>	<b>19,718</b>	<b>19,718</b>	<b>34,916</b>	<b>34,197</b>	<b>69,113</b>

IFRC also supported ARCS in conducting a PGI/CEA assessment together with the distribution of dignity kits to 2,000 households, benefiting at least one female per household.

### Assessments and Information Gathering

Under the Herat operation, IFRC and ARCS conducted five FGDs and six key informant interviews (KIIs) to gather women's concerns and opinions on PGI and safeguarding. Up to 98 women respondents highlighted the following:

- Shortage of shelter and WASH assistance with concerns of vulnerability of temporary shelters against severe weather.
- Cultural norms prevent women from sharing shelters with unrelated neighbours/families.
- Women have been disproportionately affected by earthquakes and need targeted assistance strategies.
- Lack of functioning WASH facilities and limited access to water for washing and cleaning exacerbates health and protection concerns.
- Absence of women humanitarian workers at distribution points limits affect women's access to services and information.
- Affected women need crucial mental health and psychosocial support services to recover in the aftermath of the earthquakes

Also, under the Khost/Paktika support operations, the IFRC quality and accountability team found that while most distributions of cash and household items met the PGI minimum standards, some gaps required improvement, including:

- Some people travelled eight hours by road to the distribution location, indicating the need to reconsider locations to minimize travel time for future distributions.
- The lack of a designated waiting area, especially for families with small children, older people or those with disabilities.

All findings were shared with the operations team for consideration in future distributions.

Prior to distributions, ARCS staff and volunteers were briefed on needs associated with gender, age and disability, and provided with skills on how to communicate respectfully with people experiencing physical, sensory and/or intellectual disabilities, those with mental health disabilities, and older people.

### Safeguarding

IFRC PGI, Safeguarding and CEA supported ARCS in conducting 22 meetings with men and women separately for feedback on safe access to humanitarian services and reporting channels for information, feedback and/or

complaints. Findings showed that communities had little awareness of prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), child safeguarding, referral pathways and reporting channels. They also mentioned that some community leaders requested payment to be selected for humanitarian assistance.

To address these issues, staff and volunteer awareness on safeguarding and whistleblower protection policies must be increased along with community awareness on key safeguarding messages and reporting channels. Key safeguarding messages are also being integrated into programme IEC materials for distribution during field activities.

Under the Herat earthquake operation, 7,000 children and adults were reached with awareness on Child Safeguarding and Protection issues, including available services for child protection.

An orientation on PSEA, child safeguarding and whistleblower protection was held for 40 MHPSS volunteers (20 women, 20 men) which explained how to consider community dignity while providing services, and where to report actual or suspected violation of IFRC Safeguarding policies.

### **Capacity Development**

Given there are 7,600 women staff and volunteers in ARCS, IFRC continues to help ARCS advocate for women's participation in all its activities and services. This involves ensuring women serving and women being served benefit from services, training and other assistance. IFRC and ARCS are in discussion to build capacity for protection and social inclusion among its own staff and volunteers as well as to establish an inclusive feedback mechanism for sensitive issues.

On 3 November 2022 in Khost ARCS branch office, CEA and PGI orientation was conducted for 50 volunteers (35 men, 15 women) to enable them to support mainstreaming of CEA and PGI into the operations in Khost and Paktika provinces. Participants were also orientated on draft feedback response mechanism toolkits to pilot in target communities.

IFRC/ARCS staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct upon joining the RCRC. IFRC and ARCS are currently establishing referral pathways to address gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection concerns. Orientation on GBV and child protection are now part of PGI training and was carried out for staff and volunteers in Khost and Paktika provinces.

### **Challenges/Mitigations**

Participation by women and girls is limited, compounding the constraints already surrounding the current humanitarian conditions. At various intervals, the authorities have announced measures limiting the participation of women in education and at the workplace. This forces women to be more dependent on humanitarian support, creating a cycle of escalating needs, further limiting women's economic capacities.

Training and mobilization of women staff and volunteers in the field has also been a continuous challenge. However, ARCS has been seeking ways to resolve this issue through advocacy and discussion within the organization and with the public authorities as women volunteers are essential in reaching the most vulnerable women and children in the crises-affected areas. Pragmatic solutions to ensure the inclusion of women both as humanitarian assistance providers and as recipients continue to be explored.

### **Lessons Learned**

- When planning for distribution locations, take into consideration travel distances for target households.
- Ensure designated waiting areas for people receiving assistance, especially families with small children, older people and those with disabilities.

## Moving Forward

- Plans to implement a child safeguarding risk analysis tool for programmes and operations are currently ongoing.
- Training the ARCS gender department on SGBV prevention standard operating procedures.
- Conducting technical assessment to reactivate the ARCS toll-free number 1313.
- Continuing training for ARCS staff and volunteers in PGI and CEA.



## Migration

People reached: >247,342

### Key Objectives

*Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination) (OS1)*

*Host communities support the needs of IDPs and returnees and their families, and assist them with reintegration at all stages (origin, transit and destination). (OS4)*

*Returnees and internally displaced populations have their needs met through humanitarian assistance, protection, and humanitarian diplomacy efforts. (OS3)*

IFRC/ARCS aims to support people on the move with its overall humanitarian and emergency assistance programmes. Some indicators listed under this sector are to monitor progress but have already been included in other programme sectors. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are on the list of vulnerability criteria, and are prioritized for assistance such as food, cash, household items, hygiene kits and winterization kits.

This appeal supported:

- Some 21,000 returnees and IDPs with protection assistance services.
- 247,342 IDPs with WASH and healthcare services.
- 108,174 IDPs with health services through ARCS MHTs and handwashing soaps in 15 provinces.
- 53,900 IDPs with in-kind and cash assistance.
- 3,000 returnee households with winterization kits in Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.
- 2 humanitarian service points established at border crossing points in Kandahar and Nangarhar.

The two humanitarian service points established at the border crossing points of Spin Boldak (Kandahar) and Torkham (Nangarhar) are manned by ARCS staff and volunteers who provide sectorial services based on need and are assigned to specific areas to ensure returnees receive the assistance they require. When returnees arrive, ushers guide them through the services available with priority given to those with health needs. Services provided include health and MHPSS; restoration of family links for those who have lost contact with family members; information on weapon contamination and area-specific weapon contamination hazards; and hot meals. (For more details, refer to [Population Movement Operation \(MDRAF013\), OU1.](#))



## Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

People reached: > 134,600

*Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster. (OS1, OS2, OS4)*

**Over 134,600 people provided with winterization kits**

As part of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) efforts, communities were supported to prepare for the extreme winter conditions frequently experienced in Afghanistan. With IFRC support, ARCS reached over 134,600 people (18,762 households) with winterization kits. These distributions prioritized households headed by women or children, and individuals with disabilities, all of whom are highly vulnerable to harsh weather conditions.

Under the Khost/Paktika earthquake operation, distribution of winterization kits was recorded under Shelter interventions, wherein 2,077 of the target 2,083 households were reached. Also, with IFRC support, ARCS provided winterization kits to 3,000 returnee households in Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.

**Table 9: Distribution of winterization kits as of 31 December 2024**

Operation	Province	Households		People Reached		
		Targeted	Reached	Men	Women	Total
<b>Herat Earthquake</b>	Herat	5,218	5,218	18,921	19,022	<b>37,943</b>
<b>Khost/Paktika Earthquake</b>	Khost	941	941	9,184	8,095	<b>17,279</b>
	Paktika	1,142	1,136	9,259	8,519	<b>17,778</b>
	Helmand, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunar, Nangarhar*	3,000	3,000	n/a	n/a	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Humanitarian Crisis</b>	Badakhshan	1,100	1,100	4,619	4,494	<b>9,113</b>
	Bamyan	950	950	2,742	2,553	<b>5,295</b>
	Daikundi	1,000	1,000	2,946	2,854	<b>5,800</b>
	Ghor	1,100	1,100	3,499	3,449	<b>6,948</b>
	Kabul	1,767	1,767	6,278	6,045	<b>12,323</b>
	Kunar	500	500	2,016	1,825	<b>3,841</b>
	Laghman	100	100	599	636	<b>1,235</b>
	Nooristan	500	500	4,415	4,572	<b>8,987</b>
	Ghazni	500	500	1,458	1,401	<b>2,859</b>
	Sar-e-Pol	500	500	1,121	1,078	<b>2,199</b>
	Zabul	550	550	1,530	1,470	<b>3,000</b>
	<b>Total</b>		<b>18,868</b>	<b>18,862</b>	<b>&gt;68,587</b>	<b>&gt;66,013</b>

\* Returnee families

ARCS also distributed 2,000 blankets to 400 earthquake-affected households (five blankets each) in Giyan, Paktika in March 2023. Four Rubb halls were also installed close to ARCS in October 2023. Emergency relief items for 10,000 households are to be pre-positioned in the Rubb halls for rapid response as needed.

DRC also helped ARCS provide winterization assistance to 500 households affected by the Herat earthquake. Each household received one heater and 500kg of charcoal. TRC also helped ARCS distribute stoves and coal to 700 households across Gulran and Robot Sangi districts to contend with the freezing winter temperatures.

**Post-distribution monitoring**

Overall, almost all respondents had a positive experience from the distribution of the winterization kits. Most had access to assistance and information prior to distribution and found the kit contents adequate and of good quality, meeting their household needs for warm clothing to withstand the harsh winter season. Most also knew a complaint desk/person/place was available, and all respondents confirmed no payments had been made for any of the services and found the distribution location convenient. (For more detail on PDMs, refer to [Herat OU2](#), [Humanitarian Crisis OU8](#).)

**Preparedness for effective response**

Given Afghanistan’s vulnerability to disaster, ARCS continues to actively strengthen its response capacities, focusing on institutional readiness. Supported by IFRC, ARCS is currently engaged in developing a multi-hazard

contingency plan which includes enhancing the skills and knowledge of its staff and volunteers in the various programme and support sectors.

### **Integrated DRR: Building Back Better**

Given the propensity for earthquakes and climate events in Afghanistan, ARCS has adopted building practices to mitigate their impact. This includes “Building Back Better” in transitional shelter for greater safety with improved lateral stability and enhanced structural safety to guarantee resilience to future seismic shocks. Climate-smart practices include using mud-gypsum plaster to maintain warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Rooms are also built to maximize natural daylight.

### **Challenges/Mitigations**

Relocating affected people to safe land also presents its challenges and opportunities. While people have shown themselves willing to relocate, it is imperative to ensure their new locations are safer and less exposed to seismic events. ARCS and other stakeholders continue to work in coordination to ensure an effective and efficient response for affected people.

## **Enabling approaches**



### **National Society Strengthening**

<b>Key Objectives</b>	<i>National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the National Society has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to plan and perform. (OS1, OS2)</i>
	<i>Ensure that ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies and capacities to plan and perform. (OS4)</i>
	<i>National Society's organizational development as well as level of preparedness for future disasters and crises, and capacity to deliver principled, accountable, sustainable programming and services strengthened. (OS3)</i>

### **National Society Development (NSD)**

IFRC and NorCross have been supporting ARCS to assess and improve their current financial system by upgrading software and helping branches to share real-time data for greater accountability and sustainability. IFRC also supports ARCS in its organizational development through building organizational policies and strategies, sharing institutional information and working collaboratively for more efficient and effective response and recovery, and greater community engagement.

IFRC also helps ARCS in developing the capacity of its staff and volunteers through national and provincial-level training, as well as its own institutional capacity in improved logistics, warehousing and pre-positioning of relief items for rapid response.

From its Asia-Pacific regional office, IFRC supported ARCS in developing its NSD planning process with specialists in NSD, disaster preparedness, finance development, membership services and volunteer management; who

supported the completion of ARCS's Strategic Plan 2021-2025, and its Operational Plan 2022-2024; revising its laws and statutes, and in developing an NSD initiative and roadmap for organizational strengthening.

In addition, an NSD delegate joined the IFRC country delegation in August 2023 to work more consistently together with ARCS, ICRC and in-country partners to continue advancing this initiative. By September 2023, a consolidated operational plan for Movement partner engagement with ARCS in Afghanistan was developed. DRC also financially supports ARCS NSD efforts.

ARCS will train staff and volunteers in implementing a new locally developed volunteer management system (VMS). The National Society will now determine the most suitable data hosting solution for its future needs.

### **Senior management and staff development**

Since late 2021, more than 90 per cent of ARCS's new senior managers at headquarters, regional and branch levels have been new to the RCRC Movement, making orientation on key IFRC policies and procedures, and other tenets of the Red Cross Red Crescent a priority for these new senior managers. As such, during ARCS's general management meeting in May 2022, IFRC organized orientation sessions facilitated by its office of internal audit and investigations (OIAI), for all participants covering, among others, the IFRC constitution, governance structure, statutory meetings, policies on fraud and corruption prevention, integrity and safeguarding.

### **Training and capacity development**

Throughout the appeal, training and capacity development of ARCS staff and volunteers has been conducted in different sectors and skills in support of the capacity strengthening of the National Society.

- In March 2024, IFRC conducted a 4-day basic planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) training for 19 PMER, IM, CEA, PGI and Safeguarding staff from ARCS and IFRC. Topics included an introduction to the project cycle, project management, and foundations of PMER. IFRC also supported the ARCS PMER manager's participation at the IFRC Global PMER meeting in June 2024 in Geneva.
- Planning and reporting training over three days for 23 ARCS staff in the north and northeast regions to develop branch staff capacity in planning, including logical framework setting, results-based management and reporting, and orientation on planning/reporting templates.
- Data collection training in Herat on 5 November 2023 for 11 volunteers (6 women, 5 men) was conducted to improve data collection techniques, data quality and community engagement. Key topics included the objective and timing of exit surveys and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) as well as ethical considerations for data collection. Training also featured practical group exercises on collecting data using [RedRose](#).
- IFRC supported ARCS to host a 3-day training on CEA, PGI and Safeguarding in Herat for 63 ARCS staff and volunteers, comprising 32 women and 31 men. An additional session on the fundamentals of PMER was available as well.
- IFRC also supported ARCS in training 385 staff and volunteers (355 men, 30 women) in disaster response. For more information, refer to [HC OU9](#). Staff and volunteers who attended this training were subsequently mobilized for flood and earthquake assessments and responses.
- Under the Khost/Paktika operation, IFRC/ARCS conducted training on safer shelter construction practices for 65 volunteers (including 13 women), 10 social mobilizers, six shelter engineers and 25 masons in Spera district, Khost province, and Barmal and Giyan districts, Paktika province. These sessions were designed specially to orient ARCS shelter staff on the shelter programme and their individual roles in the intervention. Six key messages on Building Back Safer endorsed by the Shelter cluster were shared during these sessions.
- Also, in Khost and Paktika, IFRC/ARCS conducted 27 training sessions on First Aid, psychological first aid (PFA), epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), household water treatment (HHWT) and hygiene promotion for 378 volunteers (294 men, 84 women).

## **Logistics and warehousing**

### **Strengthening ARCS's logistics structure**

A Terms of Reference for the logistics structure assessment for all seven regions was completed in February 2024. This incorporates a plan of action for capacity enhancement which when systematically implemented will fortify ARCS's logistics structure, standardize defining criteria for all warehousing, procurement and fleet management, and thus, increase delivery capacity of ARCS logistics services in both normal and emergency situations.

### **Developing ARCS warehousing capacity**

As mentioned above, IFRC installed four Rubb halls in Kabul to support ARCS in its operations throughout all 34 provinces. The design, development and set-up of a medical warehouse in Kabul is also underway and will serve as a central medical supply chain hub for the rest of the regions. Plans to enhance warehouses in all seven sub-regions in Northern, Central and Southern Afghanistan will be gradually done on a needs basis. IFRC also supported ARCS in assessing warehousing and stock management procedures for better reporting.

Specific training for logistics was also conducted in December 2023 for 60 logistics officers from different branches and regions. Topics covered essential aspects of warehousing, procurement and fleet, medical logistics management, and logistics in emergencies. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the training during the Q&A sessions, and engagement showed improved understanding and practical application of the knowledge gained from training.

## **Digital transformation**

### **Enhancing ARCS digital capacity**

IFRC helped ARCS fast-track its digital transformation agenda at headquarters, regional and branch levels. ARCS aims to use digital transformation to enhance its governance, management and accountability systems, branch development, communications and resource mobilization efforts.

Some important steps towards ARCS's digital transformation achieved with IFRC support were:

- Procuring, deploying and implementing an institutionalized email system, and Microsoft 365 at ARCS headquarters and branch offices.
- Procuring and installing a CCTV system for the National Society.
- Conducting and supporting training for ARCS IT staff in Microsoft 365 at the regional Asia-Pacific office in Malaysia, and helping them participate in the IFRC Global Innovation Summit in Kenya.
- Procuring 340 tablets to support ARCS field data collection.
- Supporting ARCS in assessing its organizational hardware and software.
- Co-leading Movement coordination to support enhancing ARCS digitalization capacity.

IFRC supported ARCS to enhance its digital capacity through procurement of IT equipment, including providing laptops and Internet connectivity in the Herat field office to support service delivery. New monitors, printers and other IT accessories were procured and installed, while staff training in using hardware and software and online platforms has been prioritized. Additionally, a local vendor for a volunteer management system (VMS) for ARCS was selected and training on the use of this VMS is being organized.

The [RedRose platform](#) is now being used for data collection and operational management. IFRC engaged with the RedRose team to set up installation and user training in May 2022. To date, the use of RedRose has helped improve data protection and management set-up for cash and in-kind distributions as well as different types of surveys, such as exit, baseline, and PDM.



## Coordination and Partnerships

<b>Key Objectives</b>	<i>Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured. (OS1)</i>
	<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. There is a need to invest more to better articulate the auxiliary role of the National Society with all stakeholders and accordingly strengthen the IFRC's network footprint in the response. (OS2, OS4)</i>
	<i>The IFRC network's collective capacity for analyzing, anticipating, planning, responding, resourcing, communicating, influencing, and being accountable as in favour of affected populations is optimized. (OS3)</i>

IFRC continues to support ARCS in coordinating with RCRC members and external partners.

### Coordination with RCRC partners

Specific to the Herat operation ([OU3](#), [OU4](#)), ARCS, IFRC and PNSs coordinated through:

- Ensuring timely response for people affected by the earthquake, and developing the comprehensive Herat Earthquake Operational Strategy using a collaborative and participatory approach.
- Sharing updates on the humanitarian situation and discussing partner support for ARCS priority areas together with ARCS senior management at quarterly Movement coordination meetings.
- Discussing delivery of services and coordinating distribution of NFI.

Under the Humanitarian Crises operation ([OU1](#)), several key meetings and initiatives included:

- Meetings involving ARCS senior management, IFRC, NorCross and key stakeholders to clarify the current humanitarian situation and align strategies for effective intervention.
- Formal discussions with in-country partners to strengthen coordination and draft a roadmap to assist ARCS develop a Common Accountability Framework to enhance accountability and transparency with communities, Movement partners and donors.
- Reinstatement of Movement Operational Coordination (MOC) meetings to collectively support ARCS in needs assessments, service delivery and resolving challenges to effectively serving affected people.
- Providing orientation sessions for ARCS staff and volunteers to be better prepared for their respective field work.

### Agenda for Renewal (AfR) - New Way of Working (NWoW)

The Agenda for Renewal – New Way of Working aims to position the IFRC Secretariat as an organization that is cost effective, innovative, transparent and accountable, serving its membership to respond to global challenges and supporting community-based action. Under the Herat response, several PNS agreed to work using the [Shared Leadership approach](#) under the Agenda for Renewal framework in implementing this appeal, leveraging their expertise, knowledge and technical capacities. Under the Khost and Paktika operation as well, the Agenda for Renewal moved forward through meetings among ARCS, IFRC and DRC, NorCross and TRC in-country. In a meeting with all in-country partners in July 2022, TRC agreed to take the lead in implementing Shelter and WASH interventions with ARCS, using funds mobilized through the IFRC emergency appeal using the Shared Leadership approach. This approach was also used, following the subsequent Project Funding Agreement (PFA) between IFRC and TRC in August 2022, with TRC leading implementation of Shelter and WASH interventions under the IFRC appeal to a satisfactory outcome.

Also in July 2022, IFRC helped support and facilitate a German Red Cross scoping visit to Afghanistan to identify gaps and possibilities for humanitarian cooperation, wherein the GRC representative met individually with ARCS, the IFRC country delegation and PNS in-country.

All Movement partners used existing Movement coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored under the Movement Cooperation Agreement (MCA). Specific to the Khost and Paktika earthquake operation, an emergency response taskforce (ERT) was responsible for developing and monitoring the ARCS operational strategy together with ARCS, and IFRC providing strategic coordination for all its members. Other significant achievements under the Khost and Paktika earthquake operation:

- ICRC joined the Country Coordination Team (CCT). The last CCT meeting under this operation was held on 28 March 2023 with a focus on NSD.
- DRC representatives visited Afghanistan to conduct a context and climate change needs assessment in December 2022. Following review and feedback by ARCS and the CCT, the report was finalized.
- ARCS finalized its 2022-2024 Operational Plan (until March 2024) together with Movement partners.

### **Coordination with External Partners**

ARCS and IFRC continue to coordinate with diverse stakeholders to deliver a united effective response to affected people with using resources effectively, avoiding duplication and addressing complex needs.

In Herat, this involved aligning with the Shelter Cluster (*see below*), private organizations such as Azizi Foundation, Qamar Foundation and Khawafi Organization, Islamic Development Bank, and the Kuwait Society for Relief; national and local public authorities, and other I/NGOs such as Rahila Afghan Aid and Rehabilitation (RAAR), IOM and UNHCR.

ARCS also coordinated closely with national authorities such as the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (MNDMA), and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH); and local authorities such as the Provincial Disaster Management Committees, in its role as auxiliary to public authorities while maintaining neutral and independent humanitarian action. Under the Humanitarian Crisis operation, ARCS worked closely with MoPH to mobilize healthcare personnel, medicines and medical equipment to target areas. For Khost and Paktika, the authorities established an inter-ministerial committee for the earthquake response, inviting humanitarian organizations, including ARCS, to meet and share its plans for support. IFRC also supported ARCS through engaging with the relevant ministries and conducting briefings and information sharing with government and institutional donors.

IFRC and ARCS continue to engage in advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy and coordination with other humanitarian actors, including the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). IFRC is an observer in the HCT and an active participant in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and relevant Cluster or inter-agency working group meetings/forums. These engagements allow IFRC and ARCS to share information, and carry out planning, analysis and strategic coordination collaboratively. Representation of the IFRC network in these forums uses the best-placed approach, e.g. DRC represents IFRC in the Child Protection and MHPSS Working Groups.

### **Partner meetings in Doha**

In April 2024, a roundtable briefing on Afghanistan in Doha gathered diplomatic staff and representatives from their respective National Societies. Discussions focused on the critical humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, underscoring the need for a cohesive long-term strategy beyond immediate relief to encompass development and recovery efforts as essential towards effectively resolving the protracted humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. In Doha, ARCS also hosted their annual partnership meeting with other National Societies to showcase their activities, highlight urgent humanitarian needs, and discuss the operational shifts required to meet these challenges. The meeting also discussed how partners could best support ARCS and advocate to their back donors.

In response to the evolving context, key messages for the IFRC and ARCS leadership emphasized ARCS's pivotal role as a leading local humanitarian organization. A detailed contextual analysis was developed from these discussions and will be disseminated among partners to inform their strategies and responses.

Doha also saw ARCS engage successfully with in-country embassies and key UN agencies. These meetings helped strengthen collaborative efforts to address the multilayered multidimensional humanitarian challenges facing Afghanistan's people, opening doors to a more coordinated and effective response for long-term gains.



## Shelter Cluster Coordination

<b>Key Objectives</b>	<i>The humanitarian shelter and settlements sector is well-coordinated, supporting a comprehensive quality, coherent and consistent shelter and settlements response. (OS2)</i>
	<i>The IFRC network's capacity for influencing the prioritization, design, resourcing, implementation and quality of shelter interventions in favour of affected populations is optimized. (OS3)</i>

IFRC and ARCS actively engaged in Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Item (ES-NFI) Cluster meetings for effective efficient delivery of shelter interventions in line with other actors and interventions. These monthly meetings helped the teams to update on progress, resolve or mitigate challenges and concerns, avoid duplication, contribute towards strategic decision-making and share relevant information.

For repairs and rebuilding, minimum standards endorsed by the Shelter cluster were followed; while ensuring social cohesion, cultural norms and traditional practices of target communities were included. Also, a Shelter and Settlements Coordinator helped ensure shelter officers participated at regional and national/local levels for updates and resolving field challenges.

Shelter Cluster partners also developed key messages translated into Pashto for target communities. These key messages were disseminated to communities and focused on regional indigenous construction practices in Afghanistan which have stood the test of time. Cluster partners also supported ARCS/IFRC to present, endorse and share information, education and communication (IEC) materials with other partners.

The ARCS/IFRC shelter team also participated in the Shelter Technical Working Groups (TWIGs) addressing specific issues in design, drawing, specifications and others, under the Herat operation. The team ensured all technical standards were met and operations well conducted in the target areas. Knowledge and experience gained by the Shelter team in these technical discussions continues to support the suitability and sustainability of future shelter solutions as needed.



## Secretariat Services

<b>Key Objectives</b>	<i>The IFRC Secretariat, together with National Societies, uses its unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels, that affect the most vulnerable. (OS1, OS2)</i>
	<i>The IFRC Secretariat ensures high quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies. (OS4)</i>

In Afghanistan, IFRC supported in-country PNS in security management, accommodation, transport and procurement under the IFRC umbrella.

## Security

The IFRC country delegation maintains comprehensive risk management and seeks to prevent/mitigate/reduce all potential threats and security/safety incidents. These include:

- Ensuring adequate safety/security measures of all RCRC personnel are taken for all operations. The IFRC delegation security team works closely with ARCS teams and local administration and other external agencies in this respect.
- Maintaining and updating the existing country security plan, which includes security regulations, contingency plans, critical incident management procedures and others.
- Ensuring all staff complete the mandatory Stay Safe 2.0 online training, and are adequately briefed prior to deployment, as well as adhering to the IFRC travel approval process and observing current contextual information, including surge members. All staff travelling have security briefings before and after field visits.
- Tracking field movement of RCRC Movement staff and volunteers when working in affected areas.
- Ensuring staff and volunteers have clear identification and visibility items on field visits.

The ARCS security framework is applicable to all their staff and volunteers in all operations. IFRC also supported ARCS in updating their safety and security procedures where needed.

The IFRC security department maintains a comprehensive Federation-wide risk management process and business continuity plan for Afghanistan, with security assessments and updated planning with all in-country partners across all operations. In 2023, over 70 staff and delegates participated in security rules and regulations refreshment courses, which included drills on how to react to attacks, shelling, earthquakes and safe room rules and regulations.

## Communications

The IFRC Communications team in Afghanistan has consistently highlighted the critical humanitarian situation in the country, and showcased ARCS and its volunteers in supporting vulnerable communities. Through social media and web stories, some of its work under this appeal can be found below:

- **Relief and recovery assistance:** To the [floods in Herat](#) province | [Relief distributions](#) in response to the floods in Herat province | Coverage of the [initial Khost and Paktika earthquake](#) situation | [Cash assistance](#) to families for shelter support | Delivery of [recovery assistance](#) in shelter, health, livelihoods and strengthening community resilience | Assistance to [earthquake-affected communities](#) |
- **Primary and psychological health services:** Provision of [primary and psychological health care](#) | Mobile health clinics and vaccinations [reaching remote areas](#) for essential health care |
- **Community development:** Providing affected community members with [tools for income generation](#)
- **Community stories** from [people affected by the Herat earthquake](#) | on the work of [Mobile Health Teams](#) among communities |

All [press releases on Afghanistan](#) can be found on the IFRC website highlighting the drought situation, the Khost and Paktika earthquakes, the Herat earthquake, and the overall critical humanitarian situation in the country.

Following its [statement on the challenges for women](#) in education and at the workplace, IFRC works in consultation with the ARCS leadership in-country to mitigate and seek solutions; updates its partners and donors on the current

situation; and, in an op-ed piece, has made [a call](#) to the international community to explore effective long-term answers to this constantly evolving situation.

The IFRC APRO supports the ARCS Communications team through:

- Providing ongoing technical support for communications, including basic equipment for information sharing and field work.
- Recruiting a Communications coordinator and an audiovisual officer in-country.
- Conducting RCRC Movement orientation and communications training for 60 staff (all men) from the ARCS headquarters, seven regional, and 34 provincial offices. IFRC and Netherlands Red Cross facilitated basic understanding of the RCRC Movement, how ARCS works with IFRC and other National Societies in communications work, and how ARCS work is showcased by the IFRC network. Focus was also given to communications work in disaster situations and consideration of the diverse needs of all stakeholders in the RCRC context.

### **Surge Deployments**

Under this appeal, 22 technical experts were deployed as surge support to ARCS and IFRC in-country. This included seven specifically for the Khost and Paktika earthquake response, six for the Herat earthquake, and nine under the Humanitarian Crisis operation. These included programme and field coordination, preparedness and response, human resources, information management, PMER, procurement, communications, and shelter programming. More information on international surge deployments for this appeal can be found on the [GO platform](#). Shelter delegates also provided technical support for the Marastoon guesthouse, sub-health clinics related to the Health project, and building renovations of field offices. Locally, recruitment of additional staff to cover data, response and communications was fast-tracked to support ongoing operations.

### **Human Resources**

The IFRC Afghanistan country delegation underwent an organizational restructuring process in-country to improve support to ARCS and partners, as well as to align with the Agenda for Renewal framework, and enhance ongoing humanitarian diplomacy efforts. As such, recruitment of a deputy head of delegation, a supply chain coordinator, and delegates for procurement, planning and reporting, and NSD was conducted and completed under the timeframe of appeal. Much-needed national positions were also recruited for technical sectors and support services.

### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) and Information Management (IM)**

The IFRC PMER team in-country continued to support the operation through regular planning and reporting, while providing technical support to their ARCS PMER counterparts in monitoring and evaluation activities. This included capacity building in PMER technical skills and knowledge to support greater quality and accountability in the National Society's work. The PMER team also supported programme and operational evaluations such as mid-term reviews, joint monitoring and third-party monitoring visits. The IFRC APRO regional PMER team supported the in-country team in all PMER functions throughout the appeal timeframe.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Apart from the consistent PDMs, exit surveys and continuous engagement with community members through CEA for feedback, IFRC also engaged external parties to evaluate the operation.

### **Mid-term Review**

An operational mid-term review of four appeals (MDRAF007 and three DREF operations) was initiated October 2022 to assess the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and feasibility of interventions by ARCS with IFRC and PNS support. The review also assessed the evolution of IFRC's support to ARCS in capacity building, programme design, service delivery and coordination; and its relevance and effectiveness to national and local actors. The report can be found [here](#).

## **Final Evaluation**

As of the date of this report, the final evaluation, conducted by an external evaluator, has produced a draft report that has been circulated to the ARCS, IFRC Country Delegation, and APRO teams for review and feedback. A validation workshop is yet to take place. The evaluation remains in the review and validation stage and will be published in the IFRC evaluation databank once completed and approved.

## **Third-Party Monitoring (TPM)**

IFRC also engaged an external party to conduct Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) of its programmes and operations in-country to review its existing projects and interventions in terms of achievements, lessons learned and recommendations to guide planning in future interventions. These findings will help inform IFRC and ARCS in their plans to reinforce the integrity and effectiveness of integrated humanitarian work while ensuring accountability standards are met. The report is currently has been finalized.

## **Information Management (IM)**

In collaboration with IFRC, ARCS established a central online database to support data collection and management across all operations. In the field, the data collection focal point uses RedRose to upload questionnaires and enter data into a 5WH table (what, where, when, who and how many) on their devices. Due to unreliable connectivity in the field, data focal points at provincial branch level collect and consolidate the figures which are then submitted and stored in the central database, and can be retrieved for use by those who require it. This streamlining of the data collection processes has helped improve efficiency and accuracy, and reduce delays in reporting.

## **Logistics and Procurement**

The IFRC and ARCS supply chain management teams supported the overall operation to ensure timely and efficient mobilization of relief items for distribution to affected communities. For greater efficiency, a Supply Chain Coordinator was employed to oversee all procurement, logistics and warehousing functions; and a Procurement delegate to facilitate sourcing of goods, works and services for ARCS. All operations and logistics teams engaged to ensure planning and processing of procurements are ready to meet seasonal challenges, such as extreme cold in the winter and other potential emergencies, to ensure timely assistance.

IFRC facilitated global supply chain and logistics services throughout this appeal, including procurement of in-kind items for distribution, and engaging financial service providers for cash assistance activities. Activities included transportation and delivery of food parcels, supply of medical kits to 31 mobile health teams (MHTs), water trucking and tower installation, cash assistance distribution, laboratory testing of food items, training on Office 365 software, and digitization of the ARCS disaster response department. IFRC also managed procurement activities while supporting ARCS to enhance its supply chain functions. All procurement follows the IFRC procurement policies subject to due diligence as well as checks against the UN Sanctions list.

The ARCS Logistics Development plan was finalized and will guide building institutional capacity to address supply chain-related issues. While some time is needed to integrate this into the everyday functions of the department, there is commitment to ensure ARCS achieves its long-term objectives with the continued support from IFRC, PNS and donors.

## **Moving Forward**











IFRC continues to support ARCS in building its technical skills in logistics, procurement and warehousing while observing greater inclusivity and engagement, through training and awareness-raising of the RCRC Movement principles to support better delivery of humanitarian assistance. Also to enhance ARCS capacity, IFRC increased its warehousing capacity in Kabul on ARCS land, to further ensure timely effective emergency response deployment when needed. To ensure this existing capacity and stock items are well managed, the IFRC supply chain team works with the ARCS logistics team to address any existing concerns.

## MDRAF007 Afghanistan: Humanitarian Crises



### Achievements per Sector Indicator

#### Operational Strategy 1: Humanitarian Crisis

##### Achievements











	<p><b>Shelter and Settlements: 8,750 people reached</b>   2 assessments on shelter capacities and gaps conducted   1,250 sets household items distributed   8,750 multi-crises affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items   2 provinces targeted with awareness-raising activities</p>
	<p><b>Livelihoods and Basic Needs: 650,000 people reached</b>   34 provinces with rapid market assessments conducted   650,000 multiple crisis-affected people assisted with emergency food and livelihood restoration activities   16 technical/ vocational skill training sessions   Community greenhouse pilot projects planned   9 provinces received agri-tools/equipment and/or livestock packages   9 agriculture/ livestock management training sessions held   15 community committees/interest groups formed</p>
	<p><b>Multi-purpose Cash: 173,553 people reached</b>   28,019 households received cash assistance based on needs   2 cash voucher assistance SOPs training sessions for staff and volunteers   80 community consultation and sensitization meetings held</p>
	<p><b>Health and Care: 1,180,994 people reached</b>   192,869 affected people reached with CBHFA by volunteers   100 First Aid kits distributed   2,028 volunteers trained in First Aid and injury prevention in target areas   76 ECV training sessions for volunteers   2,060 trained volunteers mobilized to conduct awareness raising campaigns   484,914 people reached with integrated awareness-raising sessions   520 volunteers trained in PFA   160 people who receive mental health and PSS services (SADD)   36 fully equipped health facilities providing primary health services   790, 641 people provided with primary health services   54,704 people reached with RMNCH clinical services</p>
	<p><b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 247,342 people reached</b>   247,342 target people reached with access to clean water, sanitation and increased knowledge of personal hygiene   700 volunteers trained in hygiene promotion   8,450 households reached through hygiene promotion activities</p>
	<p><b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion: 4,246 people reached</b>   63 PGI trained staff/volunteers deployed   8 PGI assessments conducted using the Minimum Standards   4,246 women/girls provided with dignity kits   63 staff/volunteers trained to respond to SGBV/PSEA using SOPs and child protection activities   7 PGI minimum standard checklists adapted for different sectors</p>
	<p><b>Community Engagement and Accountability: 148 CEA-trained staff/volunteers</b>   5 CEA integration assessments at regional level   163 community consultation meetings held   51 community members/recipients of assistance aware of existing feedback mechanisms   16 post-distribution monitoring and satisfaction surveys completed</p>
	<p><b>Migration: 247,342 people reached</b>   247,342 IDPs received WASH and healthcare services   53,900 IDPs received in-kind/cash assistance   2 provinces with Humanitarian Services Points established<sup>10</sup></p>
	<p><b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery: 68,208 people reached</b>   9,744 households received winterization kits   385 staff trained in BDRT, DRR, CCA and EWS response</p>
	<p><b>National Society Strengthening: ARCS capacity building and OD initiatives ongoing</b>   8 national/ provincial trainings for ARCS staff and volunteers   &gt;500 trained volunteers deployed to support the emergency operation</p>


<sup>10</sup> Refer to [Population Movement Operation \(MDRAF013\), OUI](#).

	<b>Coordination and Partnerships:</b> Movement-wide coordination mechanism is described and active   Ongoing ARCS engagement with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues
	<b>Secretariat Services:</b> 9 rapid response and surge members deployed to support operations   1 evaluation conducted for emergency response   Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members ongoing.

## Operational Strategy 2: Khost and Paktika Earthquake









### Achievements

	<b>Shelter and Settlements: 35,141 people reached</b>   65 volunteers recruited/ trained to support shelter interventions   2,598 households received HH kits   2,083 households received conditional cash for shelter in instalment   2,083 damaged houses repaired   2 provinces targeted with awareness-raising activities   2,530 winterization kits ready for distribution   2,077 winterization kits distributed
	<b>Livelihoods and Basic Needs: 18,196 people reached</b>   2,598 affected households assisted with food security and livelihood restoration activities   2,598 affected households received adequate food in a timely manner   2 provinces reached with community engagement and sensitization activities   1 market assessment conducted
	<b>Multi-purpose Cash: 56,304 people reached</b>   5,291 households received cash for livelihoods in installments   3 PDMs conducted
	<b>Health and Care: 93,725 people reached</b>   140 PFA trained volunteers in target areas   Communities supported by ARCS to effectively respond to health and PSS needs during an emergency   44 MHTs deployed   19,984 affected people reached with MHT services   478 volunteers trained/mobilized to conduct awareness-raising campaigns   4,058 households reached with key promotion messages on personal and community hygiene
	<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 93,725 people reached</b>   59% target population can access clean water, sanitation and have better personal hygiene knowledge   2 provinces assessed   1,283 households provided with safe water   93,725 people reached through hygiene promotion activities   500 households provided with hygiene kits
	<b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion:</b> 50 staff/volunteers trained on PGI   2 PGI integrated regional assessments   8 community consultation meetings held   2 quality assurance surveys completed
	<b>Community Engagement and Accountability:</b> 50 staff/volunteers trained in CEA   2 regional CEA integrated assessments conducted   8 community consultation meetings   50% community members/recipients of assistance are aware of existing feedback mechanisms   2 quality assurance surveys completed   3 PDM surveys completed
	<b>National Society Strengthening:</b> ARCS has effective/motivated protected volunteers   6 national/ provincial trainings conducted for ARCS staff/volunteers   7 rapid response surge members deployed to support operations   ARCS compliance with principles/rules for humanitarian assistance is ongoing   Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress   An exit strategy is developed in consultation with communities   ARCS coordinates with other humanitarian actors in humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues
	<b>Coordination and Partnerships:</b> Movement-wide coordination mechanism in place   Coordination with external stakeholders ongoing
	<b>Shelter Cluster Coordination:</b> Participation in the Shelter Coordination platform ongoing

	<p><b>Secretariat Services:</b> 100% IFRC staff in-country completed minimum security training requirements   Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members ongoing   1 evaluation conducted for emergency response</p>
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## Operational Strategy 3: Protracted Humanitarian Crisis

### Achievements

	<p><b>Health and Care: 159,946 people reached  </b> 69 fully equipped health facilities (mobile/fixed) providing primary health services   445,713 people reached with primary health services</p>
	<p><b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion: 25,337 people reached  </b> 25,337 people reached with protection, gender and inclusion programming</p>
	<p><b>Community Engagement and Accountability:</b> 67 staff/volunteers trained in CEA   &gt;90% people (on average) report receiving useful and actionable information</p>
	<p><b>Migration: 21,000 people reached  </b> 21,000 returnees and IDPs reached with assistance and protection services</p>
	<p><b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery: 28,177 people reached  </b> 5,000 households received winterization kits</p>
	<p><b>National Society Strengthening:</b> 42 ARCS staff/volunteers trained in different sectors   ARCS compliance with principles/rules for humanitarian assistance is ongoing   Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress   An exit strategy is developed in consultation with communities   ARCS coordinates with other humanitarian actors in humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</p>
	<p><b>Coordination and Partnerships:</b> Movement-wide coordination mechanism is described and active   Ongoing ARCS engagement with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</p>
	<p><b>Shelter Cluster Coordination:</b> Participation in the Shelter Coordination platform ongoing</p>
	<p><b>Secretariat Services:</b> 100% of IFRC staff in-country have completed minimum security training requirements   Regular monitoring of safety and security of staff members ongoing</p>

## Operational Strategy 4: Herat Earthquake

### Achievements

	<p><b>Shelter and Settlements: 15,857 people reached  </b> 15,857 earthquake-affected people provided with emergency shelter/ household items   288 households provided with cash/voucher/ in-kind/technical assistance for durable/transitional construction   300 people attended training/awareness-raising sessions on safe shelter</p>
	<p><b>Livelihoods and Basic Needs: 13,994 people reached  </b> 2,000 households provided emergency food security</p>

	<b>Multi-purpose Cash: 12,872 people reached</b>   2,000 households have received cash for basic needs
	<b>Health and Care: 86,864 people reached</b>   15 fully equipped health facilities providing primary health services   86,864 people provided with primary health services   420 staff/volunteers trained in CBHFA/ECV   6,038 people reached with CBHFA services by trained volunteers   7,588 people provided with MHPSS/PFA interventions   37 people trained in PFA and other MHPSS technical skills
	<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 14,700 people reached</b>   >2,100 households received jerry cans
	<b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion: 2,000 people reached</b>   2000 people reached with PGI programming   40 staff/volunteers have been briefed/trained in PGI
	<b>Safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:</b> 7,000 children/adults with access to safe/accessible channels to report SEA   7,000 children/adults reached through awareness raising and community mobilization on PSEA   40 staff/volunteers trained on PSEA guidelines and protocols   40 staff/volunteers trained in child safeguarding and whistleblower protection policies   22 meetings on safe access to ARCS services and the reporting channels available for feedback and complaints, including sensitive feedback.
	<b>Community Engagement and Accountability:</b> 99% people (on average) surveyed report receiving useful/actionable information   136 staff/volunteers have been briefed on CEA and trained on the community feedback mechanism   288 feedback comments collected   100% people have received a response to their feedback about the operation.
	<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery: 37,943 people reached</b>   5,218 households received winterization kits   Multi-hazard contingency plan is being developed and tested.
	<b>National Society Strengthening:</b> 42 ARCS staff/volunteers trained in different sectors   ARCS compliance with principles/rules for humanitarian assistance is ongoing   Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress   An exit strategy is developed in consultation with communities   ARCS coordinates with other humanitarian actors in humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.
	<b>Coordination and Partnerships:</b> Movement-wide coordination mechanism is described and active   Ongoing ARCS engagement with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian interventions   IFRC and ARCS are visible trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.
	<b>Shelter Cluster Coordination:</b> Participation in the Shelter Coordination platform ongoing
	<b>Secretariat Services:</b> 5 surge/rapid response personnel deployed to support the operation

Due to limited resources and time constraints, planned interventions under Education, and Environmental Sustainability were not conducted.

For targets per indicator, refer to the respective operational strategies: [OS1](#) | [OS2](#) | [OS3](#) | [OS4](#) |

## D. FINANCIAL REPORT

The overall IFRC Secretariat funding requirement was CHF 120 million, with a total coverage of CHF 50,657,338 (42.21 per cent). The total expenditure recorded was CHF 50,546,039, representing 99.78 per cent utilization of the available funds. A detailed financial breakdown, including income, expenditure and balance, is available in the attached final financial report.

The conclusion of this Emergency Appeal operation has resulted in a fund balance of CHF 111,299. In alignment with our commitment to continued humanitarian support, these funds will be allocated to the Afghanistan Network Country Plan to further address ongoing needs, enhance local response capacities, and contribute to long-term community resilience.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this balance, you are kindly invited to contact: [PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org) within 30 days from the publication of this final report.

The IFRC and ARCS extends its gratitude to all partners and donors for their invaluable support in this operation.

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- **Manager of Strategic Engagement and Partnerships:** Homa Nader; email: [homa.nader@ifrc.org](mailto:homa.nader@ifrc.org)

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

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

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

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

### Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Appeal revisions and operation updates](#)
- [Operational Strategies](#)

## 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.

# Operational Strategy

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2025/9	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 11 Nov 2025

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 11 Nov 2025</b>	<b>50,699,527</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>42.25%</b>

## II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	12,331,146	7,830,491	4,500,655
PO02 - Livelihoods	9,357,330	6,423,909	2,933,422
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	4,131,540	6,112,638	-1,981,098
PO04 - Health	5,144,469	5,421,469	-277,000
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	988,697	844,554	144,143
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	314,802	370,200	-55,398
PO07 - Education	2,600	2,746	-146
PO08 - Migration	21,279	5,014	16,265
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	5,078,652	13,264,790	-8,186,138
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	52,995	64,647	-11,651
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	1,714,162	276,102	1,438,060
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>39,137,673</b>	<b>40,616,558</b>	<b>-1,478,885</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	2,194,791	1,561,177	633,613
EA02 - Secretariat Services	6,539,211	6,843,652	-304,440
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	2,295,342	1,524,652	770,690
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>11,029,344</b>	<b>9,929,481</b>	<b>1,099,863</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50,167,017</b>	<b>50,546,039</b>	<b>-379,022</b>

## III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2025/09

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	50,657,338
Expenditure	-50,546,039
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>111,299</b>
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	111,299

## 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

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
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Budget Timeframe	2021/3-2024/12	Budget	APPROVED

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### 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	180,323		3,053,276		
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	961,585		12,627		974,212		
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)	3,090,010				3,090,010		
France - Private Donors	403				403		
French Government	1,053,056				1,053,056		
German Red Cross		106,671	21,574		128,245		
German Red Cross (from German Government*)	6,872				6,872		
Government of Malta	28,830				28,830		
Great Britain - Private Donors	87				87		
Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Socie	65,772				65,772		
Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Socie	473,467				473,467		
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	1,280,599	1,331			1,281,930		
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	1,401				1,401		
New Zealand Red Cross	57,876				57,876		
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	1,039,245				1,039,245		
On Line donations	17,547				17,547		
Other	0				0		
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 Canadian Red Cross Society	216,145				216,145		
The Netherlands Red Cross	268,361				268,361		

# Operational Strategy

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

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### 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 Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	1,370,077				1,370,077	
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	
Write off & provisions				-1,488	-1,488	
Z Zurich Foundation	30,000				30,000	
<b>Total Contributions and Other Income</b>	<b>49,990,855</b>	<b>426,748</b>	<b>241,224</b>	<b>-1,488</b>	<b>50,657,338</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Income and Deferred Income</b>					<b>50,657,338</b>	<b>0</b>