



AFGHANISTAN

2025 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June



17 November 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE AFGHAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



34

National Society branches



329

National Society local units



26,000

National Society volunteers



4,000

National Society staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency Operations



140,000

Climate and environment



400,000

Disasters and crises



1.4M

Health and wellbeing



5.2M

Migration and displacement



120,000

Values, power and inclusion



500,000

No information at time of publication. Figures reflect targeted reach in 2025 plan

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Afghan Red Crescent	
Overview	Funding Sources
Funding	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported
	IFRC Secretariat
	Not reported
	Participating National Societies
	Not reported
	HNS other funding sources
	Not reported

IFRC network		
Country	Funding Requirement	160M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	19.6M
	Expenditure	7.7M
Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	70M
	Funding	12.2M
	Expenditure	11.8M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	13.1M
	Expenditure	4.6M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	Not reported

Appeal number **MAAAF001**

*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
British Red Cross	5.9M						
Danish Red Cross	2.1M						
Norwegian Red Cross	4.9M						
Swiss Red Cross	125,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 13.1M**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

Afghanistan remains in the grip of a protracted humanitarian crisis. As of mid-2025, 22.9 million people, more than half of the population, [require humanitarian assistance](#). The crisis is driven by recurrent disasters, climate change impacts, large-scale displacement, deepening economic challenges, high levels of food insecurity, health system fragility limited local response capacity. Decades of conflict continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities, with women, children and marginalized groups disproportionately affected.

Among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, in the first half of 2025, Afghanistan has seen continued exposure to droughts, floods, earthquakes harsh winters, leading to loss of lives, displacement damaged livelihoods. In August 2025, a [magnitude 6.0 earthquake](#) struck Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, killing more than 2,200 people, injuring over 1,000 and destroying or damaging more than 8,000 homes. Around 1.3 million people were affected, many of whom remain displaced or living in temporary shelters ahead of the harsh winter.

In 2025, Afghanistan also faced a significant [refugee returnee crisis](#) as large-scale repatriations from Iran, Pakistan other neighbouring countries intensified. More than 3.4 million Afghans have returned or been deported from Iran and Pakistan since 2023, including over 1.5 million in the first half of 2025, with return trends accelerating throughout 2025. According to IOM and UNHCR figures, an average of 10,000–15,000 people have been crossing back into Afghanistan daily during peak return periods in early 2025, with many arriving in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Nimroz Herat provinces without shelter, livelihoods, or access to healthcare. The existing infrastructure and resources in Afghanistan are insufficient to meet the needs of the increasing number of returnees arriving from Iran and Pakistan.

With regard to economic crisis and food insecurity, 14.2 million people (one-third of the population) face acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+), including 2.9 million in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Women are twice as likely as men to be unemployed restrictions on women's participation continue to limit livelihood recovery. The country continues to face compounding climate-driven crises including drought, flash floods food insecurity. In 2025, over 10 million people require food assistance 3.5 million children suffer acute malnutrition, worsened by limited agricultural output and water scarcity [according to UN estimates](#). With 80 per cent of the population reliant on agriculture, recurrent disasters undermine recovery.

Access to healthcare remains limited due to underfunded public services, high costs insecurity, especially in rural areas where people often struggle to reach essential facilities. The risk of epidemics is heightened by repeated outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea, malaria, dengue, pertussis Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever. Maternal and child mortality rates remain among the highest globally.

Restrictions announced since December 2022 continue to ban women from secondary and tertiary education, most workplaces humanitarian roles. This affects service access, household resilience widows' ability to support families. The requirement for Mahrams (male guardianship) limits mobility and humanitarian access.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society distributed various fruit saplings to empower these farmers to enhance their livelihoods and improve their income stability through the cultivation of fruit-bearing trees. The National Society is also integrating an [Anticipatory Actions](#) approach by designing frameworks and actionable plans based on risk analysis and overseeing early warning systems for accuracy and timeliness.

Disasters and crises

Through the [Population Movement](#) and [Floods](#) ongoing emergency appeal, the Afghan Red Crescent Society strengthened communities' life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies conflict-generated shocks. In addition, through the SHAPE Programme, the National Society provided [multipurpose cash assistance](#) and [livelihood](#) support to vulnerable households. This assistance encompassed

vocational training and income-generating initiatives such as poultry farming, dairy production, livestock raising carpet weaving, among others.

Health and wellbeing

In the first half of 2025, [Community-Based Health and First Aid \(CBHFA\)](#) empowered the National Society to deliver high-quality care across Afghanistan. Volunteers were trained in key areas such as [first aid](#), epidemic control, psychological first aid, hygiene promotion non-communicable disease prevention, enabling them to promote health and safety within their communities. [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#) was a key priority, with the Afghan Red Crescent Society working to improve access to clean water, hygiene practices health awareness at both the school and community levels. Other activities included strengthening primary health care, supporting polio immunization improving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), nutrition family planning.

Migration and displacement

Efforts under the ongoing [Population Movement Emergency Appeal](#) saw an emphasis on the provision of secure shelter solutions for people returning to Afghanistan. Their [livelihoods](#) were enhanced through the short-term income from a cash-for-work initiative and the facilitation of child reunification services. The National Society also pursued partnerships on migration and displacement. This included coordinating the IFRC's [Supporting People on the Move](#) efforts. A team composed of Afghanistan and Pakistan delegations was set up to address the migration issues affecting both countries.

Values, power and inclusion

The National Society continued to integrate the [Protection, Gender Inclusion \(PGI\)](#) and [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) frameworks institutionally to create community assessment tools and ensure consistent feedback mechanisms. It undertook the Women's Economic Empowerment Project, which strengthened rural women's livelihoods through self-help groups, small business support access to finance. Training centres in Kabul, Herat Kandahar offered courses in tailoring, handicrafts small enterprise management. As part of embedding CEA principles across operations, the National Society established complaint and feedback desks at distribution points.

Enabling local actors

The Afghan Red Crescent Society's [National Society development \(NSD\)](#) efforts focused on strengthening response capacity, organizational development preparedness for future crises. This included an action plan for enhanced procurement, warehousing fleet management. A centralized medical warehouse in Kabul is also under development. In line with these efforts, the National Society continued to convene quarterly external [Humanitarian Diplomacy \(HD\)](#) meetings, providing a consistent platform for engagement and coordination. Its work was guided by a communications strategy aligned with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's [fundamental principles](#), incorporating media outreach, stakeholder engagement at national and regional levels capacity development to address risks in sensitive operational contexts. The National Society has a dedicated community feedback hotline, which enhances accessibility and ensures community members can directly share concerns, suggestions feedback. [Digital transformation](#) remains a central priority.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

In this reporting period, no changes or amendments were made by the National Society

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page: [Afghanistan](#).

1

Name	Population movement (Returnees)
Appeal number	MDRAF018
People to be assisted	252,750 people
Duration	24 months (1 May 2025 to 30 April 2027)
Funding requirements	Funding requirements through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 20 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 25 million
Emergency Appeal	Population movement
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Latest operation update	Operational update no. 2

In less than two years, over 2.1 million Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from neighbouring Iran and Pakistan, with the pace of arrivals showing no signs of slowing. This is an unprecedented movement that has further strained a country already grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis. The surge is linked to Pakistan's Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan (IFRP), whose second phase was launched in April 2025, initially targeting undocumented Afghans and ACC holders. Many Afghans continue to face deportation with little notice or support. Returning Afghans, particularly women and female-headed households, face heightened protection risks and uncertainty at Islam Qala. Women without male guardians have expressed concerns about their future, highlighting the vulnerability of widows, separated women unaccompanied females. Returnees continue to report experiences of extortion, abuse, humiliation family separation.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The IFRC Emergency Appeal, launched on 1 May 2025, contributes the ARCS-led response to the Afghanistan population movement crisis, addressing urgent humanitarian needs resulting from large-scale returns from Iran, Pakistan other neighbouring countries. The 24-month operation outlines the provision of urgent humanitarian needs of returnees and establishes a pathway for early recovery and long-term reintegration. The operation addresses the scale and complexity of the needs of returnees.

For the period [1 May 2025 to 30 June 2025](#), the following assistance was provided:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Provide safe and secure shelter solutions for people who have returned to Afghanistan, enhancing their safety and well-being while supporting longer-term recovery and community integration.

Relief and Recovery

Prepare and distribute meals twice daily at all major crossing points, offering a nutritious and practical alternative to packaged food.

Livelihoods

Enhance camp hygiene and provide short-term income through a cash-for-work initiative.

Health & Care

Provide primary health care services, especially through Mobile Health Teams (MHTs) and health camps at key returnee locations across key provinces.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

At crossing points assistance of vulnerable groups will be provided such as facilitating child reunification and the distribution of dignity kits. Urgent needs for gender-segregated hygiene facilities, enhanced psychosocial support for women expanded livelihood opportunities will also be attended to.

Community Engagement and Accountability

Strengthen two-way communication with returnees, formal information and help desks at border crossing points and returnee camps will be established.

2

Name	Afghanistan Floods
Appeal number	MDRAF015
People affected	210,000 people
People to be assisted	140,000 people
Duration	12 months (15 May 2024 to 31 May 2025)
Funding requirements	Funding requirements through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 5 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 7.5 million
Emergency Appeal	Afghanistan Floods Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Latest Operation Update	Final Report

On 10 May 2024, flash floods severely impacted northeastern Afghanistan, particularly in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar. As May 2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society reported over 230 fatalities, with many still missing and more than 9,500 families affected. The floods destroyed about 9,100 livestock and nearly 20,800 acres of agricultural land, worsening humanitarian needs in a region already struggling with flooding since 16 April 2024. The crisis is compounded by severe drought, economic challenges linked to international sanctions and climate change, which has rendered Afghanistan highly vulnerable despite its minimal contributions to the issue. Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC aims to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in responding to the 2024 floods. The strategy focuses on immediate and medium-term recovery needs through integrated assistance, health services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection measures. Integrated assistance will link emergency support to long-term recovery, offering cash assistance, essential items, shelter and livelihoods support. Health interventions will provide first aid, nutrition, mental health support and rehabilitation of WASH facilities. The approach emphasizes protection, gender and inclusion.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC aims to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in responding to the 2024 floods. The strategy focuses on immediate and medium-term recovery needs through integrated assistance, health services, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and protection measures. Integrated assistance will link emergency support to long-term recovery, offering cash assistance, essential items, shelter and livelihoods support. Health interventions will provide first aid, nutrition, mental health support and rehabilitation of WASH facilities. The approach emphasizes protection, gender and inclusion, ensuring equitable access to services while engaging various community stakeholders and implementing a feedback mechanism to address community concerns. The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Essential items are distributed and affected communities receive cash or in-kind support to rebuild and repair homes. Guidance on climate-smart construction techniques is provided to enhance resilience.

Livelihoods

Targeted households receive conditional cash support to restore livelihoods, along with technical training tailored to their needs.

Multi-purpose cash

One-time cash assistance is provided to help affected communities meet essential emergency needs for one month.

Health and care, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Primary healthcare, immunization services and medicines are provided, along with awareness-raising sessions. Psychological first aid and mental health support are available community members receive first aid training. Hygiene support includes the installation of pit latrines, distribution of hygiene kits awareness sessions supported by information and communication materials.

Cross-cutting approaches: the operational strategy integrates **community engagement and accountability** (CEA) and **protection, gender and inclusion** (PGI) as pivotal elements, in an approach that recognizes and values all community members as equal partners, with their diverse needs shaping the response.

For the period 15 May 2024 to 31 May 2025, the following assistance was provided:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Flood-affected households received emergency shelter support and essential items, including blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets tarpaulins.

Multi-purpose cash

Cash assistance was provided to affected communities to meet their basic needs.

Health and care

Primary healthcare and first aid services were offered through mobile and fixed clinics, along with psychological first aid for affected individuals.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Hygiene promotion activities were conducted to support community health and well-being.

Protection, gender and inclusion

Dignity kits were distributed to flood-affected communities to address essential needs and uphold personal dignity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society strengthened community resilience against climate change. In Herat and Samangan, it provided various fruit saplings to empower these farmers to enhance their livelihoods and improve their income stability through the cultivation of fruit-bearing trees.

In addition, the SHAPE programme expanded its reach through the distribution of 150,000 saplings across several provinces. Six hundred farmers received saplings in Logar, Uruzgan, Badakhshan, Faryab Badghis. The aim is not only to support immediate income generation but also to promote sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

The National Society is also integrating climate-smart approaches across its operations and programmes. This includes using solar energy for electricity, implementing waste management through cash-for-work initiatives, utilizing digital media for administrative tasks employing mobile-based techniques for surveys. These efforts have significantly contributed to reducing carbon emissions.

Under its Anticipatory Actions approach, the Afghan Red Crescent Society is designing frameworks and actionable plans based on risk analysis, integrating them into organizational practices overseeing early warning systems for accuracy and timeliness. These efforts include coordination with internal and external partners and training staff. Monitoring, evaluation reporting are essential to ensure the initiatives' effectiveness, ultimately enhancing local resilience and empowering communities.

As part of the Community Resilience and Climate Change Project, the Afghan Red Crescent Society engaged in school safety committees. Following mandatory training, volunteers enhanced students' capacities in disaster risk reduction, hygiene promotion first aid. This initiative aims to foster a safer and more resilient school environment in the face of climate change.

IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** provided technical and financial support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society with anticipatory actions coordination and strategic leadership.

The **Japanese Red Cross Society** assisted the National Society in supporting the agricultural sector through aid for farmers.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, visit IFRC GO page: [Afghanistan](#).

In the first half of 2025, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for civil unrest in South Sudan

Name	Malnutrition Crisis
Appeal number	MDRAF017
Duration	10 months (18 October 2024 to 31 August 2025)
Funding requirements	CHF 500,834
People Targeted	62,834 people

Through this DREF allocation of CHF 500,834 in October 2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society provided immediate relief to 62,834 people in targeted areas of Kandahar and Paktika. Life-saving nutrition interventions were provided to children and pregnant and lactating women. The DREF operation is designed to support provision of therapeutic and supplementary nutrition interventions to malnourished children under 5 years and pregnant and lactating women respectively.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

Through the [Population Movement](#) and [Floods](#) ongoing emergency appeal, the Afghan Red Crescent Society strengthened communities' life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies conflict-generated shocks.

The SHAPE Programme also provided support through various initiatives, including [multipurpose cash assistance](#) and other [livelihood](#) activities. The cash assistance was designed to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable households, allowing recipients the flexibility to allocate funds according to their priorities, such as food, healthcare education. Additionally, the programme encompasses vocational training and income-generating initiatives that empower beneficiaries to build sustainable livelihoods.

Cash assistance further to households further aided income generation activities such as beekeeping, poultry farming, dairy production, livestock raising, carpentry, carpet weaving, tailoring, vegetable selling soap making. The National Society also conducted market assessments across eight Marastoons to identify vocational training and income-generating opportunities.

In 2025, conditional cash assistance supported small businesses in Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktya and Uruzgan provinces of Afghanistan. Each of the households received financial support in two instalments. The Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) assessing beneficiary perception and satisfaction showed that nearly everyone expressed satisfaction with the beneficiary selection process, distribution arrangements safety in handling the cash.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society through mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals which were drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. It also provided technical support to the National Society with the SHAPE programme.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

For the period from January to June 2025, [Community-Based Health and First Aid](#) (CBHFA) empowered the National Society to deliver high-quality, contextualized health training across Afghanistan. Volunteers were trained in key areas such as [first aid](#), epidemic control, psychological first aid, hygiene promotion non-communicable disease prevention, enabling them to promote health and safety within their communities.

Community structures were reinforced with the establishment of eight Community Health Committees and seven Grandmother Committees, which played a vital role in volunteer mobilization, maternal and child health promotion inclusive community engagement. A total of 95 female volunteers were trained in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also implemented the SHAPE Programme through various health-related activities to enhance the well-being of vulnerable populations. This included conducting training sessions in [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support](#) (MHPSS) across five Marastoons, equipping participants with skills in Psychological First Aid and social protection strategies. Additionally, safe referral pathways for MHPSS services were established, improving access to mental health support for families.

The programme also facilitated life-saving treatment for 146 children with Congenital Heart Defects through partnerships with hospitals. Training in health service referral mechanisms was provided to Marastoon and grandmother committees focusing on effective health service delivery and safeguarding.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) was a key priority for the Afghan Red Crescent Society in 2025. WASH-related progress included technical assessments and site selections for Community Initiative Micro-Projects (CIMP) in Herat and Badghis, with implementation scheduled for the next period. These efforts, supported by donors such as the Republic of Korea, aimed to improve access to clean water, hygiene practices health awareness at both the school and community levels. The National Society's activities during this period have significantly enhanced local health systems, volunteer capacity community resilience. The introduction of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) sessions and the distribution of hygiene kits for schoolgirls reflect commitment to addressing gender-specific health needs.

Activities also focused on strengthening primary health care, supporting polio immunization improving maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), nutrition family planning. Services were delivered through a combination of health sub-centres and Mobile Health Teams (MHTs), ensuring outreach to remote and vulnerable populations.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society with technical and financial assistance during efforts to reduce preventable illnesses, improving maternal and child health supporting national immunization efforts. The combined services strengthened community resilience, enhanced access to quality health care for vulnerable groups promoted healthier behaviours through health education and awareness. The IFRC's assistance enhanced efforts in protecting children against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases, while supporting women and families with vital health and nutrition services.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The activities under the ongoing Population Movement Emergency Appeal saw an emphasis on the provision of secure shelter solutions for people returning to Afghanistan. Their livelihoods were enhanced through the short-term income through a cash-for-work initiative and the facilitating of child reunification services.

The National Society also pursued partnerships on migration and displacement. This included coordinating the IFRC's Supporting People on the Move efforts. A team composed of Afghanistan and Pakistan delegations was set up to address the migration issues affecting both countries.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society continued to play its role as an auxiliary to authorities in responding to humanitarian needs in the country. The authorities recognized its special role in communities and ability to reach those affected by disaster quickly and efficiently across the country, including hard-to-reach areas. The authorities also formed committees to handle returnees' caseload at all levels of the nation starting at ministerial level where the Afghan Red Crescent Society president sits. The task force is tasked with advising authorities on the needs of the affected population, resource mobilization and allocation settlement or resettlement through viable local integration of the returnees.

The National Society also attended sectoral cluster meetings which are co-chaired by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and specific line ministries, charged with coordinating humanitarian response in the country.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in addressing the unique needs of displaced, specifically returnees. The IFRC also ensured that the programmes it supports integrated returnees as a specific target group. This has been advanced through ensuring part of vulnerability criteria includes being a returnee.



Volunteers of the Afghan Red Crescent Society providing relief and health services to people crossing the border from Pakistan through its mobile health clinics (Photo: IFRC)



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In the first half of 2025, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has made significant progress in mainstreaming Protection, Gender Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). The National Society continued to integrate the CEA and PGI frameworks institutionally to create community assessment tools and ensure consistent feedback mechanisms. A CEA policy developed through staff workshops under the SHAPE project has been formally approved.

To build capacity, Afghan Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers, including 130 women, received training in CEA, PGI and safeguarding. These sessions enhanced understanding of accountability principles, inclusive service delivery people-centred approaches. A self-assessment tool pilot highlighted strong capacity-building needs, prompting further training and mentorship. Additionally, a child safeguarding risk analysis was completed and is in the process of waiting for endorsement by the leadership.

A one-day gender equality orientation was also held for staff, promoting gender-sensitive programming. Recommendations were made to extend similar training to all personnel. The National Society is simultaneously developing women-led support activities to engage young women in service delivery. Female staff trained under PGI and CEA Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes have begun conducting cross-cutting sessions for female volunteers at both headquarters and branch levels, with technical guidance from IFRC.

To address the poverty and unemployment in rural Afghanistan where women face the greatest challenges, the National Society undertook the Women's Economic Empowerment Project. The programme strengthened rural women's livelihoods through self-help groups, small business support access to finance. Across six provinces, micro-projects such as pastry making, poultry farming traditional food production provided income for widows and female-headed households. Vocational training for 100 women in Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Balkh Kunduz further expanded women's participation in local markets.

In the context of income-generating activities, over 1,500 women across Marastoons received conditional cash assistance for small businesses under the SHAPE project. The financial assistances supported the women in strengthening household resilience, covering children's education and healthcare costs, accessing online education

and improving digital literacy. These interventions collectively improved financial independence, decision-making capacity confidence among women.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is prioritizing widows and women-led households through a community-based approach encompassing vocational training, microcredit, agricultural support social protection. Training centres in Kabul, Herat Kandahar offered courses in tailoring, handicrafts small enterprise management. Microcredit programmes provide interest-free loans and business development guidance, enabling sustainable livelihoods. Agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers irrigation tools were distributed to women-headed households to improve food security and climate resilience.

Applying [PGI minimum standards in emergencies](#) was also a priority. A PGI checklist was jointly developed to ensure staff integrate inclusion and protection principles into daily operations. Child safeguarding training for technical leads included a draft risk assessment currently under review. Given the evolving context in the region, PGI and CEA teams are developing a joint strategy to harmonize inclusion, engagement accountability efforts across all programmes.

As part of embedding CEA principles across operations, the National Society established complaint and feedback desks at distribution points. It conducted household visits to deliver health and hygiene messages while collecting feedback. Regular community meetings were also held to discuss project updates, gather input maintain transparency.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provide technical support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society with its efforts under PGI and CEA programmes. It also assisted the National Society with cross-cutting sessions for female volunteers at both headquarters and branch levels.

The **Singapore Red Cross Society** supported the National Society in micro-projects which assisted in creating income opportunities for widows and female-headed households. These efforts were undertaken across six provinces.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The IFRC provides the membership with strategic coordination. In-country partners have been engaging within the framework of IFRC's Agenda for Renewal's "Way of Working" and will continue to do so going into 2025 and beyond.

An Emergency Response Taskforce is responsible for developing and monitoring the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operational strategy, with the National Society at the centre and the IFRC providing strategic coordination of the IFRC's membership. IFRC and Afghan Red Crescent Society also maintain frequent partners' calls with participating National Societies to keep them updated on the current humanitarian context and operational situation on the ground and to highlight any new risks in security or operations.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society receives support from 11 National Societies: **American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Hong Kong Red Cross Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Irish Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Red Cross of**

Monaco, The Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society.

Strong support from IFRC network partners ensures that the National Society receives financial, material and technical support at a local level. The **Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent Society** and **Turkish Red Crescent** all have a physical presence in Afghanistan. These partners bring a long-standing country knowledge and expertise in protracted crises, enabling them to work together to address the country's humanitarian challenges.

Movement coordination

The Afghan Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\)](#) principles the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). A Movement Coordination Agreement (MCA) was signed in June 2024.

The ICRC works in collaboration with the Afghan Red Crescent Society and other International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. It is responding to the humanitarian crisis by providing healthcare and rehabilitation support, supporting healthcare infrastructure, assisting people in establishing livelihoods and incomes, helping families who have been separated to reconnect improving access to clean water, sanitation and energy.

External coordination

The Afghan Red Crescent Society maintains close coordination with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, the Ministry of Public Health and local authorities as an auxiliary to public authorities, ensuring neutral and independent humanitarian action. It collaborates closely with the Ministry of Public Health to mobilize healthcare personnel, medicines and medical equipment. The IFRC supports these efforts through briefing sessions and information sharing with government and institutional donors.

The IFRC and Afghan Red Crescent Society engage actively in advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy and coordination with other humanitarian actors, including agencies within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). IFRC participates as an observer in the HCT and contributes actively to the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) and relevant Cluster or Inter-Agency Working Group meetings. These platforms facilitate information sharing, planning, analysis strategic coordination.

Regular engagements with diplomatic missions and key stakeholders based in Kabul – or whose missions to Afghanistan are in Doha, Islamabad and other capitals – keep them informed about latest developments within the IFRC network. IFRC presents the Afghan Red Crescent Society's new strategic priorities in these meetings, emphasizing a renewed focus on vulnerable groups in Afghanistan such as at-risk women, war widows, individuals with mental health conditions exacerbated by decades of conflict, children's health and the most vulnerable children with congenital heart defects, among others.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society and its partners collaborate with the emergency shelter and non-food item cluster and authorities to plan support for shelter repairs and rebuilding. They adhere to agreed models and common minimum standards set by the Shelter Cluster, considering indigenous community practices, social cohesion, cultural norms and traditions throughout shelter interventions.

Additionally, the IFRC contributes to developing key messages, translating them from English to Pashto in collaboration with Miyamoto International. These messages focus on Afghanistan's regional traditional construction practices and aim to disseminate critical information in the community. By leveraging local knowledge, materials and culture, these technical messages promote resilient construction practices.



National Society development

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Afghan Red Crescent Society's National Society Development (NSD) efforts focus on strengthening response capacity, organizational development preparedness for future crises. The National Society's work continues to identify priority areas for capacity-building and developing its NSD initiative.

Efforts are ongoing to improve the legal base and auxiliary role of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, including review and feedback on the new Red Cross Red Crescent law before approval. The National Society systems, processes digital transformation efforts are being supported through a digital maturity assessment, with the first phase completed and the second underway.

A consolidated operational plan for 2025 has also been developed by integrating activities across disaster response, health volunteer management. Finalizing this process requires a stakeholder partnership meeting to ensure collaboration, measurable outcomes, shared commitment alignment with strategic goals. Establishing a communication strategy and defining risks will enhance overall effectiveness. The National Society has initiated the review of its Strategic Plan 2021–2025 and begun preparatory work for the Strategic Plan 2026–2030.

The National Society has also advanced its advocacy and communication efforts by engaging communities through workshops and meetings, tailoring messaging to local needs. Storytelling from volunteers and beneficiaries has enhanced visibility, while continuous monitoring is assisting in refining strategies.

Work continued to reinforce the National Society's systems, structures innovation capacity. Key areas included logistics such as comprehensive assessments across regions. This included informing an action plan for enhanced procurement, warehousing fleet management. A centralized medical warehouse in Kabul is also under development, alongside installation of rub halls.

Trainings were also a part of the NSD efforts. Logistics management training, volunteer data collection training continuous supply chain capacity development were undertaken. Additionally, cross-cutting trainings were conducted across multiple regions. Training topics included CEA, PGI, Safeguarding, Code of Conduct Feedback Mechanisms, aimed at strengthening inclusive service delivery, ethical practice transparent community communication.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society with critical technical and logistical support, ensuring the effective implementation of these activities.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** assisted the National Society in improving financial Systems inclusive of Upgrading financial software and enabling real-time data sharing for branches to enhance accountability and sustainability.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In line with these efforts, the National Society continued to convene quarterly external Humanitarian Diplomacy (HD) meetings with Kabul-based and Doha-based embassies and partners, providing a consistent platform for engagement and coordination. In these forums, the Afghan Red Crescent Society demonstrated growing capacity in advocacy and strategic communication capacities promoting humanitarian principles, amplifying community voices reinforcing public trust and visibility across Afghanistan. Its work was guided by a communications strategy aligned with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's fundamental principles, incorporating media outreach, stakeholder engagement at national and regional levels capacity development to address risks in sensitive operational contexts.

Within these forums, the National Society demonstrated increasing capacity in advocacy and strategic communication, promoting humanitarian principles, amplifying community voices strengthening public trust and visibility nationwide. These efforts are guided by a communications strategy aligned with Movement principles and supported by targeted

media engagement, national and regional stakeholder outreach capacity development tailored to Afghanistan's sensitive operational context.

The National Society has also enhanced its ability to produce and disseminate context-appropriate communications materials that effectively highlight its humanitarian work and impact. Coordination between communications and field teams has also improved, enabling more accurate and timely messaging, while localized content ensures cultural relevance and stronger community resonance. Strategic dissemination across national, regional international platforms has further supported the National Society's visibility as a key humanitarian actor. Complementing this, the IFRC continues to highlight activities and volunteer contributions through its digital channels, supporting fundraising efforts and drawing global attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

The communications team has also bolstered partnerships by providing technical and communications support to Participating National Societies operating in Afghanistan, including the Turkish Red Crescent, Danish Red Cross others covering field activities and addressing communication needs as they arise.

Reflecting its renewed focus on National Society development under [Strategy 2030](#) and the Agenda for Renewal, the Afghan Red Crescent Society continued to strengthen partnerships with National Societies, governments external actors.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society to develop its humanitarian diplomacy and engage decision-makers, international partners and community organizations. It also provided technical support to the National Society to improve its communications capacity and to develop emergency communications.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society advanced key areas of compliance, risk management, safeguarding, quality assurance, accountability programme monitoring, contributing to stronger institutional performance and more accountable humanitarian actions. Compliance processes were reinforced through systematic screening of staff and vendors. Additionally, mandatory online trainings on safety, security, IT, fraud prevention, integrity whistleblowing were completed by all relevant staff, supported by HR-managed tracking systems to document completion and refresher requirements.

Progress toward quality and accountability was further reinforced through multiple evaluations. A thematic evaluation of earthquake responses in Khost, Paktika Herat under the Afghanistan Humanitarian Emergency Appeal were conducted to assess relevance, effectiveness, appropriateness, coherence the National Society's preparedness for future major disasters. The final report has been shared with the National Society leadership for review.

A mid-term review of the SHAPE programme assessed strategic focus, operational performance sustainability. Findings, derived from document reviews, interviews field discussions across Kabul, Kandahar Mazar offer insight into the experiences and perspectives of community members. In addition, a baseline survey was conducted, generating insights into community perceptions related to polio vaccination. The findings highlighted strong general awareness alongside persistent misconceptions, access barriers for pregnant women high refusal rates influenced by cultural and religious beliefs underscore the importance of enhanced community engagement and tailored communication.

Accountability to affected populations was strengthened with the launch of the National Society's dedicated community feedback hotline, which enhances accessibility and ensures community members can directly share concerns, suggestions feedback. This mechanism reinforced commitment to transparency and responsive service delivery, contributing to deeper community trust.

In advancing information management capacity, the National Society continued to expand the use of RedRose across programmes and emergency operations. Since its introduction in 2022, RedRose has demonstrated versatility in supporting cash responses, distributions of food and non-food items, monitoring processes exit interviews, enabling timely and efficient assistance in crises ranging from droughts and floods to earthquakes. The establishment of a

centralized repository and database further improved internal data accessibility, allowing automatic data flows from departmental trackers and supporting future integration with dashboards to enhance analysis and decision-making.

Digital transformation remains a central priority. Support for digitization included expanded connectivity for fourteen branches, provision of Microsoft licenses improved internet services. Through successful application to the IFRC Capacity Building Fund, the Afghan Red Crescent initiated its Digital Maturity Assessment to guide a long-term transformation strategy.

Innovation continued to shape the National Society's humanitarian work, particularly in health services. It piloted an integrated allied health services model in Kandahar, expanding the mental health centre's capacity to include tuberculosis and HIV screening. This initiative aims to strengthen early detection, prevent disease spread protect at-risk populations, building on existing mental health service capacity and reinforcing the National Society's auxiliary role in public health. More broadly, the Afghan Red Crescent Society maintains a critical role in emergency response nationwide, providing essential assistance during recent floods, earthquakes other crises.

Institutional accountability and inclusion were further advanced through the Afghan Red Crescent Society's new community engagement and accountability (CEA) policy and strategy, which provide a framework ensuring affected people are informed, consulted able to provide feedback safely. A CEA needs assessment at the Chaman border in Kandahar identified key information gaps and communication preferences among returnees, informing tailored approaches to engagement. Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and CEA considerations were integrated across programmes, with specific attention to individuals at heightened risk, including female-headed households, seniors caring for children, persons with disabilities pregnant or lactating women.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society in key areas of compliance, risk management, safeguarding, quality assurance and accountability programme monitoring. The IFRC contributed to stronger institutional performance and more accountable humanitarian action across programmes.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q.8 LESSONS LEARNED

Nothing to report

SUCCESS STORIES



1

Parwin's Journey

Parwin, a widowed mother of three daughters and one son, grew up facing hardships and challenges. She studied till the fifth grade before her family, following traditional norms, stopped her education and arranged her marriage at the age of seventeen to a soldier in the Afghan National Army.

For eight years, she lived with her in-laws in a remote village, enduring household restrictions and family pressures. When her husband's posting moved them to Kabul, the family rented a small house. During a frontline mission, her husband was killed.

Losing the family's only breadwinner changed everything. With no professional skills and unfinished schooling, Parwin quickly spent the family's small savings on rent, food school fees. She tried desperately to find work but failed. "I remember leaving home empty-handed one day, thinking I would beg on the streets just to feed my children. I was crying, asking God what to do, where to go, how to feed my children," she recalls.

By chance, Parwin met a woman who introduced her to a small tailoring workshop. For one year, she trained in tailoring and received a small daily allowance, which helped her cover basic needs. However, when the workshop closed due to lack of funding, she was once again left without support and no equipment to continue tailoring. Nights of hunger and despair followed, but she had gained something she had never had before: confidence and hope.

Her turning point came when she learned that Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteers were supporting women in her community who had skills and plans to start small businesses. "This opportunity was like a light in my darkness," Parwin says. She immediately approached the volunteers and shared her documents and business plans.

After assessment, the National Society provided her with 35,000 Afghan Afghani (approx. 422 CHF) in cash assistance, closely monitoring her purchase of tailoring equipment according to her plan. With these tools, she began her business from home, hanging a small signboard for her tailoring shop. At first, neighbours brought clothes for stitching within a month, her customer base expanded. Recognizing her ambition and modern tailoring needs, ARCS later supported her a second time with additional assistance to purchase advanced equipment.

Today, Parwin sews three dresses per day, earning an average income of 800 AFN (approx. 10 CHF) daily. With this, she pays her house rent, provides nutritious food for her children feels empowered and independent.

"I now feel strong and capable. My problems have ended I am proud to be providing for my children," she says with a smile.

Parwin expresses her heartfelt gratitude: "I want to thank everyone who supported me, especially the Afghan Red Crescent Society, for giving me a chance to rebuild my life."

ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
Core Questions	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
Additional Questions	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
 - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
 - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
 - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [AF_Afghanistan MYR Financials.pdf](#)

(Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRAF018](#), [MDRAF015](#), [MDRAF017](#))

- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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