



AFGHANISTAN



2026-2028 IFRC network country plan

11 December 2025

In support of the Afghan Red Crescent Society



34

National Society branches



329

National Society local units



3,900

National Society staff



31,447

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



1M

Ongoing emergency operations



600,000

Climate and environment



3.2M

Disasters and crises



2.8M

Health and wellbeing



1.4M

Migration and displacement



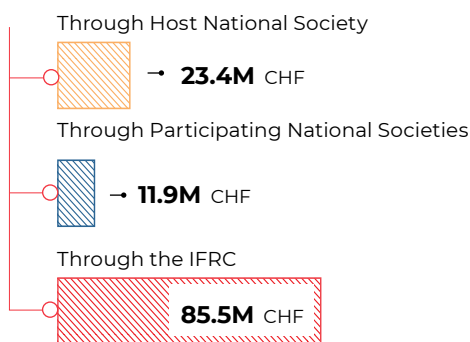
6.1M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 121M CHF



2027

Total 1M CHF

2028

215,000 CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

- American Red Cross*
- Austrian Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- Finnish Red Cross*
- Japanese Red Cross Society*
- Red Cross of Monaco*
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Qatar Red Crescent Society
- The Netherlands Red Cross*
- Turkish Red Crescent

*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeals:

MDRAF018

Afghanistan Population Movement 2025

MDRAF019

Afghanistan Earthquake

Longer-term needs:

MAAAF001

This plan will be updated in early 2026 to align with the Afghan Red Crescent Society's Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which is now being finalized.

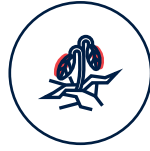
Hazards



Population movement



Earthquakes



Drought



Floods



Health Emergencies

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Population movement
- Earthquake

Longer term needs

- Health
- Water, sanitation & hygiene
- Protection, gender and inclusion
 - Disaster preparedness
- Risk reduction
- Climate resilience
 - Food security & livelihoods

Capacity development

- Humanitarian diplomacy
- Digital transformation
- Disaster management capabilities
- National Society development

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

Very High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Very High

Human Development Index rank

181

World Bank Population figure

42.6M



Afghan Red Crescent volunteers respond after an earthquake, providing first aid and relief to affected families in Balkh and Samangan provinces. (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

2026

	Host National Society	IFRC
Ongoing emergencies		30M <small>*This funding requirement is for the remaining period of the Emergency Appeals MDRAF018 (until April 2027) and MDRAF019 (until December 2027)</small>
Longer-term needs		
Climate and environment	2.2M	6.4M
Disasters & crises	10.5M	13.5M
Health & wellbeing	9M	24.1M
Migration & displacement	1.4M	4.6M
Values, power & inclusion	284,000	5.6M
Enabling local actors		1.3M
Total	23.4M	85.5M

Participating National Societies bilateral support

National Society	Year	Funding Requirement	Confirmed Funding	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Austrian Red Cross	2026	489,000	489,000		489,000				
British Red Cross	2026	1M	1M						
	2027	1M	1M						
	2028	215,000	215,000						
Danish Red Cross	2026	2.6M	2.1M	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norwegian Red Cross	2026	3.9M	3.9M	-	-	-	-		
Qatar Red Crescent Society	2026	3.9M		-	-	3.9M	-		
Turkish Red Crescent	2026				-	-			

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Afghan Red Crescent Society** was established in 1935 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1957. Since its formation, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has established extensive local networks across the country, enabling it to reach vulnerable populations in all areas of the country, including remote and underserved areas. The National Society is supported by 3,900 staff and over 31,000 volunteers. The National Society has a long history of providing lifesaving assistance to people across the country.

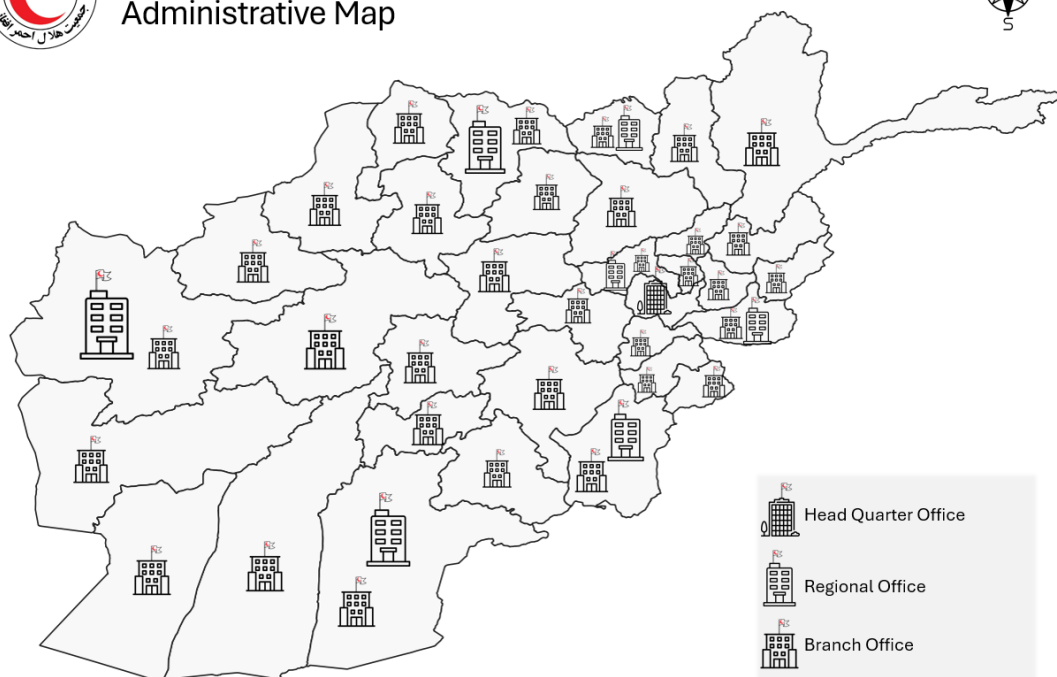
The Afghan Red Crescent Society has vast expertise delivering diverse types of humanitarian interventions during disasters and crises and longer-term programming. This includes programming related to disaster risk management, community resilience – including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), physical rehabilitation for internally displaced persons with physical disabilities, youth development, restoring family links (RFL), humanitarian values and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The National Society's volunteers play a critical role at all stages of programming and are responsible for assessment, identification and registration of target and/or affected communities, as well as for delivering programme

support, such as hygiene and health promotion and community mobilization.

Due to its application of principled humanitarian action, the Afghan Red Crescent Society enjoys an elevated level of acceptance and access to communities across the whole country. At both national and branch levels, the National Society has teams of volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and response, as well as mobile health teams and community mobilizers. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also provides access to healthcare services through a network of over 370 facilities, which include a 50-bed hospital in Kabul, 46 fixed clinics, one comprehensive health centre, 36 health sub-centres and 101 mobile health teams and/or emergency mobile health teams, active in all 34 provinces in the country. The above 172 facilities (71 of which are fixed) are augmented by additional temporary facilities known as health camps. There are 45 health camps and 146 satellite health camps focused on polio eradication. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is also the only organization in Afghanistan that provides treatment for congenital heart defects. It employs community mobilizers as part of its CBHFA programme.



Afghan Red Crescent Society Administrative Map



Map of Afghan Red Crescent Society offices and branches

The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities

The Afghan Red Crescent Society's work is guided by its [Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#). Note that the new Strategic Plan 2026–2030 is under finalization. The existing Strategic Plan's theme is 'everywhere for everyone', and it has four goals:

- Goal 1: Communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from disasters, health emergencies, and conflict-generated shocks
- Goal 2: Communities with higher long-term resilience through risk reduction, improved health and livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change and migration

- Goal 3: Communities respecting the Fundamental Principles, and promoting diversity, human dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion and peace
- Goal 4: Afghan Red Crescent Society as a reformed National Society delivering impartial, neutral, effective, sustainable, relevant, and accountable humanitarian services

In [2024](#), the Afghan Red Crescent Society reached 3.5 million people through its long term services and development programmes and 5.2 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Afghanistan spans 652,864 square kilometres of mainly mountainous terrain, with plains in the north and southwest divided by the Hindu Kush range. The country is divided into [five agro-climatic zones](#), from the rainy mountainous northeast to the hot, arid southern plateau. As of mid-2024, Afghanistan's population is estimated at [42.6 million](#), largely rural, multi-ethnic and multilingual. Ethnic groups include Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek and smaller communities such as Nuristanis, Aimaq, Turkmen and Baloch. Nearly [half](#) the population is under 15 years old, and rural residents constitute [74 per cent](#). The total fertility rate is four children per woman, with [life expectancies](#) of 62 years for men and 67 years for women.

Following the August 2021 end to decades of conflict, Afghanistan's security has improved, yet public services remain inadequate. Millions of widows struggle with limited income opportunities, compounded by disasters and displacement. Entering 2026, Afghanistan faces severe economic pressures; over half of the population (23.7 million) required [humanitarian assistance](#) in 2024, and the country grapples with ongoing economic decline exacerbated by conflict and frequent natural shocks. Humanitarian efforts struggle with funding gaps, focusing only on the most vulnerable, which leaves many needs unmet.

Widespread poverty and unemployment remain critical. The UNDP reports that [84 per cent](#) of Afghans live below the national poverty line, with over [90 per cent](#) unable to meet basic food costs. Households frequently adopt severe coping strategies such as borrowing, selling assets or reducing spending on health and education. Without sufficient aid, many are forced into extreme measures, including [selling children](#).

Malnutrition is projected to remain at emergency levels in 2026. An estimated 4.5 million children under five and pregnant/lactating women are acutely malnourished, with nearly 900,000 children at risk of severe acute malnutrition. Access to health services is further constrained by funding shortfalls and restrictions on female health workers. Outbreaks of

measles, polio, cholera and dengue continue to pose serious threats. Maternal and child health indicators remain among the worst globally, while mental health needs are rising due to displacement, poverty and restrictions on women's education and employment.

Severe restrictions on women's and girls' participation in education, work and public life remain one of the most serious humanitarian and human rights concerns in 2026. Female-headed households struggle to access assistance, and women face barriers to accessing health services and livelihoods without male guardianship. These constraints exacerbate gender inequality, undermine recovery efforts and drive psychosocial distress.

Food insecurity affects a third of the population, with [14.2 million people](#) in crisis-level or worse, particularly in provinces like Badakhshan and Herat. Health services are critically strained, especially in rural areas, while outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea, dengue, pertussis and malaria have risen. Women face limited access to life-saving care due to movement restrictions, worsening maternal and reproductive health risks.

Since [October 2023](#), thousands of undocumented Afghans returned from Pakistan due to policy changes impacting 1.3 million.

Climate change drives extreme events such as droughts and flash floods, heightening Afghanistan's vulnerability to natural hazards, including [earthquakes](#), avalanches and landslides. Identified as one of the [top 10 countries](#) most vulnerable to climate change, Afghanistan faces recurring severe weather, contributing to further displacement. These compounding issues increase poverty, drive irregular migration and strain resources, disproportionately affecting women and girls who face limited healthcare, education and economic opportunities.

A declining humanitarian response capacity due to stricter regulations and competing priorities stresses the importance of strengthening national response structures and international partnerships. Building robust systems to address sudden crises is crucial as Afghanistan continues to face multi-layered challenges in 2026.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

1.

Emergency Operation	Population movement (Returnees)
Appeal code	MDRAF018
People to be assisted	252,750 people
Duration	24 months (1 May 2025 to 30 April 2027)
Funding requirement	Funding requirements through the IFRC Appeal: CHF 20 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 25 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Population movement
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Operational 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 Afghan Citizen Card (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 and 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 National Society-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. The highlights of the assistance are as follows:

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 (PGI)

Assistance for vulnerable groups will be provided at crossing points such as facilitating child reunification and the distribution of dignity kits. Urgent needs for gender-segregated hygiene facilities, enhanced mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) for women, and expanded livelihood opportunities will also be attended to.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

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

Emergency Operation	Afghanistan Southeastern and Northern Earthquake, 2025
Appeal code	MDRAF019
People affected	1,411,000 people
People to be assisted	170,000 people
Duration	15 months (3 September 2025 to 31 December 2027)
Funding requirement	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 27 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 30 million
Link to Emergency Appeal	Emergency Appeal Afghanistan Earthquake
Link to Revised Emergency Appeal	Revised Emergency Appeal Afghanistan Earthquake
Operational Strategy	Operational Strategy
Operational Update	Operational Update No. 1

On 31 August 2025, a 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck south-eastern Afghanistan, with its epicentre near Jalalabad, severely impacting Kunar and Nangarhar provinces and affecting surrounding regions. Multiple strong aftershocks followed, compounding the devastation. As of 2 September, at least 1,100 fatalities were confirmed, with injuries exceeding 3,000 and up to 84,000 people affected. Thousands have been displaced as homes collapsed, particularly in mountainous areas where landslides and blocked roads hinder rescue and relief efforts. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and resources remain critically insufficient despite military evacuations. Authorities have issued an urgent appeal for international assistance amid Afghanistan's ongoing economic crisis and humanitarian fragility. Women and children face heightened vulnerability, and the risk of further landslides persists due to heavy rains, leaving entire communities destroyed and thousands still trapped under rubble.

Afghanistan is reeling from the compounded impact of two major earthquakes within just two months, further deepening an already fragile humanitarian crisis. On 3 November 2025, a 6.3-magnitude earthquake struck northern Afghanistan near Khulm town in Samangan Province, causing widespread destruction, leaving at least 26 people dead, 1,172 injured and hundreds of homes reduced to rubble. Preliminary assessments indicate over 1,300 houses damaged, including 305 destroyed, alongside damage to health facilities. This disaster follows the 31 August quake that claimed over 2,200 lives and displaced thousands in southeastern Afghanistan.

Considering the additional devastation, the Emergency Appeal has been revised to increase the funding ask from CHF 22 million to CHF 27 million. The revision aims to scale up emergency response for an additional 20,000 people affected by the second earthquake, sustain essential services and support recovery-oriented activities to restore livelihoods and strengthen community resilience.

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 earthquake in Afghanistan. The Afghan Red Crescent Society continues to coordinate with local authorities and partners to develop and revise inclusive targeting criteria, ensuring assistance reaches the most vulnerable groups, including women headed households, persons with special needs and/or disabilities and marginalized communities. The scope of interventions will vary by geographic location, level of damage and the presence of other humanitarian actors to avoid duplication and maximize impact.

The revised operation delivers integrated assistance combining emergency relief and recovery support:

- Shelter and winterization: Distribution of tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and insulated materials for harsh winter conditions
- Livelihoods and cash: Multipurpose cash assistance for essential needs, vocational training and income-generating activities to restore stability
- Health and WASH: Life-saving health care (trauma care, ambulance services, medicines), mental health and psychosocial support, mobile health teams and hygiene promotion with clean water access and latrine construction
- Protection and inclusion: Safeguarding vulnerable groups through gender-sensitive services, safe referral pathways and community engagement and accountability to prevent risks such as gender-based violence and child labour



Climate and environment

Afghanistan is a predominantly mountainous, landlocked country, with plains in the north and southwest separated by the Hindu Kush mountains. The mountain ranges create five distinct agro-climatic zones: the mountainous north-east, with the highest average rainfall; the northern plains with moderate temperatures and rainfall; the central and eastern highlands with moderate rainfall; and the southern plateau with high temperatures and little rainfall.

Afghanistan's climate varies due to its topography, from arid to semi-arid in the northeastern regions with Hindu Kush Mountains to desert conditions in the southwestern regions. As a result, the country is vulnerable to recurrent extreme weather, in particular floods and droughts. Afghanistan ranks among the countries with the highest climate risk index score, showing high levels of hazard exposure, underlying vulnerability and limited coping capacities. Its climate is influenced by the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which create irregular variations in temperature and influence extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, droughts and floods.

Temperatures are rising at a higher rate than the global average and the incidence of drought is likely to increase. The primary causes of drought in Afghanistan are meteorological (reduced precipitation) and hydrological (reduced sub/surface water). The recent drought has been the worst in three decades and has been affecting more than 80 per cent of the country.

Climate-related extreme weather events and natural hazards threaten people's livelihoods, increase poverty and food insecurity, and erode the resilience of communities, households and individuals. The agricultural sector is the most important livelihood source, employing 42.5 per cent of the population and contributing 25.8 per cent of GDP. However, rainfall decline, temperature increases and the impact of the recent drought have triggered water shortages that threaten crop yields.

At the same time, Afghanistan is also experiencing extreme cold and environmental degradation, with deforestation due to trees being cut to provide fuel and domestic animals overgrazing the ranges. The result is extensive soil erosion and long-term salination of the soil due to irrigation, reducing the fertility of much of the arable land. Polluted water supplies are also common, except in the high mountain regions, where few people live permanently.

Climate change and environmental stressors also contribute to widespread internal displacement and to changing migration patterns. Displacement and rapid urbanization risk exacerbating food and livelihoods insecurity, place additional pressure

on environmental resources and increase the vulnerability of marginalized groups.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's multi-year Global Climate Resilience Programme which aims to foster a scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and to build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. The programme consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Afghan Red Crescent aims to build communities with higher long-term resilience by enhancing risk reduction, strengthening health and livelihoods and supporting adaptation to climate change and migration. The National Society will also focus on developing community-led risk management and climate adaptation plans to strengthen livelihoods and mitigate the impacts of water and food shortages, health challenges and displacement.

Planned activities in 2026

- Implement Cash-for-Work projects linked to community resilience
- Establish Disaster Risk Management and community engagement and accountability committees in new districts
- Launch environmental awareness campaigns to encourage sustainable practices, while implementing livelihood projects that integrate eco-friendly approaches
- Implement climate-smart risk reduction projects at community level and engage youth and volunteers for climate risk awareness in schools and communities
- Support green response and community environmental initiatives
- Mainstream climate-smart approaches into its operations and pursue partnerships on climate resilience programme
- Institutionalize forecast-based action and work with the authorities on early warning early action measures

- Carry out warm winter response activities and provide volunteer safety training
- Conduct refresher training for Disaster Response Units and Branch Disaster Response Teams and build and enhance the climate action capacity of its staff and volunteers
- Organize workshops to develop multi-hazard contingency plans and Standard Operating Procedures

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Afghan Red Crescent in the development and implementation of climate-smart programming in both its long and short-term activities and in the development of an integrated approach that incorporates risk reduction, [early warning and early action](#) and reduces the [environmental footprint](#) of interventions.

The **Danish Red Cross** is supporting the National Society through climate adaptation campaigns, provision of climate-resilient seeds and drought-tolerant crops and an [anticipatory action](#) mission. It is also promoting environmental integration within livelihood projects to ensure sustainability.

The **Qatar Red Crescent** is assisting with flood mitigation measures such as construction of dams, afforestation and [early warning systems](#). Additionally, it is promoting climate-smart agriculture through the distribution of agri-kits and incorporating green practices into health and infrastructure projects.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** also supports the Afghan Red Crescent in its climate related initiatives.



Disasters and crises

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

Afghanistan is highly prone to disasters, and has experienced avalanches, droughts, earthquakes, floods and landslides over the last decade. The country ranks fourth on [INFORM Risk 2024](#). There is high risk of loss of life and property from these recurring hazards - on average, 200,000 Afghans are affected by disasters each year. The recurring crises are compounded by the high levels of vulnerability and low levels of coping capacity in the country.

Afghanistan has faced overlapping disasters for over a decade such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, cold waves, avalanches and landslides displacing millions and eroding livelihoods. In 2025, the forced return of hundreds of thousands from Pakistan and Iran to disaster-affected areas further intensified humanitarian needs in shelter, health, WASH and livelihoods.

As of early 2025, [22.9 million](#) people, over half the population, require urgent assistance, including 12.6 million facing acute food insecurity. Malnutrition has reached record levels, with [4.7 million](#) women and children acutely malnourished, compounded by a 40 per cent drop in global aid funding and closure of nearly 300 nutrition sites.

Women, children and marginalized groups remain disproportionately affected, requiring integrated recovery support in health, nutrition, shelter, livelihoods and psychosocial care.

Without long-term investment in disaster risk reduction and resilience, humanitarian needs will continue to rise.

Afghanistan is also in an active seismic region, with seismic activity a constant threat. Based on the Preliminary Earthquake Hazard Map of Afghanistan, the Chaman fault, Hari Rud fault, Central Badakhshan fault and Darvaz fault are most likely to contribute to seismic hazards. The [August 2025 earthquake](#) of magnitude 6.0 devastated Kunar, Nangarhar and Laghman provinces, destroying health infrastructure and displacing thousands.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent Society seeks to equip communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from disasters, health emergencies and conflict-driven shocks. It will focus on delivering immediate humanitarian assistance to people affected by natural and human-made disasters and health emergencies.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also aims to implement longer-term community resilience building programmes that will have a lasting impact and will improve the resilience of individuals and communities. The National Society will also promote disaster and health risk reduction messaging in schools and as part of community-based activities, through the mobilization of youth and volunteers, in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Planned activities in 2026

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to people affected by evolving crises and disasters
- Implement household and community-managed [livelihoods](#) projects
- Implement safer [shelter](#) interventions at community level
- Implement [cash and voucher assistance](#) interventions to address multiple needs
- Engage youth and volunteers for disaster preparedness and climate awareness
- Build capacity on [forecast-based financing](#), [early warning early action](#) and [anticipatory action](#)
- Mainstream [disaster risk reduction](#) into Afghan Red Crescent operations including shelter interventions
- Develop and update its [disaster risk management](#) strategy and disseminate it at all levels
- Pursue partnerships on integrated community-based programming
- Strengthening community preparedness and response capacities
- Mainstream [community engagement and accountability](#) and [protection, gender and inclusion minimum standards](#) in all programming

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the delivery of multi-sectoral response services in relief, [shelter](#), health and [WASH](#), based on the context and needs analysis. It will support the National Society in scaling up livelihoods and [cash and voucher-based assistance](#), as a pivotal component of its disaster risk management strategy. The IFRC will also provide support the Afghan Red Crescent Society

to make risk-informed decisions when planning its response and recovery activities and will ensure a focus on [disaster risk reduction with targeted communities](#). IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will also be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises.

From May 2024 to May 2025, the IFRC supported the National Society with an [emergency appeal](#) allocation of CHF 5 million for flash floods that severely impacted northeastern Afghanistan, particularly in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar. During the operation, the National Society assisted about 140,000 people.

The IFRC will continue to support the enhancement of the National Society's capacities and systems for emergency response, through ensuring access to relevant information for decision-making, through timely needs assessments, improved data gathering and information management and operational learning. The support will cover the effective mainstreaming of community engagement and accountability and the application of the [minimum standards on protection, gender and inclusion in emergency contexts](#). Additionally, the IFRC will also work on reinforcing the National Society's accountability systems and logistics development, including setting up framework agreements with suppliers and supporting pre-positioning of stocks at local and regional levels.

The **Danish Red Cross** is providing essential support through the distribution of essential household items and hygiene kits, as well as mental health and psychosocial support services ([MPHSS](#)) and Psychological First Aid ([PFA](#)) training.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** is strengthening National Society capacity through staff training and supporting women's livelihoods via [Cash and Voucher Assistance](#) in partnership with UN Women. It is also providing livelihood support for returnee women through skills development and productive assets.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** supports livelihood training for Marastoon residents and offering vocational courses for youth to enhance employability.



Afghan Red Crescent female volunteers provide support to families affected by recent earthquake in Kunar province. (Photo: IFRC)



Afghanistan faces significant gaps in the provision of basic healthcare across the country. Prior to 2021, public sector healthcare in Afghanistan consisted of more than 3,500 health facilities, largely supported through international development funding. With the future of funding unclear, many [health facilities](#) are struggling to sustain services, and the majority are under-staffed, under-trained and under-resourced, with 8.7 physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 population. The geographic distribution of health facilities in the country is also uneven and insufficient to meet the needs, especially in under-served rural areas.

Vaccine-preventable diseases remain a major cause of infant and under-five morbidity and mortality in [Afghanistan](#), with persistent challenges in polio transmission and frequent measles outbreaks. Despite ongoing vaccination campaigns, endemic transmission has re-emerged in areas such as Kandahar, underscoring the need for intensified efforts to achieve polio-free status. According to the Ministry of Public Health's National Expanded Programme on Immunization ([MoPH-NEPI](#)) analysis in 2024, 162 districts have moderate EPI gaps and 154 districts have severe gaps. The average dropout rate for Penta 1/Penta 3 vaccines over the past three years was 19 per cent, while cultural resistance and misconceptions continue to hinder vaccine acceptance.

Disease outbreaks remain the most frequent shock to the health system, including Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD), measles, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), dengue fever, pertussis, malaria and Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI). Rising temperatures are increasing heat-related illnesses and deaths, particularly in urban areas affected by the heat island effect, while colder conditions are facilitating the spread of leishmaniasis. [Food insecurity](#) further compounds health risks, with 14.2 million people experiencing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between March and April 2024. Of these, 2.9 million are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 11.3 million in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), requiring urgent humanitarian food assistance.

As of 2025, Afghanistan faces severe health and social challenges. Maternal mortality remains alarmingly high at 620 deaths per 100,000 live births, and under-five mortality stands at 55 per 1,000 live births, highlighting the urgent need for improved healthcare services to reduce preventable [deaths](#) among mothers and children.

Mental health concerns have escalated due to decades of conflict, disasters, economic hardship, displacement and widespread substance abuse, leaving millions with severe mental illness. Girls and women are particularly affected, as restrictions on education and economic participation contribute to despair and depression.

Congenital heart disease adds to the burden, with one in every 100 children born with heart problems, most lacking access to adequate medical care due to poverty and limited resources.

Substance abuse has become a major public health crisis, with approximately one million Afghans aged 15 to 64 struggling with addiction, which is double the global average. Easy access to cheap narcotics and limited treatment options have fuelled this epidemic, which increasingly affects women and results in hundreds of fatalities annually.

Water and sanitation needs are also critical, as drought has impacted up to 74 per cent of rural communities in the past year, particularly in 19 provinces, causing springs to dry and groundwater levels to drop. Urban areas, drought-affected regions and returnee communities face growing WASH challenges at both community and [institutional](#) levels, including healthcare facilities, nutrition centres and schools. These overlapping crises demand urgent, integrated interventions to address health, nutrition, livelihoods and resilience.

Decades of conflict and climate impacts have devastated Afghanistan's water infrastructure, with two-thirds of the country already facing severe water scarcity. Persistent drought has reduced water points in provinces such as Badghis, Ghor and Faryab to critical levels, impacting aquifers and halving water availability in urban areas such as Kabul, where contamination from wastewater and rising salinity worsen access.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent Society seeks to enhance engagement with public authorities, particularly the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), through coordinated mechanisms at national, regional and provincial levels. The National Society participates in high-level commissions for emergency situations and will address health risks associated with climate change.

The National Society will strengthen community health systems and life-saving capacities to respond to and recover from health emergencies. It aims to build long-term resilience by improving access to essential health services, promoting mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) and reducing health risks linked to climate change and migration. Community-based health and risk management plans will be implemented to prevent disease outbreaks, address water and food insecurity and support displaced populations. Its high-level objectives include to:

- Provide timely health care, [first aid](#), [WASH](#) and emergency health capacities and response in most vulnerable communities
- Reduce impacts of water and food shortages and health issues through community risk management and climate adaptation plans

- Provide preventive and primary health care services to IDPs and migrants
- Improve psychosocial and mental health support and strengthen physical health and well-being of people

Planned activities in 2026

- Strengthen the delivery of health services through static and mobile health facilities
 - Engage with the MoPH in formulating national health priorities and strengthening its auxiliary role for health services
 - Scale up community-based health and first aid activities and institutionalize commercial first aid within the National Society
 - Expand risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), promoting community health awareness on immunization, nutrition, reproductive health, congenital heart disorder and other critical health issues and other critical health issues
 - Provide complementary assistance through seasonal and cultural programmes
 - Implement MPHSS interventions in communities and schools, as well as for responders
 - Scale up the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme in schools through the construction of facilities, provision of hygiene items for girls and hygiene promotion in nearby communities
-

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Afghan Red Crescent in expanding its network of primary health service facilities. This support includes maintaining and strengthening existing health facilities with a focus on community engagement and accountability (CEA), as well as protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEA). The IFRC will help the National Society develop a primary healthcare delivery model that relies less on external support.

Additionally, the IFRC will assist the National Society in engaging in joint planning and policy dialogue with external partners and the donor community, aligning efforts with its health and WASH priorities. The IFRC will also provide materials, engage contractors for WASH facility construction and offer technical guidelines and training for staff and volunteers.

The IFRC will continue to aid the Afghan Red Crescent in expanding immunization services in hard-to-reach areas and among vulnerable communities to address significant gaps in vaccination coverage. Additionally, to enhance its impact in urban settings, the National Society will receive support from the IFRC to utilize its medical facilities as platforms for outreach vaccinator teams, facilitating semi-permanent vaccination camps in urban slums.

The **Danish Red Cross** and the **Norwegian Red Cross** will support the National Society in providing hygiene kits and integrating WASH and MHPSS in emergencies.

The **Qatar Red Crescent Society** is contributing through the construction of 112 Dar-ul-Qarar housing units, distribution of Ramadan food parcels, support for women's livelihoods and implementation of school WASH initiatives.

The **Turkish Red Crescent** assists the National Society by providing hot meals and Ramadan parcels.



Migration and displacement

Afghanistan has suffered conflict and insecurity for more than four decades and that, as well as recurring disasters and climate shocks, have meant that displacement has become a common coping strategy for many Afghan people over the generations.

As of October 2025, Afghanistan continues to grapple with complex and large-scale displacement patterns, influenced by ongoing conflict, natural disasters, climate change and deteriorating socio-economic conditions. The country has the largest number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Asia, and the sixth largest worldwide. Displacement has become a persistent feature of Afghan society, with many families

experiencing multiple displacements due to repeated crises. Disaster-induced displacement has significantly increased, with flash floods, earthquakes and prolonged droughts forcing hundreds of thousands to flee their homes during 2024–2025.

In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to deport undocumented foreigners who did not leave voluntarily by 1 November. Afghans made up a significant portion of this population, with an estimated 1.3 million residing in Pakistan. This decision sparked a sharp increase in Afghan returns, driven by fears of arrest and deportation, as authorities began demolishing unauthorized settlements. Over 2.2 million Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan in 2025.

Many of these returnees arrived without shelter, income, or access to basic services, often settling in already overstretched host communities, thereby exacerbating vulnerabilities and tensions. Women, girls and persons with disabilities face heightened risks within this context, including limited mobility, inadequate service access and increased protection concerns.

Along with the rest of the Afghan population, these IDPs and returnees will face one of the world's most acute humanitarian crises, unemployment, poverty and food insecurity, with women and girls particularly vulnerable, with restricted access to services. With 5.9 million Afghan people living abroad, one in 10 families depends upon overseas remittances. As agriculture becomes less viable due to extreme weather and drought conditions, migration from rural to urban areas is expected to increase.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent seeks to build communities with enhanced long-term resilience by strengthening risk reduction, improving health and livelihood, and fostering adaptation to climate change and migration challenges. The Afghan Red Crescent also aims to prioritize the needs of internally displaced persons and returnees across its emergency interventions, by further integrating their needs into its sectoral response areas (disaster management and livelihoods support, health and WASH services). This will focus on delivering assistance to IDPs and returnees in underserved areas. Additionally, the National Society will continue mainstreaming community engagement and accountability (CEA), to enhance the resilience of IDPs, returnees and host communities across all emergency operations and longer-term interventions. This will include developing preferred feedback mechanisms and using feedback to inform decision-making on programmes. The National Society's planning, monitoring and evaluation team will also include disaggregated data on IDPs and returnees when reporting on emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities.

Planned activities in 2026

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to people on the move
- Deliver Restoring Family Links (RFL) services for separated families
- Implement interventions to strengthen the economic resilience of returnees
- Establish humanitarian service points (HSPs) in branches in the border provinces
- Engage young people from internally displaced, returnee and host communities as agents for behavioural change, including in promoting social cohesion
- Engage with the authorities on possible involvement in social protection
- Scale up cash and voucher assistance (CVA) tailored to displaced households
- Pursue partnerships on migration and displacement programming
- Strengthen National Society's role in strategic forums and technical hubs
- Improve the migration and displacement programming capacity of its volunteers and staff

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the National Society in developing its cross-sectoral action plan and linked implementation and monitoring plans on displacement, in line with IFRC's Global Migration Strategy. These will be disseminated within the National Society and training will be given at national and sub-national levels. The National Society will be supported to actively engage in technical and knowledge hubs, including the Red Cross Red Crescent Migration Leadership Group.

The **Danish Red Cross** assists the Afghan Red Crescent Society with returnee registration.

Other participating National Societies supporting the Afghan Red Crescent Society include the **British Red Cross**, the **Italian Red Cross**, the **Norwegian Red Cross**, the **Turkish Red Crescent** and the **Qatar Red Crescent Society**.



Values, power and inclusion

While the hostilities in the country have subsided significantly, the security situation remains unpredictable. This is due to the lasting effects of years of large-scale armed conflict, including weapons contamination, ongoing sporadic violence and wider socio-economic and political tensions. Protection concerns, such as the exposure of civilians to unexploded ordnance, targeted attacks and the wider economic concerns are leading to more vulnerable people resorting to harmful coping mechanisms to survive.

Following years of trauma, Afghanistan has one of the [world's highest proportions](#) of people with psychological, cognitive and physical disabilities. People with disabilities are likely to face high levels of stigma, discrimination and marginalization and higher poverty rates.

After the transition of August 2021, there has been a specific increase in restrictions on women and girls accessing education. The suspension of education for girls above the sixth grade has added concerns about their future engagement and inclusion. Wider protection concerns are also on the increase in relation to the situation of women. While reliable data on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is scarce due to systemic weaknesses, engrained social norms, a fragile health system and a lack of social safety networks, SGBV is still being reported. Family separation is also impacting the lives of women, with men leaving to find work in urban areas or neighbouring countries and other women being widowed by the conflict or disasters. This means that thousands of women are left as single-headed households. Additional protection [risks](#) are faced by these households and survivors of gender-based violence due to weak referral systems and limited access to essential services.

The concept of women's economic empowerment was set in Afghanistan's policy agenda by the international community. Women's economic empowerment became a global policy priority with the introduction of the UN Sustainable Development Goals aiming to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls (Goal 5), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) and justice (Goal 16) all at once. Most Afghan women engage in unpaid work such as household tasks and childcare or taking care of elderly parents. The engagement in unpaid work prevents Afghan women from spending their time on farming and trading activities, training and continuing education, all of which can help them gain or improve professional skills.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Afghan Red Crescent society will strengthen protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) across all services to provide comprehensive support to vulnerable populations. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also seeks to advance communities that

uphold the [Fundamental Principles](#) of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, promoting diversity, dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion and peace. It will advance social inclusiveness, equity and peace, particularly in areas hosting returnees, internally displaced persons and migrants. It will also focus on integrating gender, diversity and humanitarian standards to empower women and promote humanitarian values, while focusing on the economic empowerment and integration of women and people with disabilities to enhance well-being and livelihoods.

Additionally, the Afghan Red Crescent Society aims to deliver impartial, effective and accountable humanitarian services. It will expand the capacity of its social welfare centres, locally called 'marastoons', to support vulnerable families, particularly those headed by women and increase the availability of these welfare centres across Afghanistan.

Planned activities in 2026

- Mainstream [community engagement and accountability \(CEA\)](#) and [protection gender and inclusion \(PGI\) minimum standards in emergency operations](#) and longer-term programmes
- Establish women-led support activities to engage young women in service delivery
- Improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities
- Promote [child protection safeguarding](#)
- Implement interventions to strengthen the socio-economic resilience of widows and women who head households
- Engage with authorities to explore its involvement in social protection for widows
- Strengthen safeguarding mechanisms within its structures and programmes
- Scale up socio-economic resilience initiatives for women-at-risk through vocational training, income-generating activities and community savings groups

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in the provision of vocational training, livelihoods support, income-generating activities and savings groups for women and in the integration of [CEA](#) and [PGI](#) to enhance inclusion and protection to improve social cohesion. It will also provide technical support in the establishment of feedback mechanisms to ensure two-way communication channels, including face-to-face communication. Support will also be

provided to set up referral pathways through trusted channels to allow for sensitive feedback and complaints through safe PGI and safeguarding focal persons. The IFRC will also support the National Society in expanding the number and quality of its welfare centres or marastoons.

The IFRC will assist the Afghan Red Crescent Society in raising awareness on its gender policy and in the dissemination of the [minimum standards on PGI in emergencies](#). The National Society will also be supported to develop a specific policy on the protection against sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment ([PSEA](#)) and child protection and to establish an internal

system to address the misuse of power or unethical behaviour. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society to set up a training component on [PGI](#), including on PSEA and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. On a practical level, the Afghan Red Crescent Society will be supported to further promote the participation of women in the National Society's national and branch disaster response teams and in programming.

The **Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent** and the **Qatar Red Crescent Society** will also support the Afghan Red Crescent in these initiatives.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification ([OCAC](#)) process in 2018. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response ([PER](#)) process and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- Youth engagement strategy
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan
- Digital transformation roadmap



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Engage with public authorities through formal agreements and partnerships to address health and disaster-related issues collaboratively
- Strengthen coordination with authorities, humanitarian communities and donors
- Focus on resource mobilization

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the Afghan Red Crescent in the implementation of its Strategic Plan and the development of an operational plan. It will also assist the National Society in engaging with key stakeholders and [coordinating](#) with public authorities, the humanitarian community and donors, as well as with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen constitutional and legal base for principled humanitarian service delivery
- Develop youth leadership skills and increase engagement
- Strengthen local branches for community support
- Focus on volunteer development and effective engagement strategies
- Develop the National Society Strategic Plan 2026-2030
- Provide project management training for staff

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in strengthening its response capacity and organizational development. It will guide the National Society in the development of its National Society development plan, facilitate skill development for staff and volunteers and assist in increasing its material capacity for sustainable services. The IFRC will also provide support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in strengthening the capacity of its zone offices and branches.

The **Danish Red Cross** contributes to the National Society branch development plans and initiatives, volunteer management and enhancing livelihoods through livestock, agricultural inputs and vocational skills training.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Finalize a comprehensive humanitarian diplomacy policy to position itself as a leading local humanitarian actor in Afghanistan, aimed at attracting medium to long-term donor financing
- Develop a comprehensive humanitarian diplomacy plan that will strengthen its positioning as a leading local humanitarian organization that has the best community-based support mechanisms in place and improve its ability to attract medium- to long-term donor support
- Continue efforts to reinforce its auxiliary role, ensuring that its mandate is clearly recognized and respected. This includes dedicated work to strengthen understanding among relevant national and local authorities of the Afghan Red Crescent's mandate, its humanitarian responsibilities and the Fundamental Principles that guide its work
- Develop a comprehensive communications strategy and proactive promotion of its activities through local and international media by sharing impactful stories that highlight both humanitarian needs and its response, seeking to increase visibility and trust among partners and communities

- Promote its work in local and international media and disseminate stories that emphasize its impactful work as well as humanitarian needs
- Advocate with diplomatic missions and donor institutions to highlight humanitarian and development needs, influencing policy and funding allocation decisions for affected populations
- Leverage its position as a principled humanitarian organization to engage and influence communities in adopting safer health behaviours

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will intensify advocacy with diplomatic missions and donor institutions to highlight Afghanistan's urgent humanitarian and development needs. It will provide sustained support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in strengthening its humanitarian diplomacy and deepening engagement with key decision-makers, international partners, community influencers and organizations. This support will include technical assistance to enhance the National Society's capacity to advocate for vulnerable communities, ensure their voices are heard and negotiate access for timely delivery of essential services. These efforts will reinforce principled humanitarian action across Afghanistan. Additionally, emergency communications systems and capacities will be strengthened at all levels.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen security management systems to ensure safe and effective operations for staff and volunteers
- Invest in construction and rehabilitation of guard facilities, installation of perimeter security, procurement of surveillance equipment and training of guards and security officers across all branches
- Safeguard people, assets and programme continuity as part of duty of care and accountability commitments
- Develop and finalize the protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy, conduct relevant PSEA assessments and prepare Safeguarding training materials on PSEA, Child Safeguarding and Whistleblower Protection, including translation into local languages
- Integrate a risk management culture into all programming aspects within the current risk management framework to ensure timely identification, assessment and application of appropriate risk response strategies
- Introduce and regularly update a risk register for proactive response and effective risk management
- Digital transformation will cover governance, management and accountability systems, branch

development, youth and volunteering development, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) development, communication and resource mobilization

- Build on 2022 assessment to advance basic digital capability, address critical gaps and enhance data and system management
- Quick wins include a revamped website, institutionalized digital system for internal communication and capacity

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide support to the National Society in strengthening its knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and establish or reinforce effective response mechanisms. This includes facilitating the adoption of the IFRC Working with Project Partner framework to ensure proper financial transfers to the National Society, supported by accountability practices and standards.

Additionally, the newly established Risk Management, Compliance and Safeguarding Unit will work closely with National Society focal points to streamline safeguarding and risk management initiatives. Compliance will be strengthened, ensuring mandatory security and IT training are completed and adherence to donor requirements will be reviewed by identifying gaps and recommending corrective measures.



Afghan Red Crescent volunteers supporting communities affected by recent disasters. (Photo: IFRC)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC has had a country delegation in Afghanistan since 1990. It supports the National Society in disaster and crisis humanitarian operations, primary health care and immunization services and longer-term resilience-building programmes. It coordinates the activities of IFRC network partners, represents the Afghan Red Crescent Society internationally and supports its organizational development. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years the IFRC has supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals operations in relation to floods, droughts and earthquakes.

In May 2024, the IFRC supported the National Society in responding to severe flash floods affecting approximately 200,000 people through an [emergency appeal](#) for a duration of 12 months.

For the complex emergency operation, the IFRC provided membership coordination and other services for the operation such as procurement, transportation, accommodation and security management services. It has also engaged two financial service providers, which channel cash transfers to community members. A quality and accountability team has been put in place to ensure that community engagement and accountability measures are applied for close monitoring of implementation, and to enhance measures that will improve organization-wide performance. The IFRC is strengthening compliance and risk management activities, through the recruitment and empowerment of a talented, diverse and inclusive team.

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in joint advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy and coordination with the authorities and other humanitarian actors – to ensure that humanitarian crises in Afghanistan are profiled. Collaboratively, they will also seek to influence policy and investment decisions, to ensure they address humanitarian needs.

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, and 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.

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.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society receives support from 23 National Societies including **Albanian Red Cross; Austrian Red Cross; Bahrain Red Crescent Society; British Red Cross; Canadian Red Cross; Red Cross Society of China; Danish Red Cross; Finnish Red Cross; German Red Cross; Irish Red Cross Society; Italian Red Cross; Japanese Red Cross Society; Kuwait Red Crescent Society; Korean Red Cross; Red Cross of Monaco; The Netherlands Red Cross; New Zealand Red Cross; Norwegian Red Cross; Philippine Red Cross; Qatar Red Crescent Society; Singapore Red Cross Society; Slovenian Red Cross; Swedish Red Cross** and **Turkish Red Crescent**.

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. An Emergency Response Taskforce is responsible for developing and monitoring the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operational strategy for ongoing emergency, with the National Society at the centre and the IFRC providing strategic coordination of the IFRC's membership. The IFRC and the 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. In times of

emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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 through Restoring Family Links ([RFL](#)) and improving access to clean water, sanitation and energy.

Coordination with other actors

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 the 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 and strategic coordination.

Regular engagements with Kabul-based embassies and key stakeholders keep them informed about Afghan Red Crescent Society's latest developments. IFRC presents the National

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 essential household 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.



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks 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 network databank](#)
- 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
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

Contact Information

Afghan Red Crescent Society arcs.af/en

Dr. Hosam Faysal

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Delegation Afghanistan,
Kabul
T +93 70 027 4881
hosam.faysal@ifrc.org

Herve Gazeau

Head of Strategic Partnerships
& Resource Mobilization
IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office,
Kuala Lumpur
T +6019 268 6503
herve.gazeau@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead, IFRC Global Strategic Planning
& Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org