



# AFGHANISTAN

2024 IFRC network mid-year report, January – June

15 April 2025

## IN SUPPORT OF THE AFGHAN RED CRESCENT



34

National Society  
branches



329

National Society  
local units



26,568

National Society  
volunteers



4,006

National Society  
staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters  
and crises



5,238,588

Health and  
wellbeing



4,937,487

Migration and  
displacement



52,170

Values, power  
and inclusion



34,608

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	160M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
	Emergency Operations Funding Requirement	70M
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	6.4M
	Expenditure	2.0M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	30M
	Funding	969,000

### Afghan Red Crescent

#### Overview

Funding	Not reported
Expenditure	Not reported

#### Funding Sources

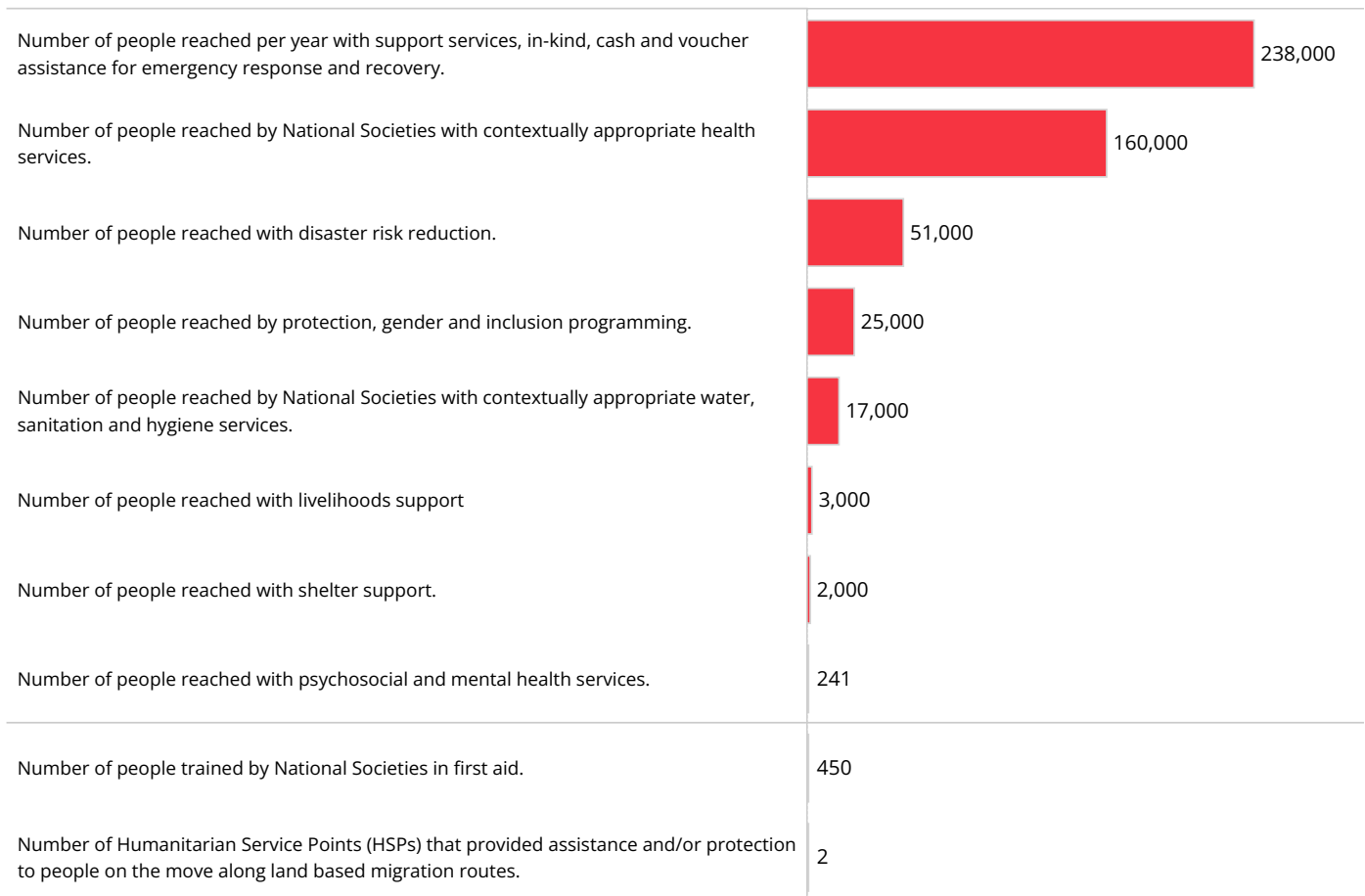
IFRC Secretariat	4.5M
Participating National Societies	4.3M
HNS other funding sources	969,000

Appeal number **MAAAF001**

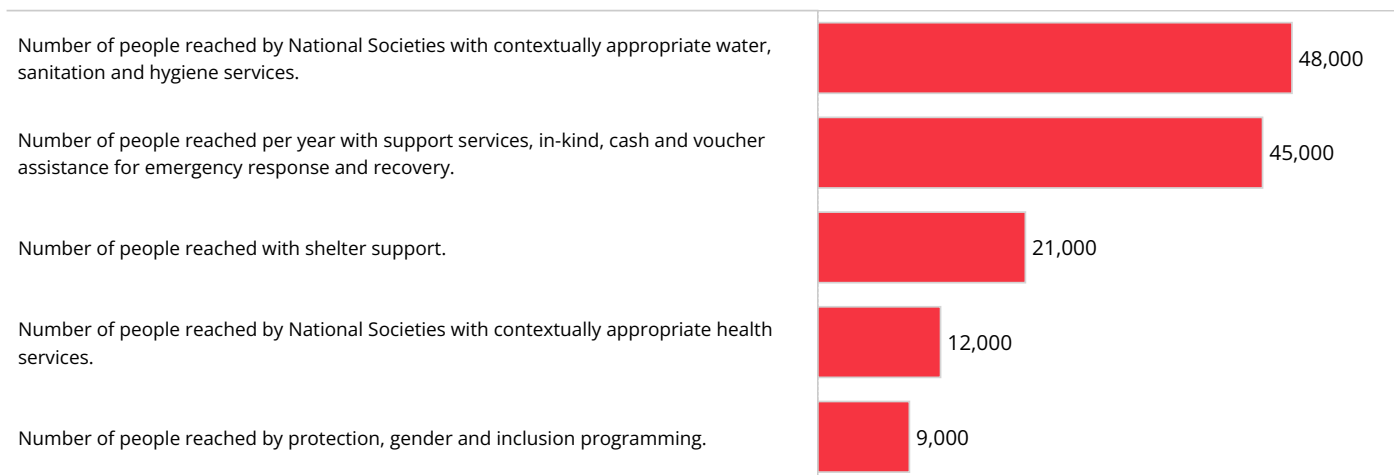
\*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

### MDRAF007 / Humanitarian Crises



### MDRAF015 / Floods



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves).	0
	National Society is supported in developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks.	Yes
Disasters and crises	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	5.2M
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	73,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	107,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support.	23,000
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services.	4.9M
	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	1.2M
	Number of people reached with immunization services.	579,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services.	2,000
	Number of people trained by National Societies in first aid.	570
Migration and displacement	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes.	2
	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection.	52,000
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming.	35,000

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals.	0
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.	6
National Society development	National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	0
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society is participating in IFRC-led campaigns.	0
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.	0
	National Society has implemented a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy.	0
	National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.	0

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Bilateral Support				
			Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Danish Red Cross	2.6M		<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Iranian Red Crescent Society			<div></div>				
Norwegian Red Cross	3.7M		<div></div>	<div></div>			<div></div>
Qatar Red Crescent Society			<div></div>	<div></div>		<div></div>	<div></div>
Turkish Red Crescent Society			<div></div>		<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

Total Funding Reported **CHF 6.4M**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Afghanistan is grappling with an extensive humanitarian crisis, with over half its population—approximately 23.7 million people—requiring urgent assistance in 2024. The crisis stems from a complex interplay of factors, including recurring natural disasters, the impacts of climate change, widespread economic challenges, severe food insecurity, gaps in healthcare services and the lingering effects of decades of conflict. These challenges have created profound vulnerabilities, particularly for women, children and marginalized groups, underscoring the need for a coordinated and sustained humanitarian response.

Afghanistan's geographical location makes it highly susceptible to severe and recurrent natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches and droughts. The country ranks among the top 10 globally most vulnerable to climate change, yet it remains poorly equipped to adapt or respond to these challenges. Catastrophic events, including droughts and severe winters, continue to displace communities and disrupt livelihoods, with over 900,000 individuals expected to face displacement in 2024 alone. Recent disasters, such as the Herat earthquake in October 2023, which affected 382 villages and caused over 2,000 deaths and devastating flash floods between April and July 2024, which impacted nearly all provinces, have left thousands homeless and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities.

Afghanistan's economy remains fragile, with over 85 per cent of its population living below the poverty line. Economic sanctions, limited development assistance and high unemployment have compounded the struggles of Afghan households. Women face disproportionate challenges in accessing livelihoods, with female unemployment rates significantly higher than their male counterparts. Food insecurity remains dire, with one-third of the population—approximately 14.2 million people—experiencing acute food insecurity, driven by climate shocks and rising food prices. Provinces such as Badakshan, Herat and Kunduz are among the hardest hit, requiring urgent interventions to prevent further deterioration.

Afghanistan continues to face significant challenges from population movements, both internal and cross-border. In late 2023, a new policy in Pakistan resulted in the return of hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees, adding strain to areas already dealing with protracted displacement. Many returnees arrive in communities with limited resources and infrastructure, further underscoring the need for durable solutions, such as voluntary return, integration or resettlement. Displacement driven by disasters and climate events also continues to rise, compounding the pressures on an already strained humanitarian system.

The healthcare system in Afghanistan faces significant challenges, particularly in rural areas where access to basic health services is limited. Outbreaks of diseases such as acute watery diarrhoea, malaria and dengue fever continue to threaten lives, while vaccination coverage remains insufficient, leaving children particularly vulnerable to preventable diseases such as measles and polio. Additionally, mental health issues have skyrocketed, fuelled by years of conflict, economic hardship and displacement. Women and girls face unique mental health challenges due to restrictions on education and economic participation, further limiting their resilience and opportunities.

Women and minority groups are disproportionately affected by the ongoing crises. Restrictions on women's participation in education and employment severely hinder their ability to access services and contribute to household income, leaving widows and female-headed households especially vulnerable. Cultural and security barriers further limit women's mobility and opportunities, creating additional layers of hardship.

While the end of decades-long conflict in 2021 has resulted in a relatively stable security environment, the effects of the war continue to impact the population. Access to public services remains inadequate, and vulnerable groups, such as widows and displaced individuals, struggle to rebuild their lives. Sporadic violence by non-state armed actors also persists, targeting ethnic minorities and government entities, further complicating efforts to provide humanitarian assistance.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

By mid-2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society addressed climate and environmental challenges through its 'Strengthening Community Resilience and Climate Change' project in Herat and Samangan provinces. Key

achievements include the installation of solar-powered deep wells for sustainable water access, enhancing agricultural resilience and the distribution of financial assistance to support livelihoods. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also facilitated vocational training for women to improve their income-generating capabilities. The National Society has focused on integrating [climate-smart](#) approaches, including solar energy and waste management initiatives, while also incorporating [anticipatory action](#) frameworks for better disaster preparedness. Volunteers have been engaged in educating communities on disaster risk reduction, hygiene and first aid, further strengthening local resilience. Partnerships with organizations such as UNDP and FAO have strengthened the effectiveness of the National Society's climate resilience initiatives.

## Disasters and crises

By mid-2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society made significant progress in its disasters and crises response efforts across Afghanistan, addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery. The National Society implemented a wide range of interventions, including disaster preparedness training, livelihood enhancement and the integration of disaster [risk reduction](#) in operations. The National Society strengthened its disaster response mechanisms, including the establishment of multipurpose [cash assistance](#) programmes and improved community resilience initiatives.

## Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented a variety of community-focused initiatives. In response to the Herat earthquake, the National Society mobilized trained volunteers who conducted health, hygiene and mental health awareness sessions, providing [first aid](#) and psychological [first aid](#) to thousands. The National Society installed essential water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) facilities for returnees at the Torkham border, while also strengthening its community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) programmes. These initiatives included training volunteers and implementing services such as nutrition screenings, first aid, and mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)). The Afghan Red Crescent Society also expanded its health services, providing primary care, immunization and maternal and child health services, reaching over a million individuals.

## Migration and displacement

By mid-2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society had been at the forefront of delivering critical humanitarian support to Afghan returnees from Pakistan, addressing both immediate and long-term needs. The establishment of Humanitarian Service Points ([HSPs](#)) at key border crossings, such as Spin Boldak and Torkham, enabled the National Society to offer essential services, including healthcare, mental health support and vital information to ensure safe reintegration. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also implemented cash-for-work programmes and vocational training to improve the economic resilience of returnees, promoting self-sufficiency and community development.

## Values, power and inclusion

By mid-2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society successfully integrated community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) and protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) standards across its operations, ensuring that marginalized and vulnerable groups have a central role in decision-making and that humanitarian interventions are inclusive. The National Society launched women-led support activities, including comprehensive training for female staff and volunteers, enabling them to support their communities effectively. Additionally, the Afghan Red Crescent Society worked to enhance the socio-economic resilience of women, particularly widows and women-headed households, by providing vocational training, cash support and business development resources. Safeguarding mechanisms were strengthened throughout the National Society's operations, and a focus on promoting access and inclusion for people with disabilities and marginalized groups has been central to its programming. Efforts to expand and improve Marastoons (social welfare centres) have also progressed, alongside initiatives to support women's economic empowerment and address social challenges through targeted interventions.

## Enabling local actors

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society strengthened its organizational capacity and ensured its readiness for future humanitarian challenges. It initiated a comprehensive review of its strategic plans, focusing on disaster preparedness, health services and community resilience, with targeted efforts to address operational gaps. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has expanded its material and digital capacities, including the establishment of field offices with improved connectivity and IT infrastructure, as well as the introduction of centralized data management

systems. Efforts to enhance advocacy, resource mobilization and partnerships with local and international actors have been crucial in securing funding and promoting collaboration. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also developed a robust volunteer management system, including clear roles, training and safety protocols, ensuring an effective response to emergencies.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

### 1. Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal

Appeal number	<a href="#">MDRAF007</a>
Duration	3 years and 8 months (10 April 2021 to 31 December 2024)
Funding requirements	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 120 M (2024: CHF 70 M) Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 300 M
Emergency Appeal	<a href="#">Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis</a>
Operational Strategy	<a href="#">Protracted Humanitarian Crisis operational strategy</a> <a href="#">Herat Earthquake operational strategy</a>
Last operation update	<a href="#">Humanitarian Crises Operations Update No. 9</a>

Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches and droughts, which often cause disasters. It is ranked fourth in the world's risk index for humanitarian crises requiring international assistance and is in the top 15 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. To reflect this, the IFRC's Emergency Appeal aims to respond to multiple disasters and crises as they evolve. A sixth Appeal revision was issued in October 2023, following the devastating earthquake in Herat province, western Afghanistan. During the Appeal, multiple earthquakes have caused large scale humanitarian needs, including for emergency health, food and household items, as well as shelter, cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)), emergency water, sanitation and hygiene ([WASH](#)) support, and for the protection needs of children and women, particularly orphans and widows.

Details on the needs and the response can be found in the Operational Strategies linked above. This Appeal revision aims to focus more on specific areas not covered by the wider humanitarian system, to capitalize on the strengths of the Afghan Red Crescent Society as a local organization with broad access, and to include sustainable support beyond the immediate response. Investments will also be made in strengthening local preparedness and response capacity. In the areas of previous emergencies, the Afghan Red Crescent Society, supported by the IFRC, participating National Societies and other partners, is focusing on support for recovery and restoration of livelihoods.

As of July 2023, Federation-wide support has enabled the Afghan Red Crescent to reach over 1.7 million people through this Appeal. This includes one million people reached by health interventions, over 115,000 people reached with WASH assistance, more than 500,000 people provided with food and livelihood assistance, 68,000 people who have received winterization kits and 112,000 people who received cash assistance. Beyond the Appeal, the National Society has reached 3.5 million people with services and programmes.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The IFRC launched transitional [shelter](#) activities in areas affected by disasters to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in its response under the humanitarian crises operation. The operation began with conducting rapid and detailed assessments and implementing community-driven strategies, engaging local authorities and collaborating with the [Shelter Cluster](#). Initially, the Afghan Red Crescent Society planned to construct 300 shelters in Zinda Jan. However, due to local disputes, the shelter construction was relocated to Gulran district, where 297 shelters are under construction. Three houses are near completion in Zinda Jan.

The IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society with the allocation of CHF 4,800 per shelter for construction support in Herat province. The allocation includes partial construction materials such as doors, windows, iron girders and wooden planks, valued at CHF 1,104, along with cash distributions totalling CHF 3,696 across three tranches.

In Gulran district, six houses were completed as part of a pilot project, which also provided on-the-job training for 150 masons. This effort significantly enhanced the local capacity for constructing earthquake-resilient shelters. A total of 27 houses remains under dispute regarding eligibility, and efforts are ongoing to resolve these issues.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society developed and distributed 300 copies of information, education and communication (IEC) materials and brochures for shelter beneficiaries in Herat province. These materials aimed to raise awareness about shelter activities and safe construction techniques.

2. Floods Emergency Appeal

Appeal number	<a href="#">MDRAF015</a>
Duration	4 May 2024- 31 May 2025
Funding requirements	CHF 5 million
Emergency Appeal	MDRAF015
Operational Strategy	<a href="#">MDRAF015OS</a>
Last operation update	<a href="#">Operation Update 1</a>

On 10 May 2024, flash floods severely impacted northeastern Afghanistan, particularly in Badakhshan, Baghlan and Takhar. As of 12 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, 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 ([PGI](#)), ensuring equitable access to services while engaging various community stakeholders and implementing a feedback mechanism to address community concerns.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

In May 2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society launched the Flood Response Operation to assist families severely impacted by flooding. During this operation, the Afghan Red Crescent Society distributed emergency shelter and household items to 2,570 households across several provinces. The distributed items included blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and tarpaulins. These essential supplies helped meet the immediate needs of the affected populations.

In Borka district, the Afghan Red Crescent Society distributed 170 tents and other household items to 170 households, with special provisions made for larger families. This ensured that families had adequate shelter during the recovery phase of the flood response.

As part of a wider Federation-wide response, the Afghan Red Crescent Society, with support from the **Turkish Red Crescent**, distributed 2,000 blankets to 500 households in Baghlan province. Each household received four blankets, which provided essential warmth and comfort during the aftermath of the floods.

Multipurpose cash grants were provided to 2,490 households in Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Parwan and Uruzgan provinces. Each household received CHF 140 through a financial service provider contracted by the IFRC. This cash assistance allowed families to address their most urgent needs in the wake of the floods.



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

*Community risk management and climate adaptation plans improve livelihoods and reduce impacts of water and food shortages, health issues and displacements*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has addressed climate change and environmental crises through its ongoing efforts under the 'Strengthening Community Resilience and Climate Change' project, specifically in Herat and Samangan provinces. This initiative focuses on building climate resilience and improving livelihoods through disaster management and livelihood enhancement activities.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society installed 10 solar-powered deep wells with pumping systems across six districts within Herat and Samangan provinces, directly benefiting 4,000 households. These solar-powered systems provide a sustainable water source for both agriculture and community use, allowing farmers to continue cultivating crops year-round, even during dry seasons and challenging climatic conditions.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also distributed financial assistance totalling CHF 315 to 300 households in two instalments. This support enabled recipients to purchase tools and materials for income-generating activities, helping improve their financial independence and strengthen their livelihoods in line with local needs and environmental challenges.

In Herat province, the Afghan Red Crescent Society facilitated a six-month tailoring training course for 100 women. Participants received two hours of training daily, which equipped them with essential skills for income generation. Upon completion, these women will be provided with income-generating tools, building their financial independence and long-term resilience.

The National Society staff and volunteers have undergone training in critical areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, vulnerability and capacity assessment ([eVCA](#)), school safety and hygiene promotion. The training enables them to implement climate-resilient activities and share knowledge within their communities, strengthening overall disaster preparedness and response.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is actively incorporating [climate-smart approaches](#) across its operations. This includes the integration of solar energy systems for electricity and water pumping as a key practice in reducing reliance on traditional energy sources. Cash-for-work programmes focused on waste management are being implemented, helping communities manage waste while also providing income. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has also leveraged digital technologies for surveys and administrative tasks, significantly reducing resource consumption and [carbon emissions](#).

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is working towards integrating anticipatory action frameworks within its operations. A contingency plan for [forecast-based interventions](#) has been developed, with the staff participating in workshops to align their strategies with these plans. Initial meetings with local authorities in flood-affected areas have been held to coordinate early warning systems and disaster preparedness efforts.

Through the 'Community Resilience and Climate Change' project, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has engaged approximately 240 volunteers in school safety committees. These volunteers, who have undergone mandatory training, are now playing a crucial role in educating students and community members on disaster risk reduction, hygiene promotion and first aid, thus building a strong foundation for climate resilience at the grassroots level.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has ensured the integration of protection, gender and inclusion ([PGI](#)) and community engagement and accountability ([CEA](#)) into climate programming. Vulnerable groups, including women and those living with disabilities, are prioritized in all climate-related interventions. The inclusion of community

feedback mechanisms—such as suggestion boxes, help desks and participatory consultations—has strengthened the transparency and accountability of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's programming.

The National Society partnered with organizations such as UNDP, FAO and Care to collaborate on climate resilience initiatives, enhancing the effectiveness of its activities through joint efforts.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supports the Afghan Red Crescent Society in its efforts to build resilience and implement sustainable solutions across affected communities. This support has been multifaceted, providing both financial assistance and technical guidance for key initiatives, including the installation of solar-powered irrigation systems and vocational training programmes.

The IFRC facilitated funding for the Strengthening Community Resilience and Climate Change project. Additionally, the IFRC has supported National Society in delivering vocational training programmes.

The IFRC also provided technical assistance in the development of contingency plans for forecast-based interventions. The IFRC supported the institutionalization of a third-party monitoring system, ensuring the accountability and transparency of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operations. This independent monitoring system collects feedback through site observations and exit interviews. The feedback provided helps identify areas for improvement, ensuring continuous enhancement of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's interventions.



*The Afghan Red Crescent Society teams provide critical essential household items distribution and medical support to families affected by the flash floods in Baghlan province in May 2024 (Photo: Afghan Red Crescent Society)*



## **Disasters and crises**

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

By mid-2024, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) was approved for two separate emergencies comprising the Pakistan-Afghanistan population movement and the Afghanistan cold wave:

1.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Pakistan-Afghanistan Population Movement</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	<a href="#">MDRAF013</a>
<b>DURATION</b>	6 months (November 2023 to May 2024)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 750,000
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	50,000

The IFRC DREF allocated CHF 750,000 to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in assisting 50,000 vulnerable individuals. In October 2023, the Government of Pakistan announced plans to deport undocumented foreigners, including around 1.3 million Afghans, who do not voluntarily leave by November 1. This announcement has triggered a mass return of Afghans, with an average of 5,000 individuals crossing the border daily, a significant increase from the usual 260 per day. The border provinces of Kandahar, Nangarhar and others are facing overwhelmed registration systems, with thousands of returnees waiting in transit camps for extended periods. Many of these returnees are vulnerable, including women, children and the elderly, and face harsh weather conditions and inadequate resources. There is an urgent need for comprehensive humanitarian support to address health, shelter and basic needs to alleviate the dire situation faced by these returnees.

As part of the response, the Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented cash-for-work initiatives for 50 people in waste management activities at humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)) in Kandahar and Nangarhar. 42,863 individuals (including 23,799 females and 19,064 males) received primary health care services through 14 medical health teams (MHTs) deployed in Kandahar and Nangarhar. 28 medical cases were referred to higher-level health facilities for specialized treatment, improving access to urgent medical care.

2.

<b>NAME OF OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Afghanistan Cold Wave   Extreme weather</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	<a href="#">MDRAF014</a>
<b>DURATION</b>	4 months (March 2024 to July 2024)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 499,885
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	22,400

The IFRC launched a DREF with a budget of CHF 499,885 to support the Afghan Red Crescent Society in responding to the needs of the people affected by the extreme weather event. In March 2024, Afghanistan experienced an unusually late winter, causing heavy snowfall and extreme cold temperatures. This cold wave severely impacted high-altitude provinces, resulting in casualties, significant livestock losses and disruptions to economic activities. An Emergency Task Force Meeting convened by the Afghan Red Crescent Society highlighted the extensive damage, with approximately 325,205 people affected across 18 provinces. The cold wave, which reached temperatures as low as -33°C, caused over 70,000 cattle deaths and 70 human fatalities, particularly in Badakhshan, Badghis and Ghor. The National Disaster Organization reported significant losses in livestock and infrastructure, including a landslide in Nuristan that killed 25 people and displaced three households. The situation required substantial humanitarian support and long-term interventions focusing on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction to strengthen community resilience.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society provided Multipurpose Cash Assistance ([MPCA](#)) of AFN 8,500 (equivalent to CHF 110) to 3,191 households in 11 provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Sari-e-Pol, Uruzgan, and Zabul). 1,743 households across five provinces (Badakhshan, Badghis, Kunduz, Nuristan and Sari-e-Pol) received dignity kits, providing essential hygiene items to mitigate the cold wave's impact.

## **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

*Communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies and conflict-generated shocks*

*Deliver humanitarian assistance to people affected by evolving crises and disasters*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has been actively implementing humanitarian crisis operations across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. This includes flood operations in 14 of the most severely impacted provinces, such as Badakhshan, Baghlan, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nimruz, Parwan, Takhar, Urozgan and Zabul. Key interventions and achievements include:

*Build and enhance community-based disaster risk management programming capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteers and technical staff*

A variety of training programmes have been implemented, covering areas such as disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, early warning systems, vulnerability and capacity assessments (eVCA) and community health. These initiatives have strengthened the Afghan Red Crescent Society's capacity to plan and implement disaster preparedness and response interventions.

*Develop/update its disaster risk management strategy and socialize it at all levels*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has worked on updating its multi-hazard contingency plan for disaster management, particularly during the Herat earthquake response. This plan aims to enhance institutional readiness and ensure timely and effective disaster response.

*Mainstream disaster risk reduction into the Afghan Red Crescent Society operations including shelter interventions*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has integrated disaster risk reduction into its operations, including cash-for-work programmes for waste management. These initiatives not only reduce environmental hazards but also provide temporary income opportunities to affected communities.

*Implement household and community-managed livelihood projects*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has focused on livelihood enhancement as a core part of its disaster response. 10 solar-powered irrigation pumps were installed in Herat and Samangan provinces, benefiting 4,000 households. These solar pumps provide reliable, eco-friendly water sources for agriculture, promoting food security and year-round crop cultivation. 300 households received financial support to procure tools and materials for income-generating activities, totalling CHF 315 in two instalments.

Five women in Kabul and Kandahar received CHF 280 each to initiate livelihood activities, supporting women's economic empowerment.

*Implement cash and voucher assistance (CVA) interventions to address multiple needs*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society distributed multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to address multiple needs, including those arising from the floods in Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Kandahar, Parwan and Uruzgan provinces.

*Pursue partnerships on integrated community-based programming*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has continued to implement community resilience programmes in Herat and Samangan provinces. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is exploring potential partnerships for integrated, community-based programming in 2024.

*Enhance programme quality and accountability across all programmes*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has integrated protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) standards and community engagement and accountability (CEA) in all disaster and crisis response activities. Staff undergo regular PGI training to ensure non-discriminatory approaches to programming. Feedback mechanisms such as suggestion boxes and hotlines have been implemented to ensure transparency and gather community input on humanitarian services. Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) has been strengthened, including training in report writing and conducting exit surveys to improve operational transparency.



The Afghan Red Crescent Society has ensured community participation through regular meetings and consultations, strengthening transparency and accountability in all stages of the programme cycle. Beneficiaries are encouraged to participate in decision-making processes related to interventions. Third-party monitoring has been implemented, focusing on independent assessments of The Afghan Red Crescent Society's programme delivery and beneficiary satisfaction, ensuring continuous improvement in service provision.

Through these efforts, The Afghan Red Crescent Society has made substantial progress in in the first half of 2024 enhancing its capacity to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies and conflicts, ensuring the affected populations receive timely and effective humanitarian assistance while also working towards long-term resilience and community empowerment.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society through financial, technical and operational assistance to strengthen its capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, health emergencies and conflict-related challenges. The IFRC has facilitated funding for various projects, including the Strengthening Community Resilience and Climate Change project.

In addition to funding livelihood projects, the IFRC supported cash distribution to 300 households for income-generating tools and five women for small-scale business activities in Kabul and Kandahar.

The IFRC also provided technical expertise in key areas, including disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and the integration of forecast-based early warning systems. The Afghan Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers received training in these areas to implement climate-resilient activities, including eVCA and early warning systems.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society developed and enhanced its multi-hazard contingency plans with guidance from the IFRC, ensuring better preparedness for future crises. The IFRC has ensured that the National Society's humanitarian interventions maintain high standards of accountability and transparency. The IFRC has also provided support in PMER, offering regular coaching, training in exit surveys and conducting lesson learned workshops with The Afghan Red Crescent Society leadership.

The IFRC has supported The Afghan Red Crescent Society in enhancing CEA by helping to design and implement feedback mechanisms such as suggestion boxes and hotlines. The IFRC also facilitated workshops for staff and volunteers to integrate PGI and CEA principles into all operations, ensuring that marginalized groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities, are actively included in all humanitarian activities.

The IFRC network has facilitated strategic partnerships with international organizations such as UNDP, FAO and Care, enhancing The Afghan Red Crescent Society's climate resilience programming.

Through support from the IFRC and the **Japanese Red Cross** fund, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has continued to implement community resilience programmes in Herat and Samangan provinces.



## **Health and wellbeing**

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

#### ***Deliver emergency health and WASH assistance to people affected by disasters and crises***

In response to the earthquake in Herat Province, the Afghan Red Crescent Society established community health and grandmother committees and trained 450 volunteers. These trained volunteers then reached 62,789 people in the earthquake-affected locations through conducting awareness-raising sessions, household visits and by sharing key messages on health, hygiene promotion and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Additionally, trained volunteers provided first aid services to 554 people in these areas.

Likewise, the Afghan Red Crescent Society installed water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities at Torkham, Nangarhar to support WASH needs of returnees. They include:

- Installation of six portable latrines, with three each for male and female users

- Supply and installation of 10 hand-washing facilities with metal water tanks
- installation of 20 metal trash/garbage bins around the returnee's camp
- Installation of two 1,500-liter metallic water tanks in the health camp

These WASH interventions have been implemented to support the health camp operations and meet the needs of the returnees arriving from Pakistan through Torkham crossing point.

#### ***Enhance the health and WASH programming capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society staff***

As part of the intervention in the earthquake-affected areas of Herat province, a total of 450 volunteers (230 male and 220 female) received training in enhanced community-based health and first aid (eCBHFA), epidemic control for volunteers and nutrition screening. These trained volunteers were mobilized within their communities to assist affected and vulnerable populations. During the reporting period, CBHFA activities and services reached a total of 62,789 individuals (32,274 male and 30,515 female) through awareness-raising sessions, household visits, nutrition screenings and first aid and psychological first aid services.

#### ***Strengthen the delivery of primary health, immunization, maternal, newborn and child health and emergency health services through static and mobile health facilities***

The health service initiatives prioritize primary healthcare, routine immunization and polio eradication, especially for vulnerable women and children. During the reporting period, 1,068,631 individuals received healthcare services through the Afghan Red Crescent Society health facilities. This includes 579,368 people who were vaccinated.

A total of 487,503 new consultations were conducted, with 64 per cent for females. Maternal and child health services included 24,030 antenatal visits, 9,732 postnatal care visits and 568 delivery sessions. Training was provided for health staff to enhance their skills, and 25 National Society data staff received online training to improve data quality.

#### ***Strengthen the capacity of the National Society to provide emergency transfer of casualties and patients to appropriate health facilities***

During the reporting period, the Afghan Red Crescent Society health teams referred 3,268 patients to secondary and higher-level facilities, ensuring critical care access. As part of population movement operations, the Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented a standby ambulance service at Torkham and Spin Boldak border points, enabling swift medical evacuations. This service referred 28 urgent cases to higher-level facilities, enhancing emergency response capabilities.

#### ***Implement MHPSS interventions in communities and schools as well as for responders***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society dispatched prepositioned emergency stocks and carried out lifesaving activities, including emergency first aid and MHPSS. The support included psychological first aid and outreach support to affected households, focusing on districts, villages and open areas where people sought shelter due to fear of earthquakes and aftershocks.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also conducted MHPSS training sessions for community health volunteers, equipping them with the skills to provide basic psychological first aid and identify individuals in need of further mental health support. The National Society collaborated with local organizations to train mental health professionals on culturally appropriate MHPSS practices.

In addition to these, the Afghan Red Crescent Society organized community awareness sessions to destigmatize mental health issues and promote the availability of MHPSS services. Informational materials on stress management, coping strategies and available mental health resources were distributed. Health education sessions reached 22,584 people, covering topics such as immunization, breastfeeding, nutrition, family planning, hygiene and sanitation, including components of MHPSS.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also established support groups for vulnerable populations, including women, children and individuals with disabilities, providing a safe space for sharing experiences and receiving peer support. Efforts included assessing the needs of women and children and providing adequate shelter, livestock, food storage and MHPSS. Initiatives were also aimed at increasing awareness and accessibility of

services, particularly for women who were disproportionately affected by the earthquakes. School-based psychosocial activities, such as art and play therapy were also implemented to help students process their emotions and build resilience. The National Society created peer support groups and mentorship programmes to encourage a supportive school environment.

### ***Strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Red Crescent Society to provide institutional mental healthcare***

During the reporting period, five mobile health teams (MHTs) with 10 psychosocial workers were deployed to earthquake-affected areas in Herat, providing support to 1,519 beneficiaries (992 females and 527 males). Many individuals, both young and elderly, faced mild to moderate mental health issues due to rural poverty and difficult living conditions.

The teams offered psychosocial first aid (PFA) sessions to help beneficiaries develop coping strategies and provided practical advice on managing stress. A three-day training on PFA, protection, gender inclusion and safe referral practices was held for 25 MHT members to enhance their skills in delivering mental health care, ensuring sensitive and effective support.

### ***Scale up community-based health and first aid***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society's CBHFA programme is designed to meet specific health needs while enhancing community resilience and capabilities. By integrating trained volunteer networks and focusing on vulnerable populations, the programme effectively scales up health initiatives, including MHPSS. Key elements include:

- Adaptation of CBHFA strategy: This allows the Afghan Red Crescent Society to reach underserved populations lacking access to primary healthcare, ensuring responsiveness to local needs
- Focus on mothers and children: Targeting these groups addresses critical health gaps, reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality in underserved areas
- Incorporation of first aid services: Training communities in first aid, including MHPSS, empowers individuals to respond to emergencies, improving overall health outcomes
- Training and equipping volunteers: Volunteers receive training and first aid kits, enhancing their ability to provide immediate assistance in crises
- Psychological first aid: This component addresses emotional needs, supporting mental well-being, especially in conflict-affected areas
- Integration of preventive and curative services: By combining preventive education with treatment access, the Afghan Red Crescent Society builds a culture of prevention and resilience
- Community resilience and engagement: Involving community members in programme design promotes ownership and adaptability, building long-term capacities
- Based on the budget transfer delays, field activities related to pledges will occur in the third and fourth quarters of the year. The procurement process for first aid kits was completed in 2023, with distribution planned for trained volunteers in 2023 and new trainees in 2024

Additionally, a focus group discussion in late 2023 informed the development of schoolgirls' hygiene kits. A workshop for female trainers in Kabul provided input on kit contents and menstrual hygiene management, leading to the procurement of 1,700 hygiene kits.

### ***Institutionalize commercial first aid within the Afghan Red Crescent Society***

The foundation laid by the Afghan Red Crescent Society's community-focused health initiatives equips the National Society to successfully integrate commercial first aid programmes. By capitalizing on existing training frameworks, volunteer networks, community awareness and strategic partnerships, the Afghan Red Crescent Society can effectively institutionalize commercial first aid. This move not only broadens the Afghan Red Crescent Society's capability to deliver essential services but also aligns with its core mission of enhancing community health and resilience.

### ***Scale up the WASH in school programmes which comprises construction of WASH facilities, provision of WASH items for***

### *girls and hygiene promotion to include nearby communities*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society community health and first aid programme has advanced the WASH in Schools initiative by integrating health promotion and hygiene practices into educational settings, focusing on facilities for girls. In 2023, the Afghan Red Crescent Society completed well digging, solar system installations and established WASH clubs in schools. Current activities include constructing latrines and handwashing facilities in additional schools and setting up WASH clubs in six more schools. Final inspections will occur in the last quarter of the year.

In 2023, the Afghan Red Crescent Society installed solar systems and dug wells in 10 schools. Out of 1,430 hygiene kits procured, 778 were distributed to girls in Kabul schools, with the remaining kits to be distributed in Herat in the next period. Procurement for 1,700 additional kits for 2024 is underway.

### *Engage young people as agents for behavioural change including in addressing substance abuse*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society engaged with over 764 young people in various advocacy activities geared towards behaviour change including substance abuse. The activities were geared towards inspiring the young people to quit harmful habits and form new beneficial habits. While effectively and successfully changing behaviour required a long-term approach in which a full range of communication channels would be employed, the Afghan Red Crescent Society was able to use the following strategic approach:

- Understanding of the programme and where communications can add value: the Afghan Red Crescent Society was able to collect primary and secondary data and using participatory processes that helped to develop a better understanding of the young people, contexts and barriers that the behaviour change process would address. A total of 381 young people were interviewed using focused group discussions and structured questionnaires
- Definition of objectives: The Afghan Red Crescent Society defined what it wanted to achieve through communication by identifying the goal of communication efforts and designing ways to measure their impact
- Identification of the audience: The Afghan Red Crescent Society targeted 764 young people across its operation areas to better tailor its approaches with careful consideration of the local context
- Development and testing of key messages: Clear and concise messages that resonated well with young people were developed and distributed through 840 IEC materials translated in the local language
- Measurement of the results: While actual behaviour change required longer term strategies, there was noteworthy willingness to change behaviour among 263 young people who were interviewed across the Afghan Red Crescent Society' areas of operation

### *Engage with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) in formulating national health priorities and strengthening the auxiliary role for health services*

Activities engaged in included reflection workshops on primary health care interventions including achievements, challenges and remedial measures to address the challenges. Three reflection workshops were conducted at field level with provincial health authorities. Additionally, the Afghan Red Crescent Society conducted five joint monitoring and supervision visits with the Provincial Public Health Department to provide oversight to the activities, identify any gaps and tailor effective approaches to address the gaps, particularly in routine immunization activities.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supports the Afghan Red Crescent Society with 128 health facilities, including 75 mobile health teams, eight health sub centers and 45 health camps, across 28 provinces.

In response to funding issues faced by Norwegian Red Cross, the IFRC temporarily supported 28 mobile health teams starting in June 2024. Five new mobile health teams were also deployed after the Herat earthquake, providing MHPSS to 1,519 beneficiaries. Additionally, a three-day training session on psychological first aid and inclusion standards was held for 25 mobile health team participants. To address the increasing mental health needs, the IFRC strengthened the Afghan Red Crescent Society health teams' capacity for institutional mental healthcare.



The IFRC also supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society in various advocacy activities geared towards strengthening the working relationship between the IFRC, the Afghan Red Crescent Society and the MoPH.

The **Danish Red Cross** supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society for operation of 16 mobile health teams in Herat, Nangarhar, Helmand and Kandahar provinces. During the reporting period, the teams reached 1,128,960 people: 141,120 people directly (63,504 male and 77,616 female) and 987,840 indirectly through primary health and care services and health and hygiene promotion activities. The Danish Red Cross also supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society in providing training and mobilizing 31 volunteers (18 females and 13 males) to assess the MHPSS needs of affected households, providing psychological first aid and outreach support to 7,588 people in Herat province.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society in delivering primary health care services to total of 8174 floods affected individuals, including 3,270 male and 4,905 female in Baghlan province.



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### *Delivering humanitarian assistance to people on the move*

Delivering humanitarian assistance to people on the move is a critical focus of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operations in response to the influx of Afghan returnees from Pakistan. The organization aims to support the immediate needs of 50,000 individuals arriving in Afghanistan by providing essential services such as health care, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihoods. Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) have been established at border crossing points to offer a range of services including primary health care, mental health support and information dissemination on safety hazards. This comprehensive approach addresses both immediate and long-term needs, ensuring that returnees can integrate safely into their communities.

#### *Implementing interventions to strengthen the economic resilience of returnees*

Implementing interventions to strengthen the economic resilience of returnees involves providing targeted support to help them rebuild their livelihoods and integrate into their communities. This includes cash-for-work programmes that engage returnees in community projects, such as waste management and infrastructure repair, which not only provide immediate income but also enhance community services. Additionally, vocational training and access to microfinance can empower returnees to develop skills and start small businesses, advancing self-sufficiency. By addressing the immediate economic needs and facilitating long-term economic opportunities, these interventions aim to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and promote sustainable development for returnees and their host communities.

#### *Establishing HSPs in branches of border provinces*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society, has established two HSPs at the Spin Boldak (Kandahar) and Torkham (Nangarhar) border crossings. At these points, staff and volunteers are deployed based on their specific areas of expertise to efficiently assist returnees. Clearly designated areas help streamline the provision of aid, with ushers at the entrance guiding returnees to available services, prioritizing health cases.

The services offered include health care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), family reunification assistance/ restoring family links (RFL), information on weapon contamination and hot meals for patients. Additionally, returnees receive targeted information about area-specific hazards related to weapon contamination, aimed at preventing accidental explosions that could cause injuries or fatalities.

#### *Engaging young people from internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host community as agents for behavioural change including on promoting social cohesion*

153 host community members were hired for an environmental cleanup exercise, with 50 individuals engaged in cash-for-work initiatives focused on waste management at HSPs. These participants were equipped with tools to effectively manage waste during the cleanup activities.

#### *Mainstream CEA and PGI minimum standards in migration and displacement programming and enhance programme*

### *quality and accountability across migration and displacement interventions*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society conducted capacity-building training for 54 staff and volunteers to enhance their skills in engaging with communities, upholding protection standards and addressing gender and inclusion issues. This training aimed to create a more responsive and inclusive environment that recognizes and addresses the diverse needs of displaced populations. Volunteers were also provided with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet to ensure they can address community queries accurately and promptly.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented community engagement and accountability (CEA) measures by clearly communicating selection criteria for assistance, including multi-purpose cash assistance, meals and hygiene kits. Regular updates and communication efforts, such as community meetings and house visits were made to ensure transparency and build trust. A two-day training on CEA, protection against gender-based violence and safeguarding was conducted for staff and volunteers.

The PMER department conducted exit surveys and post-distribution monitoring, with high satisfaction reported regarding the distribution of aid, although some respondents had difficulty registering complaints. A post-distribution monitoring of winterization kits, distributed to 3,000 households across six provinces, showed that the kits met the needs of the majority, with respondents expressing satisfaction with the process. The feedback received highlighted areas for improvement, including increasing sensitization sessions before distributions to better inform communities.

### *Pursuing partnerships on migration and displacement programming*

A team composed of Afghanistan and Pakistan delegations were set up and are meeting when need arises to address the migration issues affecting both countries.

### *Working with the authorities on migration and displacement solutions*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society plays a vital role as an auxiliary to public authorities in responding to humanitarian needs across Afghanistan, particularly in hard-to-reach areas. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is involved in national committees that manage the returnee caseload, with its leadership participating in taskforces that advise authorities on resource allocation, population needs and integration of returnees. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also attends sectoral cluster meetings to coordinate humanitarian efforts.

In Herat, the Afghan Red Crescent Society initially planned to build 500 transitional shelters, but due to funding limitations, the target was reduced to 300 shelters. Originally planned for Zinda Jan, the shelter projects were moved to Gulran district due to tribal disputes and coordination with other organizations. Although 28 shelters are currently suspended due to concerns raised by religious authorities, the Afghan Red Crescent Society continues to engage with local scholars to resolve these issues.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in addressing the needs of Afghan returnees and displaced populations. This support included funding, technical guidance and the establishment of HSPs at key border crossings, offering health care, MHPSS, family reunification and safety information. Additionally, the IFRC facilitated cash-for-work programmes, vocational training and community livelihood initiatives to strengthen economic resilience for returnees.

The IFRC also supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society in mainstreaming CEA and PGI standards, providing capacity-building training and ensuring transparent feedback mechanisms. It assisted in developing early warning systems and anticipatory action frameworks to improve disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the IFRC helped the Afghan Red Crescent Society engage in partnerships to strengthen national response strategies and prioritize the needs of returnees.

At the regional and national levels, the IFRC worked with the Afghan Red Crescent Society and other partners to address migration and displacement, ensuring that returnees were integrated into humanitarian programmes as a specific target group, with returnees included in vulnerability criteria.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### *Mainstream CEA and PGI minimum standards in emergency operations and longer-term programmes*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society successfully integrated community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) minimum standards across its emergency operations and long-term programmes. These efforts are designed to ensure that the voices of affected communities, especially marginalized groups, are central to the decision-making process and that all humanitarian interventions are inclusive and responsive to the specific needs of diverse populations.

#### *Establish women-led support activities to engage young women in service delivery*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has initiated a comprehensive programme to support young women in Afghanistan by conducting cross-cutting training sessions for female staff and volunteers in Herat and Nangarhar. The training aims to equip participants with essential skills, enhancing their ability to support their communities effectively. A Training of Trainers programme will ensure that the trained staff can further disseminate these skills throughout Afghan Red Crescent Society's volunteer network.

#### *Enhance programme quality and accountability across socio-economic resilience interventions*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented various socio-economic resilience programmes during the reporting period to enhance the financial independence and empowerment of women. 500 women in five provinces (Kabul, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar and Balkh) received professional training, improving their job prospects and skills. Direct cash support was provided to widows across the country, promoting independent decision-making and improving household resilience. 30 girls under the age of 20 in Kabul received training to strengthen their communication skills, opening doors for future opportunities. The Afghan Red Crescent Society worked with local authorities to address violations against women, ensuring participants' rights and safety.

#### *Promote access and inclusion for people with disabilities, marginalized, most vulnerable and to promote child protection safeguarding*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has worked to ensure access and inclusion for people with disabilities and marginalized groups by integrating PGI and CEA standards into all programmes. Capacity-building efforts have included training staff on child safeguarding and conducting risk analysis for child protection. Furthermore, the Afghan Red Crescent Society plans to develop a comprehensive strategy integrating both PGI and CEA to address the specific needs of vulnerable populations more effectively.

#### *Strengthen safeguarding mechanisms within the National Society's structure and programmes*

Safeguarding has been embedded into the Afghan Red Crescent Society operations through multiple measures. Safeguarding was integrated into four major proposals, including the Herat Earthquake and Population Movement operations. Staff in Nangarhar and Herat received safeguarding training, and safeguarding messages were incorporated into all related IEC materials and banners. Safeguarding questions were included in surveys and monitoring activities to ensure that protection measures are effective throughout the programme cycle.

#### *Implement interventions to strengthen the socio-economic resilience of widows and women headed households*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society launched several initiatives to enhance the socio-economic resilience of widows and women-headed households. Several centres were established in Kabul, Herat and Kandahar, offering skills training in tailoring, embroidery and small-scale entrepreneurship. Interest-free loans and business support were provided to hundreds of women to help them start or expand small businesses. Agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and small-scale irrigation tools were distributed to women-headed households in rural areas to combat food insecurity and strengthen their economic position.

#### *Expand the number of Marastoons (social welfare centres), improving the quality of existing Marastoons as well as to ensure the dignity and safe environment in Marastoon*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society made significant development in improving the quality and quantity of Marastoons during the reporting period. Comprehensive needs assessments were conducted in the Kandahar Mental Health Centre, Kabul Nursing Homes and with young women in Herat. These assessments guided tailored support programmes. In Herat, more than 90 young women and girls participated in group discussions, while house-to-house interviews were conducted in Golran district to understand their needs and aspirations.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also distributed chickens in five provinces (Kabul, Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar and Balkh), enabling women to start small businesses, and provided 42 sewing items in Merston communities to promote entrepreneurship and skill-building.

Ongoing feedback collection from women about the implementation of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's initiatives ensures that the programmes remain responsive to their needs.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided technical support and capacity-building to the Afghan Red Crescent Society, helping to strengthen the integration of PGI and CEA standards across its programming. The IFRC conducted a two-day session on gender-based violence (GBV) protection and safeguarding for 54 National Society staff in the Eastern regions. The IFRC also facilitated the integration of safeguarding into the Afghan Red Crescent Society's key operations, ensuring that all programmes have safeguarding measures in place, from staff recruitment to monitoring and evaluation.

The IFRC supported in the development and implementation of CEA strategies, ensuring that the voices of affected populations, especially women, are central to the programming cycle. The IFRC worked with the Afghan Red Crescent Society to ensure that both PGI and CEA standards are included in all phases of the project cycle.

## 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, 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 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. 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.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society receives support from 23 National Societies out of which the **Danish Red Cross**, the **Norwegian Red Cross**, the **Qatar Red Crescent Society** and the **Turkish Red Crescent** 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.

Strong support from the IFRC network partners ensures that the National Society receives financial, material and technical support at a local level.

## Movement coordination

The Afghan Red Crescent Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the **International Committee of the Red Cross** (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. Movement Operational Coordination Meetings bring together the Afghan Red Crescent, the IFRC, the ICRC, and other National Societies working in Afghanistan. Technical working groups focus on specific technical areas of common interest and bring together specialists from each organization. For the complex emergency operation, the IFRC contributes to Movement coordination through the established in-country mechanisms. 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** has a strong historical presence in Afghanistan and 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 health care and rehabilitation support, supporting health care infrastructure, assisting people in establishing livelihoods and incomes, helping families with restoring family links ([RFL](#)) support and 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 (ANDMA), the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and local authorities as an auxiliary to public authorities, ensuring neutral and independent humanitarian action. It collaborates closely with the MoPH 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), which brings together UN agencies, international NGOs, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

The 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 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.

The 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 has made progress in strengthening its organizational capacity and ensuring its readiness for future disasters. To strengthen response capacity, the Afghan Red Crescent Society conducted a series of internal assessments across its departments, leading to the formulation of specific plans for addressing capacity gaps. These assessments have helped prioritize critical areas such as disaster preparedness, health services and community resilience, ensuring the Afghan Red Crescent Society can continue to respond effectively to emergencies.

These efforts have involved consultations with 200+ staff and volunteers at various levels to gather insights on operational challenges and strengths.

Efforts have also been made to increase the Afghan Red Crescent Society's material capacity. This includes the provision of essential tools and equipment to support sustainable programming and service delivery.

***Operationalize the Afghan Red Crescent Society Strategic Plan 2021-2025 by developing a consolidated operational plan and engaging key stakeholders in a partnership meeting which results in agreed outcomes***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has initiated the operationalization of its Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The focus has been on integrating activities across various sectors such as disaster response, health and volunteer management. A consolidated operational plan has been developed, with key stakeholders actively participating to ensure alignment with the strategic goals.

***Support to review the Afghan Red Crescent Society Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and develop next Strategic Plan***

Discussions have been initiated to review and refine the Afghan Red Crescent Society Strategic Plan 2021-2025. This review process will guide the future direction of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, ensuring its continued alignment with humanitarian needs and its long-term sustainability.

***Strengthen advocacy and communications efforts and raise awareness in identifying the Movement and communicating with its members***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has engaged with local communities through workshops, seminars and meetings to identify needs and tailor its advocacy efforts. The Afghan Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers have been trained in effective communication and advocacy strategies to better represent the Movement and convey its messages. The National Society has strengthened its partnerships with other humanitarian organizations to amplify its advocacy efforts and increase its visibility. Personal stories from beneficiaries and volunteers have also been shared to raise awareness about the Afghan Red Crescent Society's impact. Advocacy efforts have been regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure they are effective and impactful.

***Strengthen coordination with authorities, humanitarian community and donors***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has increased its participation in various inter-agency coordination mechanisms, strengthening its position as a leading humanitarian actor in Afghanistan. This includes regular dialogue with embassies and donors to advocate for increased humanitarian funding and to ensure the protection of humanitarian space. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has actively engaged with national authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector to enhance the overall humanitarian response.

***Strengthen the Afghan Red Crescent Society processes, systems and enhance service delivery and support innovation***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has established a field office in Herat with internet access and new IT equipment to improve digital capabilities at the branch level. It has provided training for staff and volunteers at both national and provincial levels, focusing on improving logistics, warehousing, data collection, community engagement and operational effectiveness. A comprehensive assessment of logistics across regions has been conducted, leading to an action plan for improving warehousing and fleet management. This has also led to installation of rub halls and developing a central medical warehouse in Kabul to support operations. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has also upgraded its financial software and implemented real-time data sharing for improved accountability and sustainability.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has established partnerships with private sector entities, such as telecommunications companies, logistics firms and financial institutions to leverage their expertise and resources. It has also maintained regular dialogues and collaborative efforts with diplomatic missions and embassies stationed in Doha, Qatar, including those from key donor countries.

***Develop youth leadership skills and capacity on youth engagement***

To develop youth leadership skills and capacity on youth engagement, the Afghan Red Crescent Society's operational plan emphasizes conducting workshops focused on life skills and psychological support for youth and volunteers across 34 representative levels.



Additionally, training of trainers' workshops for Youth-Based Committees will empower local leaders to foster youth involvement in community activities. The implementation of the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) programme will further enhance engagement, encouraging youth participation in decision-making processes. By organizing exchanges of ideas among youth volunteers and conducting awareness workshops on social issues, the Afghan Red Crescent Society aims to cultivate a generation of informed and active youth leaders who can contribute meaningfully to their communities.

### ***Strengthen local branches of the Afghan Red Crescent Society***

The operation aims to strengthen the branch system processes and procedures, including volunteer management guidelines for integrated programme delivery. This framework is designed to institutionalize capacities and establish a stronger enabling environment for future responses and community resilience engagement.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers are receiving training in various sectors, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and community engagement and accountability (CEA). This training is essential for improving the operational effectiveness of local branches.

To strengthen response capacity, the Afghan Red Crescent Society conducted a series of internal assessments across its departments, leading to the formulation of specific plans for addressing capacity gaps. These assessments have helped prioritize critical areas such as disaster preparedness, health services and community resilience, ensuring the Afghan Red Crescent Society can continue to respond effectively to emergencies. These efforts have involved consultations with over 200 staff and volunteers at various levels to gather insights on operational challenges and strengths.

The mobilization of volunteers, including female volunteers, is emphasized to support services effectively. However, challenges exist due to restrictions on female volunteer involvement, which needs to be addressed to enhance community engagement.

### ***Strengthen resource mobilization capacity of the National Society***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has focused on expanding its resource mobilization efforts to secure funding from both local and international donors. The National Society aims to expand its efforts beyond Doha to key international hubs, including Canada, Germany, Sweden and the Red Cross EU Office. Addressing donor concerns on resource allocation is crucial to reopening funding channels. The goal is to diversify funding sources and strengthen the Afghan Red Crescent Society's financial sustainability.

### ***Focus on volunteer development along with duty of care, finance development and financial system improvement at all levels***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has prioritized volunteer development through training, mentorship and a focus on ensuring a safe and supportive environment for volunteers. This includes the implementation of safety protocols to ensure volunteers can operate in secure environments.

On 27-28 May 2024, the National Society participated in finance training for all staff, with a specialized session for budget holders, aimed at improving financial management of projects. The enterprise resource planning (ERP) system commenced on 1 June 2024, to enhance financial processes.

### ***Train and equip the Afghan Red Crescent Society disaster response teams at headquarter and branch levels***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has equipped its Branch Disaster Response Teams with advanced tools, including communication devices and first aid supplies, to enhance its disaster response capabilities. These teams, trained in Paktika, Panjshir, Kunduz, Kabul, Jalalabad and Herat, received comprehensive kits including communication devices, first aid supplies, tents and generators. This initiative aims to improve the teams' ability to conduct search and rescue operations, deliver medical care and coordinate logistics, ensuring a swift and effective disaster response.

### ***Pre-position relief items and winterization kits in strategic locations***

To improve its operational effectiveness, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has invested in increasing its material capacity. This has included the procurement of essential equipment such as emergency medical kits, shelter materials and logistics tools. Additionally, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has worked to enhance its supply chain management by updating its warehousing facilities and ensuring the pre-positioning of relief items. As a result, over 10,000 relief

items, including hygiene kits, blankets and tents, were strategically placed in 15 key locations across Afghanistan to ensure swift distribution in case of an emergency.

### ***Strengthen institutional disaster and crises readiness of state agencies, especially ANDMA and MoPH***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has continued to strengthen its legal status and its role as an auxiliary to the Afghan government. In collaboration with government officials, the Afghan Red Crescent Society participated in discussions to clarify and solidify its role in the country's disaster management framework. In the first half of 2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society attended more than 20 meetings with government agencies and international partners to discuss legal frameworks, humanitarian access and collaboration on disaster preparedness. The Afghan Red Crescent Society has collaborated with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) to enhance disaster preparedness at the national level.

### ***Conduct workshops and training sessions to enhance the communication skills of the Afghan Red Crescent Society staff***

From 15-17 April 2024, the a three-day Communications Capacity Self-Assessment and Planning Workshop was conducted for the Afghan Red Crescent Society. The goal was to enhance the Afghan Red Crescent Society's communication capabilities, address gaps and strengthen areas needing improvement using the Red Cross Red Crescent Network Communication Capacity Maturity Model. The workshop featured self-assessment exercises and group discussions, focused on identifying communication strengths, challenges and strategies for improvement.

Action plans were developed to address gaps and improve communication capabilities. The workshop concluded with a consensus on key areas for improvement and a commitment to ongoing enhancement.

### ***Establish volunteer management system in National Society***

In the first half of 2024, the Afghan Red Crescent Society focused on strengthening its volunteer management system through several key initiatives. These included defining volunteer roles such as first aid provision, psychological support and community assessments, which helped structure the system. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also implemented comprehensive training for volunteers, including community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) and psychological first aid ([PFA](#)), enhancing their skills and confidence to respond effectively.

A key focus was mobilizing female volunteers to ensure access to vulnerable groups, with a recruitment strategy emphasizing diversity and inclusivity. Volunteers were also engaged in community consultations and feedback mechanisms, ensuring their efforts align with community needs. Collaboration with local authorities facilitated better volunteer coordination and deployment.

To monitor volunteer impact, the Afghan Red Crescent Society established post-distribution monitoring and feedback systems. These efforts, along with a volunteer recognition programme and safety protocols for conflict zones, have strengthened volunteer retention and effectiveness. The Afghan Red Crescent Society also ensured adequate resources and support for volunteers, fostering a safe and supportive environment for their work.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provided supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society with targeted training for staff and volunteers, focusing on operational readiness, disaster response and community engagement. The IFRC also provided technical guidance in strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society's resource mobilization strategies, facilitating partnerships with donors and private sector entities to secure essential funding and collaborative efforts ongoing towards addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by Afghanistan.

The **Norwegian Red Cross** supported the National Society in upgrading financial software and enabling real-time data sharing for branches to enhance accountability and sustainability.





### Progress by the National Society against objectives

#### *Produce communication materials to showcase the Afghan Red Crescent Society activities and achievements*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is enhancing its communication capacity through technical and practical training for staff and volunteers. The training, conducted both in the field and at the headquarters level, includes guidance on taking professional photographs, conducting beneficiary interviews, covering relevant aspects and photographing beneficiaries with dignity.

#### *Disseminate stories highlighting humanitarian needs and the impactful work of the Afghan Red Crescent Society in Afghanistan*

Through social media and websites, the Afghan Red Crescent Society showcases emergency relief efforts, including rapid response to disasters and conflicts, and the provision of essential aid like food, water and cash assistance. The National Society, in the reporting period, has highlighted mobile health clinics and vaccination campaigns that reached remote areas, ensuring access to essential healthcare. It also showcased programmes aimed at improving livelihoods, such as vocational training and educational support for children and adults. Humanitarian stories featured the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan.

#### *Private humanitarian diplomacy with the authorities*

In the first half of 2024, humanitarian diplomacy focused on engaging Doha-based diplomats to address the diminishing support for Afghanistan's crises. The goal was to advocate for sustainable, self-sufficiency solutions. One-on-one meetings with the Afghan Red Crescent Society leadership and a roundtable briefing in Doha highlighted the need for a long-term strategy beyond current aid approaches. The Afghan Red Crescent Society Annual Partnerships meeting discussed urgent needs and operational shifts, refining key messages to align with the evolving context. A contextual analysis was prepared for National Societies, and numerous meetings with embassies and UN agencies were held to enhance collaboration on Afghanistan's challenges.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in strengthening humanitarian diplomacy and building partnerships. The IFRC Afghanistan communications team played a key role by offering technical and communications support to the Afghan Red Crescent Society and other participating National Societies operating in the country, including the **Turkish Red Crescent** and the **Danish Red Cross**. The team supported the communication needs of these National Societies by covering their field activities and handling any communications-related requests. This contributed to improving visibility and coordination among partners.

The IFRC also leveraged its digital platforms to raise awareness about the critical work of the Afghan Red Crescent Society and its volunteers, showcasing their humanitarian efforts to a global audience.

Recognizing the importance of strengthened partnerships, the IFRC intensified its engagement with National Societies, governments and external partners. In line with IFRC's Strategy 2030 and the Agenda for Renewal, the IFRC focused on enhancing its support for the Afghan Red Crescent Society, including strengthening its advocacy efforts to maintain and increase donor support amid a challenging global funding landscape, where donations were expected to decline due to crises in other regions, such as Palestine and Ukraine. The IFRC managed to secure stable support from key donors, including the GAVI Alliance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, CDC, the **Japanese Red Cross** and the **Finnish Red Cross**.

Humanitarian diplomacy efforts were further amplified through strategic meetings in Kabul and Doha. These sessions served to update stakeholders on the ongoing programmes of both the IFRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society, emphasizing the need for policies that promote Afghan self-sufficiency and the long-term sustainability of humanitarian aid.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

*The Afghan Red Crescent Society is a trusted and transparent organization, having enough resources for sustainable humanitarian services*

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has made substantial progress towards enhancing accountability and agility in its operations during the first half of 2024, ensuring that it remains a trusted and transparent organization capable of providing sustainable humanitarian services.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has continued to prioritize adherence to donor conditions and security measures. Staff and vendors have been screened against the UN sanction list to prevent funds from reaching ineligible entities. Furthermore, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has ensured that all staff complete mandatory training in security and IT and that compliance with donor conditions is regularly tracked through process reviews. The National Society also focused on fraud prevention, integrity and whistleblowing by requiring all project managers and staff to complete online training. A tracking system for training completion has been implemented, and refresher needs are coordinated with the Human Resources department.

The Afghan Red Crescent Society has utilized a risk register to track relevant risks, which is updated quarterly. Risks outside the National Society's appetite are escalated to higher levels of governance. Additionally, a senior safeguarding officer was designated to focus on preventing and responding to sexual exploitation, abuse and child safeguarding issues. Safeguarding strategies have been developed and training delivered to both the Afghan Red Crescent Society staff and its partner organizations.

*Financial management has accountable, transparent and standard systems and experienced human resources to provide timely services, based on the needs of operations at all levels*

The financial management system at the Afghan Red Crescent Society has seen continuous improvements to ensure transparency and accountability. Using third-party monitoring, the quality and effectiveness of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's projects have been independently assessed, with an emphasis on improving its feedback response mechanisms. The launch of a dedicated hotline for community members to provide feedback on the Afghan Red Crescent Society operations is a notable achievement, ensuring greater accessibility and accountability in humanitarian response.

The National Society has collaborated with Beid Consulting Services (BCS) for independent monitoring of the Afghan Red Crescent Society projects in Afghanistan. BCS has submitted its inception report and data collection tools, which have been reviewed by the technical team. BCS has completed data collection in the central provinces of Baghlan, Bamiyan, Daikundi, Ghazni, Kabul, Khost, Parwan and Wardak, and has begun data collection in the northern region.

### *Expand the feedback response mechanism*

There has been progress in feedback response mechanism with the launch of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's dedicated hotline. This new hotline enhances accessibility, enabling community members to directly voice their concerns, suggestions and feedback. It represents a strong commitment to accountability and transparency, building a more responsive relationship with the communities. The hotline will ensure that every voice is heard, and every issue is promptly addressed, reinforcing the Afghan Red Crescent Society's dedication to exceptional service and CEA.

*Strengthen PMER-IM capacity of National Society (headquarters and branches) through training, workshops, coaching, cross learning and deployment*

In strengthening its readiness and operational effectiveness, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has invested in enhancing its planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and information management (PMER-IM) capacity. Regular meetings and coaching sessions were held to enhance skills in data collection, cleaning and analysis. A PMER training

workshop was conducted in March 2024 for programme managers, monitoring and evaluation officers and key staff, covering essential topics such as results-based management (RBM) and the Logframe approach.

#### ***Provision of designated PMER-IM staff/volunteer at all levels***

In Herat Province, 11 trained volunteers are actively supporting PMER activities, enhancing programme effectiveness and accountability. Although the Afghan Red Crescent Society PMER staff are based at headquarters, they regularly visit provinces to ensure consistent PMER practices and provide guidance. This collaboration strengthens PMER efforts across all levels, increasing the impact of humanitarian initiatives.

In terms of volunteer management, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has worked to establish a volunteer system that is both responsive and effective. Volunteers have been trained in various sectors, including CBHFA, MHPSS and post-distribution monitoring. Female volunteers have been actively recruited and trained to enhance the reach and impact of humanitarian efforts, particularly among vulnerable populations. To ensure the effectiveness of volunteer efforts, the Afghan Red Crescent Society has established clear roles, safety protocols and recognition programmes to maintain high levels of volunteer engagement and retention.

#### ***Expand uses of data/information management software such as RedRose Apps across all programmes and operations***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society also enhanced its capacity for data management by introducing the RedRose system, which has significantly improved the efficiency and speed of aid distribution in emergencies. The system's versatility in managing cash responses and distributing essential items has proven invaluable during multiple crises, including droughts, floods and earthquakes.

#### ***Implement centralized data/information management system/tools***

Further strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society's infrastructure, a centralized data management system was developed, allowing all relevant programme and operational data to be easily accessed across the National Society. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is also in the process of integrating this system with Power BI dashboards to support informed decision-making. In line with its digital transformation efforts, the Afghan Red Crescent Society received support for internet connectivity and IT equipment, improving communication within its branches and facilitating remote coordination.

The centralized SharePoint repository/database has been established where all programmes and emergency operations relevant data is available to be accessed eternally to the respective staff when needed. All data trackers from respective departments have been linked with the SharePoint repository with automatic data transfer from source to the repository. The Afghan Red Crescent Society is in the process of finalizing the linkage of this repository with Power BI interactive dashboards where all the insightful information could be reflected to support informed decision making.

#### ***Establish basic digital capability of the Afghan Red Crescent Society branches and tackle critical gaps (power supply, connectivity)***

Initially started in 2023 and extending in 2024, 14 offices, both at the regional level and field branches, were provided with internet connectivity to improve communication within the regions and central office. Internet services were also provided for the Marastoon in Kabul and for the Afghan Red Crescent Society meeting room. With continuous support and as extension of support initiated in 2023, the National Society received 61 laptops, monitors and other IT related equipment in various departments. Upgrading both software and hardware will continue as part of the longer-term digital transformation process.

#### ***Scale up digital transformation of the Afghan Red Crescent Society at national and subnational levels***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society is developing its human resource capacity through training for staff and volunteers, which could include digital skills training. There is a focus on improving data collection techniques and community engagement through training on post-distribution monitoring and exit surveys, which suggests an emphasis on utilizing digital tools for data management. The activities related to CEA, such as deploying a senior officer for coordination and activating a hotline for community feedback, indicate a move towards more systematic and possibly digital methods of engaging with the community. There is a need for integration of various services (health, shelter, WASH) and the need

for a centralized registration system to avoid double counting, which could benefit from digital solutions for better data management and service delivery

***Enable the National Society to have a revamped website and an institutionalized digital system for internal communications***

The Afghan Red Crescent Society implemented the D365 system in 2023, which allowed institutionalization of email addresses and improve cyber security. This support continued in 2024 as part of the longer-term process. Development of a Volunteer Management System was completed mid-2024 and the National Society is in the process of final testing of the system before it becomes fully operational.

**IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** has supported the Afghan Red Crescent Society's efforts to enhance its accountability and agility in several key areas. Notably, the IFRC has provided resources and expertise to improve the Afghan Red Crescent Society's financial systems and monitoring processes. This includes the engagement of third-party monitoring entities, such as Beid Consulting Services, to assess the impact of the Afghan Red Crescent Society projects and ensure transparency.

Additionally, the IFRC has supported the introduction of digital tools such as the RedRose system and centralized data management platforms, which have streamlined the Afghan Red Crescent Society's response to crises by enabling efficient data collection and distribution processes. The IFRC has also facilitated the development of the Volunteer Management System, which is set to be fully operational in the second half of 2024.

Through capacity-building efforts, the IFRC has assisted the Afghan Red Crescent Society with training staff and volunteers in key areas such as PMER, CEA and safeguarding.



**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 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **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 light 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".
- **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) and 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.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Afghanistan mid-year 2024 financial report](#)  
**Note:** For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRAF007](#) and [MDRAF015](#)
- [IFRC network country plan](#)
- [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](#)
- [IFRC Evaluation and Research Databank](#)

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