


Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Pakistan: Population Movement from Afghanistan

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Imminent DREF Operation n°	MDRPK020	Glide n°:	CE-2021-000133-PAK
Date of issue:	13 September 2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 January 2022
Category allocated to the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 97,401			
Total number of people affected:	300,000-500,000 (42,000-70,000HH) likely to be affected	Number of people to be assisted:	400 National Society staff and volunteers in 5 districts
Provinces affected:	Balochistan, Merged Areas (MAs), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)	Provinces/Regions targeted:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chitral in KP. 2. Khyber and North Waziristan in Merged Areas (MAs) 3. Qilla Abdullah and Quetta in Balochistan
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) National Headquarters (NHQ) in Islamabad, well established Provincial Branches in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Merged Area. The NHQ and respective PHQs have staff and volunteers trained in Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), and District Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). PRCS as the largest humanitarian organization in the country has extended its humanitarian supports to the deprived, affected, and needy people in the last few decades. The National Society has committed its efforts towards the alleviation of human suffering, disaster risk reduction, and disaster response both within and outside the country through trained volunteers and staff.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively involved in supporting PRCS' response in coordination with the Movement Partners, including the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent Society - who are likely to support the National Society's response.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), UNHCR, SAFRON, Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees (CAR), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMAs) and District Disaster Management Units (DDMUs) are actively responding based on the given mandate for the relief and support to the affected people. PRCS has a cordial working relationship with the respective partners.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Amidst the uncertainty of the country situation, an increase in internal violence, clashes, conflict-based deaths and infrastructure damage was experienced in direct response. After nearly two decades in the country, the US President announced the withdrawal of all American and NATO troops from Afghanistan in April 2021, aiming to complete the withdrawal by 11 September 2021¹. With most of the foreign troops having departed by the end of July, the Taliban had

¹ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm

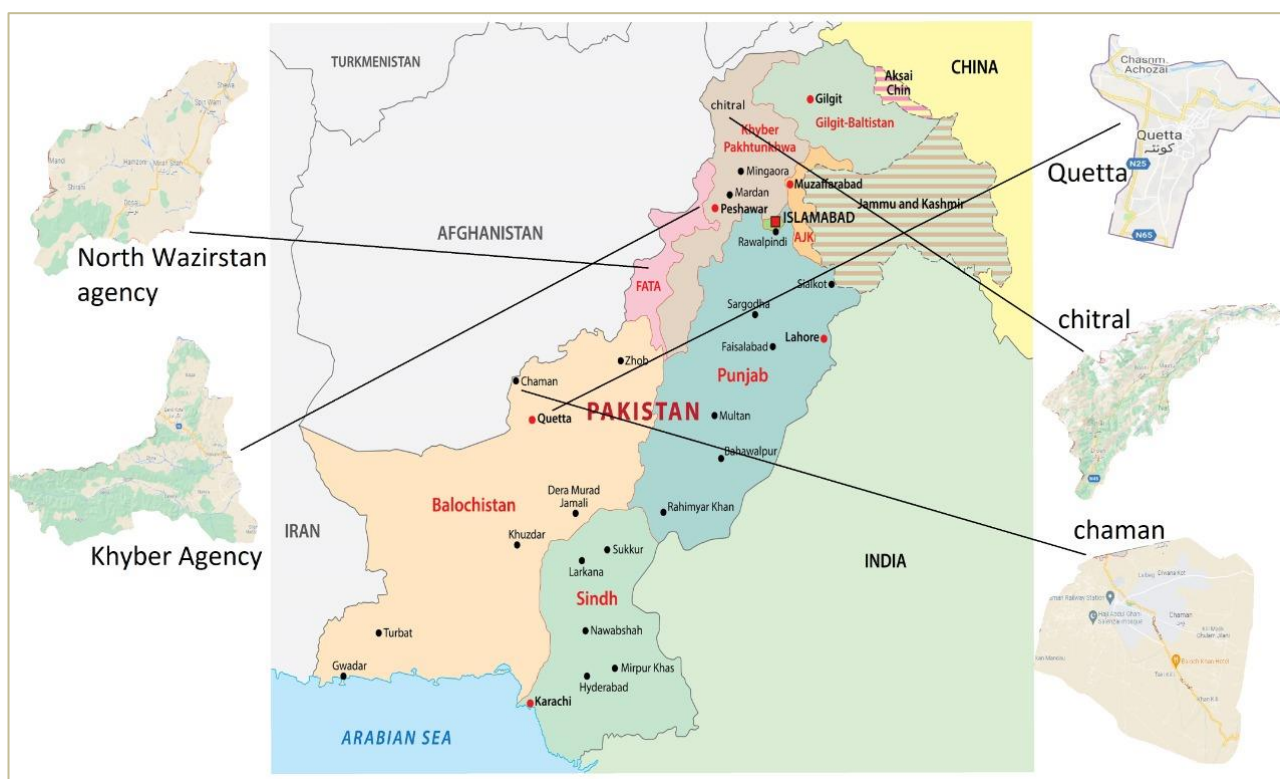
seized control of the entire country by 16 August when they took over Kabul. With the collapse of the Afghan government, the group now has de facto power throughout the country and is forming a new government.

In recent months, there has been a considerable decline in the already fragile security and human rights situation across the country. According to UNHCR, as of 29 August 2021, over 570,000 Afghans are estimated to have been internally displaced since the start of the year (2021), out of which 80 per cent are women and children². These circumstances have increased humanitarian needs and assistance to internally displaced people (TDPs) and triggered a new wave of cross-border displacement to neighbouring countries (primarily Pakistan and Iran) of people seeking refuge and safety. With the situation evolving rapidly and remaining uncertain, over 515,000 additional people are anticipated to flee across the borders as asylum seekers and Afghan nationals³ in the worst-case scenario. It is not possible to predict a timeframe for this movement at this time. This will depend on the level of influx beginning of September.



Afghan families sit outside their tents in an open area on the outskirts of Chaman, a border town in Pakistan (Source: Reuters)

Based on local media sources, since the middle of August 2021, Afghan nationals with valid visas and Proof of Registration (PoR) cards from all corners of the country are seeking safe refuge from Taliban rule and have started entering Pakistan. Afghans nationals have already started arriving in Pakistan via the shared border across the Durand⁴. Traffic at the border crossing at Chaman in Pakistan has also risen four-fold, with as many as 20,000 entering the country each day. In addition, some media reports, including Al Jazeera News, highlighted that thousands of Afghans with valid visas and PoR cards had entered Pakistan through the Spin Boldak/Chaman border crossing from southeast Afghanistan since the Afghan Taliban's took over the country⁵.



Pakistan Map with five districts bordering with Afghanistan (Source: PRCS)

² <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/TDPs> (as of 23 August).

³ UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan

⁴ <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/2021/09/01/pakistan-fears-another-refugee-influx-as-afghans-assemble-on-its-doorstep/>

⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/17/thousands-of-afghans-enter-pakistan-through-chaman-border-point>



People arriving from Afghanistan gather at the Friendship Gate crossing point at the border town of Chaman, Pakistan. (Source: Reuters)



Displaced Afghan families gather to receive food distributed by an Islamabad-based Christian aid group on the outskirts of Chaman, a border town in Pakistan. (Source: The National middle East 2 September 2021)

The decades-long conflict in Afghanistan has already resulted in a huge influx of Afghans into Pakistan seeking shelter, security, refuge, and livelihood, many of whom seek refuge in the country's main urban centres. Before the withdrawal of troops, the country was already hosting around 1.4 million registered Afghan nationals (recognized by the Government of Pakistan and UNHCR) and an estimated 1.4 million more unregistered and undocumented people from Afghanistan seeking refuge in Pakistan⁶. According to UNHCR latest Global Trends Report 2021, Pakistan was hosting the 4th largest population of Afghan nationals globally (estimated 1.4m) in 2011. With Afghanistan sharing the longest border with Pakistan, the country has undergone a huge influx of Afghan people seeking refuge since 1980. Similarly, the temporarily displaced population from Swat and the then Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) remained another challenge from 2007 till 2014 for Pakistan, which affected the socio-economic situation in the country. With the U.S evacuation completed and the Kabul airport now under Taliban control⁷, an increase of activity is expected on the borders through both formal and informal border crossing points, further exacerbating the already overwhelming situation.

On 27 August, the Official of the Pakistan government verbally updated in a meeting with PRCS officials that the government is planning to set up camps near border crossing points for Afghan nationals coming into Pakistan, with COVID-19 screening at the entry point to contain any additional surge. The government plans to establish a proper desk for registration of Afghan nationals linked with placement to access to life-saving amenities inclusive of health, education, clean drinking water and provision of food. As the UNHCR Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan highlights, any major influx will require the international community to support an immediate and sustained intervention to Afghanistan's neighbours, in a spirit of responsibility- and burden-sharing.

The PRCS, jointly with its Movement Partners, is working to enhance its preparedness to support the government for an effective response. Critical life-saving humanitarian assistance will be required for the anticipated Afghan arrivals at border points and in designated sites in coordination with concerned government counterparts. Building on its technical expertise and experience in emergency response, PRCS aims to provide access to basic necessities and humanitarian aid to incoming Afghan nationals through interventions focused on health and first aid, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), cash voucher assistance (CVA), protection, and restoring family links (RFL) services.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

PRCS NHQ and Provincial branches have already initialized preparedness activities in case of emergency response after the Taliban seized control of Kabul in mid-August. Advisories have been issued to respective branches for planning and coordinating with their respective government authorities including the CAR, Commissioner of Afghan nationals, and the Disaster Management Authorities.

- PRCS NHQ is in close coordination with its branches, IFRC, Movement partners, UN Agencies and the government authorities.
- The IFRC Country Delegation (CD) is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact with its counterparts in the PRCS NHQ for coordinated planning and response.
- PRCS branch of Merged Areas is in close coordination with the CAR and requested preparedness measures for the looming influx.

⁶ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/pak>

⁷ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/31/taliban-controls-kabul-airport-how-will-it-run-it>

- PRCS Balochistan Provincial branch has conducted meetings with the Deputy Commissioner Chaman, who also iterated for early preparedness actions for coping with any forthcoming influx of Afghan nationals.
- PRCS Provincial branches in the concerned areas are on stand-by to respond depending on the evolving situation.

PRCS, with more than 150 staff at NHQ level, seven provincial/state branches, more than 70 district branches, and rosters of active volunteers has the capacity to deploy its rapid response personnel at national, provincial and district levels in the affected areas utilizing their expertise. PRCS has strong existing finance, logistics, procurement, IT and transport departments alongside established expertise under their health, disaster response and WASH programme units.



PRCS team meeting with Deputy Commissioner Chaman, 27 August 2021
(Photo: PRCS)



PRCS Team visiting Pak-Afghan border at Chaman on 27 August 2021. (Photo: PRCS)

Overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in-country

The ICRC is present in the country and providing support to PRCS in first aid, RFL, Community-based Risk Education (CBRE), and Communication. The IFRC CD and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) are providing technical support to the National Society, while in-country Partner National Societies (PNS) - German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent - can provide additional bilateral support to PRCS if there are any gaps to be filled in the preparedness measures for the forthcoming response. PRCS has called a movement coordination meeting on 30 August and gave a briefing to the Movement Partners (IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent) about possible population movement, PRCS shared that they would focus on the preparedness and readiness for possible population movement.

- IFRC CD is monitoring the situation and is in close contact with its counterparts in the PRCS NHQ for coordinated planning and response.
- IFRC CD and PRCS are liaising with UNHCR on a coordinated response.
- IFRC CD is coordinating with the in-country PNS on the preparedness and possible response.

Overview of other actors' actions in-country

Pakistan Army, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and district administration will be supporting the operation. IFRC CD and PRCS are liaising with UNHCR on a coordinated response.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning, and risk assessment

Needs analysis

A rapid needs assessment will be conducted to identify the most immediate needs on which basis interventions will be further customized. In addition, PRCS will further develop a plan based on the government plan, playing its auxiliary role to support and build on the existing foundation to maximize reach and access to all basic needs.

Health

According to WHO document on Promoting the health of Afghan nationals and migrants, "Afghan nationals and migrants have the fundamental right, as do all human beings, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition".

Additionally, the socio-economic, financial and environmental consequences associated with the 40-year protracted refugee presence has placed a heavy burden on Pakistan's infrastructure and public service delivery systems. Access to healthcare is limited, especially for Afghan nationals and TDPs – who were displaced from Swat between 2009 to 2014 and still could not settle back to their hometowns. Weak health infrastructure and surveillance systems, poor hygiene practices, and community scepticism towards public health campaigns have contributed to an increase in disease outbreaks. Simultaneously, children lack access to immunization from vaccine preventable diseases (VPD), including polio, and the country being among one of the last two polio-endemic countries.

The ongoing fourth wave of COVID-19 in Pakistan continues to exacerbate the already fragile hospitals and health systems as the region continues to be the global COVID-19 hotspot, suffering more than twice as many new infections as any other region. The country is experiencing high COVID-19 morbidity rates, with hospitals and intensive care departments at full or close to full capacity. The rate of COVID-19 vaccination continues to be critically slow with only 8 per ⁸, categorizing the country as very susceptible to future waves of COVID-19.

Afghan nationals and displaced people often endure structural vulnerabilities in camps. These structural vulnerabilities include fear of reaching out to healthcare facilities, cultural differences, housing insecurity, food insecurity, discrimination, lack of health insurance and health illiteracy. Pre-COVID, migrants and Afghan nationals often experienced under-provision of health care, exclusion from health care systems, discrimination, and communication challenges. COVID-19 has further exacerbated these challenges.

It has generally been accepted that the refugee influx will put more pressure on the already-stressed health care systems throughout the country but especially at the border areas of Baluchistan, KP, and Merged Areas. It has been learned that when no preparedness measures are taken beforehand, such an influx can result in a state of a health emergency. Keeping in view, the security situation in Afghanistan and conditions of health services, PRCS expects that the Afghan nationals fleeing from Afghanistan to Pakistan would be in desperate need of immediate health care attention.

To address the immediate needs of health, PRCS intends to take preparedness actions inclusive of capacity building of its first aiders, repairing and maintaining their ambulance fleet and carrying out preparatory paperwork for procurement of medications. The approaches for addressing the needs of target beneficiaries, NS staff, and volunteers can be found in Sections B and C of this document.

WASH

Access to clean drinking water is a major problem in Pakistan. Baluchistan and Merged Areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces are already facing scarcity of clean drinking water. Polluted drinking water, poor sanitation, and lack of hygiene practices in the absence of clean and safe water are the prime causes of diarrhoea, hepatitis, typhoid, and other serious diseases outbreaks in Afghan nationals' camps. The situation is further exacerbated for women living in displacement settlements, who often feel insecure due to shared shelter, lack of personal space and lack of access to water and sanitation facilities.

To reduce the anticipated risk of waterborne diseases within emergency settings and increase access, as auxiliary to the government, PRCS proposes to build the capacity of staff and volunteers on WASH, set up, repair and maintain water treatment plants, carry out pre-qualification of certain vendors and maintenance of materials for emergency latrines.

CVA

It has always been seen in the displacement situation that the displaced population leaves everything behind at time of fleeing. They face the issues of finding shelter and economic and livelihood opportunities in the dislocated areas. It leaves serious implications over the ability of Afghan nationals to meet their basic needs. They rely on food related coping strategies like borrowing money and spending saving. The COVID-19 situations have already stretched employment opportunities where a normal family finds it hard to meet daily needs. The COVID-19 effects on a refugee family are foreseen double or triple to meet their priority needs of food, shelter, and energy.

To identify the market situation and gaps in the needs of the anticipated displacement, PRCS is planning to conduct a cash feasibility assessment in District Chitral of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, District Chaman and Killa Abdullah of Balochistan province, and Khyber, North Waziristan of Merged Areas. To conduct the baseline assessment, PRCS will prepare the branch office staff, volunteers on cash transfer programming and tools for the baseline study through training sessions. PRCS has years of cash operational experience and has undergone cash preparedness that enables the National Society to quickly implement CVA. Similar cash baseline studies were conducted in the previous years in other districts and PRCS will be capitalizing on those learning and experiences to inform further this response.

⁸ <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations?country=~PAK>

RFL

Stress is the key factor whether the migration is done forcefully, planned, or voluntary because it involves the breaking of relations with family, friends, culture, social interactions, and settlement in a new and different environment. PRCS is planning to train staff and volunteers from the respective branches on Psychological First Aid and establish a referral mechanism for RFL to the forthcoming migration of Afghan nationals to Pakistan.

Targeting

The imminent DREF preparedness activities target volunteers and staff of PRCS. The foreseen humanitarian assistance is targeting the migrants crossing from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

Scenario planning

The fourth wave of the COVID-19 is at its peak in various districts of Pakistan. The government of the respective areas have taken measures to reduce the impact of the fourth wave. PRCS can execute the planned interventions by following the SoPs set by the government for COVID-19.

Scenario	Likelihood	Potential Response
The violence in Afghanistan is coming to an end, and security conditions are gradually returning to normal. Displaced people who crossed the border will be gradually returning to Afghanistan over the next three months.	High	The PRCS will complete the preparedness activities of the imminent DREF operation, , in coordination with the Government and other humanitarian actors.
The security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates in the weeks that follow. The PRCS registers a steady influx of Afghan nationals seeking to enter the country.	Medium	The PRCS will submit an imminent DREF Operation Update to mobilise resources.
The violence in Afghanistan spirals out of control, and population movement into Pakistan exceeds PRCS and media reports projections.	Low	PRCS will submit a DREF to establish the number of people targeted, requesting a second allocation and extending the operation's timeframe to a maximum period of 6 months.
COVID-19 infection occurs and spreads rapidly, leading to the need to isolate communities that remain vulnerable to both health risks.	Medium	PRCS has incorporated COVID-19 guidelines into its response protocols. All the volunteers and staff follow adequate control measures to prevent a further worsening of the outbreak

Operation Risk Assessment

The fourth wave of COVID-19 is rising and might affect the DREF implementation. The precautionary measures taken by NCOC/CMU to prevent further transmission of the virus are among the constraints in the three provinces bordering Afghanistan. Other possible risk factors include the current situation in Afghanistan, sandstorms, insecurity, and ongoing clashes and violence within Afghanistan, as well as deteriorating security. The health of staff/volunteers may also be jeopardized if the scale of operation necessitates a greater workload. In addition, extreme cold weather from November to January in almost every target district can affect the operation.

B. Operational strategy**Overall operational objective**

This four-month operation is related to National Society readiness and aims to strengthen the capacity of PRCS branches to timely and effectively address the immediate needs of the anticipated Afghan nationals by providing health (provision of basic medical services including Primary Healthcare Services, Mother-child health, immunization services to children and women, First Aid, and ambulance service), WASH (deployment of water supply through the deployment of water treatment plants, hygiene promotion), Cash assistance, and provision of RFL services (with support of ICRC) in Afghan nationals camps at Balochistan and Merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. These will apply for the Afghan nationals and the host communities as well after entering the response stage

Proposed strategy

The PRCS is in close coordination with its branches, Movement partners, government, and UN agencies aims to prepare for improve protection and provide early assistance of primary health care, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities,

and cash assistance for the anticipated influx of Afghan nationals to Pakistan. In this regard, the PRCS is planning to enhance its preparedness including capacity building of staff and volunteers of the five Districts including Killa Abdullah, Quetta of Balochistan province, Khyber and North Waziristan of Merged Areas, and District Chitral of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The government statement indicates establishing camps for the anticipated Afghan nationals in the aforementioned five districts.

PRCS identified some needs in the preparedness component after consultation with the respective branches that require immediate attention for enhancing the readiness for effective response to the looming Afghan refugee crisis. PRCS proposes to strengthen its capacity to rendering services of first aid, ambulances, access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, cash assistance, basic and psychological first aid. PRCS already has trained staff and volunteers available at the National and Provincial levels to build the capacity of the staff at respective branches who will ultimately contribute to responding effectively to this anticipated Afghan nationals' influx. PRCS is present at the local level and based on the cordial working relationship with the government will ensure timely assistance of health, WASH, Cash and RFL services to the anticipated Afghan nationals at camps in the Merged Areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan.

Health, First Aid and Ambulance Services

The health status of displaced populations remains a major public health concern. Amidst a pandemic setting, this concern grows exponentially due to the frequent inability of displaced persons to escape the present pandemic's impact. The PRCS proposes eventually to provide the necessary basic medical services including Primary Healthcare Services, Mother-child health, immunization services to children and women, based on the anticipated needs related to the health of the possibly displaced Afghan nationals to the border areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Merged Areas and Balochistan.

As part of this imminent DREF PRCS will prepare for the possible procurement of the medicines and with necessary equipment and supplies as per policy and WHO guidelines in close coordination with the procurement unit of IFRC CD and APRO.

PRCS has nationwide recognition in the provision of first aid services to the people affected by any incident (disaster/crises/accidents). PRCS First Aid Trainers will conduct first aid training for its staff and volunteers, community activists, government officials, and other relevant stakeholders in the five identified districts to establish a pool of professional First Aid Responders. The responders will be selected from local communities so that they are available when the need arises. They will be trained by PRCS Certified first aid trainer at a set location, preferably at District/Provincial Branch. and will be equipped (first aid bags/kits/boxes) for responding immediately to any emerging situation through timely provision of first aid services. Fully stocked first aid boxes will be placed at key locations, and First Aid Responders will be equipped with First Aid pouches to readily provide First Aid when required. The trained first aid responders along with first aid kits shall be deployed to the camps for first aid response when the need arises.

The efficacy of the ambulances with PRCS shall be assessed in the first month of the DREF operation. A log of required mechanical work and replacement of essential hardware shall be reported for management review and approval. The mechanical work including replacement of hardware shall be completed in the 2nd month of DREF. The efficiency of ambulances shall be assessed, analyzed and reported to management. Moreover, required fuel for ambulances consumption shall be assessed and procured for covering at least one month to run the operation. The fuel for ambulances shall be procured from the pre-qualified vendors of PRCS.

WASH

Water treatment plants will be mobilized to the target areas in the scenario where the migration has started, and gaps highlighted. These plants possess the capacity to provide clean drinking water to approximately 18,000 to 20,000 displaced Afghan nationals. Water will in that case be distributed via water trucking for two months. The plants can be deployed to the refugee areas/camps in the Merged Areas and Balochistan. The Imminent DREF will bear the cost of maintenance of these plants.

The imminent DREF also proposes maintenance of materials for 100 emergencies latrines. The readiness of emergency latrine will be ensured and stocked in PRCS warehouse that shall be installed based on the needs arise from the influx areas. In addition, a pre-qualification process shall also be initiated for the identification of suitable vendors for the provision of household water filters, hygiene kits, jerry cans, mosquito nets, solar lamps, shawls, handwashing portable stations and chemical/chlorine tablets for water treatment. Periodic monitoring will be carried out to ensure the quality of drinking water supplied through the water treatment plants.

Refugee camps cannot practically implement social distancing, especially in middle and low-income countries like Pakistan. Recent models suggested that spatial subdivision of refugee camps and the use of face masks reduced transmission rates. To avoid any additional surge within this looming humanitarian situation, PRCS volunteers will be deployed for awareness sessions to the concerned people about COVID-19 SoPs as well. Furthermore, PRCS will provide basic hygiene kits to allow Afghan nationals to follow WHO's guidelines regarding hand washing.

CVA

It has generally been recognized that the Afghan nationals settled in other areas face the issues of finding shelter, economic, and livelihood opportunities. It leaves serious implications over the ability of Afghan nationals to meet their basic needs. They are increasingly relying on food-related coping strategies like borrowing money and spending saving. The COVID-19 situations have already stretched employment opportunities where a normal family finds it hard to meet daily needs. The COVID-19 effects on a refugee family are foreseen double or triple to meet their priority needs of food, shelter, and energy.

To identify the market situation and anticipated gaps in the needs of the displaced Afghan nationals, PRCS is planning to conduct a cash feasibility study to determine the cash and markets baseline in the five target districts including Chitral of KP, Khyber and North Waziristan of merged areas, Quetta and Chaman of Baluchistan.

The baseline information will provide information on market capacity, market needs, available actors, and the overall situation of the market. To conduct a cash feasibility study, scope and contents with suitable or customised data tools shall be used for data collection. The use of secondary information to obtain an overview of the impact of displacement and the overall gap shall also be analysed. PRCS has trained teams at NHQ and respective branches whose capacity shall be utilized for depicting cash transfer programme training with the practical use of various tools including Mobile application data solution tools i.e., Red Rose Data Management Solution and RAM. The branch staff and volunteers shall be trained on the cash transfer programme and baseline tools. A detailed baseline assessment plan shall be prepared for deploying the assessment team. Two or more team leaders shall be nominated for guidance and capacity building of the assessment team. The tools used in the assessment process shall obtain information about the market environment, market chain, and the key infrastructure related to inputs and services. The baseline information once collected through various market tools will be analysed. The baseline analysis will help in measuring market capacity and determining the need for additional information. The baseline assessment findings will also identify the mechanism for cash transfer and agreement with 3rd parties.

Meanwhile, the response focal point will closely monitor the security and displacement situation. The DREF document shall be updated basing on varying security situation that leads to population displacement towards Pakistan. PRCS may propose response intervention immediately after the Afghan refugee's influx gets started towards Pakistan.

Acceptability and Willingness for CVA

PRCS focusing on the basic survival needs of the affected population considered the CVA for people. The amount calculated for each family/household is based on multi-sector needs like food, health, transportation, and other general but basic needs. However, in the current scenario, the focus is on building the capacity of the staff, volunteers, and assess market capacity to respond to the anticipated needs of the beneficiaries.

Availability of Financial Service Providers

PRCS has already conducted some Cash Feasibility and Market Baseline in the recent past of some merged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The baseline information identified that financial service providers (FSPs) are available in those districts and beneficiaries have easy access to them. Moreover, PRCS has signed MoUs with leading financial institution that includes Telenor, Jazz Cash, UBL Omni and Pakistan Postal Services. All FSPs have tested pilot projects and found them very efficient and cost-effective. However, the feasibility study will give a clear picture of these five districts (Chitral, North Waziristan, Khyber, Chaman and Quetta) targeted.

PRCS and the Pakistan General Post Office (GPO) will be the main actors engaged in the implementation of cash assistance. As Afghan nationals lack national identification cards (CNIC), the majority are unable to get registered SIM cards or bank accounts, by which cash assistance is distributed. To ensure equal access to all the population groups, the operation will adapt its cash disbursement methodology using the GPO as the disperser instead of phone-based FSPs. However, financial institutions for the provision of cash assistance shall be further verified through baseline studies.

Policies of Host Government and Donors

The Government of Pakistan has been using Cash Transfers in emergency relief and recovery operations since the 2005 earthquake. More recently, the government has implemented a wide range of cash initiatives for those affected by the 2010 megafloods and to support people displaced by the complex emergency in ex FATA. The government has also responded through cash grants to more than 12 million households in the current COVID-19 response. Other actors including UN agencies, civil society partners, and the private sector also use CVA. Currently, Cash Transfer Programming initiatives in Pakistan are driven by the mandate and opportunities to the individual organizations. The government is allowing cash transfers as per state bank regulations, issued from time to time while ensuring biometric verification and mobile account during cash disbursement through banks and telecom companies. As part of the UNOCHA coordination meetings UN agencies, government departments, and NGOs share their response mechanism as well as the modalities, household items and cash transfers, to avoid duplication of efforts and fill the gaps in the disaster-affected areas.

The Government of Pakistan has so far provided cash to disaster-affected people, during various natural and human-induced disasters, through formal banking and electronic mode of transfer. Very recently the government provided cash in the COVID-19 context. PRCS has used several disbursement mechanisms like banks, post offices, and telecom companies.

Operational support services

Human resources

PRCS Head of Operations will be in charge of the operation, reporting to the PRCS Secretary General, who has the overall responsibility for the operation. Deputy Director Disaster Response (DD-DR) with additional charge of DD CVA, PRCS KP Branch, Merged District/Merged Areas Branch and Balochistan Provincial Branch staff and volunteers will be directly supporting the operation. In addition to the PRCS staff and volunteers, the IFRC CD team is providing technical support as well.

Logistics and supply chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. PRCS maintains household items stocks at National and Branch warehouses situated at strategic locations around the country. Hygiene kits to the affected areas will be distributed from the existing stock.

If required IFRC Pakistan CD Procurement department will be available to provide technical support the National Society and the DREF Operation with required procurements under PRCS emergency procurement procedures in close coordination with IFRC regional logistics unit.

PRCS has a dedicated fleet department with trained HR that has been involved in major emergency operations for the last few decades.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA is a fundamental approach to listen to the community needs and put them at the centre of PRCS' attention. Through CEA, PRCS can achieve the "Good quality, accountability, equitable, inclusive and protection programmes. To orient field staff and volunteers about the approach and key intervention, a session of CEA shall be included in the capacity building course. The orientation about the CEA to staff and volunteers will provide a basic understanding to use the feedback and accountable mechanism in the later stage of response operations. Likewise, the learning about CEA will ensure that branches are using visibility and transparent communication with the refugees during relief assistance.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

To increase protection awareness and the sense of safety among beneficiaries in the current Influx, enhance internal awareness and capacity of PRCS in relation to protection, gender and inclusion matters is crucial. Coordinate and facilitate basic and context-specific training, for mainstreaming and integrating PGI in the cross-sectoral response, in PRCS is also necessary.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

Emphasis will be made on encouraging continuous assessment of the evolving situation and monitoring of the services being provided as well as looking at the feedback from beneficiaries. Analysis of monitoring observations will help with timely and informed decision-making. Attention will be paid to data management, inclusive of the collection of disaggregated beneficiary data, storage, and analysis. Continuous communication with the field teams, along with the issuance of necessary updates of the operation including the final report will be managed accordingly. A robust M&E plan will be developed for the process and monitoring results of the entire operation. This will include the assessment, surveys, sessions monitoring, post distribution monitoring, lessons learnt workshop, and final operation report.

Communications

PRCS will regularly share information and updates on the operation with key stakeholders. PRCS Secretary General will be responsible for communication to external stakeholders. At the operational level, the communication department will undertake activities aimed to increase the visibility of PRCS and to show the impact of the intervention.

Administration and Finance

Both PRCS and IFRC CD administration and finance teams are on standby to support development and implementation of the DREF operation.

Security

The anticipated target districts in Merged Areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Balochistan are situated on the border with Afghanistan. The target district in the Merged Areas is 280 km away from Peshawar, the capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, the distance between Peshawar and Chitral is 351 km, and District Chaman is 125 km away from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan. These areas in the past have remained affected due to militancy and cross border infiltration of militants. However, at this time the security situation, in general, remains stable. The military continues to hold a heavy presence in all bordering towns and areas to maintain the security situation. PRCS maintains a presence in the anticipated target areas and also maintains a high acceptance among the local population. At this time there is no major threat foreseen that could hamper the DREF operation. The upcoming winter season may however present access issues with heavy rains, heavy snowfall and landslides. Communication in Chitral and North Waziristan districts can be a challenge at times depending on the location. Overall communication infrastructure, in general, is reliable.

The IFRC Security team might also carry out visits to the anticipated target districts to carry out risk assessments. The IFRC will ensure that all staff and volunteers are briefed on the security situation and safety and emergency procedures with the current context of the pandemic, prior to departure to the affected areas.

The IFRC does not maintain a presence in the districts however the National Society maintains its presence through its provincial and district branches and National Society emergency teams can be deployed on very short notice while maintained close coordination with district authorities. National Society to maintain continuous communication with all stakeholders in the area to ensure the security of our Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers

The National Society's security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will be applicable. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security situation and briefed on reactions in emergency before deployment in the operational area

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Health

People targeted: 100 PRCS staff and volunteers for first aid

Male: 50

Female: 50

Requirements (CHF): 36,201

Needs analysis: UNHCR has warned of the anticipated displacement of the Afghan nationals and the associated needs. Meeting health-related needs is considered as one of the challenges to address. The needs further escalate when no preparedness and timely control measures are taken by the host country, humanitarian aid, and UN agencies. To address the immediate needs for health, the PRCS is planning to prepare staff and volunteers for immediate response and provision of basic medical services, i.e; first aid, medicines, equipment, and ambulance services. PRCS prepares the tender documentation for the procurement of medicines for meeting the possible health needs with the influx coming to Pakistan as highlighted *in Section B*.

PRCS feels the need to coordinate with border management force, levies and build their capacity on Pre-hospital First Aid and COVID-19 SoPs. In this regard, PRCS plans to reach out 100 individuals. The ambulances with PRCS shall be assessed and maintained mechanically for running the medical support during the forthcoming displacement crisis.

Risk analysis: The uncertain huge influx of Afghan nationals can put the intervention at risk to be completed in their given time-frame. Similarly, the risk is very high as health system is overwhelmed because of increase in number of cases of COVID-19. PRCS needs to comply with the SOPs for disaster management and deliver hygiene promotion more carefully according to established procedures.

Population to be assisted: PRCS will build capacity of 100 individuals on first aid. Similarly, medicine shall be provided to local health units for the basic health care of anticipated number of Afghan nationals reaching Pakistan.

Programme standards/benchmarks: MHPSS/PFA guidance from IFRC/PRCS.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment	<i># of PRCS staff and volunteers trained on first aid (Target: 100)</i>
	Health Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.	<i># of PRCS staff and volunteers trained on first aid (Target: 100)</i>

Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	Preparation of tender document identification of possible vendors for medicine	X	X	X													
AP022	Agreement with selected vendor and issuance of purchase order			X	X	X											
AP022	Procurement of PPEs							X	X	X	X	X	X				
AP022	Identification of and training for volunteers in prehospital first aid	X	X	X	X	X	X										
AP022	Procurement of first aid boxes full size, pouches			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
AP022	Mechanical assessment of ambulances with PRCS	X	X														
AP022	Maintenance and operation of ambulances				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				

Livelihoods and basic needs



People targeted: 100

Female: 50

Male: 50

Requirements (CHF): 10,716

Needs analysis: The staff and volunteers in the respective branches of Merged Areas and Balochistan needs to be oriented well on CVA and conducting market baseline studies. Similarly, the staff and volunteers in the respective branches are not trained enough to use the mobile applications for assessment. Therefore, capacity building on the Red Rose application- is imperative for carrying out anticipated beneficiaries' registration. The assessment will help identify the needs and overall situation. For the time being PRCS's primary focus is to build in-house capacity and prepare teams for the anticipated response to the looming crisis of Afghan displacement.

Risk analysis: PRCS does not foresee any risk to the proposed interventions related to preparedness of the respective branches apart from COVID-19 situation. The transmission of COVID-19 and fourth wave of the delta variant can put more pressure on the available quarantine facilities, clinical investigation and hospitalization. PRCS also feels that there will no security risk in the anticipated target districts of Merged Areas, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. However, the cross-border movement of people might create the security risk at time of mass population displacement.

Population to be assisted: The baseline study will provide information regarding any future CVA related intervention for Afghan nationals.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The baseline study will look into standard that a cash grant to cover food needs for one-month period to fulfil the calories needs of 2,100 K Cal per person per day for a family of seven.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	# of baseline study conducted (Target: 1, covering 5 target districts)																	
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs	# of PRCS staff and volunteer trained on cash transfer programme (Target: 100)																	
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP081	Monitoring of developing situation and update sharing related to the livelihood needs and response		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP081	Coordination with branches		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
AP081	Capacity assessment checklist					X	X	X	X	X									
AP081	Selection of staff and volunteers for the capacity building training,										X	X							
AP081	Develop and conduct of customized training course on cash transfer programme and baseline assessment with tools for instance Red Rose etc.								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
AP081	Conduct training on Market Assessment												X	X	X	X	X		
AP081	Conduct baseline survey of markets (RAM)												X	X	X	X	X		
AP081	Follow up and monitoring																		X



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 100

Female: 50 , Male: 50

Requirements (CHF): 15,929

Needs analysis: The staff and volunteers with PRCS needs some guidance and orientation on WASH and hygiene promotion interventions. They, for example, need training on fixing water treatment plant and running it with defined prerequisite to maintain a balance level of the chemical for treating the water. PRCS will train 75 staff including volunteers on WASH and hygiene promotion. The trained team will disseminate the practices, skills and knowledge through hygiene promotion sessions with the expected displaced number of people in targeted districts. PRCS prepares also for the possible procurement of emergency latrines by preparing the tender documentation. PRCS feels the need that water treatment plants should be ready for deployment and therefore planning to make them repaired and well maintained for the anticipated response. Likewise, a prequalified vending process is proposed to finalize the list of vendors having the capacity to provide the hygiene kits, jerry cans, mosquito nets, hurricane lamps and shawls within short time.

Risk analysis: The uncertain influx of Afghan nationals can put the pressure for immediate response which might put the intervention at the risks to be completed within the given time.

Population to be assisted: A total of 100 individuals including staff and volunteers of respective branches shall be trained on WASH. The trained team will provide technical services and assistance in WASH services to the forthcoming Afghan nationals.

Programme standards/benchmarks: This operation will seek to meet Sphere standards, [IFRC WASH guidelines for hygiene promotion in emergency operations](#) and [IFRC menstrual hygiene management guideline and tools](#)

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities.	# of PRCS staff and volunteer trained on WASH (Target: 100)																
	WASH Output 1.3 Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of water treatment plants repaired/provided maintenance (Target: 2)																
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Maintenance of water treatment plants		X	X	X	X												
AP028	Maintenance of latrine material for emergency latrines		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
P&B Output Code	Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population	# of PRCS staff and volunteer trained on WASH (Target: 100)																
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Capacity building of staff and volunteers through emergency WASH trainings		X	X														
AP030	Developing and printing of IEC material on hygiene		X	X														
P&B Output Code	Output 1.5 Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population	Pre-qualification process conducted according to IFRC standards (Target: Yes)																
	Activities Planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Tender pack for in kind items prepared and advertised		X															
AP030	Carry out pre-qualification process on vendors identified for procurement of hygiene kits, jerry cans, shawls, lamps, etc		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 100

Male: 50

Female: 50

Requirements (CHF): 5,792

Needs analysis: Based on lessons learned from previous disasters including the recent Mt. Agung operation, coupled with the learnings contained in the report “The Responsibility to Prevent and Respond to Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Disasters and Crisis”, it is acknowledged that disaster-affected women, girls, men and boys are at risk to SGBV such a domestic violence, child marriage, sexual harassment and trafficking.

Risk analysis: The uncertain influx of Afghan nationals can put the pressure for immediate response which might put the intervention at the risks to complete.

Population to be assisted: 100 staff and volunteers.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The Minimum Standard Commitments to Gender and Diversity, IFRC guidelines on Community Engagement and Accountability, and Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS).

P&B Output Code	Values, power and inclusion 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services. (Target: Yes)</i>																
	Values, power and inclusion Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	<i># of NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. (Target: 1, PRCS)</i>																
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP031	Staff capacity assessment and selection of staff, vol for the capacity building programme of PGI and CEA.		X	X	X	X												
AP031	Training of staff and volunteers on PGI and CEA						X	X	X	X	X	x	x	X	X			



Migration

People targeted: 100

Male: 50

Female: 50

Requirements (CHF): 2,896

Needs analysis: Stress is the key factor whether the migration is done forcefully, planned, or voluntary because it involves the breaking of contact with family, friends, culture, and other social circles and settlement in new and different environment. PRCS is planning to train staff and volunteers from the respective branches on Psychological First Aid and establish a referral mechanism for the forthcoming influx of Afghan people to Pakistan.

The main objective of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities will be to ensure positive behaviour at individual and community/Camp level. These will also be aiming at inter-community cohesion between the Afghan nationals and the host communities after entering response stage

Risk analysis: The uncertain influx of Afghan nationals can put the pressure for immediate response which might put the intervention at the risks to complete.

Population to be assisted: 100 staff and volunteers.

Programme standards/benchmarks: ICRC and IFRC guidelines shall be followed while developing course on PFA and establishing referral mechanism.

P&B Output Code	Migration and Displacement Outcome 1: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)	The operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services. (Target: Yes)																
		# of NS that ensure improved equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors. (Target: 1, PRCS)																
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP84	Staff capacity assessment and selection of staff, vol for the capacity building programme of PFA and referral mechanism/networking		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 25,868

P&B Output	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and	# of NS branches that are well functioning in the operation (Target: 1)

Code	financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.																		
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	# of volunteers involved in the operation provided with briefing/orientation (Target: 75)																	
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP048	Provide complete briefings and orientation to volunteers in disaster response, Code of conduct, data collection and information management		X	X	X	X													
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured	Does the operation demonstrate evidence of effective and coordinated international disaster response? (Target: Yes)																	
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained	# of RDRT deployed (Target: 1)																	
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP048	Personnel prepare for deployment to crisis response														X	X	X	X	
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.4: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards	Procurement is carried as per Sphere and IFRC standards and items replenished in PRCS warehouses within the operation timeline. (Target: 100% compliance)																	
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
-	IFRC country Delegation provides procurement support as needed to the National Society's logistics unit for replenishment.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced	PRCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention. (Target: Yes - Inter Agency group)																	
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
-	IFRC CD supports PRCS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors and relevant clusters on a regular basis		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					
P&B Output Code	Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.	IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues. (Target: Yes)																	
P&B Output Code	Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.	# of assessment done for needs, capacities and gaps (Target: 1) # of lessons learned workshop conducted (Target: 1)																	
	Activities planned	Weeks	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP055	Assessment of needs, capacities and gaps as part of a multi-sectoral assessment		X	X	X	X													
AP055	Lessons learned workshop for DREF operation																X	X	

Funding Requirements

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

DREF OPERATION

MDRPK020 Pakistan: Population Movement from Afghanistan

13/9/2021

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,526
Medical & First Aid	21,755
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	28,281
Distribution & Monitoring	5,439
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,430
Logistics, Transport & Storage	13,869
National Society Staff	2,175
Volunteers	3,350
Personnel	5,526
Workshops & Training	32,088
Workshops & Training	32,088
Travel	9,409
Information & Public Relations	1,496
Office Costs	272
Communications	517
General Expenditure	11,693
DIRECT COSTS	91,457
INDIRECT COSTS	5,945
TOTAL BUDGET	97,402

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



**Pakistan: Population Movement from Afghanistan
Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)**

3 September 2021



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC

