

Emergency appeal n° MDRAFRPM21	GLIDE n°: CE-2021-000133-PAK OT-2021-000112-IRN CE-2021-000142-AFG
Operation update # 2, 10/01/2022	Timeframe covered by this update: From 18/08/2021¹ to 31/12/2021
Operation start date: 25/09/2021	Operation timeframe: 12 months and end date: 30/09/2022
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 50.5 million IFRC-wide of which CHF 24.6 million is through the IFRC Appeal	DREF amount initially allocated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan: CHF 97,401 • Iran: CHF 168,483 • Tajikistan: CHF 348,761
Number of people being assisted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initially estimated 160,000² 	

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 24,600,000 is 25% funded. Further funding contributions are appreciated to enable the National Societies in the region neighboring Afghanistan, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move from Afghanistan.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

As the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan continued to worsen in 2021, the risk of displacement increases both within the country and beyond its borders to neighboring countries. While daily cross-border population movements are still moderate, the risk of economic collapse and further deterioration of Afghanistan's socioeconomic and security situation cannot be ruled out, potentially leading to more people fleeing to neighboring countries.

The situation in Afghanistan remains highly fluid after the change of government in August 2021. Since then, various public services were halted and disrupted due to the uncertainties. The country is going through a change process, and it is expected that the situation will remain fluid in the coming months. Along with the political shift, the combination of natural disasters, severe drought, flooding and COVID-19 pandemic had increased the humanitarian needs exponentially and the country is on the brink of collapsing if the humanitarian and

¹ Start of the first DREF operation (Iran)

² The initial number of people to be assisted in Central Asia was based on *Scenario III*. (up to 50,000 people) as detailed in the Emergency Plan of Action. Based on the planned activities aligned to the current context, the projected number of people to be assisted has been adjusted to up to 4,000 people as per *Scenario I*. Please refer to the [Emergency Plan of Action](#) for more details on the scenarios.

development services are not provided immediately. The security situation remains unpredictable with reports of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) explosions throughout the country causing injuries and deaths to both civilians and the personnel of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan. Close to 700,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in 2021. The uncertain internal situation has potential to trigger mass movement of people in the neighbouring countries.

Pakistan

The government of Pakistan policy toward irregular movements from Afghanistan to Pakistan remain unchanged. To date, there are no official reports of new arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan, consistent with the government's decision not to accept any additional refugees in the country. However, there are reports of people moving between the countries. Even with limited cross border movement, those who have crossed into Pakistan from Afghanistan since August 2021 have already placed additional stress on the highly vulnerable host communities and weak health systems. There are already an estimated three million Afghans in Pakistan, including both refugees and unregistered and/or undocumented Afghans.

In the second week of December the government of Pakistan announced the repatriation of Pakistani families from Golan Camp, Afghanistan, back to Pakistan through Ghulam Khan Pass, on the border in North Waziristan. A total of 6,000 families are expected to return. This recent development places further stress on the host communities and already fragile health system.

As of 30 December, government authorities (PDMA) reported voluntary returns of 1,268 Pakistani families (4,867 individuals or external TDPs), mostly women (1,273) and children (2,571) with their livestock. Currently all returning families reported to live off camp with host communities, mostly located in Bannu district, KP. NADRA has started verification/registration of returning individuals while government is providing a monthly cash allowance for food assistance. Upon return to their de-notified/cleared areas, the families will receive a one-time return cash allowance with transport support. The district administration is requesting PRCS to provide assistance to the coming families on Ghulam Khan Pass.

Iran

Iran shares a 921-kilometer border with Afghanistan and is home to one of the world's largest refugee populations, primarily Afghans. According to [data published by the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR](#), Iran sheltered more than 3.4 million Afghans, including nearly two million undocumented migrants and 800,000 refugees in 2020.

Several thousand Afghans continue to make their way across the border into Iran every day.

Most Afghan refugees enter the country illegally through unofficial border crossing points and lack the necessary documentation to fully access essential services, while official borders between Afghanistan and Iran remain limited for asylum seekers.

Economic sanctions imposed on Iran have had an impact on the limited number of humanitarian organizations operating in the country. There have been reports of difficulties in transferring funds and importing goods, resulting in delays in the delivery of aid.

Tajikistan

Since the beginning of second quarter of 2021, Tajikistan had been observing a slight increase in migration of Afghan population across border to Tajikistan as refugees and asylum seekers. This influx rapidly increased immediately after the formal announcement of US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan mid-August 2021, increasing the risk of mass-influx in Tajikistan. The Tajikistan government's policy guided the planning for potentially receiving a controlled number of additional Afghan refugees in country. The policy also underlined further development of shelter and settlement strategy for an anticipated Afghan influx in country.

In the course of 2021, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers has notably increased, reaching over 12,000, of whom 1,271³ refugees departed to Canada in December. The officially registered number of new

³ Ministry of Interior, Tajikistan

arrivals in 2021 was 3,014⁴ persons. The new arrived people on the move are hosted in seven pre-defined locations (Dushanbe, Vahdat, Hisor, Sharihnay, Rudaki, Sughd, Khatlon) with existing Afghan refugee and asylum seeker population. The new arrivals have increased the humanitarian needs in the country.

Ongoing tension in the North-Eastern Territories of Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, and at locations across Afghanistan border with Taliban activities continue to pose the likelihood of population arrival in Tajikistan. In preparation to the anticipated influx (50,000⁵), the Tajikistan government has identified 7 entry points through border checkpoints (BCPs) north of Kunduz, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces that are situated along the Panj River and natural borderline which span the riverine border. In addition, informal migration can also be expected. Based on historical migration trends, a significant increase in cross border people movement in spring can be anticipated, due to the end of the current existing harsh winter conditions.

The Humanitarian community under the refugee coordination structure of UNHCR is committed to support the planning and preparedness for a potential mass influx of Afghan population in Tajikistan, as current collective humanitarian capacities in country to respond to such an influx are limited.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

Pakistan

The following preparedness and response actions were already carried out by PRCS under the Emergency Appeal:

- Psychological First Aid (PFA) training for volunteers and staff in districts of Chitral, Khyber, North Waziristan, Quetta and Chaman.
- First Aid training for volunteers and staff trained in First Aid in Khyber, Chitral and North Waziristan districts.
- WASH training for staff and volunteers in district Chitral, Khyber and North Waziristan.
- CVA training for staff and volunteers in Khyber district.
- Two CVA baselines were completed in order to assess ground situation and prepare for any emergency situation in Chitral and Khyber districts.
- Procurement process initiated and purchase order issued for the procurement of first aid and WASH materials which will be prepositioned in five target districts.
- Coordination started with district administration and health departments in Chitral, Khyber and North Waziristan for initiating mobile health unit services in those bordering areas.

Beside the EA activities, PRCS is implementing a mass vaccination drive to the general public in the country, as well as specifically for Afghan population, migrants and IDPs. PRCS established four static and ten mobile vaccination units in KPK, Merged Areas and Balochistan specifically to cover Afghan Refugees, IDPs, Migrants and Stateless population from October 2021. The total target is to vaccinate 105,000 people. So far over 35,000 people were vaccinated, mainly Afghans, TDPs and local population within October – December 2021

Iran

The IFRC and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) sent joint signatory letters to 62 embassies, but only the French embassy responded with an interest in vaccination of Afghan refugees and population entering Iran.

The IRCS has provided emergency assistance (relief items) to Afghan new arrivals in the eastern provinces, including tents (15,128 units), mats (7,700 pcs), blankets (9,040 pcs), heaters (8,500 pcs), kitchenware (4,000 sets), 72-hour food packages (2,000 packs), and one-month food packages (1,200 packs).

⁴ UNHCR Summary of Achievements 2021

⁵ Interagency Contingency Plan for Refugee Influx – TJK, Dec 2021



Figure 1: Iranian Red Crescent aid to Afghan refugees. Source: IRCS

The Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) in collaboration with the European Union (EU), presented the humanitarian implementation plan 2022 (HIP) for Iran. Furthermore, the European Union delegation from Brussels, as well as the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, paid a visit to the IRCS headquarters (MFA). The IFRC and IRCS presented the mandate and humanitarian value of IFRC/IRCS partnership on the Iranian landscape. The vaccination and status of Afghan refugees was also discussed.

Earlier, the Iranian Red Crescent Society has organized the national coordination meeting with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), international, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as UN agencies including UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, Relief International, MSF, Norwegian Refugee Council, in the presence of the IFRC and ICRC representatives in Iran.

The Government has already established screening/transit centres at each border crossing point to register incoming displaced persons. BAFIA, under the Ministry of Interior, is the primary responsible coordinating body on behalf of the government, overseeing both local and international response. The IRCS, the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), relevant ministries, and armed/security forces are among the key local actors leading this operation. The involvement of international agencies in an emergency response would depend on their operational capacity as well as government request/approval. IRCS will enjoy full access to all topologies as being the only humanitarian service delivery entity that has maximum access and acceptance by all stakeholders in the country.

In an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRCS is selecting locations for the people fleeing from Afghanistan where social distancing can be observed. From 5 March to 10 December 2021, 61,391 passengers were screened at the borders of Sistan-u-Baluchestan province. There were 8,579 PCR tests performed, as well as 60,009 immediate PCR tests. The COVID-19 infected 165 people, who were quarantined.

Tajikistan

Shelter

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) with its pre-described roles under organizational statutes to support the Border Troops (BT) has been assigned to coordinate Humanitarian efforts with partner agencies in setting up

Initial Reception Centers (IRCs) across identified border locations as immediate response points. The effort has been reinforced with the support from International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

In preparation to the anticipated influx of Afghan refugees in Tajikistan, the country's policy of a controlled and informed arrival also guides the overall humanitarian response plan. The overall Shelter and Settlement Response Strategy that primarily integrates other sectorial interventions is planned at three levels:

1. The immediate line of response as **Initial Reception Centres** (IRC) is planned along the border checkpoint sites,
2. The first line of response as **Temporary Settlement Sites** at identified locations under the governance of (CoES) Committee of Emergency Situation and Civil Defense
3. The Phase 2 – **Transitional Settlements** – also at identified locations under the governance of CoES to cover longer term needs

The RCST with its auxiliary role to the government is supporting the Border Troops (BT) in coordinating all efforts of humanitarian agencies. The scheme for the **Initial Reception Centers (IRCs)** developed by RCST with the support from IFRC shelter surge capacity has been approved by the BT and the Government. The scheme is developed for up to 100 shelter units (4 clusters of 25 shelter units each), this model is planned to be rolled out at 2 priority locations (priority 1 Panji Poyon and priority 2 Ishkashim). The plan for the other 5 locations is to preposition pop-up emergency shelter hardware that could be activated within 72 hrs. Based on the approved scheme the BT is processing the land allotment for the IRCs.

In the setting up of the IRCs, RCST is partnering with the respective mandated partners (UNICEF/WASH, WFP/food supplies, kitchen & storage facilities, WHO & Ministry of Health/initial health screening and mandatory vaccinations, UNHCR & MoI/initial registration, local authorities/construction & electricity) to host people for 3-5 days before transferring them to the UNHCR temporary settlement site.

125 winterised family tents along with 125 winter kits for the IRCs purchased under the EA were received on December 6, 2021. The quality check was conducted by Shelter Rapid Response delegate.



Images 2 &3: IFRC Shelter Rapid Response Delegate conducting a quality check of the winterised family tents and winter kits at the RCST Warehouse. *Source: RCST*

The current funding gaps for the initial setup is a key constraint for the RCST to kick start the IRC work.

For the setup of **Temporary Settlement Site**, the UNHCR is currently coordinating the works at CoES site and UNHCR has engaged with Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) for the construction activities. On December 20, a schematic proposal was presented to and approved by the CoES followed by the start of the construction works. The ground preparation work has already started and currently the infrastructure planning is underway involving a technical working group with lead support of the IFRC shelter delegate. UNICEF is involved for all WASH infrastructure and WFP has taken up the responsibility to support a communal kitchen and canteen.

For the phase 2 **Transitional Settlement**, RCST/IFRC are leading the technical working group in concept development to support CoES. Phase 2 aims to provide more dignified and durable shelter solutions linked to long-term emergency response strategy.

Since the last update, the overall response plan to setup 7 IRCs has been adapted to a changing context considering geographical constraints and the likelihood of influx. The current response plan has prioritized Panji Poyon border crossing as priority one to pilot the first IRC followed by the priority two location at Ishkashim border crossing point. For this RCST has prepositioned shelter in kind items including tents for rapid mobilization. The remaining 5 IRC response locations are now planned for prepositioning pop-up shelter units, including in-kind and food items for a potential immediate response.

Livelihoods and basic needs (financially supported through other partners)

- RCST town branch in Vahdat distributed food items donated by Afghan business community in the USA to 290 households of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers.
- RCST Vahdat branch distributed 50 blankets to the most vulnerable Afghan families.
- RCST branch in J. Rasulov and Vahdat district distributed clothes donated by Finnish Red Cross to 62 Afghan families.
- RCST branch bakery in J. Rasulov, with support of German RC, recently started to distribute bread to 8 most vulnerable Afghan families (34 persons) on a regular basis.

Health

- RCST is conducting TB health screening of Afghan refugees under the USAID TB project in J. Rasulov, Rudaki and Vahdat districts.
- Two Afghan refugees were referred to the local hospital for MPHSS in J. Rasulov.

RCRC coordination activities

- Based on initial proposal of the Border Troops (BT) for the IRC on 25 November, RCST/IFRC conducted a bilateral meeting to develop the IRC scheme.
- RCST/IFRC conducted initial technical shelter meeting to kick start the coordination process between all relevant stakeholders on 1 December. The IRC scheme was shared with all partners for comments.
- RCST led technical multi-sectoral assessment mission to Panji-Poyon cross-border checkpoint in Jayhun District (priority 1 IRC location) on 3 December to validate the initial IRC scheme.
- On 9 December, the BT approved initial proposal of RCST/IFRC on IRCs.
- A meeting between IFRC and the UNHCR on gaps in coordination was held on 14 Dec.
- An interagency field trip incl. the BT to Panji-Poyon was conducted on 17 Dec. to identify the plot of land for the first IRC.
- On 27 December:
 - a technical site visit to CoES/UNHCR temporary settlement site conducted. Technical support was provided by IFRC for site assessment and
 - RCST/IFRC met district administration of Jayhun district to coordinate the site work at Panji-Poyon.



Image 4: Technical multi-sector assessment, Source: RCST

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Pakistan

As per unofficial reports, health needs are high and growing in the areas bordering Afghanistan as people are frequently passing the border into Pakistan. PRCS already started assisting those Afghans in terms of vaccinations as well supporting their livelihood activities through provision of unconditional cash grants under different projects supported by IFRC. Growing needs are reported at the Torkham (Khyber) health facility where an estimated 300 – 400 people are approaching the facility daily seeking to obtain clearances to enter Pakistan for urgent medical treatment. Only 100 cases are processed daily, and remaining cases are waiting in the open due to the limited capacity of the facility (OCHA Internal Humanitarian Update 19, 25- 31 Dec 2021).

As per reports and news articles, Pakistan may experience the fifth wave of COVID-19 in the mid of February 2022. Community transmission of omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 has started in the major cities of Pakistan with 75 cases detected with the variant so far. Approximately 3,000 new Covid-19 positive cases are detected daily.

Iran
People displaced from Afghanistan are in a vulnerable position and require assistance with shelter, livelihood, water, hygiene, and health services. Urgent action is needed to help and protect them wherever they may be. The Iranian Red Crescent has been preparing for and responding to the population movement right after the situation in Afghanistan started to deteriorate.

Population movement, combined with a severe drought in Afghanistan and the COVID-19 pandemic, increases people's needs and complicates humanitarian assistance efforts. Being on the move increases the risk of COVID-19 infection as the temporary shelters and makeshift camps are frequently overcrowded and lack proper hygiene facilities and water. Moving from one location to other exposes people also for food and water scarcity.

The needs were identified at three provincial refugee campsites in the provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Sistan-u-Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. In terms of sheltering, food packages (hot meals for transit and dry rations for camps), household kits, PSS needs. Needs for basic health services delivery (out-patient department - OPDs), COVID screening/protection, rapid PCRs, safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation services, are primarily related to latrines and showers, as well as hygiene items and promotion. While the IRCS provides hygiene items and promotion, other local actors are involved in hard WASH setup. Since the areas are high remote in terms of contextual topography, support for provincial branches is another key aspect to consider in the long run. The central warehouse in Tehran has deployed 18,000 packages across three provinces; keeping central warehouse stocks replenished and up to date in numbers is a prime priority for IRCS. The IRCS's mandate is to respond to any natural/manmade crisis/disasters that occur in any of the country's 31 provinces. On top of that, the sixth wave of COVID-19 is progressing and shaping up. According to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran, the sixth wave of Covid-19 has significantly affected our social activities and will continue to do so, and the country's health system is once again under increasing pressure. Based on the latest reports, the country at the beginning of the wave, 1,967 new cases have been identified, which, considering the total number of Covid-19 cases in the country to date has reached 6 million 186 thousand and 729 individuals.

Tajikistan
Needs assessment:
Afghan Host Community

RCST has been conducting needs assessments in 3 districts (Rudaki District, Vahdat, J. Rasulov District and Dushanbe) between 6-13 December. 2,125 households were assessed in total. The main needs of the 896 new arrived Afghan households are as follows:



1. Food
2. Clothes
3. Cash or Vouchers (followed by expenses for health and travel to 3rd countries)

Image 5. RCST volunteers conducting rapid needs assessment in the host communities with Afghan refugee population, December 2021. Source: RCST

Mol temporary refugee shelter

The Ministry of Interior established a centre for accommodating Afghan refugees with the capacity of 51 beds in Almosi, Hissor district. Currently 23 Afghan refugees are accommodated in the centre. RCST assessed the need for food and in-kind items.

Planned Temporary UNHCR shelter site at J. Balkhi

RCST jointly with WFP conducted a market assessment in Jaloliddin Balkhi District on 7 December 2021. The results of the assessment indicate a conducive environment for a CVA intervention.

Planned IRC sites

The needs across planned IRC sites will include immediate lifesaving assistance, emergency shelter, WASH and food assistance, health screening and basic health services incl. PSS, initial registration, mandatory vaccinations, necessary quarantine and PGI services.

Operation Risk Assessment

Pakistan

The rapid spread of Omicron variant within the ongoing COVID-19 fifth wave in the country might affect the EA implementation. The precautionary measures taken by NCOC 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, winter conditions, sandstorms, insecurity, and possible clashes and violence within Afghanistan, as well as deteriorating security situation inside Afghanistan and/or Pakistan.

Risk	Mitigation actions
COVID-19 infection occurs and spreads rapidly, leading to the need to isolate communities that remain vulnerable to both health risks.	PRCS has incorporated COVID-19 guidelines into its response protocols. All the volunteers and staff will follow adequate control measures to prevent the spread. In addition, awareness building activities on COVID-19 and vaccine administrations will be implemented directly under EA or in collaboration with ongoing COVID-19 response EA.
The government has closed its borders to new arrivals and may not encourage organizations to continue activities along the border's areas.	PRCS in its auxiliary role, is and will continue to work closely with the government, already implementing activities. The current EA activities will target existing Afghan communities and host communities, alongside possible newly displaced people from Afghanistan, further aiding and strengthening the host communities for the future.
Other possible risk factors include the current situation in Afghanistan, insecurity, and ongoing clashes and violence within Afghanistan, as well as deteriorating security situation across the borders	PRCS is closely monitoring any developments within Afghanistan focusing on security incidents at the Pakistan/Afghanistan border areas releasing advisories to staff and volunteers accordingly.

Iran

Risks	Mitigation actions
Staff and volunteer health: there is a risk of contracting COVID-19 as a result of response-related community-based activities.	The IRCS begun immunizing all staff and relief workers, and only those vaccinated were deployed in this operation (beginning 3 July 2021). Strict adherence to IRCS COVID-19 awareness protocol.

	Refreshing the risk awareness communication aspects by utilizing existing COVID-19 protection audio/visual learning platforms for staff/volunteers. The relief operations manager prioritizes adherence monitoring.
The number of COVID-19-infected people from Afghanistan is growing.	IRCS will select locations for the people fleeing from Afghanistan where social distancing can be observed.
Delays in transferring financial aid, in-kind resources, and funds to Iran as a result of sanctions imposed on the country.	Negotiations between the IFRC, ICRC, and IRCS are ongoing to find a solution to expedite the transfer of funds to Iran. Agreements between the IRCS and the ICRC to financially support refugee vaccination activities as well as the population movement operation
Currency fluctuation may further impact the prices in local markets.	Close monitoring of currency fluctuations, as well as price monitoring, will be conducted in order to propose adaptations to the plan based on the findings.
Resources availability vs deployment of funds/surge/in-kind vs scale-up could be challenging.	Agile fund-raising efforts, allowing for immediate mobilization of funds and resources on the ground. Available Funds to be transferred to the country.
IFRC CO lacks trained human resources to tackle scale-up support.	IFRC is already recruiting PMER and Project officers so that when the operational scale is reached, staff will be prepared to absorb the pressure and provide appropriate technical assistance to IRCS.

Tajikistan

Risks	Mitigation actions
Current border closure might lead to perception of lack of preparedness and commitment from government by donors. Risk of low or no influx of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers will leave soon established IRCS unpopulated. Delays in implementation based on weak humanitarian coordination of the refugee pilot scheme in Khatlon Province will feed restraint from the government against the international community and may lead to further delays in opening borders, even for small influx of refugees.	Continued advocacy within the stakeholder group for a potential influx of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in line with the EA. The overall effort for the prepared influx of Afghan population is linked to the national emergency preparedness and response plan and increases the capacity for any future emergency Close coordination and advocacy within the stakeholder group, including the government and the donor community to accelerate the planned response pilot RCST to start working on a construction & operation funding and execution plan for the 1 st pilot IRC in Jayhun District in order to allocate responsibilities among stakeholders (BT, local administrations and implementing agencies) and to secure ownership.
Newly arrived refugees could trigger higher market prices including real estate and essential commodities. This may result in tensions between the Tajik host and guest population.	RCST starts to provide assistance to refugees around Dushanbe and Khujand cities.
Evolving situation of a crisis within the Afghanistan crisis and unexpected resurgence of COVID-19 can eventually further stretch the collective response capacity of the RCST and humanitarian stakeholders.	Ensure COVID-19 guidelines are an integral part of all response strategies/plans. Ensure that the anticipated Afghan influx response plan is linked to the national contingency planning. Take opportunity to scale-up interagency organisational response capacity.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

Pakistan

The operational strategy in Pakistan remains unchanged. PRCS aims to support the coping capacities of existing Afghan communities and host communities in five target districts of Pakistan (Killa Abdullah, Quetta, Khyber, North Waziristan, and Chitral) with improved access to basic health, WASH, livelihood and protection services through provision of direct service delivery, awareness building and in-kind support. The prioritized activities with the current funding are mobile health teams in three district and cash support. The operational strategy has been closely coordinated with PRCS other operations, particularly with vaccination schemes and the Covid-19 operation.

Iran

The operational strategy remains unchanged. The IRCS Movement Preparedness/Response Plan focuses on the humanitarian implications of an influx of displaced Afghans into/ near the Iranian border. It aims at guiding the Movement's emergency response, defining roles and responsibilities, establishing security measures, and adopting necessary preparedness measures.

The overall operational objective under this EA is to prepare for/respond to 37,500 people (7,500 HHs)/ (25% of the total target) in case of mass influx with emergency shelter, catering of basic needs including food and non-food items, Health and WASH services (partial contribution to IRCS plan).

The main target areas are three provinces, as well as Kerman province, bordering Afghanistan. However, the possibility of setting up some temporary camps/settlements at the border and no-man's land zones to accommodate some refugees/migrants cannot be overlooked. The IRCS will have a prominent role in the national response plan in these scenarios. Camp set-up and management (shelter), protection activities and referral to specialized services as needed, provision of basic food/non-food items, Water Sanitation, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), restoring family links (RFL), and health are among the main areas where the National Society's involvement is predicted.

The IRCS response plan is divided into three stages. The operation is currently in Phase 0 – Phase 1A. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has also mobilized and transferred funds to the National Society to cater for response or preparedness.

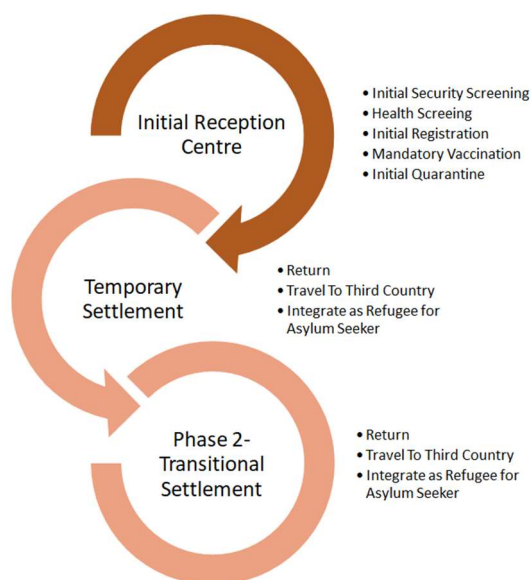
The following response/preparedness actions are already being carried out:

- Provision of emergency shelters (tents) for camps in Sistan-u-Baluchistan and South Khorasan provinces. (A total of 15,128 units were deployed).
- Prepositioning of food parcels in provinces bordering Afghanistan (20,000 packages were deployed).
- Distribution of mats and blankets in the Afghan border provinces of Sistan-u-Baluchistan and South Khorasan (a total of 7,700 and 9,040 items were deployed, respectively).
- Provision of heaters in the Afghan border provinces of Sistan-u-Baluchistan and South Khorasan. (A total of 8,500 units were deployed).
- Provision of kitchenware in Afghanistan's border provinces. (4,000 sets were deployed in total).
- Provision of one-month food packages in Afghanistan's border provinces (1,200 packs were deployed).
- Provision of rice in Afghanistan's Khorasan Razavi province. (A total of 50 tons were distributed).
- Implementation of COVID-19 pandemic preventive/treatment measures (vaccination, masks distribution, screening, rapid test, quarantine, etc.) at official borders crossings and entries; until 12 December 2021, the IRCS has vaccinated 332,108 Afghan displaced people. Furthermore, from 5 March to 10 December 2021, 61,391 passengers were screened in conjunction with the health measures implemented by the IRCS during the reporting period, specifically in the province of Sistan-u-Baluchestan. Furthermore, 8,579 PCR tests have been performed, as well as 60,009 immediate PCR tests. The corona virus infected 165 people, who were quarantined. This plan involved a total of 2,458 operational forces.

- COVID-19 screening of 320,661 Afghan displaced people in Afghanistan's border provinces from 01 November 2021 to 12 December 2021. (Khorasan Razavi: 257,555 people, South Khorasan: 1,082 people, and Sistan-u-Baluchestan: 62,024 people).
- Training of 190,036 people for the mine risk awareness program.
Distribution of 50 tons of rice from the province's relief warehouses across the border of Doghadoun in favor of Afghan displaced people in Torbat Jam and Khavaf.

Tajikistan

The operation aims to support preparedness and humanitarian response for population movement from Afghanistan to the neighboring CA countries, focusing on Tajikistan. For Tajikistan, the Emergency Response plan includes a focus on enhancing the response capacity and readiness of the RCST.



In the current context, the response plan for the Afghan refugee crisis is developed at three levels-

1. Initial Reception Centres – under RCST coordination aiming to address immediate humanitarian needs of the new arrivals⁶.

2. Temporary Settlement Site – under the UNHCR coordination structure, this level of assistance aims to provide short-term integrated sheltering assistance⁷ to the people on the move for up to 6 months.

3. Phase 2- Transitional Settlements – Linked to the overall emergency response strategy and preparedness plan of country, this level of assistance aims to provide mid-term integrated sheltering assistance⁸ to people on the move under protracted humanitarian needs.

The current focus of the EA is for the first level of immediate response (IRCs) and to support the preparation of phase 2.

Following the last operations update, the preparedness and response strategy evolved within the changing context, further informing the Interagency Contingency Plan. The current preparedness and response plan is also broadly linked to the overall emergency response strategy of the country (Phase 2). UNHCR with its global Refugee Coordination Mechanism (RCM), currently coordinates the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) in country with other stakeholders including RCST. Complimenting the overall humanitarian needs, the RCST with its mandate to respond alongside the national authorities aims to scale up its capacity in order to respond to the changing humanitarian situation. The following areas of emergency preparedness and response capacity building is envisaged as an opportunity within the scope of the EA:

Preparedness:

- Mapping RCST logistics capacity building needs for emergency response incl. trainings of staff and volunteers
- Assess the training needs for the IRC implementation of BT, CoES and RCST staff and volunteers on shelter, refugee management and camp management.
- Coordination and collaboration with key emergency response stakeholders within country for preparedness (e.g. CoES, UNHCR, UNICEF).

⁶ immediate lifesaving assistance, emergency shelter, WASH and food assistance, health screening and PSS, initial registration, mandatory vaccinations, necessary quarantine and PGI services

⁷ adequate sheltering space, WASH needs, food assistance, access to health & protection services, legal assistance to migrants who plan an informed migration to third country or return

⁸ basic humanitarian needs as in the second level plus mid-term needs (building resilience and providing legal assistance)

- Define and agree on various intersectoral needs (e.g. shelter NFI, WASH, health, food) to cover refugee needs at IRCs for 3 – 5 days⁹ period jointly with key partners.
- Conduct needs assessment of Afghan population in hosting communities and define the needs.
- Plan CVA feasibility study in host community neighborhoods (Vahdat, Rudaki, J.Rasulov) and IRCs located areas
- Support NS with additional winterization preparedness procurement plan, including coordination with GRC.

Readiness:

- Set up IRC camps and/or preposition at RCST stock/warehouse close to the border with Afghanistan.
- Logistics network and response mechanism reviewed and set.
- Close coordination with key partners is ensured.
- Humanitarian support to Afghans in host community is defined.

Response:

- Two IRCs ready to receive people on the move.
- Staff and volunteers of NS, BT and CoES trained and aware on roles and responsibilities.
- CoES base temporary refugee camp is ready to receive refugees.
- Collaboration with key partners with clear understanding of shared responsibilities under inter-agency integrated scope of actions.
- Humanitarian assistance for the Afghans in host communities based on identified gaps.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

Shelter



People to be reached:

	Pakistan ¹⁰	Iran	Tajikistan ¹¹
Male	-	20,625	1,840 (initial target: 23,000)
Female	-	16,875	2,160 (initial target: 27,000)
Total	-	37,500	4,000 (initial target: 50,000)

The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome:

Indicators:

	Target	Actual
Iran: # of people receiving emergency shelter and household items	37,500	15,128 (3,782 HHs)
TJ ¹² : Total # of people reached with shelter interventions	up to 3,000 ¹³	80

Output:

Indicators:

	Target	Actual
Iran: # of tents and shelter items replenished	7,500	400

⁹ current strategy is being discussed within the health sector for quarantine requirements

¹⁰ No shelter activities are foreseen in Pakistan

¹¹ The number of people to be reached has been adjusted to 4,000 based on the planned activities, aligned with *Scenario I.* of the [Emergency Plan of Action](#) (EPoA) for Central Asia. The targets have been adjusted in all sectors. Based on the EPoA, targets have been defined for other Central Asian countries only for Livelihoods and basic needs, and Migration sectors.

¹² Indicators separate for Tajikistan marked as 'TJ'

¹³ Aligned to *Scenario I.* of the EPoA.

TJ: # of site assessments carried out	7	10
TJ: # of tents/shelter pre-positioned to IRCs ¹⁴	600	125
TJ: # of people receiving emergency shelter and household items	Up to 3,000 ¹⁵	80

Progress towards outcomes

Iran:

The IRCS primary activities under this area of intervention are centered on providing emergency shelter to people crossing from Afghanistan.

For this purpose, a DREF was launched to meet the needs of 400 households (HHs) in the early stages of the crisis. The IRCS made use of the DREF-agreed-upon assistance to respond to the needs of those 400 HHs who arrived in camps. The IRCS has so far responded to a total of 15,500 people, out of which 2,000 people are being assisted through the DREF.

The implementation of the activities was hampered by delays in the transfer of funds to the National Society. DREF funds will be reimbursed to IRCS as soon as they arrive in the country. The planned objective of this operation will only be reached once hard pledges for the Appeal are confirmed.

So far, the overall response of IRCS has been as follows:

- Provision of shelter support to 3,782 HHs during their stay in camps or at zero borders.
- Distribution of 13,900 carpets, 55,540 blankets, 31,000 kg covering sheets for tents, 7,100 kitchen sets, 11,600 cooking/heating sets.

The IFRC is attempting to mobilize resources for 37,500 people in response to the appeal (7,500 HHs).

Tajikistan:

- 125 family tents procured and pre-positioned
- 400 Shelter NFIs sets (mattress, pillow, blankets) for 2,000 people pre-positioned with the support of German Red Cross
- 200 Shelter NFIs sets (mattress, pillow, blankets) for 2,000 people pre-positioned through EA funding
- 400 Hygiene family kits pre-positioned with German Red Cross support
- 300 Hygiene family kits pre-positioned pre-positioned through EA funding
- Food items based on EA planning for 3 months pre-positioned for distribution at temporary refugee center covering approximately 51 people
- Official approval from BT to establish the 1st pilot IRC in Jayhun District received by NS on 7 January 2022
- Host community needs assessment in 3 locations covering 2,125 households performed in December 2021
- With the technical support of the IFRC to setup the UNHCR camp in the CoES's Anti-hail Centre in Balkh District is in initial site development stage



Livelihoods and basic needs

People to be reached:

	Pakistan	Iran	Tajikistan	Other central Asian countries
Male	35,751	20,625	1,840 (initial target: 23,000)	330
Female	34,349	16,875	2,160 (initial target: 27,000)	270

¹⁴ Based on the anticipatory EA, the indicator is adjusted for prepositioning target as end result.

¹⁵ Aligned to *Scenario I*. as per EPoA; The indicator is specific to new arrivals to 7 identified locations

Total	70,100	37,500	4,000 (initial target: 50,000)	600
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The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: Assessment has been done and families identified for cash disbursement.	Yes	Ongoing
Pakistan: # of volunteers (20 from each district) have been identified for training on CVA	100	20
Iran: # of people who have access to their basic needs for food security	37,500	18,600
CA ¹⁶ : # of people among migrants reached with livelihoods support	scenario-dependent	80
CA: # of people in host communities reached with livelihoods support	scenario-dependent	0
CA: # of people (both among migrants and host communities) reached with cash for basic needs	1,000 ¹⁷	0

Output:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of people reached unconditional cash grants	70,000	0
Iran: # of households receiving food items	7,500	20,600
CA: # of people in host communities supported with CVA	TJ: 1,000 KG: TBD KZ: 100	0
CA: # of people supported with host community food production/income generation projects	20,000	0
CA: # of people among migrants receiving food parcels	TJ: 3,000 ¹⁸	80
CA: # of people in host communities receiving food parcels	TJ: 1,000	290
CA: # of people among migrants supported with CVA	TJ: - KG: TBD KZ: 100	0

Progress towards outcomes

Pakistan

The Assessment and identification of families for CVA is ongoing. Volunteers' identification was completed in all targeted district (100 volunteers) PRCS provided CVA training to 20 volunteers in Khyber district.

Iran

So far, the IRCS has provided 14,400 people (3,600 HHs) with 72-hour food packages, while 6,200 people have received hot meals at zero border points.

¹⁶ Indicators referring to Central Asia are marked as 'CA'

¹⁷ Aligned to *Scenario I.* of the EPoA.

¹⁸ Aligned to *Scenario I.* of the EPoA.

Tajikistan

Food items and rations were defined jointly with WFP for a period of 1 month for 80 people. Apart from the food items, RCST also provided family kitchen utensils to facilitate proper cooking opportunities for the refugees.

As for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), it was not feasible to provide as the refugees were situated on the island on Panj River between 2 countries with no access to infrastructure. It was challenging as only IFRC and the RCST had access to the refugees on the island. Refugees on the island of the Panj River received in-kind assistance through shelter, food, water and medication.

Host community needs assessment in 3 locations covering 2,125 households were performed in December 2021.

Health



People to be reached:

	Pakistan	Iran	Tajikistan
Male	33,711	20,625	1,840 (initial target: 23,000)
Female	32,389	16,875	2,160 (initial target: 27,000)
Total	66,100	37,500	4,000 (initial target: 50,000)

The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome :

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of people reached with services to reduce relevant health risk factors	66,000	0
Pakistan: # of people reached through first aid	66,000	0
Pakistan: # of communities are aware of the risks related to epidemics	5	0
Pakistan: # of people reached with community-based disease control and health promotion activities	70,000	0
Pakistan: # of people reached through psychological first aid	66,000	0
Iran: # of people who have access to primary health services	37,500	0
Iran: # of people receiving first aid	37,500	0
Iran: # of people screened/tested	37,500	8,579
Iran: # of people reached with PSS support	TBD	0
Iran: # of volunteers identified and trained on PSS	TBD	0
Iran: # of volunteers provided with PSS	TBD	0
TJ: # of people provided with primary health services	Scenario dependent	80

Output:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of assessment in the targeted districts to identify the health risks and the needs.	1	1
Pakistan: # of volunteers trained in first aid	100	100
Pakistan: # of volunteers trained in epidemic control	100	0

Pakistan: # of vaccination campaigns have been conducted	TBD	0
Pakistan: # of awareness sessions have been conducted	TBD	0
Pakistan: # of volunteers have been identified and trained on psychological first aid.	100	100
Iran: # of basic health units activated and deployed	3	0
Iran: # of CBHFA volunteers activated and deployed	TBD	0
TJ: # of staff and volunteers trained on First Aid and health promotion	98	0
TJ: # of health assessments conducted in refugee reception centers and host communities	TBD	1
TJ: # of staff and volunteers trained in epidemic control and CBS	98	0
TJ: # of RC volunteers trained in MHPSS	98	0
TJ: # of child-friendly spaces set up	7	0
TJ: # of people reached with MHPSS services	6,500	0

Progress towards outcomes

Pakistan

The health status of displaced as well as host population in the targeted districts remains a major public health concern. In this regard, PRCS intends to build the capacity of local population in First Aid skills, to provide immediate assistance to possible new incoming Afghans.

PRCS already started working on the capacity building of its staff and volunteers, volunteers identification completed in all the targeted district. Total of 125 volunteers identified for basic first aid training. Four trainings have been completed in North Waziristan, Chitral, Khyber and Quetta where 100 participant got basic first aid training.

Procurement process also initiated at national level for procurement of first aid boxes and first aid pouches. PRCS also started coordination with district administration in Chitral, Khyber and North Waziristan where they are planning to start MHU services in those bordering areas in order to provide support to the health system and host communities.

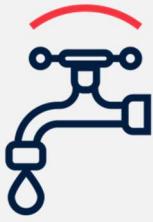
Iran

Providing Health Services in the Province of Sistan-u-Baluchestan:

IRCS has vaccinated 332,108 Afghan displaced people up to 12 December 2021. From 5 March to 10 December 2021, 61,391 passengers were screened in conjunction with the health measures implemented by the IRCS, specifically in the province of Sistan-u-Baluchestan. Furthermore, 8,579 PCR tests have been performed, as well as 60,009 immediate PCR tests. The corona virus infected 165 people, who were quarantined. This plan involved a total of 2,458 operational forces.

Tajikistan

Continuous coordination with WHO, MoH and sector partners for health services including initial screening, vaccination, PSS, health referrals and basic health care provision at IRCs.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People to be reached:

	Pakistan	Iran	Tajikistan
Male	35,751	20,625	1,840 (initial target: 23,000)
Female	34,389	16,875	2,160 (initial target: 27,000)
Total	70,100	37,500	4,000 (initial target: 50,000)

The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome :

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of people provided with water, sanitation and hygiene-related services that meet agreed standards, according to specific operational and programmatic context.	70,100	0
Pakistan: # of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	70,100	0
Iran: # of people provided with safe drinking water	37,500	15,500
TJ: # of people provided with water, sanitation and hygiene-related services	3,000 ¹⁹	80

Output:

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of site assessments carried out and shared	5	0
Pakistan: # of litres safe water distributed (cumulative).	TBC ²⁰	TBC
Pakistan: Average amount of safe water distributed per person per day	TBC	TBC
Pakistan: # of water distribution points	TBC	TBC
Pakistan: # of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	70,100	0
Pakistan: # of people per toilet	20-50	0
Pakistan: # of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items	10,000	0
Iran: Coordination with WASH actors	Yes	
Iran: # of people provided with adapted hygiene kits	37,500	12,400 (3,100 HHs)
TJ: # of site WASH assessments carried out	1	0
TJ: # of people provided with safe drinking water	3,000 ²¹	80
TJ: # of people provided with access to excreta disposal facilities	3,000 ²²	0
TJ: # of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	up to 3,000	80
TJ: # of people provided with hygiene kits	up to 4,200	80

¹⁹ Aligned to Scenario I. of the EPoA.

²⁰ Provision of safe water in Pakistan will be confirmed based on the findings from WASH assessment.

²¹ Aligned to Scenario I. of the EPoA.

²² Aligned to Scenario I. of the EPoA.

Progress towards outcomes

Pakistan

PRCS aims to improve hygiene and sanitation accessibility and practices of host communities and newly arrived displaced Afghans through the provision of hygiene kits, construction of dry pit and pour flush latrines, deployment of water treatment plants and hygiene awareness building initiatives. Provision of safe water will be confirmed based on the findings from assessment.

PRCS already started working on the capacity building of its staff and volunteers. Volunteer identification completed in all the targeted district. Total of 100 volunteers identified for WASH training. PRCS provided WASH basic training to 60 volunteers in district Khyber, Chitral and North Waziristan.

The procurement process was initiated at national level for procurement of material for emergency latrine and IEC material.

Iran

The IRCS primary activities under this area of intervention are centered on the procurement and provision of safe drinking water through water bottles, hygiene items (such as hygiene kits, jerry cans, sanitary napkins, etc.) for women, men, children, and babies, and hygiene promotion.

So far, IRCS has provided bottled water to people arriving from Afghanistan at Iranian borders, and hygiene kits have been distributed to 3,100 HHs.

Tajikistan

RCST provided 40 sets of hygiene kits (1 set per family for a period of 1 month), 300 pieces of hand sanitizers, and 20 sets of diapers of different sizes. The clean water was provided by the Border Troops and RCST provided the jerry cans for storing the clean water for 80 refugees on the island on Panj River.

WASH response and preparedness assessment planned for mid-January supported by IFRC GVA and Austrian RC.

Protection Gender and Inclusion



People to be reached:

	Pakistan	Iran	Tajikistan
Male	33,711		1,840 (initial target: 23,000)
Female	32,389		2,160 (initial target: 27,000)
Total	66,100	TBD	4,000 (initial target: 50,000)

The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome :

Indicators:

Pakistan: # of people reached

Target

Actual

66,000

0

Iran: Operation demonstrates evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response

Yes

TJ: # of people supported with RFL services

TBD

0

Output :

Indicators:

Target

Actual

Pakistan: # of people trained on implementing the PGI/CEA minimum standards	100	20
Iran: # of staff and volunteers trained on the Minimum Standards PGI	100	
Pakistan: # of collaborations established with reliable local actors involved in giving SGBV prevention and response advice	TBD	0
TJ: # of staff and volunteers trained on SGBV	TBD	8
TJ: Community feedback systems are established	Yes	0

Progress towards outcomes

Pakistan

PRCS has already started working on the capacity building of its staff and volunteers. The volunteer identification has been completed in all the targeted district. A total of 100 volunteers have been identified for PGI training out of which 20 volunteers trained.

Iran

Nothing to report.

Tajikistan

8 RCST staff attended a 1-day online training facilitated by UNICEF on SGBV.

Migration and Displacement

People to be reached:



	Pakistan	Iran	Tajikistan	Other Central Asian countries
Male	33,711		1,840 (initial target: 27,600)	2,185
Female	32,389		2,160 (initial target: 32,400)	2,565
Total	66,100	TBD	4,000 (initial target: 60,000)	4,750

The indicators below are part of the monitoring plan

Outcome :

Indicators:

	Target	Actual
Pakistan: people targeted	66,100	0
Iran: Services related to assistance and protection are provided as needed	Yes	

Output :

Indicators:

	Target	Actual
Pakistan: # of volunteers trained on RFL	100	100
Iran: Awareness and advocacy work carried out	Yes	

Progress towards outcomes

Pakistan

PRCS already started working on the capacity building of its staff and volunteers for RFL. Volunteers' identification completed in all the targeted district. Total of 100 volunteers identified for RFL training. PRCS will confirm training schedule for RFL in coming days.

Iran

Nothing to report.

Tajikistan

Nothing to report.

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Reference documents



Click here for:

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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace