

### Afghanistan, Asia Pacific | Humanitarian Crises



A smiling child in Kandahar helping his family with the food package they received. (Photo: IFRC)

Appeal No: <b>MDRAF007</b>	To be assisted: <b>1,008,000 individuals (144,000 households)</b>	Appeal launched: 10/4/2021 Revised no 1: <b>3/8/2021</b> ; Revised no 2: <b>6/9/2021</b>
Glide No: <b>DR-2021-000022-AFG</b>	DREF allocated: <b>CHF 1 million</b>	Disaster Categorisation: Red
Operation Start date: <b>10/04/2021</b>	Operation End date: <b>31/12/2023</b>	
Operational Strategy Revision	Revision #3 <sup>1</sup>	Date: <b>1/7/2022</b>

**IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 80 Million**  
**Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 200 Million**

<sup>1</sup> This is the Operational Strategy for the Humanitarian Crises in the country. A separate Operational Strategy will be published under the same Emergency Appeal for the Earthquake response in Paktika and Khost.

## TIMELINE

**Winter 2020/21:** Drought effects is seen in multiple provinces in Afghanistan.

**20 March 2021:** The IFRC allocates CHF 500,000 from the **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)**.

**10 April 2021:** The IFRC issues an **Emergency Appeal** seeking CHF 7.5 million

**4 May 2021:** **Spring offensive operations** began with increased number of people displaced

**22 June 2021:** Official declaration of state of emergency due to drought

**3 August 2021:** The IFRC issues a **Revised Emergency Appeal No. 1** with the targeted population increasing to 280,000 individuals and the funding requirement to CHF 15 million

**6-14 August 2021:** Provincial capitals across the country swiftly changed authorities. Displaced people increased significantly.

On **15 August 2021**, the new authorities changed at national level. Change of government led to Sehatmandi Project suspended due to suspension of funds. The Basic Package of Health Services and Essential Package of Hospital Services were disrupted as agencies had no funding to provide and run services.

**6 September 2021:** The IFRC issues **Revised Emergency Appeal No. 2**, increasing the funding requirement from CHF 15 million to CHF 36 million.

**May 2022:** Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report was published indicating **55% of the population are facing high levels of food insecurity between March to May 2022 with 20,000 households facing IPC level 5 (people in catastrophe).**

**29 – 31 May 2022:** The ARCS organises a **Partnership meeting** for its Red Cross Red Crescent partners.

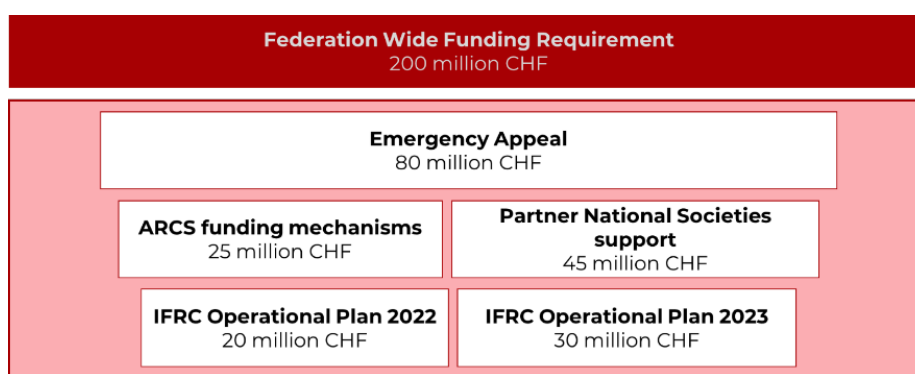
**21 June 2022:** The IFRC issues **Revised Emergency Appeal No. 3**, increasing the total funding requirement from CHF 36 million to CHF 80 million.

# OPERATIONAL STRATEGY REVISION

Against the backdrop of the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the IFRC Secretariat is increasing its Emergency Appeal from CHF 36 million to **CHF 80 million** and extending the operation's timeframe until **31 December 2023**. The increase in funding requirements will enable IFRC to scale up humanitarian assistance as well as to implement interventions that bridge development. It also extends the operation's geographical coverage from 19 to all 34 provinces of the country and increases the target to 1 million people.

The increase in funding requirements will enable IFRC to scale up humanitarian assistance as well as to implement interventions that bridge development in Afghanistan. It also extends the operation's geographical coverage from 19 to all **34 provinces** of the country and increases the target to **1 million people**.

Put together with the IFRC Secretariat's Operational Plan for 2022 and 2023 (CHF 50 million), ARCS own funding for 2022 and 2023 (CHF 25 million) and funding by Participating National Societies working bilaterally in Afghanistan (CHF 45 million), the Federation-wide funding requirements until the end of 2023 amounts to CHF 200 million. The graphic below provides the visualization of the breakdown of the funding requirements:



Collectively, the IFRC and its members are aiming to deliver assistance to two million people across 34 provinces of Afghanistan, translating to 10 per cent of the affected population.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Afghanistan is facing a catastrophic humanitarian crisis that resulted from compounded impacts of multiple types of events that had been impacting the countries over 40 years. The main drivers of the crisis can be summarized into five interrelated layers as shown in the graphic below:



### Impact of long-term conflict and situations of violence

Afghanistan had faced four decades of conflict, involving both internal and external parties, resulting in generations of people living through insecurities. Numerous districts and multiple provinces were inaccessible for extended periods due to insecurity rendering development and humanitarian assistance in these areas extremely limited. In addition to the dangers of conflicts, populations in these areas faced decades of other related challenges such as displacement, reduced or – in certain areas – no access to basic services such as health, clean water and education.

In 2021, the conflict intensified, especially between June and August during which province after province came

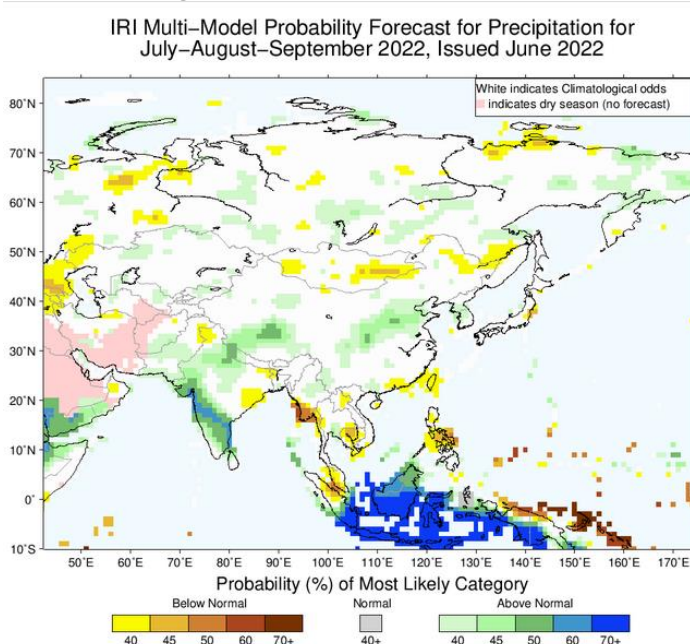
under the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) with a nationwide take-over in August 2021. Since then, there has been some respite in conflicts and areas that were previously considered unreachable became more accessible. While security has largely been maintained since the transition, situations of violence are still being reported in some parts of the country. The situation remains fluid and it will take years for Afghanistan to recover from decades of conflict. The potential of new conflict situations cannot be discarded.

### Persistent impact of drought, extreme climate and seismic hazards

Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, prone to disasters, and has experienced avalanches, droughts, earthquakes, floods, and landslides over the last decade. Temperatures are rising at a higher rate than the global average and the incidence of drought conditions is likely to increase. The primary causes of droughts in Afghanistan are meteorological (based on reduced precipitation) and hydrological (reduction in surface and subsurface water flow). The current drought is due to reduced precipitation. Due to the extended drought, the country is also experiencing a deficit in surface and subsurface water flow.<sup>2</sup>

The current drought is considered the worst in three decades. It started in 2020, due to the impact of La Niña, and the situation has gradually worsened since the winter of 2020/21. On 22 June 2021, a state of emergency due to the drought was officially declared. The 2021-2022 wet season brought little relief as 20 out of 34 provinces once again received below average or well below average rainfall.

Based on the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) latest report, in June 2022, La Niña is likely to persist during late summer, fall and early winter 2022 with probabilities ranging from 52 to 59%. This has significant impacts on the seasonal forecasts of precipitation and temperature across the globe. There are enhanced probabilities of below-normal precipitation forecasted over and around central and southwest Asia during August to October 2022, with gradually increasing probabilities between September to December 2022. More importantly, this will most probably cause the drought to persist through 2022 in Afghanistan with below-average precipitation expected across Afghanistan due to La Niña.



The map above shows the projected precipitation forecast published by International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)

According to UNDP<sup>3</sup>, agriculture contributes an estimated 31 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product in 2020, and **approximately 85 per cent of Afghans depend on primarily rain-fed agriculture and agribusiness for their livelihoods**. The impact of the drought is hence significant for most Afghans.

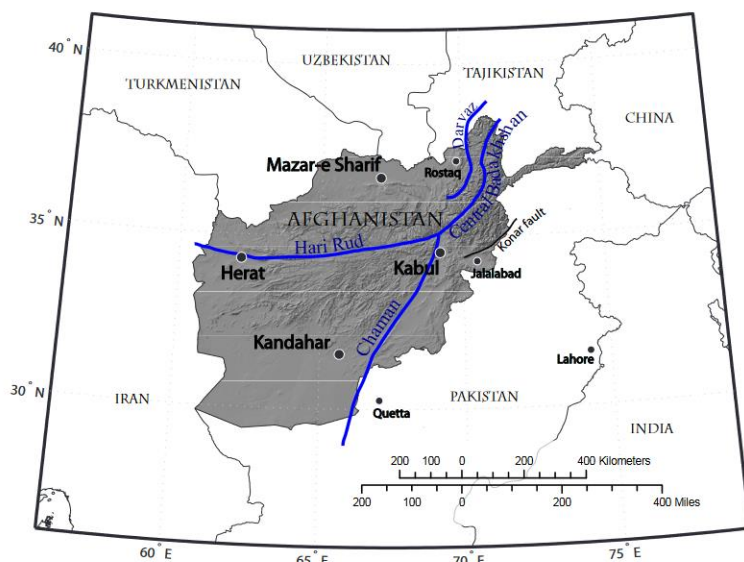
Additionally, there are pockets of significant rainfall in a few areas over these periods (2021-2022). Due to the dryness of the land due to long drought, water does not seep into the ground quickly. This causes flash floods

<sup>2</sup> [World Bank Climate Knowledge Portal](https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/afghanistan>

such as the one that happened in May 2021, where a total of 16 provinces in five regions across the country were affected by consecutive flash floods following heavy rains causing loss of lives, livelihoods, and household items. There is a possibility of such an incident happening again in 2022 but with a lower probability than in 2021.

Afghanistan is located in an active seismic region. Seismic activity continues to be a threat to the country, with the latest significant earthquake having happened in early 2022, in [Badghis province](#), severely impacting the population. Based on the Preliminary Earthquake Hazard Map of Afghanistan<sup>4</sup> study, Chaman fault, the Hari Rud fault, the Central Badakhshan fault, and the Darvaz fault as those most likely to contribute to seismic hazards and can be seen in the seismic hazard map below:



Map of Afghanistan showing the locations of fault lines modelled  
(Source: Preliminary Earthquake Hazard Map of Afghanistan)

### Reduced access to financial services due to sanctions

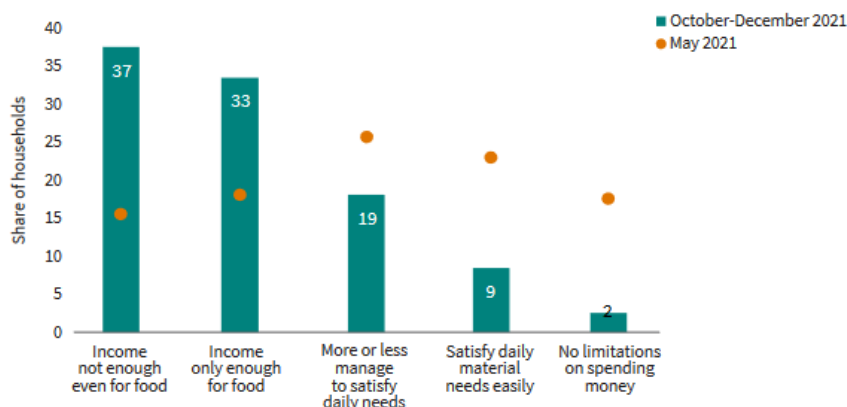
With the change of authorities, significant international financial restrictions and sanctions have been put in place for Afghanistan. Up to USD 9 billion worth of assets belonging to Afghanistan’s central bank – Da Afghanistan Bank – have been frozen since August 2021, the banking system has been strained, and the shortage of foreign currencies persists in the country. The severe impact on the banking system has impacted households, local businesses and organizations, including humanitarian, which are unable to access cash. Limits have been put in place on amounts that individuals can withdraw from their personal accounts, curtailing their purchasing power and contributing to further contracting of Afghanistan’s economy.

Overall inflation is being driven by increasing prices of basic household goods. According to the World Bank, year-on-year inflation for basic household goods hit 40.7 per cent in January 2022, reduced to around 32 per cent in February and March 22 but spiked to 36.5 per cent in April 2022 as increasing global food prices have started to seep into domestic food prices.

In terms of access to food, the Afghanistan Welfare Monitoring Survey<sup>5</sup>, indicated that most households interviewed in October–December 2021 reported a decline in their ability to cover basic food and non-food needs as compared to their recall for May 2021. Over two-thirds (70 per cent) of respondents indicated that their household was unable to cover basic food and non-food needs, as compared to about 35 per cent in May 2021. Of these, more than half were unable to cover food expenses and 33 per cent were unable to cover both food and non-food needs. This is reflected in the chart below from the same report:

<sup>4</sup> [Preliminary Earthquake Hazard Map of Afghanistan, 2007, USGS, USAID](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Afghanistan Welfare Monitoring Survey, March 2022](#)



Comparison of self-reported household capacity to cover food and non-food expenses between May 2021 and October – December 2021  
(Source: Afghanistan Welfare Monitoring Survey)

The exchange rate continues to gradually depreciate with some improvement seen in the second quarter of 2022 but again a downturn in May 2022.<sup>6</sup>

### Geopolitical and Global Crises Impact

The socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 is also felt in Afghanistan. The reduction in economic activities during the pandemic has also contributed to a downturn in the economy and reduced the flow of money into the country.

Afghanistan's economy remains vulnerable and exposed to global commodity prices. The geopolitics in the region continue to impact Afghanistan which is a landlocked country and net importer of food. The Ukraine crisis has to a certain extent also impacted Afghanistan when it comes to accessing wheat – a staple – including from neighbouring countries.

In addition to the rising prices of basic needs including food, skyrocketing prices of agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, have increased the cost of agriculture. Considering that approximately 85 per cent of Afghans depend on primarily rain-fed agriculture and agribusiness for their livelihoods, the impact of global developments on agricultural inputs will have a significant effect on Afghanistan which is a net importer.

### Suspension or repurposing of long-term international assistance to Afghanistan

Prior to August 2021, international donors financed more than half of Afghanistan's annual budget and as much as 80 per cent of total public expenditures. The reluctance of some development funders to channel support to Afghanistan since August 2021 has had a major impact. Now, most of the international assistance is only humanitarian while development cooperation has either been redirected to humanitarian assistance or suspended entirely. This situation has severely impacted the provision of basic services such as health which was heavily funded by the international community. Although some development funding has been repurposed for humanitarian and bridging interventions aimed at maintaining basic services, most of the support is channelled through non-local entities and investing in structural support for the country is restricted. These risks reduce the sustainability of investments being made and are hindering localization gains.

## SEVERITY OF HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS

The compounded impact of the events across Afghanistan has resulted in significant increase of humanitarian needs in the country. In addition to food insecurity, the most significant impact can be seen with the contraction of the economy and increased level of unemployment in the country as well as increased number of people living under poverty which has been reported to be as high as 90 per cent of the population.

The severity of the humanitarian conditions is explained below.

<sup>6</sup> [Afghanistan Economic Monitor \(World Bank\), 17 May 2022](#)

## 1. Increased level of unemployment and poverty



Increased number of people under poverty line



Increased number of people unemployed

Based on the Afghanistan Welfare Monitoring Survey, the employment rate has reduced from 75 to 73 per cent by the end of 2021. However, the report highlighted that 70 per cent of the people employed reported that they had reduced earnings – increasing the level of poverty across the country. The unemployment rate increased mostly in urban areas and employment increased in rural areas as people may have returned to the rural areas due to increased security situation in the country and people doing farming activities in the rural areas. However, the earnings are still reduced in both rural and urban areas.

The level of unemployment and poverty will continue to increase if the situation is not stabilized, and millions will face a more dire state. Livelihood and coping mechanisms for many individuals and communities have been weakened by years of repeated displacements due to conflict, climate-induced migration, and economic hardships. Civilian life-altering casualties and trauma have left four million people with disabilities (REACH 2018). Debt and the lack of access to credit and cash deny many the chance to restart livelihoods in rural, migrant, and displaced communities.

## 2. Rising levels of food insecurity



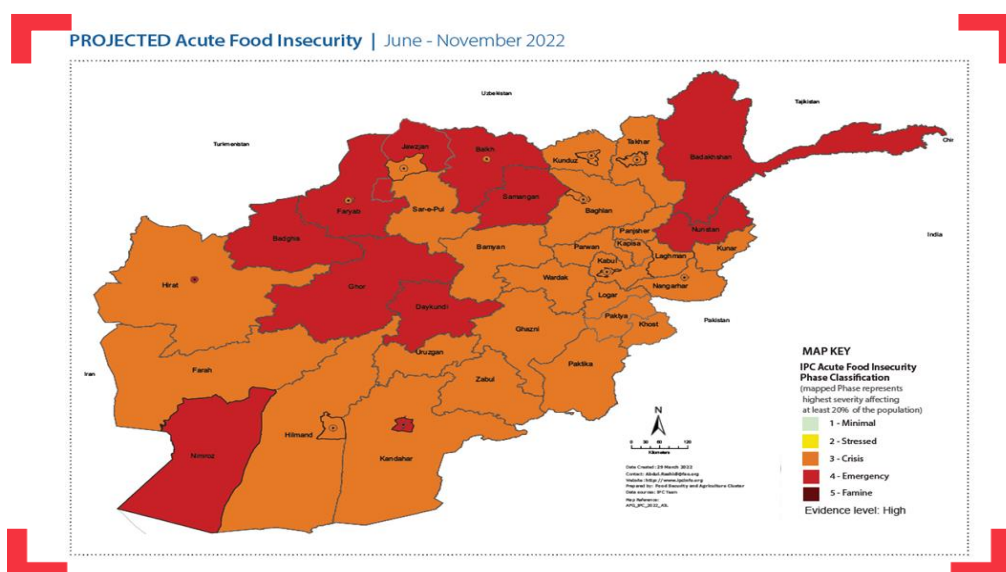
**18.9 million**  
(45% of the population)

People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)



**5.9 million**  
people in emergency acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4)

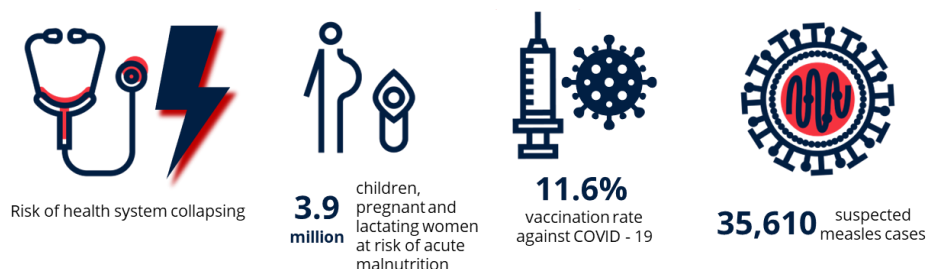
Levels of food insecurity are rising all over Afghanistan with all 34 provinces facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phases 3 or 4). This can be seen reflected in the following map by Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC) report published in May 2022. In the same report, it was reflected that in March – May 2022, 20,000 people were classified as IPC phase 5.



The map above shows the projected acute food insecurity from [June to November 2022](#) as per the latest report by the Integrated Food Insecurity Phase Classification (IPC).

Almost 100 per cent of female-headed households surveyed are facing insufficient food consumption. Worse still, these numbers are likely to increase. Widows and single mothers are even more vulnerable during this period as the unemployment rate continues to increase and 3.2 million children, pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition.<sup>7</sup>

### 3. Health and Nutrition



There are significant gaps in the provision of basic healthcare across the country. Public sector healthcare in Afghanistan consisted of more than 3,500 health facilities largely supported through international development funding. With the unclear future over funding, many health facilities – through which humanitarian health and nutrition services are delivered – are struggling to sustain services.

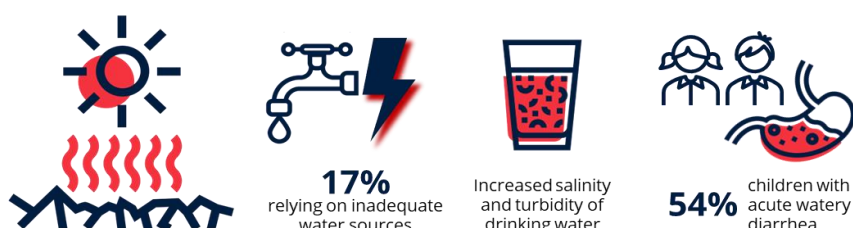
Already, the geographic distribution of health facilities in the country was uneven and insufficient in meeting needs; with needs being higher in rural areas. Some 19 per cent of the households assessed in the multisectoral Whole of Afghanistan Assessment reported not having an active health centre in or close to their village, and access to health services has continued to decline in rural areas. Health facilities, including secondary and tertiary structures, are often understaffed, undertrained, and under-resourced, with 8.7 physicians, nurses and midwives per 10,000 of the population.

The suspension in funding for longer-term health has also impacted the COVID-19 response with the closure of 20 per cent of the country's COVID-19 treatment centres/ hospitals while the remaining 80 per cent only partially functioning due to disruptions in salary payments and other support. The COVID-19 vaccination rate remains alarmingly low, with only 12.4 per cent of the population fully vaccinated and even a lower percentage partially vaccinated. The closure of most commercial land and air routes since August 2021 has also disrupted the scheduled import of critical pharmaceutical supplies.

Women with more complex health needs, such as pregnant women, have reportedly been facing major access issues. Challenges cited include fear and insecurity, mobility restrictions (use of mahram), long distances to reach health services, lack of safe transportation (i.e., the need to use a private car rather than public transportation), and the lack of trained female staff. If solutions are not found to sustain the existing health programme, the Health Cluster expects 10 maternal, 55 neonatal and 112 child deaths each day.

The Nutrition Cluster further estimates that 1.1 million acutely malnourished children under the age of five years will be left without access to treatment services, contributing to about 106,000 to 131,000 deaths among children in the course of 2022.

### 4. Water and sanitation



<sup>7</sup> [IPC Afghanistan Acute Food Insecurity Report March 2022 – November 2022](#)

The severe drought, with exceptional below normal levels of precipitation in 2020/2021, has added to a long silent water crisis. Two-thirds of the country is already experiencing severe water scarcity with a projected trend of continued drought. A total of 13 per cent of the assessed households in the Whole of Afghanistan reported relying on inadequate water sources. The WASH cluster has identified 14 provinces as having high priority needs for WASH services, particularly water supply, due to the drought with a further 18 provinces at medium priority. The severity of the drought was first observed in the water-scarce areas, such as Badghis, Ghor and Faryab provinces, with 53 per cent of the water points dried up due to the recent drought, with 35 per cent of water points reporting drops in water levels. Only, 35 per cent of water points had water and only at reduced levels.

Aquifers in the central region have also been severely affected by the water scarcity crisis, with reduced water levels resulting in the drying up of hand-dug wells, springs, underground irrigation tunnels, boreholes and streams. In Kabul province, an increase in the turbidity and salinity of drinking water was reported in June 2021 by 45 per cent of the respondents interviewees. The recharge of aquifers has also been deeply reduced and will have longer-term consequences. Hydrographs reveal that groundwater levels have progressively declined for decades, dropping from eight to 45 meters in the shallow aquifers in Kabul since 2003. This has impacted both the quantity and quality of the water available for drinking and domestic use, leading to the first reported cases of cholera since 2016. Concurrent to the drought impact, the Whole of Afghanistan Assessment 2021 also found an increase in households reporting children with acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) from 33 per cent to 54 per cent. The population not connected to the piped network continues to rely on groundwater, tapping into shallow aquifers via private wells, or buying from water trucks without any quality control, and at a substantial cost.

In the Whole of Afghanistan study, 35 per cent of households reported the use of unimproved sanitation facilities while 17 per cent reported that they did not have a sanitation facility at all. From a key informant perspective, 54 per cent of assessed settlements reported an unimproved sanitation facility (e.g., family pit latrine without a slab, open hole, bucket, plastic bag, open defecation or other) as the most common type available.

Access to sufficient and affordable safe water, adequate sanitation, solid waste management, and/or hygiene supplies is a challenge for approximately 73 per cent of the population living in rural areas. IDPs, returnees, disaster-affected people, and those living in rural areas are the groups most exposed to risks from unsafe water sources. Poor hygiene practices compounded with the lack of hygiene materials, and inadequate sanitation facilities are one of the main reasons for the wide and increased spread of many diseases including AWD.

## **CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE**

### **1. National Society response capacity**

#### **1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response**

The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well-established, which enables the National Society to reach vulnerable populations not served by other humanitarian actors, for instance, in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas. ARCS has vast expertise with diverse types of programming through multilateral projects supported by the IFRC, as well as through programmes with other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners. This includes programming related to youth development, disaster risk management, Community-based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), restoring family links (RFL), community resilience (including water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods, etc.), dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL), humanitarian values, Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and physical rehabilitation for IDPs with disabilities. Over the past 10 years, ARCS has launched three emergency appeals and six DREF operations to reach 1.3 million people. The most common type of operation is flood response (six out of nine responses).

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS programmes. This includes assessment, identification, and registration of target communities including internally displaced people (IDPs). In addition, volunteers carry

out hygiene promotion and community mobilisation. With nationwide coverage through 34 provincial branches and a network of at least 30,000 volunteers, ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes in coordination with public authorities.

Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys an elevated level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. The branches in targeted areas have teams of trained volunteers in disaster preparedness and response through established national and branch disaster response teams, mobile health teams, and community mobilisers as part of the CBHFA programme.

ARCS also provides access to healthcare services through a network of 140 facilities which includes a 50-bed hospital in Kabul, 46 fixed clinics, one community health centre (CHC), 22 health sub-centres and 70 mobile health teams (MHTs) active in all 34 provinces in the country. The ARCS is the only organisation in Afghanistan that provides treatment for congenital heart defects and is also active in the field of immunisation through MHTs providing vaccination and primary healthcare packages in hard-to-reach and unsafe areas covering 34 provinces. More information on the ARCS response to the operation can be found on the IFRC GO platform [here](#).

## Capacity and response at the national level

ARCS, with support from the IFRC's Country Delegation for Afghanistan, is closely coordinating and consulting with the local authorities, UN agencies, and other (inter)national humanitarian actors at both the national and sub-national levels.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, ARCS is the primary national partner for responding to disasters across the country and facilitates disaster preparedness activities at the local level with its 34 provincial branches spread nationwide.

## 2. International capacity and response

### 2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

ARCS is supported by the IFRC Secretariat, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Participating National Societies (PNS) with in-country presence or those supporting multilaterally.

Since the start of the operation in March 2021, as of June 2022, ARCS – with support of Red Cross Red Crescent partners – has provided:

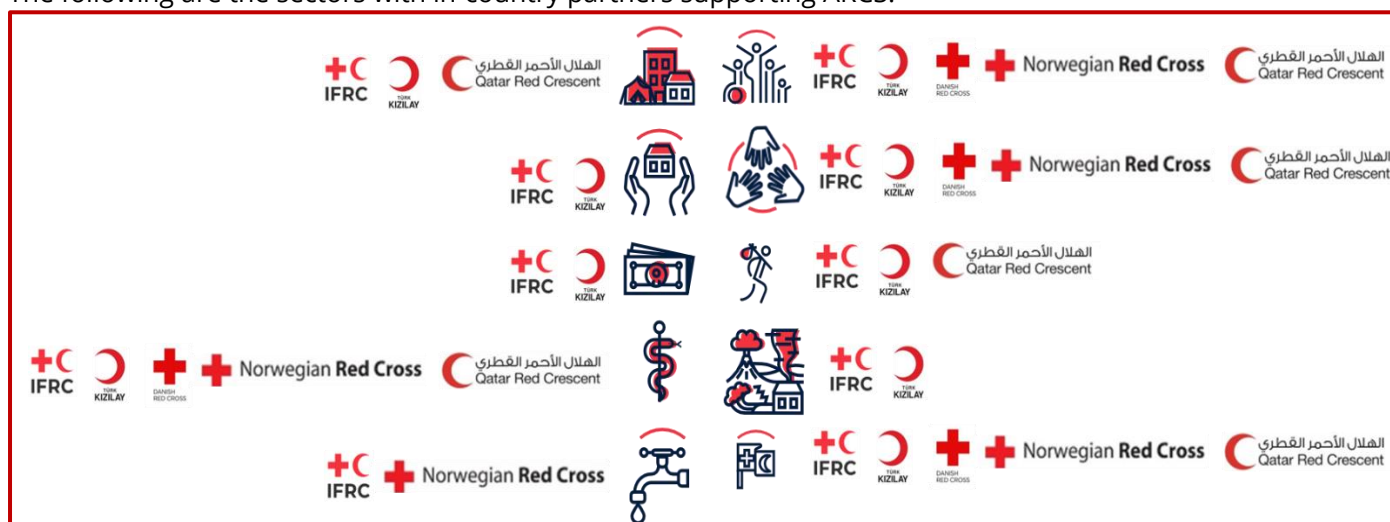


### IFRC membership

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to support ARCS with the following: humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in hard-to-reach areas; longer-term resilience-building programmes; coordinating support by IFRC membership to the ARCS; enhancing the organisational development of the ARCS; and representing the ARCS internationally. Participating national societies (PNS) with presence in Afghanistan are Danish Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent.

In-country PNS support various programmes including basic needs assistance, health, specialised mental health services, protection, and PSS. All the programmes are implemented in a coordinated manner responding to ARCS Strategic Plan and Consolidated Operational Plan.

The following are the sectors with in-country partners supporting ARCS:



Of the 22 million people in need of humanitarian and protection assistance in Afghanistan, Red Cross Red Crescent partners have prioritised two million people to receive well-coordinated multi-sector assistance in 2022 and in 2023, for which CHF 200 million is required as part of the membership-wide funding requirements.

## ICRC

The ICRC has been present in Afghanistan since 1986 and continues to be operational through its main delegation in Kabul, as well as through its field-based offices. The ICRC's key operating areas in responding to Afghanistan's protracted conflict include the promotion and respect of IHL, health services, for the wounded and sick, ensuring physical rehabilitation and social reintegration, monitoring the treatment of detainees across the country, and maintaining contact with their families, as well as their health and water sanitation conditions.

## Movement and Membership Coordination

Collectively, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country has established coordination and cooperation mechanisms anchored under the Movement Cooperation Agreement. The Movement Platform Meeting involves the ARCS, IFRC and ICRC leadership focusing on strategic level engagements. Movement Operational Coordination (MOC) meetings bring together the ARCS, ICRC, IFRC and PNS currently present in Afghanistan.



## 2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

The United Nations Clusters were established as sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national and regional levels to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including non-governmental organisations, United Nations (UN) agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings occur monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies coordinated through UNOCHA and cover shelter, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, protection, and nutrition. Meetings are attended by cluster partners, members, and observers to share information, coordinate humanitarian interventions at cluster or multi-cluster levels, address operational challenges, and feed into funding instruments such as the Afghan Humanitarian Fund.

This EA is also in line with the plan and priorities of the Spring Disaster Contingency Plan of the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT).

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) serves as a strategic, policy level and decision-making forum that guides principled humanitarian action in Afghanistan. The ARCS and IFRC are members of and participate in the national level monthly coordination meetings of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster, Cash and Voucher Working Group, Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, Accountability to Affected Population Working Group, Health Cluster, WASH Cluster, and Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group.

## **Gaps in the response**

Afghanistan continues to face an unprecedented humanitarian crisis due to the severe economic situation leading to rising poverty, other disasters (drought and floods) and the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, over 700,000 conflict-related internal displacements were recorded, 80 per cent of them women and children. The shock to the local economy as a result of the sanctions led to a cash shortage, which, with the disruption to public service delivery and development and humanitarian activities, has significantly increased the number of people requiring assistance and affected the type and level of assistance required. According to international assessments, Afghanistan now has the highest number of people affected by emergency food insecurity in the world, with more than half of the population in need of food assistance, and approximately 95 per cent of the population having insufficient food consumption. Of particular concern are the more than four million internally displaced persons, including people belonging to minorities and more than 3.5 million seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. While humanitarian aid delivery has resumed, it remains grossly insufficient in meeting these evolving needs resulting from such complex protracted crises.

The suspension of international development aid – which funded 70–80 per cent of basic services – in August 2021 has had a devastating impact on service provision, including health and education, much of which remains lower than in early 2021.

The second severe drought in four years also continues to threaten the livelihoods of more than 7.3 million rural Afghans, while unemployment and cash shortages are threatening the livelihoods of people in urban centres, including the former middle-class population.

Humanitarian partners have been able to expand their travel to previously classified hard-to-reach areas, including between provincial capitals and districts in late 2021-2022. However, some service providers including international humanitarian organisations recorded some limitations to access the drought-affected districts. Hence, ARCS, as a trusted humanitarian partner recognised and accepted by the public authorities, is expected to step in and cover more hard-to-reach districts, thus targeting a greater number of households. This revision of the Emergency Appeal and the Operational Strategy expands the geographical coverage of ARCS-IFRC operation from 19 provinces to all the 34 provinces in the country.

## **OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS**

ACAPS ranks Afghanistan as facing “extreme constraints” to humanitarian access, particularly for people in need of assistance who must deal with physical, environmental, and security constraints. The ARCS, however, has countrywide access which has improved since August 2021. Operational constraints are factored into the analysis of the risk management section of this document and include disruptions in public services, fluctuations in the local currency, security risks, resource acquisition, and overstretched national society capacities. The disruption of financial services and cash flow in 2022 caused operational delays, as the planned cash-based assistance had to be changed to in-kind assistance requiring large-scale procurements. This effort was supported by the IFRC, which set up a sourcing hub, with the support of the IFRC country delegation in Pakistan to assist with international procurements. Simultaneously, the IFRC contracted two financial service providers through which the operation is now looking to resume cash-based assistance.



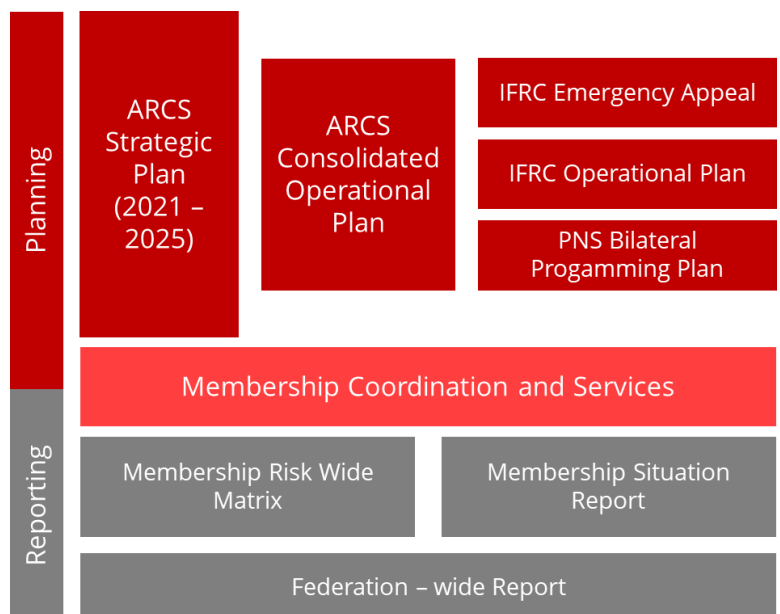
ARCS Branch Disaster Team doing household assessment in Balkh province (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)

## FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach**, based on the response priorities of the ARCS and in consultation with all IFRC membership in-country contributing to the response. This is complementary to existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms. This has included fortnightly coordination meetings at the leadership level, regular technical meetings among programmes, as well as reporting tools such as regular situation reports.

Most significantly, in late May 2022, the ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025 was updated and a Consolidated Operational Plan 2022-2023 developed. These documents set collective objectives with clear activities, targets and indicators as well as defined roles and responsibilities.

Building from commitments made during the ARCS Partnership Meeting held in Doha in late May 2022, a Federation-wide approach has been agreed and during the remaining months of 2022 the IFRC CD in Afghanistan will engage with the Membership who support Afghanistan bilaterally or multilaterally in moving forward the 'Agenda for Renewal New WoW' mechanism. Meantime, the approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximise the collective humanitarian impact. Other benefits include the utilisation of IFRC's financial and procurement services, resulting in significant reductions in cost and time.



## OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Vision

This Emergency Operation will contribute to improved food security, restore and diversify livelihood strategies, and build resilience in communities affected by drought and other multiple shocks in 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Furthermore, the operation aims to bridge gaps in health and well-being by contributing to universal access to healthcare and fostering widespread community health outcomes as part of the cross-cutting

priority on community resilience. This is in line with IFRC Strategy 2030 and related Movement resolutions as well as the Manila Call for Action and associated commitments adopted in November 2018 by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies from the Asia Pacific and Middle East, which include:

- Recognising the importance and urgency of local community resilience and committing to enhanced measures in mobilising resources, applying technical tools and sharing experiences.
- Working in partnership with communities and other organisations to prepare, prevent and respond to outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics at a local level. At least 50 per cent of the National Society engages with Safer Schools initiatives.
- Engaging with Safer Schools initiatives.
- Strengthening National Society engagement in urban coalitions and multi-stakeholder partnerships to become partners of choice and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our work in highly complex urbanised areas.

The complementarity of Movement partners and stakeholders is critical to ensuring that the operational strategy can be implemented with the proper coordination mechanisms and oversight. Every effort will be made to ensure there is mutual collaboration and understanding of interventions to achieve a well-coordinated response.



Women and person with disability receiving food parcel in Kandahar province (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)

### Ongoing and Proposed Interventions

In summary, the ongoing and proposed interventions for this revised Emergency Appeal are:

- Implementation of a multi-sectoral assessment in 34 target provinces.
- Provision of emergency food security assistance to 80,000 households.
- Livelihood protection and restoration assistance to 40,000 households.
- Community-managed livelihood projects for 10,000 households.
- Provision of entrepreneurial training and seed capital to 10,000 marginalised youth and women who are currently unemployed or underemployed.
- Provision of integrated and multipurpose relief assistance to 100,000 households.
- Provision of essential household items and emergency shelter assistance to 10,000 households.
- Enhance community resilience through integrated community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives including addressing drought-related livelihood actions through actions such as the establishment of community greenhouses and provision of drought-resistant seedlings.
- Community-based water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, and health promotion assistance.
- Ensure protection, gender and inclusion, and that community engagement and accountability are mainstreamed and integrated throughout the operation.
- Enhance the emergency response and preparedness capacity of the ARCS, including their health facilities.



80,000 households  
food assistance



40,000 households  
livelihoods assistance



100,000 households  
cash assistance



Enhancement of  
community resilience



Mainstreaming  
PGI and CEA



Health services

**IFRC programmes and operations will focus on four thematic areas (4Rs) responding to four goals (4Gs) of the National Society's strategic plan**

**Goal 1** Communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural hazards, health emergencies, and conflict-generated shocks

**Goal 2** Communities with higher long-term resilience through risk reduction, improved health and livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change and migration.



**Goal 3** Communities respecting the Fundamental Principles, and promoting diversity, human dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion and peace.

**Goal 4** The ARCS, a reformed National Society, delivering impartial, neutral, effective, sustainable, relevant, and accountable humanitarian services.

**Pillar 1**  
Addressing immediate humanitarian needs

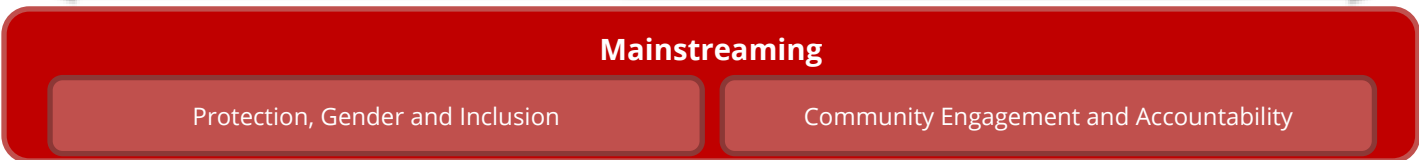
- Delivery of humanitarian assistance to people affected by disasters and crises via the DREF and Emergency Appeal operations.
- Proactively taking early action measures to reduce people's vulnerabilities .
- Enhancing people's abilities to anticipate, respond to, and quickly recover from crises.

**Pillar 2**  
Supporting the recovery and bridging to development

- Comprehensive humanitarian-development bridging programming – Building around health teams with a primary role of addressing maternal and child health (including routine immunisation such as against polio and measles), mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and integrating other services such as water and sanitation in schools and communities, community-managed livelihood projects (including food security), cash transfers, climate action, and DRR.
- Supporting COVID-19 response efforts – Including through case management (via a COVID-19 hospital), RCCE and vaccinations, and possibly establishing capacity for testing.
- Alleviating economic hardships – Targeting vulnerable households with a priority on women, especially widows in marastoons operated by the ARCS, as well as those begging in the streets.
- Youth in action – Engaging young people as agents for behavioural change, fostering community cohesion, addressing substance abuse, and enhancing employability through vocational training.

**Pillar 3**  
Strengthening local response capacity

- Strengthening local branches of the ARCS.
- Training and equipping of ARCS disaster response teams at headquarters and branch levels.
- Pre-positioning of relief items and winterisation kits in strategic locations.
- Institutional strengthening and digital transformation of the ARCS.
- Institutional readiness of state agencies – especially the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), State Ministry for Disaster Management, and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) – for disasters and crises, including climate action.



The framework also provides the enabling actions as follows:

**Enabler 1: Engaged**

Advocacy  
Humanitarian diplomacy  
Inter-agency coordination  
Engagement with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

**Enabler 2: Accountable**

Enhanced compliance  
Risk management  
Diversifying funding

**Enabler 3: Strengthening local response capacity**

Membership coordination  
Membership services

The enabling actions are described further below:

### **Enabler 1: Engaged**



IFRC and ARCS will engage in advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and coordination with the authorities and other humanitarian actors, including agencies in the Humanitarian Country Team, with the aim of ensuring that the impact of humanitarian crises in Afghanistan is profiled and policy or investment decisions are influenced to address humanitarian needs.

IFRC will also aim to enhance demonstration of collective impact through effective Movement and Membership Coordination. Complementary to existing Movement Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms, the IFRC Secretariat delegation in Afghanistan will engage with the Membership who provide support bilaterally or multilaterally via IFRC in moving forward the 'Agenda for Renewal's New Way of Working'<sup>4</sup> mechanism

### **Enabler 2: Accountable**



The IFRC Secretariat will provide services to integrated National Societies, including on procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management. All procurement required for the operation will be done by the IFRC Secretariat.

The IFRC Secretariat has also engaged two financial service providers (FSPs) through whom cash transfers to community members will be channeled. A Quality and Accountability team has been put in place to ensure that CEA measures are applied, for close monitoring of implementation, and to enhance measures that will improve organization-wide performance.

Compliance and risk management aspects are being strengthened through recruitment and empowerment of a talented, diverse, and inclusive team. Strengthening local response capacity

### **Enabler 3: Strengthening local response capacity**



The operation will invest in supporting organizational strengthening of ARCS. This is to build on decades of expertise working with all communities across Afghanistan in several sectors.

ARCS branches (which are embedded within the many communities of Afghanistan and are serving all people irrespective of their regional, linguistic, religious, or political affiliations) will be strengthened with the view of delivering services that cost less while being transparent and accountable.

## **Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in operation**

Climate change is increasing the risks and hardship for people in Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans have faced two severe droughts in four years, causing crop failures and devastating food shortages. Temperatures are rising, leading to changes in snowfall cover, snowmelt, and related water supplies while rainfall is becoming more erratic, with an increased risk of droughts and flash floods. People across Afghanistan are very resilient after four decades of conflict, yet repeated climate and weather-related disasters coupled with COVID-19 are making it more difficult to bounce back and cope.

The ARCS is working to restore livelihoods with entrepreneurial agriculture and income-generation, while stepping up support to meet immediate and longer-term food needs and protecting people from COVID-19 including through vaccinations.

Greater efforts are needed to provide more sustainable options for Afghans who are facing regular droughts and extreme weather with risks heightening due to climate change. The ARCS and the IFRC, along with the UN and other partners, are supporting women with income generation programmes and boosting drought resistant crops in many areas of the country. Urgent investments are needed to prevent further malnutrition, hunger, and a deterioration of these converging crises. The operation will make necessary adjustments to minimise disruptions to ongoing activities.

# Targeting

## 1. People to be assisted

The following mandatory drought-specific eligibility criteria is anticipated and will be verified through community engagement processes:

- Households that have engaged in highly destructive, food-related coping strategies;
  - Households with rain-fed lands of less than three jeribs (6,000 m<sup>2</sup>) or no other productive assets; and
  - Households with two or more children under the age of five who are unable to meet their basic food needs.
- Within this, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritise selection:
- Seniors with responsibility for children in the household.
  - Households without livestock.
  - Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children.
  - Households with chronically ill members.
  - Households with a member with a disability.
  - Pregnant and lactating women.



These targeting criteria, together with specific criteria related to other sectors (like health, shelter, IDPs, etc.) will be further discussed and then finalised in consultation with community elders, relevant government departments, and other (inter)national organisations that are operational in these provinces. The ARCS will coordinate closely with other organisations working in the areas that are also implementing emergency food security programming in these provinces to avoid duplication.




An elderly woman from Faryab Province receives cash assistance from the ARCS. (Photo: ARCS/IFRC)

# PLANNED OPERATIONS


## INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 <p><b>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</b></p>	Male: <b>68,000</b>	<b>CHF 5,315,000</b>
	Female: <b>71,400</b>	<b>Total target: 140,000</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.</p>	
<p><b>Priority Actions:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess shelter needs, capacities, and gaps.</li> <li>2. Analyse the local market to identify availability/access to shelter and household items.</li> <li>3. Provide shelter and basic household items assistance (including winterisation kits/support) to the affected families.</li> <li>4. Monitor the use of distributed shelter and household items and/or conditional cash.</li> <li>5. Provide technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques to affected households.</li> <li>6. Organize awareness raising/training on the use of distributed shelter items to build safe emergency shelters or improve basic living conditions.</li> </ol>	
 <p><b>Livelihoods</b></p>	Female: <b>290,000</b>	<b>CHF 14,966,000</b>
	Male: <b>270,000</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods.</p>	
<p><b>Priority Actions:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess livelihood needs, capacities, and gaps.</li> <li>2. Provide conditional cash grants or in-kind inputs to small and medium-sized businesses.</li> <li>3. Provide skills development opportunities including vocational training, for the most vulnerable individuals among displaced and affected communities.</li> <li>4. Organize community mobilisation/socialisation meetings to enable assessments and identification of beneficiaries.</li> <li>5. Organize training in soft skills &amp; business management (bookkeeping, accounting, marketing, problem-solving, risk-taking, and team management).</li> <li>6. Establish greenhouse and other community livelihood projects.</li> <li>7. Provide basic needs assistance for livelihoods security, including food, to drought-affected households in target provinces.</li> <li>8. Support community and household livelihood projects for food production, increased productivity, and post-harvest processes, management (agriculture-based livelihoods).</li> <li>9. Provide agriculture kits and/or livestock packages to households in 34 provinces.</li> </ol>	


 <b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	Female: <b>370,000</b>	<b>CHF 12,270,000</b>
	Male: <b>330,000</b>	<b>Total target:100,000 HH</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Socio-economically vulnerable households have the ability to meet their basic needs.	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess immediate food and cash needs, capacities, and gaps.</li> <li>2. Train staff and volunteers on Standard Operational Procedures for cash assistance.</li> <li>3. Identify target households based on average household composition with an assumption of targeting host communities and IDPs.</li> <li>4. Provide multipurpose cash assistance to 100,000 socio-economically vulnerable households (including IDPs and returnees) covering their basic needs based on existing guidelines provided by the Afghanistan Cash and Voucher Working Group.</li> <li>5. Conduct market assessment, post-distribution monitoring and analysis.</li> </ol>	

## HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

### (MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)


 <b>Health &amp; Care</b> <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female: <b>562,600</b>	<b>CHF 10,016,000</b>
	Male: <b>445,400</b>	<b>Total target: 1,008,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care.	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Provide psychosocial support to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. Community Health</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Undertake detailed community assessments to identify health needs, number/type/location of damaged health facilities and/or medical service gaps in communities.</li> <li>b. Equip CBHFA volunteers with First Aid kits and replenish/refill kits.</li> <li>c. Train community volunteers on First Aid and communicable diseases.</li> <li>d. Provide community-based surveillance and health promotion to the target population.</li> <li>e. Conduct training sessions for Epidemic Control for Volunteers (ECV).</li> <li>f. Undertake early detection of outbreaks and referral using community-based surveillance, active case finding, and/or contact tracing.</li> <li>g. Organize awareness sessions for improved knowledge about public health issues among the targeted population.</li> <li>h. Implement COVID-19 safe protocols for RCV and staff.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. Medical Services</b></li> </ol>	

- a. Equip, provide technical and financial support to the MCH/maternity ward of the ARCS 50 bed hospital.
- b. Continue/establish, implement, and deploy mobile health teams (MHTs).
- c. Procure vehicles for ARCS MHTs based on assessment (currently the ARCS is using rental vehicles).


 <b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	Female: <b>285,600</b>	<b>CHF 6,571,000</b>
	Male: <b>274,400</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in targeted communities.</li> <li>2. Construct safe and accessible water and sanitation facilities at 80 schools in 20 provinces under the emergency appeal.</li> <li>3. Implement 30 community initiative water supply network micro projects.</li> <li>4. Coordinate with other WASH actors on the target group's needs and the appropriate response.</li> <li>5. Procure and distribute household water treatment products (Aquatabs and water filters) to 80,000 households (560,000 people), including the training of targeted communities on their use.</li> <li>6. Conduct awareness campaigns on hygiene promotion.</li> <li>7. Provide hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use these goods to the target population.</li> </ol>	


## PROTECTION AND PREVENTION


**(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION, RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION)**

 <b>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</b>	Female: <b>285,600</b>	<b>CHF 1,063,000</b>
	Male: <b>274,400</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.</li> <li>2. Ensure the safe and accessible provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender, vulnerability, and other diversity factors.</li> <li>3. Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including persons with disabilities) in their planning.</li> <li>4. Apply minimum standards as a guide to support sectoral teams to include PSEA and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV.</li> <li>5. Adapt and use standard operating procedures (SOPs) for protection/SGBV and SEA, with protection cluster support and that</li> </ol>	


	<p>which is available in the ARCS on SGBV, including the mapping of referral pathways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Establish a system to ensure that IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers have signed the Code of Conduct and have received a briefing in this regard.</li> <li>7. Organize training on protection and social inclusion as well as on the basics of child protection standards to staff and volunteers.</li> <li>8. Map and make accessible information on local referral systems for women, girls, boys, and children on protection concerns.</li> </ol>
--	---

 <b>Community Engagement and Accountability</b>	Female: <b>285,600</b>	<b>CHF 1,095,000</b>
	Male: <b>274,400</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Target people and communities with timely, accurate, trusted, and accessible information regarding Red Cross Red Crescent services while engaging with the National Society to share feedback that is used to adapt and guide programmes and operations.	
<b>Priority Actions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support programme monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (PMEAL)/PMER.</li> <li>2. Provide and strengthen community feedback and participation channels for both displaced and host communities.</li> <li>3. Provide support to programmatic sectors in undertaking community consultations at various stages of programming for both displaced and host communities.</li> <li>4. Mainstream minimum standards of CEA throughout all ARCS programmes and operations.</li> <li>5. Ensure safe distributions, and where relevant, community understanding of selection criteria for distributions, cash and voucher assistance.</li> </ol>	

 <b>Migration</b>	Female: <b>285,600</b>	<b>CHF 8,808,000</b>
	Male: <b>274,400</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Host communities support the needs of IDPs and returnees and their families and assist them with reintegration at all stages (origin, transit, and destination).	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the specific needs of IDPs and returnees.</li> <li>2. Provide protection services to IDPs, returnees and their families in coordination and engagement with local and national authorities.</li> <li>3. Set up a referral mechanism for IDPs and returnees, mapping the organisations and governmental services.</li> <li>4. Develop and implement a feedback mechanism to engage returnees and displaced people.</li> <li>5. Set up Humanitarian Service Points along migratory routes.</li> <li>6. Distribute multipurpose cash grant assistance to IDPs and returnees.</li> </ol>	

 <b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</b>	Female: <b>285,600</b>	<b>CHF 5,956,000</b>
	Male: <b>274,400</b>	<b>Total target: 560,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters.	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<p><b>Community based DRR</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct vulnerability and capacity assessments within selected communities.</li> <li>2. Support community members to conduct mitigation measures including raising awareness of drought-resistant farming, the selection of the right seeds/crops and vocational training.</li> </ol> <p><b>Strengthen the National Societies' preparedness.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Perform a Preparedness for Effective Response NS analysis (Goes under NS Strengthening).</li> <li>2. Set a pre-disaster/seasonal preparedness meetings system (Terms of Reference, available information sources, decision criteria, coordination with external stakeholders, set of early actions, etc.)</li> <li>3. Review existing/develop new contingency plans.</li> <li>4. Develop IEC materials with DRR/CCA and early warning messages.</li> <li>5. Train staff and volunteers on DRR/CCA and early warning, early action.</li> <li>6. Provide first aid training to community-based committees.</li> <li>7. Procure and pre-positioning of winterisation kits.</li> </ol>	

## Enabling approaches

 <b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>CHF 6,439,000</b>
<b>Objective:</b>	National Society capacity building and organisational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that the ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform.
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen ARCS processes, systems, and procedures, and enhance service delivery and support innovation.</li> <li>2. Strengthen the legal base of the National Society in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, ARCS Law, other related laws, the National Society Statute, and the relevant standards of the Movement.</li> <li>3. Enhance the financial management systems of the ARCS maximising accountability, transparency, and standards supported by experienced human resources to provide timely services, based on operational needs at all levels.</li> <li>4. Strengthen the logistics structure (warehouses, procurement, and fleet management) with defined criteria at all levels; with an enhanced capacity to deliver logistics services in normal and emergency situations.</li> </ol>



## Coordination and Partnerships

CHF 3,997,000

### Objective:

Technical and operational complementarity through the cooperation of Movement partners while engaging effectively with outside actors to influence actions at the local, regional, and global levels. There is a need to invest more to better articulate the auxiliary role of the National Society with all stakeholders, and accordingly strengthen the IFRC's network footprint in the response.

### Priority actions:

#### 1. Membership Coordination

- a. Consolidate and harmonise the multilateral and various bilateral support provided to the ARCS through the Federation-wide coordinated approach
- b. Harmonised planning, monitoring, and reporting among IFRC members with ARCS at the lead and coordinated by IFRC
- c. Enhanced coordination mechanisms for in – country partners
- d. Regular coordination with partners supporting the operation but are not in country
- e. A dedicated coordinator for Membership Coordination in providing support for this section.
- f. Federation – wide reporting with mechanisms to be explained in subsequent reports and with input from all membership partners.

#### 2. Engagement with external partners

- a. Represent the IFRC network at various external forums involving various stakeholders (government, donor community, humanitarian community). As the context evolves, the ARCS will be encouraged and supported to enhance their dialogue with the authorities and relevant stakeholders.

#### 3. Movement Cooperation

- a. Promote a Movement-wide approach, as well as support to the ARCS, wherever possible.



## IFRC Secretariat Services

CHF 3,504,000

### Objective

The IFRC Secretariat ensures high quality support services to in-country IFRC member societies.

### Priority Actions:

1. Maintain security assessments and plans in all operational areas including enhancement of security protocol in – country with coordination with all in-country partners
2. Maintain and follow an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process
3. Federation - wide risk register, contingency planning and business continuity plan for Afghanistan.
4. Facilitate global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities).
5. Facilitate joint monitoring, quality assurance and evaluations.
6. Support improved financial management and implement financial audits.
7. Provide key services to integrated National Societies, including but not exclusively on procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management.

## Risk management

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Perception issues related to the conduct of the operation or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	Medium	low	Ensuring the dissemination of the ARCS operation, the activities, its approach, including the methodology of selecting people to receive assistance to all stakeholders. For community-based distribution activities, proper communication with the communities will be maintained. Sensitisation meetings with community elders and members will be used to manage crowd control. Sensitisation meetings will discuss the nature of the assistance, exact targeted locations, the type of assistance, time, date, and venue of distribution as well as the distribution process with beneficiaries, with their feedback being incorporated accordingly.
Cash related risks: A) The potential risk of replacing cash with in-kind assistance. B) The difficulties in making payments to local suppliers are due to the cash shortage. C) Long lead time for international procurement	High	High	Close coordination and monitoring supported by the finance department. Develop a procurement plan to ensure sufficient time is allocated. Innovative financial solutions.
Staff or volunteers are abducted/kidnapped due to disputes between the stakeholders.	Medium	High	a) Awareness sessions for staff and volunteers; clear communication of the neutral, independent, and impartial humanitarian action (NIHA) nature of the organisation to all stakeholders; monitoring of the situation; daily communication with all stakeholders; training of staff and volunteers on actions in critical situations; avoiding disputed areas; and Movement monitoring. b) Movement coordination and activities with Movement partners, including the ICRC, which is operating in the same areas or locations.
Fragility of the national banking system affects liquidity and exchange rates	High	High	Continue to assess and monitor the situation and explore options to ensure funding is secured and brought into the country through proper channels. IFRC contracts are using USD currency to mitigate exchange rate fluctuations.
Extortion or robbery of staff or volunteers due to the existence of criminal groups or illegal checkpoints.	Medium	Medium	Advise staff and volunteers not to carry valuables and to comply with requests, use the protective emblem, engage in real-time communications with all stakeholders, constantly monitor the situation, and release advisories to staff and volunteers accordingly.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities.	Medium	Medium	The ARCS will put in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres, and will mark queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centres. The ARCS will also invite people receiving assistance to come to the distribution centres in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they spend queuing outside.
<p>Increase in trend of conflict/violence in targeted provinces/districts that impacts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Access</li> <li>5. Safety (staff &amp; volunteers)</li> <li>6. Supply</li> <li>7. Road closure</li> </ol>	Medium	Medium	<p>To mitigate any risks, the ARCS will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negotiate with OAGs; mobilise local volunteers and community leaders.</li> <li>Conduct security briefings to staff and volunteers, equipping them with discernible ARCS tools to increase visibility, and dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.</li> <li>Prepositioning of the planned supplies at the branch/community levels.</li> <li>Mapping for alternative road options for access.</li> </ul>
COVID-19 impact on physical health and business continuity.	Medium	Low	To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of people receiving assistance and staff who will be involved in distributions, the COVID-19 SOP and <a href="#">COVID-safe programming guide</a> will be followed, and physical distancing will also be maintained. Moreover, masks, handwashing facilities, and sanitisers will be available at distribution sites.
With the inhibiting measures imposed on women, their deployment in the field or offices may invite scrutiny and discrimination by government actors.	High	Medium	Advocacy is key. Continued engagement with focal persons from the interim government would allow female staff and volunteers to operate in the fields and offices as needed, as in the current situation. With the acceptance of the ARCS by the interim government, visibility, and identification materials of the emblem would be critical. Specifically for female staff and volunteers, mechanisms for care and support will be crucial – MHPSS is to be extended and availed when and as needed.
Injuries or loss of life of staff or volunteers due to collateral damage from the detonation of an IED (improvised explosive device), or crossfire.	Medium	High	Real-time monitoring of the situation and advising staff and volunteers; communication of activities and movements with all stakeholders; use of the protective emblem; critical incident management and emergency plans in place; and Movement monitoring. Ensure first aid kits are in vehicles, staff are trained in first aid, maintain distance from potential targets, and do not drive on roads where there is an IED threat. Be informed and alert at all times.

## Quality and accountability

Efforts to ensure quality and accountability in this operation encompass a broad spectrum. This will include regular financial audits, programmatic monitoring, an internal mid-term review and a final evaluation. An emphasis will also be placed on rationalising resources according to needs – this will be part of the shared Federation-wide vision to consolidate, streamline and link common services or support that is currently provided.

IFRC will facilitate a Federation-wide approach to support the ARCS PMER unit to enhance the monitoring, evaluation and reporting. To ensure transparency and accountability, the PMER teams will conduct exit interviews during distributions. To capture the satisfaction level of people receiving assistance concerning the quality and quantity of food and household items, post-distribution monitoring surveys are carried out after two weeks of distribution targeting 7-15 per cent of households/people reached. The monitoring findings are regularly shared with programming teams to inform improvements and to enhance the quality of services.

Some of the key indicators will include:

- *Number of multiple crisis-affected people assisted through emergency food security and livelihood restoration activities.*
- *Increase in knowledge of the target community, and whether they are able to prevent communicable disease by recognizing the mode of transmission.*
- *Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.*
- *Percentage of the targeted population who have access to clean water, sanitation and increased knowledge of personal hygiene according to Sphere standards.*
- *Percentage of affected people disaggregated by sex, age and disability including those with vulnerabilities who report that they are informed about the planning and distribution/services.*
- *Access to migration information and assistance is made available.*
- *Percentage of the targeted population who increase their level of resilience and are prepared to respond to a disaster.*
- *The organisational success and effectiveness of ARCS capacity building and development initiatives.*
- *Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured.*
- *The IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates of humanitarian issues.*

Moreover, the IFRC is planning to open field offices co-located with ARCS regional offices. Each office will have a field officer who will – among others – undertake regular monitoring, to complement remote monitoring.

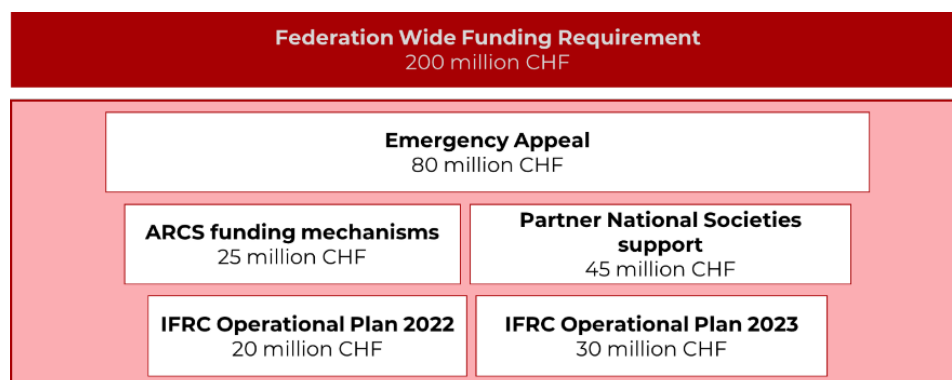
The IFRC Country Delegation maintains a risk register. A Federation-wide register will be developed, monitored and updated regularly to anticipate any impacts and minimize consequences.

Other Federation-wide products will include operations updates (serving as general reports for donors and other audiences), SitReps, and a 3W dashboard to be issued on the IFRC Go page detailing Afghanistan's complex humanitarian crisis. The IFRC Secretariat will also produce pledge-based reports (donor-specific reports).

Federation-wide monitoring and evaluation will put emphasis on timely information to support decision-making, with key indicators tracked on an online dashboard. The cross-cutting approaches of CEA and PGI will continue to complement and strengthen sectoral programming. Other efforts include community perception surveys, complaint and feedback mechanisms, and application of the respective IFRC and National Society policies on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The focus on Federation-wide capacity building will include training on data quality, ethics, and management as well as digital transformation. The acquisition of goods and services will be conducted according to the IFRC's procedures and standards, in close coordination with the IFRC Secretariat's Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management (GHS & SCM), utilising, if required, IFRC GHS & SCM structures and existing regional arrangements.

# FUNDING REQUIREMENT

## Federation-wide funding requirement



## Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



## OPERATING STRATEGY

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

MDRAF007  
Afghanistan –  
Humanitarian crises

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>66,060,000</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	5,315,000
Livelihoods	14,966,000
Multi-purpose Cash	12,270,000
Health	10,016,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	6,571,000
CEA	1,095,000
Migration	8,808,000
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	5,956,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,063,000
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>13,940,000</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	3,997,000
Secretariat Services	3,504,000
National Society Strengthening	6,439,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss francs (CHF)*

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

### In the Afghan Red Crescent Society

- Mohammad Nabi Burhan, Secretary General; phone: +93 728 9000 14; email: [mohadnabi@gmail.com](mailto:mohadnabi@gmail.com)
- Mohammad Saleh Akhondzada, Director Disaster Management; phone: +93728800096; email: [msakhondzada@gmail.com](mailto:msakhondzada@gmail.com)

### In the IFRC Afghanistan Country Delegation, Kabul

- Necephor Mghendi, Head of Delegation; phone: +93 700274881; email: [necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org](mailto:necephor.mghendi@ifrc.org)
- Rad Al Hadid, Operations Manager; phone +93 706677434; email: [rad.alhadid@ifrc.org](mailto:rad.alhadid@ifrc.org)
- Nur Hayati Ahmad, Programme Coordinator; phone: +93 703837852; email: [nurhayati.ahmad@ifrc.org](mailto:nurhayati.ahmad@ifrc.org)

### At the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: [alexander.matheou@ifrc.org](mailto:alexander.matheou@ifrc.org)
- Juja Kim, Deputy Regional Director; email: [juja.kim@ifrc.org](mailto:juja.kim@ifrc.org)
- Joy Singhal, Head of Disaster, Climate, and Crisis unit; email: [joy.singhal@ifrc.org](mailto:joy.singhal@ifrc.org)
- Eeva Warro, Operations Coordinator; email: [opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org](mailto:opscoord.southasia@ifrc.org)
- Siokkun Jang, Logistics Manager; email: [siokkun.jang@ifrc.org](mailto:siokkun.jang@ifrc.org)
- Rachel Punitha, Acting Regional Communications Manager; email: [rachel.punitha@ifrc.org](mailto:rachel.punitha@ifrc.org)

### In IFRC Geneva

- Christina Duschl, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: [christina.duschl@ifrc.org](mailto:christina.duschl@ifrc.org)

### For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support

- In IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office: Alice Ho, Partnership in Emergencies Coordinator; email: [partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org](mailto:partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org)

### For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- In IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office: Alice Ho, Head of PMER and Quality Assurance; email: [alice.ho@ifrc.org](mailto:alice.ho@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- In IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office: Siokkun Jang, Logistics Manager; email: [siokkun.jang@ifrc.org](mailto:siokkun.jang@ifrc.org)

#### Reference



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)