

EMERGENCY APPEAL

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

AFGHANISTAN, ASIA PACIFIC |

KHOST AND PAKTIKA EARTHQUAKE



ARCS preparing household items for distribution to people affected by the earthquake. (Photo: Meer Abdullah/IFRC)

Appeal №: MDRAF007 (specific for Paktika and Khost earthquake)	To be assisted: 70,000 people	Revised Appeal launched: 24/06/2022
Glide №: EQ-2022-000232-AFG	DREF allocated: CHF 750,000	Disaster Categorisation: Orange
Operation Start date: 10/04/2021	Operation End date: 31/12/2023	

IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: CHF 10 million¹
Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 10 million

¹ This Operational Strategy is part of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Crises – Revised EA (with an overall funding ask of CHF 90M) and was developed to complement the overall response in-country planned under the Humanitarian Crises [Operational Strategy](#) published on 1 July 2022 seeking CHF 80M. This specific Operational Strategy has a funding ask of CHF 10M and covers the IFRC response to the earthquake impacted areas.

TIMELINE

On **22 June 2022**, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake hit the Central Region of Afghanistan affecting the provinces of Paktika and Khost

22 June 2022: The DREF allocation of CHF 750,000 is approved to respond to the earthquake

The ARCS deploys 9 mobile health teams and relief items. A Federation-wide multi-sectoral team is deployed to Paktika.

23 June 2022: The IFRC issues the Revised Emergency Appeal No. 4, increasing the funding requirement by CHF 10,000,000 in response to the earthquake and the DREF allocation of CHF 750,000

8 July 2022: The IFRC issues its earthquake response Operational Strategy

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On 22 June 2022, a 5.9 magnitude earthquake hit the southeast region of Afghanistan, with the epicentre in Paktika province. The earthquake, which also affected Khost province, was felt throughout Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan. The earthquake struck at 1.30 a.m local time when most people were asleep, and livestock was indoors. Based on initial reports, at least 1,000 people were estimated to have been killed and more than 1,500 injured. Deaths were mostly caused by collapsed structures, with secondary data analysis and earthquake intensity mapping indicating that around 70 per cent of houses in areas affected by high-intensity shock were either damaged or destroyed. Barmal, Giyan, Nika and Ziruk districts of Paktika Province as well as Shamal and Spera districts of Khost province bore the brunt of the impact.

The situation during the first day was compounded by continuous rains which hampered search and rescue efforts as well as the heightened risk of secondary disasters such as mudslides, landslides, and flooding. Weather conditions also slowed down the initial deployment of relief items as air transportation was delayed, prompting transportation of relief supplies by land. The rains eased on the morning of 23 June but since then, temperatures have soared, leaving affected households exposed to possible heatwaves. Several aftershocks took place during the week following the earthquake further affecting people as well as the safety of buildings.

This earthquake is an emergency within a wider catastrophic humanitarian crisis affecting Afghanistan. The scale of short and medium-term humanitarian needs wrought by the earthquake will be hugely significant and may impact the wider humanitarian crisis driven by the following factors:

All areas affected by the earthquake were already experiencing acute humanitarian needs due to the ongoing wider humanitarian crisis. As such, this Operational Strategy outlines interventions specifically to address

earthquake-related needs. The broader humanitarian needs, such as those resulting from drought and ongoing economic hardship, will be addressed through the [Humanitarian Crises Operational Strategy](#). It builds upon the current humanitarian crises that are faced by Afghanistan, where more than 50 per cent of Afghanistan's population is in dire need of humanitarian assistance due to a combination of crises: the effects of decades of conflict, a protracted and severe drought, the effects of other intense climate-related disasters, extreme economic hardship exacerbated by sanctions-related impacts and unemployment, a weak health system which was already stretched by COVID-19 and most recently, by the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, and system-wide gaps affecting the health, water, education, energy, and public service sectors.



Impact of long-term conflict and situations of violence



Persistent impact of drought, extreme climate and seismic hazards



Reduced access to financial services due to sanctions



Impact of geopolitical and global crises



Suspension or repurposing of long-term international assistance to Afghanistan

Agencies, including Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, have repurposed or redirected stocks, personnel, and resources from existing interventions to meet urgent needs. These must be replenished as soon as possible to meet the originally intended needs as well as to prepare for the upcoming winter. Furthermore, humanitarian needs, such as those created by the earthquake, have to be delivered alongside wider bridging and/or development interventions to be sustainable. Both are inextricably linked to having longevity, continually engaging communities and strengthening systems, especially at the local level.

When this Emergency Appeal operation closes, preparedness, risk reduction and local capacity strengthening activities will continue under the Unified Federation-Wide Country Plan. The Unified Plan will reflect a holistic view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs of the country, and will also reflect the collective actions of the IFRC and its Membership in the country.

SEVERITY OF HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS

The quake struck as the whole of Afghanistan was reeling from the impacts of decades of conflict, protracted severe drought, effects of other intense climate-related disasters, extreme economic hardship, a battered health system and system-wide gaps. The impacts of the earthquake in the two most affected provinces add another layer to an already dire humanitarian situation. Consequentially, timely response efforts are critical.

Earthquake impacts



5.9 magnitude earthquake in Paktika and Khost provinces on 22 June 2022



Damage to essential public infrastructure such as public health and water facilities



Urgent first aid and emergency health services needs



Shelters damaged and destroyed by the earthquake

Based on an initial assessment by a multisector team – comprising personnel of the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), the IFRC, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent – **immediate needs** include food assistance, cash assistance, emergency shelter, essential household items for basic needs, emergency health, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), emergency water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH) support, and addressing the protection needs of children who have been orphaned and women who have been widowed. **Medium-term needs** are projected to include support for shelter repair and rebuilding, livelihoods recovery, and supporting rehabilitation as well as equipment for education, health and WASH facilities.

Food and immediate needs

Most affected households are mentioning food and support for buying very basic household items as their priority needs. While food insecurity pre-dated the earthquake, the situation has been exacerbated as the earthquake has affected local markets, destroyed or damaged livelihoods, and left thousands of households unable to access food and livelihoods.

As such, the provision of food and assistance for basic needs, in-kind (where stocks are available) but preferably via cash and voucher assistance (CVA) complementary to relief efforts (where appropriate and based on market assessments), needs to be prioritised.

Health

In addition to killing some 1,000 people, the earthquake left more than 1,500 people injured, some severely. The need for emergency health services is critical, including the deployment of health teams to provide services in affected locations and referring serious cases to better-equipped facilities in other locations. There is also a need to provide health teams and health facilities with medicines, medical supplies and equipment.

Initial analysis indicates that some health facilities have been damaged with those still functioning, especially in the capitals, overwhelmed with patients as they were already operating at a limited capacity due to pre-existing challenges. There is, therefore, a need to support the rehabilitation and equipment of health facilities.

The earthquake has caused severe mental anguish to people who have lost their close family members, homes, and livelihoods, and those whose underlying psychosocial issues have been escalated by the disaster/emergency. There is a need for mental health, psychosocial support (MHPSS) and psychological first aid (PFA).

Prior to the earthquake, Khost and Paktika had reported cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and measles. COVID-19 also remains a threat. It is crucial for health awareness and disease prevention efforts to be increased. Against this backdrop, immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases must also continue.

Water and sanitation

Initial analysis of secondary data indicates that around 70 per cent of houses, including their related water and sanitation facilities, in areas affected by high-intensity shock are either damaged or destroyed. The earthquake has also damaged community water and sanitation facilities. As such, the provision of safe water (including via water trucking or establishing water points where surface water is easily accessible) closer to the affected locations is needed in the immediate term. There is also a need for emergency sanitation facilities. In the medium-term, support for rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities will be crucial to enabling a swift recovery.

There is also a need to provide affected households with water storage containers, water purification tablets (for household water treatment, where necessary), and hygiene items that meet the needs of all groups, including the provision of appropriate sanitary materials for menstrual hygiene management.

The risk of communicable diseases, such as the spread of AWD, is elevated in the context where water and sanitation facilities have been damaged and people are living in camp-like conditions. It is crucial that hygiene promotion efforts, linked to health awareness, be increased.

Shelter

Scenario planning, secondary data analysis and earthquake intensity mapping suggest that approximately 36,000 houses (homes to some 250,000 people) have been destroyed or damaged. Observations by the Red Cross Red Crescent multisector team deployed to affected areas also point to a significant impact on houses, with shelter repair and rebuilding projected to form a major part of the operation.

There is a need for emergency shelter assistance in the immediate term to ensure that survivors are protected from the elements. This includes support to households hosting those who have been displaced by the earthquake. Host families may be outside areas most affected by the quake. Support for repairs and rebuilding needs to be done alongside emergency shelter assistance because winter is on the way. Rebuilding efforts will need to ensure that new houses are resilient to future seismic shocks. Support may be delivered in-kind or by utilising CVA to provide affected households with choice and flexibility to repair or rebuild their homes according to locally accepted means, and both would be accompanied by technical support around safe construction techniques. Where original shelter locations are deemed vulnerable to future seismic shocks, adequate and suitable land for resettlement of affected households will be needed.

Livelihoods

The major destruction and damage to houses, buildings and infrastructure have compounded access to livelihoods among affected populations. Some households have lost food stocks and agricultural inputs, some have lost livestock, and traders have lost stocks that they would have sold to earn an income. People who were already in debt will struggle to repay due to a reduced means of income. There is, therefore, a need to support the re-establishment of livelihoods utilising in-kind or CVA.

Education

Initial analysis indicates that some schools, as well as their related water and sanitation facilities, have been damaged. Consequently, there is a need to support rehabilitation and equipment of education facilities. Support for items that will enable boys and girls to attend lessons while considering their unique needs, such as menstrual hygiene management items for girls, is also necessary.

Winter readiness

The earthquake struck less than six months before the onset of another imminent harsh winter when the capacity of households to cope is already stretched and significantly constrained. There is a need to ensure that preparedness for seasonal adaptation (such as stocking relevant winterisation kits) is done before winter arrives.

Cross-cutting aspects

The earthquake has left some children orphaned, women widowed, and some people with physical disabilities. There is a need to make sure that all services will incorporate and address the unique needs of groups which have higher vulnerabilities. This will include the identification of persons with specific needs for either direct assistance or referral to other suitable services available.

Reports from the affected areas indicated that some people lost identification documents. This group of people must be included in lists of those to receive assistance. Furthermore, mechanisms need to be put in place for affected people to be aware of the assistance they are entitled to, and to ensure that assistance is delivered in a safe and dignified manner. A two-way communication mechanism to allow for the reporting of complaints and any other issues needs to be prioritised. The inputs of affected people and communities can inform and improve the design of the programmes.

Preparedness and strengthening local response capacity

The earthquake struck after 01:30 local time when people were asleep, and livestock was indoors. The first responders came from the affected communities and included community members, the local business community, local authorities, staff and volunteers of the ARCS Khost and Paktika branches, local NGOs, and community-based organisations, among others. Additional support, including by Red Cross Red Crescent actors, was mobilised hours after the disaster but was slowed by initial limitations including rains and the blockage of roads due to landslides. The earthquake is a jolting reminder of the need to invest in readiness. As such, in addition to addressing the immediate, medium-term and recovery needs of affected communities, it is of

paramount importance that a portion of resources obtained for the operation be allocated to preparedness and strengthening local response capacity.

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. The 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, the ARCS has launched three emergency appeals and six DREF operations to reach millions of people. The most common type of operation is flood response (six out of nine responses) with earthquake operations second.

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS programmes. This includes the 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 – including in Khost and Paktika – and a network of at least 30,000 volunteers, the ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes in coordination with public authorities.

Applying principled humanitarian action, the 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.

The 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 nationwide. 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

As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the ARCS is the primary national partner for responding to disasters across Afghanistan and facilitates disaster preparedness activities at the local level with its 34 provincial branches spread nationwide. The ARCS, with the support of the IFRC's Country Delegation, is coordinating closely and consulting with the local authorities, UN agencies, and other (inter)national humanitarian actors at the national and sub-national levels.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

The ARCS is supported by the IFRC Secretariat, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Participating National Societies (PNS) with an in-country presence or those supporting multilaterally. A multisector team – comprising personnel of the ARCS, the IFRC, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent went for an assessment on 22 June 2022.

Since the start of the earthquake response operation, the ARCS has dispatched the following items:




















IFRC membership

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to support the 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. PNSs with a presence in Afghanistan are the Danish Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent. The German Red Cross is considering starting bilateral support.

In addition to the above, the Austrian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, and Norwegian Red Cross are the PNSs that have, so far, supported or announced pledges for supporting the earthquake response via the IFRC Emergency Appeal. The Iranian Red Crescent has sent food, household items, and medical supplies together with a team of 19 to support the ARCS in distributions. The German Red Cross is engaging with the ARCS on the possibility of establishing some form of presence to work bilaterally.

In-country PNSs support various programmes including basic needs assistance, health, specialised mental health services, protection, and MHPSS. All of the programmes are implemented in a coordinated manner responding to the ARCS Strategic Plan and Consolidated Operational Plan. In-country support to the ARCS action (by sector) by the IFRC and Participating National Societies for the earthquake response cover:

SECTOR	IFRC	Danish Red Cross	Norwegian Red Cross	Qatar Red Crescent	Turkish Red Crescent
 Health					
 WASH					
 Shelter and household items					
 Livelihoods and basic needs					

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 PNSs currently present in Afghanistan.



2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

The Clusters system was established as a sectoral coordination mechanism 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 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 the 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. In view of the earthquake, the IFRC will augment its engagement with the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster.

Gaps in the response

This earthquake is an emergency within a wider catastrophic humanitarian crisis affecting Afghanistan. For Khost and Paktika, the earthquake has added another bitter layer of shock to communities that were already struggling to cope. The authorities and humanitarian organisations mounted a swift response to the earthquake. With search and rescue efforts concluded, the gaps are in immediate needs including food assistance, cash assistance, emergency shelter, essential household items, emergency health, MHPSS, emergency WASH support, and addressing the protection needs of children who have been orphaned and women who have been widowed. Gaps in medium-term needs include support for shelter repair and rebuilding, livelihoods recovery, and supporting rehabilitation as well as equipment for education, health and WASH facilities. Humanitarian needs created by the earthquake will have to be delivered alongside wider bridging and/or development interventions, with shelter repair and rebuilding projected to form a major part. Earthquake response activities are costlier and as such, the cost of delivering assistance per household will be higher compared to that of the wider operations of the humanitarian crises.

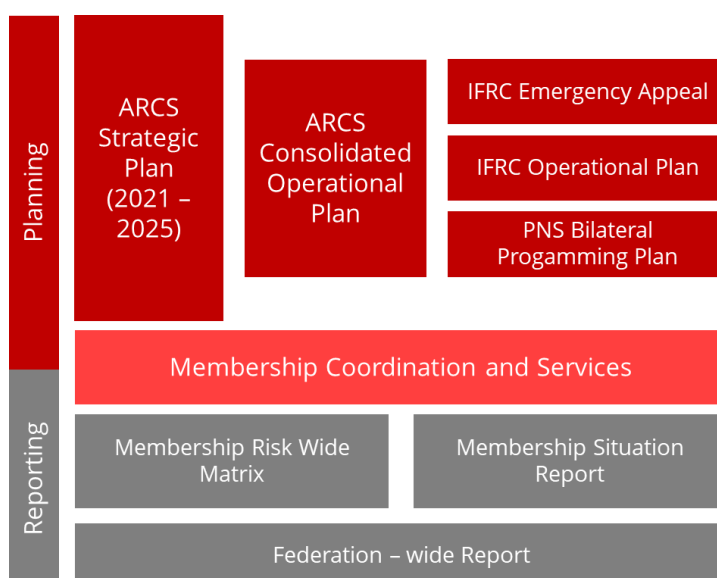
OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

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 unimpeded countrywide access. 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 acquisitions, and overstretched national society capacities. The disruption of financial services and cash flow in 2022 will continue to cause operational delays. The IFRC has contracted two financial service providers through which the operation is now providing cash-based assistance. The earthquake might also cause secondary disasters such as landslides and the spread of communicable diseases. Aftershocks or another earthquake may also occur which would impede the operation’s actions.

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 and 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 was 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 Country Delegation in Afghanistan will engage with the Membership who support Afghanistan bilaterally or multilaterally in moving forward the ‘Agenda for Renewal New WoW’ mechanism. In the 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 the IFRC’s financial and procurement services, resulting in significant reductions in cost and time.



OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

This Emergency Operation will contribute to meeting immediate food and basic needs, delivering emergency health assistance, supporting emergency and recovery shelter, supporting livelihood recovery, rehabilitation and equipment of health, WASH and education facilities, readiness for winter, and building the resilience of communities affected by the earthquake which affected the provinces of Khost and Paktika in Afghanistan.

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

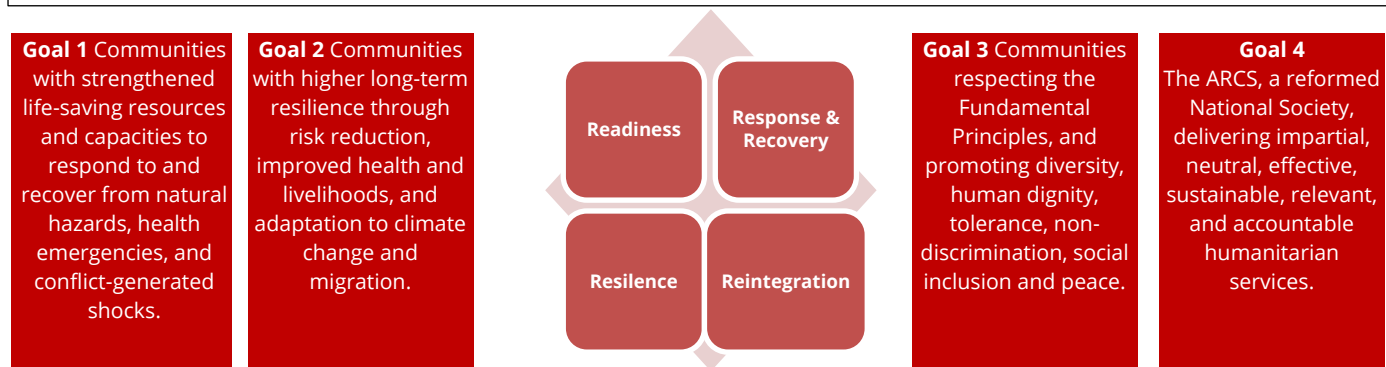
to ensure there is mutual collaboration and understanding of the interventions to achieve an effective and well-coordinated response.

Ongoing and Proposed Interventions

In summary, the proposed interventions for this Operational Strategy for actions in Khost and Paktika are:

- Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to 10,000 households
- Provision of emergency shelter assistance to 540 households
- Provision of shelter repair assistance to 350 households
- Provision of transitional shelter assistance to 1,000 households
- Provision of livelihood re-establishment (livestock and agriculture kits) support to 2,500 households
- Deployment of nine mobile health teams and 30 medical kits for emergency health services
- Provision of MHPSS and Psychosocial First Aid
- Rehabilitation and equipment of two health facilities
- Provision of safe water (including via trucking) and water storage containers
- Rehabilitation/construction of WASH facilities in two schools
- Rehabilitation/construction of community water facilities in two communities
- Provision of tailored and needs-based assistance to widows and orphans
- Prepositioning of winterisation kits
- Mainstreaming of PGI and CEA across all intervention areas
- Enhancing the response capacity of ARCS branches

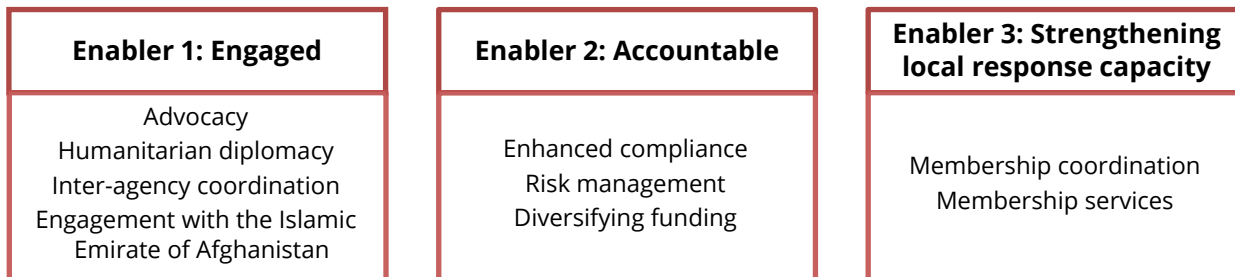
Federation-wide programmes and operations will focus on four thematic areas (4Rs) responding to four goals (4Gs) of the National Society's strategic plan



Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3
Addressing immediate humanitarian needs	Supporting the recovery and bridging to development	Strengthening local response capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multipurpose cash assistance • Emergency shelter assistance 540 households • Provision of safe water and water storage containers • MHPSS and PFA • Provision of tailored and needs-based assistance to widows and orphans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter repair assistance • Transitional shelter assistance • Livelihood re-establishment (livestock and agriculture kits) • Support to 2,500 households • Emergency health services • MHPSS and PFA • Rehabilitation and equipment of health facilities • Rehabilitation/construction of WASH facilities in schools • Rehabilitation/construction of community water facilities • Provision of tailored and needs-based assistance to widows and orphans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening local branches of the ARCS • Training and equipping of ARCS branch disaster response teams • 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:



The enabling actions are described further below:

Enabler 1: Engaged



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

The IFRC will also aim to enhance the demonstration of the 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 the IFRC in moving forward the 'Agenda for Renewal's New Way of Working' 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 is in place to ensure that CEA measures are applied, for the close monitoring of implementation, and to enhance measures that will improve organisation-wide performance.

Compliance and risk management aspects are being strengthened through the recruitment and empowerment of a talented, diverse, and inclusive team.

Enabler 3: Strengthening local response capacity



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

ARCS branches in Khost and Paktika (which are part of the affected communities 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 operations

Climate change is increasing the risks and hardships for people in Afghanistan. Millions of Afghans have faced two severe droughts in just 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 communicable diseases and 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 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. Considering that the earthquake is an emergency within a wider catastrophic humanitarian crisis affecting Afghanistan, urgent investments are needed to prevent further malnutrition, hunger, and deterioration of converging crises in the two affected provinces. The operation will make necessary adjustments to minimise disruptions to ongoing activities.

Targeting

People to be assisted

The following eligibility criteria are anticipated and will be verified through community engagement processes:

- Households whose houses have been destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.
- Households whose breadwinners have been killed by the earthquake.
- Households whose livelihood assets/means have been destroyed or damaged by the earthquake.
- Host families accommodating people who have been displaced by the earthquake; and
- Households with two or more children under the age of five who are unable to meet their basic 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.

PLANNED OPERATIONS



INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female: 6,483	CHF 4,175,000
	Male: 6,747	Total target: 13,230
Objective:	Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess shelter needs, capacities, and gaps. 2. Assess availability of shelter items in local markets. 3. Provide emergency shelter support. 4. Monitor the use of distributed emergency shelter support. 5. Engage with cluster and shelter actors to agree on a minimum package for shelter repair and design for transitional shelter. 6. Provide shelter repair assistance in-kind or via conditional cash. 7. Develop, print and distribute awareness materials on shelter repair. 8. Monitor shelter repair assistance. 9. Engage, train and equip teams that will support community members to construct transitional shelters. 10. Construct model houses to demonstrate a practical application of the shelter design adopted. 11. Develop, print and distribute awareness materials on the construction of transitional shelters applying the adopted design. 12. Engage with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that suitable land is allocated for households that need to resettle from sites that are deemed vulnerable to future seismic shocks. 13. Provide transitional shelter assistance via in-kind or conditional cash. 14. Provide technical support, guidance and awareness on the construction of transitional shelters applying the adopted design. 15. Monitor transitional shelter support. 	
 Livelihoods	Female: 6,860	CHF 746,000
	Male: 7,140	Total target: 14,000
Objective:	Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess livelihood needs, capacities, and gaps. 2. Provide agriculture and livestock kits to affected households via in-kind or conditional cash modalities. 3. Monitor the provision and progress of livelihood assistance. 	
 Multi-purpose Cash	Female: 34,300	CHF 1,246,000
	Male: 35,700	Total target: 70,000
Objective:	Socio-economically vulnerable households have the ability to meet their basic needs.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess immediate food and cash needs, capacities, and gaps. 	

2. Conduct a rapid market assessment to determine the suitability of cash assistance.
3. Engage with the cash working group to determine the package for cash assistance.
4. Train staff and volunteers on Standard Operational Procedures for cash assistance.
5. Identify target households to receive assistance based on average household composition.
6. Provide multipurpose cash to selected households.
7. Conduct post-distribution monitoring and analysis.

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


(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)


 <p>Health & Care (Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</p>	Female: 154,840	CHF 2,272,000
	Male: 161,160	Total target: 316,000 (Coverage of population in Khost and Paktika)
Objective:	The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide psychosocial support and psychological first aid to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff. Provide MHPSS and PFA refresher trainings to staff and volunteers. b. Deploy mobile health teams and medical kits for emergency health services. 2. Medical Services <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rehabilitate/construct and equip health facilities based on the model agreed with the Cluster and MoPH. b. Training on epidemic control for volunteers (ECV). 	
 <p>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</p>	Female: 34,300	CHF 256,000
	Male: 35,700	Total target: 70,000
Objective:	Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the water, sanitation, and hygiene situation in targeted communities. 2. Provide safe water and water storage containers. 3. Rehabilitate/construct WASH facilities in schools and communities. 4. Monitor the provision of safe water, distribution of water storage containers, and rehabilitation/construction of WASH facilities. 	

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION



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

 Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female: 4,000	CHF 133,000
	Male: 1,000	Total target: 5,000
Objective:	Communities become more peaceful, safe, and inclusive by meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess the specific needs of the affected population based on criteria selected from the minimum standards for PGI in emergencies. 2. Ensure the safe and accessible provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender, vulnerability, and other diversity factors. 3. Support sectoral teams to include measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors (including persons with disabilities) in their planning. 4. Apply minimum standards as a guide to support sectoral teams to include PSEA and measures to mitigate the risk of SGBV. 5. Adapt and use standard operating procedures (SOPs) for protection/SGBV and SEA, with protection cluster support and that which is available in the ARCS on SGBV, including the mapping of referral pathways. 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. 7. Organise training on protection and social inclusion as well as on the basics of child protection standards to staff and volunteers. 8. Map and make accessible information on local referral systems for women, girls, boys, and children on protection concerns. 9. Support for widows and orphans in earthquake affected communities. 	
 Education	Female: 4,900	CHF 107,000
	Male: 5,100	Total target: 10,000
Objective:	Ensure/Support safe, continued and equitable access to education for affected populations, especially children and young people, vulnerable and marginalised groups.	
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with the Education Cluster and Ministry of Education to identify education facilities in need of support. 2. Set up temporary safe spaces for community-based learning, psychosocial support and/or protection purposes. 3. Rehabilitate and equip damaged education facilities. 4. Monitor the provision of support to education facilities. 	

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female: 34,300	CHF 21,000
	Male: 35,700	Total target: 70,000
Objective:	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.	
Priority Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support programme monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (PMEAL)/PMER. 2. Provide and strengthen community feedback and participation channels for both displaced and host communities. 3. Provide support to programmatic sectors in undertaking community consultations at various stages of programming for both displaced and host communities. 4. Mainstream minimum standards of CEA throughout all ARCS programmes and operations. 5. Ensure safe distributions, and where relevant, community understanding of selection criteria for distributions, cash and voucher assistance. 	

 Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery	Female: 73	CHF 102,000
	Male: 77	Total target: 150
Objective:	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disasters.	
Priority Actions:	<p>Integrating DRR</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the designs of transitional shelter, health facilities, WASH facilities and education facilities factor resilience to future seismic shocks to ensure 'build back better' and include climate change considerations and designs will be 'climate smart'. 2. Engage with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that suitable land is allocated for households that need to resettle from sites that are deemed vulnerable to future seismic shocks. <p>Strengthen the preparedness of National Societies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preposition winterisation kits. 2. Organise Disaster Management training. 3. Retrain and equip branch, regional and national disaster response teams on earthquake response. 4. Organise an operations management training. 	

Enabling approaches

 <p>National Society Strengthening</p>	<p>CHF 301,000</p>
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen ARCS processes, systems, and procedures, and enhance service delivery and support innovation. 2. 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. 3. Enhance digital capacity at the branch level which includes IT equipment, items and training for branch staff and volunteers.
 <p>Coordination and Partnerships</p>	<p>CHF 534,000</p>
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Priority actions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Membership Coordination <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consolidate and harmonise multilateral and bilateral support provided to the ARCS through a Federation-wide approach. b. Apply Federation-wide planning, monitoring, and reporting with the ARCS at the lead and IFRC providing strategic coordination. c. Hold coordination meetings for in-country RCRC partners. d. Organise virtual coordination meetings for RCRC partners supporting the operation but with no in-country presence. e. Ensure continued engagement through a dedicated coordinator for Membership Coordination. 2. Engagement with external partners <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Represent the IFRC network at various external forums involving other stakeholders (authorities, donor community, humanitarian community) including the possibility of deployment of a liaison officer to ensure that representation is adequate. b. Accompany and support the ARCS in enhancing dialogue with the authorities and other relevant stakeholders. 3. Movement Cooperation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote a Movement-wide approach, as well as support to the ARCS, wherever possible.



Objective

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

Priority Actions:

1. Maintain security assessments and plans in the two operational areas including enhancement of security protocols in-country in coordination with all in-country partners.
2. Adequate measures will be taken to ensure the safety and security of all RCRC personnel involved in this operation. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses. The IFRC Country Delegation security team is maintaining close coordination with external humanitarian actors in-country on the situation particularly at the earthquake affected areas. The security team will also be maintaining close coordination with the ARCS units and local administrations in the operational areas. The National Society's security framework will be applicable throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under the IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will be applicable. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel will follow the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.
3. Maintain and follow an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process.
4. Federation-wide risk register, contingency planning and business continuity plan for Afghanistan.
5. Facilitate global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities).
6. Facilitate joint monitoring, quality assurance and evaluations.
7. Support improved financial management and implement financial audits.
8. 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

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
			distribution as well as the distribution process with beneficiaries, with their feedback being incorporated accordingly.
Supply chain related challenges such as: a) The long lead time of international procurement b) The difficulties in making payment to local suppliers due to the cash shortage	High	High	The majority of procurement is conducted in country or in neighbouring country to reduce the lead time. Continue to assess and monitor the situation and explore options to ensure that funding is secured and brought into the country through proper channels.
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.
Increase in trends of conflict/violence in targeted provinces/districts that impact: 1. Access 2. Safety (staff & volunteers) 3. Supply 4. Road closures	Medium	Medium	To mitigate any risks, the ARCS will: Negotiate with OAGs; mobilise local volunteers and community leaders. 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. Prepositioning of the planned supplies at the branch/community levels. Mapping for alternative road options for access.
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 COVID-safe programming guide 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 utilised when and as needed.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Injuries or loss of life of staff or volunteers due to collateral damage from the detonation of an IED (improvised explosive device)	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.
Risks of aftershocks or another earthquake in the affected areas	High	Medium/High	The earthquake hazard is there in the affected areas. ARCS and IFRC persons working in the area will stay in earthquake resilient structures and be briefed on what to do during an earthquake.

Quality and accountability

Efforts to ensure quality and accountability in this operation encompass a broad spectrum. This will include regular financial audits, programmatic monitoring and a lessons-learned workshop. The IFRC will facilitate a Federation-wide approach to support the ARCS PMER unit to enhance monitoring, evaluation and reporting. To ensure transparency and accountability, the PMER teams will conduct exit interviews during distributions. 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:

- *# of earthquake affected people assisted through livelihood restoration activities.*
- *# of households assisted with essential household items for basic needs and emergency shelter support.*
- *# of households provided with shelter repair support.*
- *# of households provided with transitional shelters.*
- *# households provided with technical support and guidance, appropriate to the type of support they receive.*
- *% increase in knowledge of the target community, and whether they are able to prevent communicable diseases by recognising the mode of transmission.*
- *# of vulnerable people whose health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services.*
- *# of families provided with jerry cans.*
- *# of litres of water distributed.*
- *% 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.*

The IFRC Country Delegation maintains a risk register. A Federation-wide register will be developed, monitored and updated regularly to anticipate any impacts and minimise consequences. Other Federation-wide products will include operational updates (serving as general reports for donors and other audiences) and situation reports to be issued on the IFRC Go page detailing the earthquake response. The IFRC Secretariat will also produce pledge-based reports (donor-specific reports).

Federation-wide monitoring and evaluation will emphasise 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.



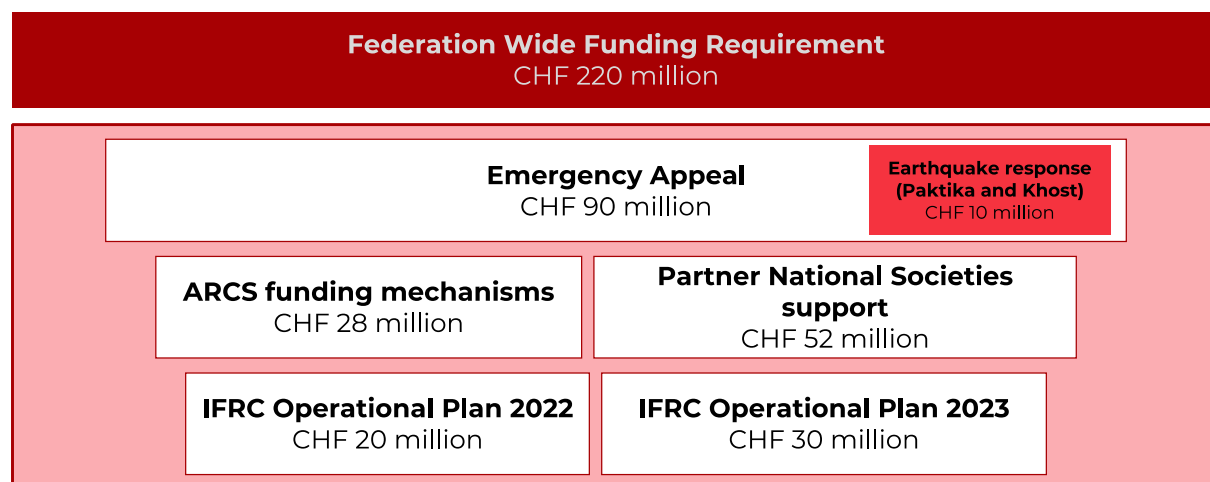
ARCS volunteers assess the damage to water infrastructure in the community. (Photo: IFRC)



Children have a laugh after the household kits are distributed in Paktika. (Photo: IFRC)

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Federation-wide funding requirement



Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan
Humanitarian Crises
(Paktika and Khost Earthquake)

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations	9,058,000
Shelter and Basic Household Items	4,175,000
Livelihoods	746,000
Multi-purpose Cash	1,246,000
Health	2,272,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	256,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	133,000
Education	107,000
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	102,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	21,000
Enabling Approaches	942,000
Coordination and Partnerships	534,000
Secretariat Services	107,000
National Society Strengthening	301,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	10,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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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

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

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Reference



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