

REVISED EMERGENCY APPEAL

Regional Population Movement - Afghanistan | Preparedness and Response



A medical officer is examining a mobile health unit in Ghulam Khan, North Waziristan. Credit: PRCS

Appeal No: MDRAFRPM21	IFRC Secretariat funding requirements: CHF 24.6 million Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 50.5 million	
Glide No: CE-2021-000142-AFG CE-2021-000133-PAK OT-2021-000112-IRN	People affected: 5.7 million people	People to be assisted: 160,000 People
DREF allocation: CHF 614,645 <i>Tajikistan: CHF 348,761</i> <i>Iran: CHF 168,483</i> <i>Pakistan: CHF 97,401</i>	Appeal launched: 25/06/2021	Appeal ends: 31/12/2022
Emergency Appeal Revision	Revision #: 1	Revision Date: 06/07/2022

SITUATION OVERVIEW



Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) distributing hot meals at a border point. Source: IRCS

The situation in Afghanistan remains precarious and uncertain close to one year after the change of leadership in August 2021, as multiple political, socio-economic, climate-related and humanitarian shocks reverberate across the country.

In the short term, a sudden major increase of cross-border population movement affecting the neighbouring countries remains unlikely. However, analysis indicates that outflow of Afghans to neighbouring countries could

increase if drivers of people movement persist. The drivers include a combination of increasing internal mobility due to lack of access to basic services, food insecurity, economic hardship and limitations relating to safer pathways for people to move to other countries. There have been 174,460 reported newly arriving Afghans who approached UNHCR and partners in the neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021 (as of May 2022). The overall number of Afghans with international refugee protection needs is likely to be much higher and especially for Iran authorities reported around 500,000 Afghans who have crossed into Iran. The international community has a role to play in ensuring a stable Afghanistan and in working together to mitigate the serious consequences for global security and regional stability that the current emergency could trigger. If the international humanitarian response for, and within, Afghanistan is unable to maintain adequate aid delivery, a growing number of Afghans may seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Based on past trends, Iran and Pakistan would be the likely preferred initial destinations. Given this likelihood, preparedness and response activities in neighbouring countries continue to be prioritised through this Regional Emergency Appeal.

Iran

Access to Iran's territory remains limited to Afghan passport holders with valid visas, although the Iranian authorities report that some 500,000 Afghans have crossed into Iran since 2021. An increase in security measures at unofficial border crossing points, as well as the resumption of visa issuance at the Iranian embassy in Kabul, has led to a decrease in the proportion of arrivals who reported arriving irregularly and a decrease in the proportion who reported using smugglers to enter. Most population movements from Afghanistan are mainly from Hazara and Tajik communities, coming from the eight provinces/locations of Herat, Balkh, Kunduz, Parwan, Baghlan, Nimruz, Ghazni and Faryab.

Pakistan

According to UNHCR, there are currently an estimated 3 million Afghans in Pakistan, including both refugees and unregistered and/or undocumented people, and 117,547 new arrivals have crossed into Pakistan since the beginning of 2021.¹ Currently, entry is limited to Torkham border crossing, to those

¹ As of January 20, 2021.

with valid passports and visas. The overall refugee situation continues to place a heavy burden on Pakistan's infrastructure and public service delivery systems. Access to healthcare is limited, especially for Afghan nationals living in Pakistan, including refugees, Afghan citizen card holders, and new arrivals. Weak health infrastructure and weak surveillance systems, poor hygiene practices and community scepticism toward public health campaigns have contributed to an increase in disease outbreaks.

Tajikistan

The official number for new arrivals in Tajikistan in 2021 was 3,014 persons. This per the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs. Government policy guided the planning for potentially receiving a controlled number of additional Afghan refugees in the country, and during the course of 2021, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers notably increased, reaching over 10,000 according to UNHCR. Even though borders with Afghanistan are open the crossing is restricted for passport and visa holders only. In Tajikistan, Afghan refugees and asylum seekers are hosted in seven pre-defined locations, Dushanbe city, Khalton province, Hisor district, Rudaki district, Sharihnava district, Sughd province and Vahdat district, with residing Afghan populations.

EMERGENCY APPEAL REVISION

This revision of the Emergency Appeal takes into consideration the situation in the three countries, factoring in the current government border policies in the countries as well as needs of people already in country. The continued border closing in Tajikistan has led to a change of operational strategy for the National Society, decreasing the initial target which was designed for an increased population movement from Afghanistan. Both IRCS and PRCS have adapted their operations as well based on the current situation and needs in country, adding activities or geographical areas, but without substantial changes to their initial preparedness and response strategy. Through the revision, additional actions to continue the commenced preparedness measures for potential increased cross border movements were identified while the initial planned response was consolidated.

In addition, through this revision the timeframe of this emergency appeal is being extended until December 31, 2022. There are no changes to the funding ask or the number of people to be assisted. Further details on the revision of the operation are presented in the [revised Operational Strategy](#).

After the end of the Emergency Appeal, response and preparedness activities will continue under the 2023 IFRC country plans for Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan. IFRC 2023 country plans will show a holistic view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in each of the countries, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country action. This process aims to streamline activities under one plan while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the crisis are met.

TARGETING

This Revised Appeal aims to support preparedness and priority humanitarian response for population movement from Afghanistan to the region neighbouring Afghanistan, focusing on Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan, and potentially other countries in Central Asia, with a target population of **160,000 people**.

In **Iran** the overall operational objective under this Emergency Appeal is to prepare for/respond to **37,500 Afghan nationals (7,500 households)** as well as **30,000 people** from the host communities with emergency shelter, catering to basic needs including food and household items, health and WASH services (as contribution to the IRCS plan). The IRCS is scaling up Livelihoods, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Migration, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), National Society Development (NSD) and Preparedness by adapting the shelter component.



Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) registering impacted people in Vahdat for hygiene kits.

The affected communities are spread across the three provinces of southern Khorasan, Sistan-u-Baluchestan and Khorasan Razavi, as well as the provinces of Yazd, Isfahan, Kerman, Fars, Semnan, northern Khorasan and Golestan. General vulnerability has increased as a result of the presence of more than 500,000 Afghans in various urban areas.

Pakistan has hosted Afghan migrants and refugees for over 40 years and there are currently approximately 3 million in the country, including both registered refugees and unregistered and/or undocumented Afghans. Some displaced Afghans, especially those who are un-registered or 'under-documented', face different kinds of vulnerabilities than do registered individuals. Under this revised Appeal, PRCS is targeting **70,500 people**, Afghan nationals in Pakistan and their host communities, in the five target districts of Killa Abdullah, Quetta, Khyber, North Waziristan and Chitral, with improved access to basic health services, WASH, livelihoods and protection services through direct service delivery, awareness building and in-kind support.

Based on the changes in the country, in **Tajikistan** RCST has decided to reduce the overall target and aims to reach **20,000** most vulnerable Afghan refugees and asylum seekers as well as members of host communities including those communities in the border areas of South Tajikistan who are vulnerable to conflict or exposed to natural disasters or population influx, with cash assistance, health services including Community-based Surveillance (CBS), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), CEA and other response and preparedness activities.

For specific updates on the progress of the operation and people reached per country and activity, please see the last [Operations Update](#) which was launched in June 2022.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this revised Emergency Appeal IFRC aims to continue to support **IRCS**, **PRCS** and **RCST** in the preparedness actions and priority humanitarian response activities for people from Afghanistan in the neighbouring regional countries. This includes a focus on the response capacity and readiness of the three National Societies and host communities. The IFRC strategy will focus on the following: areas:



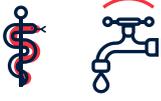
Integrated assistance

The operation uses an integrated approach to meet the needs of the population, giving support through in-kind assistance such as household items, as well as multi-



purpose cash assistance and livelihoods/food security assistance. Additional focus will be given to prepositioning of emergency items to enhance preparedness and readiness.

Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)



Health services focus on primary health care services including immunisation; community health and first aid programming that will enhance communities' capacity for health support and psychosocial support activities. Safe drinking water and items supporting hygiene are included.

Protection and Prevention



The operation will streamline Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) as well as community engagement and accountability in all the activities in all sectors. It will ensure social inclusion, so that all people in need receive support. This includes actions such as humanitarian diplomacy, support in disaster law and development of migration strategy for National Societies in support of the response as well as continued preparedness efforts. Climate adaptation and environmental sustainability is being incorporated into the operational strategy as well.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and partnerships



This includes continued support to National Societies in their positioning as strong national humanitarian actors fulfilling the role as auxiliaries to the public authorities. It also includes ensuring technical and operational complementarity enhanced through cooperation amongst the membership, especially with ARCS, ICRC and external partners.

IFRC Secretariat services



IFRC will continue to facilitate RCRC cross regional collaboration of this operation, leveraging the expertise and resources available in 3 Regional Offices, 2 Country Delegations and 1 Country Cluster Delegation. Secretariat services are to be strengthened to ensure high quality service providing technical and programmatic support to National Societies at all levels of planning, coordination, and implementation, and through operations management, finance and humanitarian diplomacy. A cross regional strategic and operational coordination set up will be maintained to ensure quality and accountability and monitor the implementation as well as compliance and risk management aspects.

National Society Strengthening



This operation will continue to invest in supporting organizational strengthening of the three National Societies, focusing specifically on the development and implementation of National Society preparedness actions for migration and displacement crisis. This includes supporting National Societies to respond

effectively to population movement/emerging crises, ensuring that their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognised.

This Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach** with preparedness and response activities of all IFRC network members contributing to the evolving response. The Federation-wide funding requirements are **CHF 50.5 million**.

The Operational Strategy provides further details on the planned operations and enabling approaches per country, as well as on the Federation-wide approach, which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

جمہیت ہلال احمر جمہوری اسلامی ایران



Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Core areas of operation	
	
Number of staff:	10,000
Number of volunteers:	18,000
Number of branches	31 provincial and 500+ district

According to the IRCS preparedness plan, around 18,000 volunteers and staff are involved in operations providing humanitarian services. IRCS has a strong auxiliary link to the public authorities and is mandated, under the Law on Emergency Operations, to conduct search and rescue activities and relief services, and provide emergency shelter, and has the mandate to establish and manage the camps. In addition, IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters, including the provision of services on educational activities. The IRCS is the main responder to a mass influx of people, according to the national mandate given to them in all kinds of crises/disasters.

Staff and volunteers from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) have been, and continue to be, at the frontlines supporting the people on the move and responding to compounding emergencies.



ہلال احمر پاکستان

Pakistan Red Crescent Society

Core areas of operation	
	
Number of staff:	664
Number of volunteers:	1.5 million registered volunteers

	(2,921 active)
Number of branches	67 (7 provincial and 60 district branches)

Founded in 1947, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is the leading humanitarian organisation in the country. As an auxiliary to

the public authorities, its core expertise and areas of focus are disaster management, healthy and safe living, climate change adaptation and resilience, youth and volunteering and organisational development. With national headquarters in Islamabad, seven provincial/state branches and 67 branches, PRCS has a roster of active

volunteers with the capacity to be deployed for rapid response at national, provincial and district levels in all of the affected areas, utilising their expertise. PRCS has a strong portfolio implementing long-term programming alongside responding to disasters and health emergencies within the country.



Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

Core areas of operation



Number of staff:

149

Number of volunteers:

8,000

Number of branches

64

The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) is an auxiliary to the public authorities and carries out its humanitarian activities to reduce the vulnerability of people in need through its network composed of its headquarters, 4 regional branches, 64 district branches and approximately 300 functioning primary organisations. RCST responds to several emergencies each year, which are typically smaller in size and scale. Examples include mud slides, flooding, earthquakes, cross-border conflict and heat waves. The Organisation has good storage capacity at central and regional levels, as well as long-term agreements with transport companies.

IFRC membership coordination

Iran: IFRC has had a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in capacity-building initiatives and supporting IRCS in disaster management, shelter, disaster law, youth and volunteers, as well as health. IFRC supports the operational plan of IRCS, which includes the provision of food items, safe drinking water and health services through the deployment of IFRC Disaster Management Tools. There are no Participating National Societies (PNSs) present in the country, however IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with the German Red Cross on search-and-rescue sniffer dogs and peer-to-peer exchange.

Pakistan: The IFRC Pakistan country delegation and IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) are directly providing technical support to PRCS, while in-country PNSs (German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Turkish Red Crescent) are being updated on the response and engaged for the possibility of providing additional bilateral support to PRCS if there are any gaps identified in the preparedness measures and response efforts, especially within portfolio districts.

Tajikistan/Central Asia: As part of the Country Cluster Delegation for Central Asia, IFRC has a country team based in Dushanbe composed of an Operations Manager, a Finance and Administration Manager and a driver. IFRC has also been processing the deployment of five Rapid Response profiles, including Logistics/Procurement Officer, Shelter Delegate, Security Delegate and two Operations Managers. These positions are supported by the membership including the American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross. RCST has also received regular

support for humanitarian assistance from the Qatar, Kuwait, Turkish, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia Red Crescent Societies. Currently, Finnish Red Cross, Chinese Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Red Crescent Society of Emirates have active, ongoing, bi-lateral cooperation complementing RCSTs humanitarian activities in country.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

ICRC has a delegation based in Tehran with a number of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS. Within the framework of the strategic plan, ICRC will support IRCS in responding to the Afghan crisis. Movement partners IFRC, IRCS and ICRC regularly meet in Iran to coordinate the response and agree on additional support needed. At the technical level, IRCS, ICRC and IFRC communicate to improve coordination and identify potential areas of support for the IRCS response, as well as to conduct joint assessments/visits as the operational response progresses.

In **Pakistan**, ICRC is present in the country and is providing support to PRCS in relevant areas along the ICRC mandate, such as first aid, restoring family links (RFL), community-based risk education and communication. Regular Movement coordination meetings are ongoing per the existing Movement Cooperation Agreement, ensuring a coordinated approach to support PRCS in their preparedness, readiness and response efforts for possible population movement alongside the concurrent COVID-19 emergency.

ICRC started working in **Tajikistan** in 1992 and opened a delegation in Dushanbe in January 1993. On 14 June 2003, a headquarters agreement was signed between ICRC and the Government of Tajikistan. ICRC Tajikistan has provided support with medical equipment and training for trauma care and surgery for wounds to government health facilities in border areas with Afghanistan for a number of years previously. Currently it is supporting these health facilities with refrigerators for storage of COVID-19 vaccines. ICRC currently has cooperation programmes with RCST focusing on international humanitarian law, emergency preparedness and response, mine risk education and RFL. RCST have been implementing joint programmes with in-country Movement partners including IFRC, ICRC and German Red Cross on different thematic areas. In country, RCST, IFRC and ICRC hold monthly Movement partners' meetings involving all partners in country to share updates and coordinate action.

Contact information

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

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Reference



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