



# AFGHANISTAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 120.8M**

Appeal number **MAAAF001**

## In support of the Afghan Red Crescent Society



**34**

National Society branches



**2,400**

National Society staff



**30,000**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**1.1M**

Ongoing emergency operations



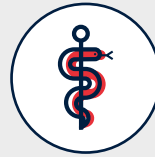
**500,000**

Climate and environment



**500,000**

Disasters and crises



**4.7M**

Health and wellbeing



**200,000**

Migration and displacement



**200,000**

Values, power and inclusion

## IFRC network multiyear focus

### Emergency response

- complex emergency – displacement, drought, earthquake

### Longer term needs

- health • protection, gender and inclusion
- disaster preparedness, risk reduction, climate resilience

### Capacity development

- humanitarian diplomacy • digital transformation
  - disaster management capabilities
  - National Society development

## Key country data

**Population** **40M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **very high**

**Long-term Climate Risk Index** **17**

**Human Development Index rank** **180**

## Hazards



Food insecurity



Economic hardship



Drought



Floods



Earthquakes



Violence

## Funding requirements

**Total 120.8M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**80.8M** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

**25M** CHF

Host National Society

**15M** CHF

**IFRC Breakdown**

**60.8M** CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

**Longer term needs**

**20M** CHF

## Ongoing emergencies

**MDRAF007**

Afghanistan Humanitarian Crises  
**Complex emergency and disaster response**

## Participating National Societies

Albanian Red Cross

Austrian Red Cross

Bahrain Red Crescent Society

British Red Cross

The Canadian Red Cross Society

Red Cross Society of China

Danish Red Cross

Finnish Red Cross

German Red Cross

Irish Red Cross Society

Italian Red Cross

Japanese Red Cross Society

Kuwait Red Crescent Society

Republic of Korea  
National Red Cross

Red Cross of Monaco

The Netherlands Red Cross

Norwegian Red Cross

Philippine Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent Society

Singapore Red Cross Society

Slovenian Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

Turkish Red Crescent Society



# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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**The Afghan Red Crescent Society** has an exceptionally strong presence and extensive local networks across the country. This enables it to reach vulnerable populations not served by other humanitarian actors, for instance, in highly remote and underserved areas. It has considerable expertise in a range of humanitarian interventions and long-term programming, and is supported by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other partners. This includes programming related to youth development, disaster risk management, community-based health and first aid, and restoring family links. The National Society builds community resilience – by strengthening livelihoods and providing water, sanitation and hygiene – and supports people with mental health challenges. The National Society also disseminates information about international humanitarian law and humanitarian values, and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Afghan Red Crescent enjoys an elevated level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. It has national, regional and branch response teams with volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and response.

In 2021, the Afghan Red Crescent, with the support of its partners, reached 348,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes, and 2.1 million people through long-term services and development activities. Over the past 10 years, the National Society has launched three Emergency Appeals and six Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) to reach nearly two million people. The most common type of operation, two thirds, is responding to floods, followed by earthquakes.

Afghan Red Crescent volunteers play a critical role at all stages of National Society programming, with a nationwide network of at least 30,000 volunteers operating through 34 provincial branches. They are responsible

for the assessment, identification and registration of target communities, including internally displaced people. In addition, volunteers carry out hygiene promotion and community mobilization.

The National Society in Afghanistan provides healthcare services through facilities in all 34 provinces. It has 46 fixed clinics, 22 sub-health centres, 70 mobile health teams, one district hospital, and one comprehensive health centre. The National Society in Afghanistan is also the main organization in Afghanistan providing or facilitating treatment for congenital heart defects.

The National Society's work for the next three years is guided by its Strategic Plan 2021–2025, which was refreshed in May 2022 to realign priorities with evolving events in Afghanistan. The strategic plan, whose theme is “everywhere for everyone”, has four goals:

- Communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies and conflict-generated shocks
- Communities with higher levels of long-term resilience, through risk reduction, improved health and livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change and migration
- Communities respecting the Fundamental Principles, and promoting diversity, human dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion and peace
- A reformed National Society delivering impartial, neutral, effective, sustainable, relevant and accountable humanitarian services

The IFRC supports Afghan Red Crescent in its role as a locally led organization that works in both humanitarianism and development. The National Society is in a strong position to overcome the many challenges faced within the country in 2023 and beyond.

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## IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

### Joint situational analysis

After decades of armed conflict, a harsh climate and widespread poverty, the people in Afghanistan face continued crises. The political changes of May 2021 were followed by widespread disruption of humanitarian programmes, and changes in the social and

economic participation of women and minorities in society. Due to the complexity of the context and the challenging security environment, humanitarian work in Afghanistan requires a high level of collaboration and diplomacy.

Decades of conflict forced generations of people to live with on-going uncertainty. Numerous districts and provinces had been inaccessible and unsafe for extended periods, severely restricting development and humanitarian assistance in these areas. Communities in areas of prolonged conflict have faced decades of related challenges such as displacement, and reduced or – in certain areas – no access to basic services like health, clean water and education. Pockets of violence remain in some parts of the country, and the effects of past conflict will continue to be felt for years to come.

Recently with the conflict having subsided, development support is crucial to strengthening Afghan institutions' ability to deliver basic services and to support a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

In 2022, Afghanistan faced several earthquakes and a continuation of droughts, floods and a harsh winter. These climate events are expected to become more frequent and intense, with the advancement of climate-induced events. Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, ranking third in the world by the 2022 INFORM Risk Index.

With the change of political leadership in 2021, significant international financial restrictions and sanctions were imposed on Afghanistan. The economy of

Afghanistan was deteriorating over the last few years and suffered a further economic shock by the sanctions and freezing of foreign reserves and assets. The strain on the banking system has affected households, local businesses and humanitarian and other organizations, which struggle to access enough cash.

Before August 2021, international donors financed more than half of Afghanistan's annual budget and up to 80 per cent of total public expenditure. The reluctance of some development funders to support Afghanistan since August 2021 has had a major impact on the provision of basic services, which were previously heavily funded by the international community.

Now, most international assistance comes through the humanitarian stream, while development work has either been redirected to humanitarian assistance or suspended entirely. 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. There are restrictions on investment in structural support. With these changes in the international funding landscape, the presence of a locally led humanitarian organization, reinforced by a global network, is more important than ever.

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## Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC Go page Afghanistan](#)

- Appeal number MDRAF007: Afghanistan Humanitarian Crises
- Appeal launch date: 10 April 2021
- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- 20 million people affected or at risk
- Assistance for 1.1 million people

### Emergency situation overview

More than half of Afghanistan's population is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, due to a combination of crises: decades of conflict, a protracted and severe drought, and a 5.9 magnitude earthquake that killed 1,000 people in June 2022.

The country is facing extreme economic hardship and unemployment, which has been exacerbated by the impact of international sanctions. The re-emergence

of vaccine-preventable diseases has further weakened the health system, which was already stretched by COVID-19 and system-wide gaps affecting the health, water, education, energy and public service sectors.

Afghanistan is experiencing one of the worst droughts to hit the country in decades. The drought is affecting the entire country, and contributing to one of the world's worst food insecurity and malnutrition crises. About 20 million people are in crisis, or experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity, and more than half of all children under the age of five are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition.

The severe drought and its impact on agriculture and livestock, compounded by economic hardship, has forced hundreds of thousands of households to adopt negative coping mechanisms. The price of essential commodities continues to rise – this is driving millions of people into poverty and many are deep in debt.

The IFRC provided support to the Afghan Red Crescent response to the drought initially through a DREF

operation launched in March 2021. In view of the deteriorating situation, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in April, which was subsequently reviewed to address the multi-layered crisis in the country. The Emergency Appeal defines the response until the end of 2023. As a complex response to compounding crises, the Afghan Red Crescent sees long-term engagement in response and recovery, and future interventions will be embedded into the IFRC network Afghanistan plan for 2024.

## Emergency operational strategy

The IFRC will continue to support efforts to improve food security, strengthen livelihoods, and build resilience in communities affected by drought and other multiple shocks – including the recent earthquake – across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

**Integrated assistance:** The IFRC is taking an integrated approach to meeting the needs of the population. The provinces that were affected by the earthquake, Paktika and Khost, are being targeted with emergency and recovery shelter support, emergency food, and cash or in-kind assistance to meet household needs. The IFRC is supporting the re-establishment of livelihoods.

**Health care, including water, sanitation and hygiene:** Areas that have health service gaps will continue to be targeted with emergency and primary health care services. This includes immunization and community health and first aid programming that will enhance the capacity for future health support. Health promotion activities are integrated in all these actions, such as education around vaccine-preventable diseases and COVID-19. The National Society will continue to provide provinces affected by the earthquake with water, sanitation and health facilities.

**Protection and prevention:** The IFRC will continue to streamline recovery programming, community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion activities in all sectors. There is a focus on social inclusion, to ensure that all members of communities can access the support they need. There is support provided for people in marastoons, and for single-parent households as they address their livelihood needs. The IFRC is supporting the National Society to incorporate climate change adaptation into community risk reduction activities.

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## Strategic priorities

### Climate and environment

As a well-established local actor, Afghan Red Crescent plays a critical role in working towards climate resilience and adaptation in Afghanistan. The country is exposed to droughts, harsh winters and worsening climate conditions and extreme weather events. Large mountain ranges run through the country, which has considerable climate variation. Temperatures are rising at a higher rate than the global average, and the frequency of drought is likely to increase.

The current drought is considered to be the worst in three decades. It started in 2020, due to the impact of La Niña weather conditions, and the situation has gradually extended to more than 80 per cent of the country's territory. Seasonal and off-season floods have also affected the country and, by August 2022, at least 20 provinces had experienced flash floods following heavy rains. This caused the loss of lives, livelihoods and belongings.

Agriculture is the most important source of livelihood in Afghanistan, employing 42.5 per cent of the population and contributing a quarter of GDP. Yet a decline

in rainfall levels and the ongoing drought have caused significant challenges in the sector. Temperature increases are expected to cause water shortages for irrigated and rainfed agriculture, and this will lead to more crop failures. Higher temperatures, reduced soil moisture and intense rainfall events will intensify land degradation, soil erosion and desertification, affecting agriculture and livestock – causing further losses for small-scale farmers.

### Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC will support Afghan Red Crescent to better understand, develop and implement climate-smart programming in both long- and short-term humanitarian initiatives. Relief assistance and recovery activities will meet the immediate needs of affected people, while also reducing their vulnerability and, ultimately, strengthening their climate resilience in the long-term. This will be achieved through an integrated approach that incorporates mitigation measures, early warning and early action, and reduces the environmental footprint of interventions.

This work will run across all sectors and interventions that are undertaken by the IFRC and the National Society, in collaboration with IFRC network partners.

Afghan Red Crescent is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The National Society will work with its IFRC network partners to:

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to people affected by climate and environmental crises
- Build and enhance the climate action capacity of volunteers and technical staff
- Mainstream climate-smart approaches into operations
- Engage communities in vulnerability capacity assessments, integrating climate risks and designing mitigation projects
- Implement mitigation projects at community level
- Pursue partnerships in the Global Climate Resilience Programme
- Institutionalize forecast-based action
- Work with the authorities on early warning early action measures
- Mainstream community engagement and accountability and protection gender and inclusion minimum standards in programming
- Enhance quality and accountability across all programmes
- Engage youth and volunteers for climate risk awareness in schools and communities

## Statistics

In 2022, at least **20 provinces across the country were affected by flash floods following heavy rains.**

## Disasters and crises

Afghanistan is a country with one of the highest hazard risks in the world. It frequently experiences drought and extreme weather events. Since August 2021, the country has seen a respite in conflict, allowing areas that were previously considered unreachable to become more accessible. However, the security situation remains precarious, due not only to the long-lasting effects of years of large-scale armed conflict, such as weapon contamination, but also to the impact of sporadic incidences of conflict.

## Main actions and areas of support

With 34 branches and high levels of respect and acceptance across the territory, Afghan Red Crescent is a critical first responder to emergencies and disasters. The IFRC will support the National Society in its capacity to deliver multi-sectoral response services in relief, shelter, health and water sanitation and hygiene, based on context and needs analysis. It will put a growing emphasis on building livelihoods and cash-based interventions, and support affected communities with timely and appropriate support and assistance.

The IFRC will support the National Society to implement longer-term community resilience building programmes with individuals, households and communities. It will also mobilize youth and volunteers, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, to promote disaster and health risk reduction messaging in school and community-based activities.

Continuous enhancement of the National Society's capacities and systems for emergency response is a specific area of focus. The IFRC will ensure that there is access to relevant information for decision-making, through timely needs assessments and operational learning – including improved information management, and pre-crisis and in-crisis data and context analysis. The IFRC will also work on reinforcing the National Society's accountability systems. It will develop framework agreements with suppliers, for in-kind or cash-based response, and stocks of supplies will be pre-positioned at local and regional levels.

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to people affected by evolving crises and disasters
- Build and enhance the community programming capacity of volunteers and technical staff

- Support the National Society to update its disaster risk management strategy
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction into operations, including shelter interventions
- Engage communities in vulnerability capacity assessments and designing community risk reduction projects
- Implement household and community-managed livelihood projects
- Implement safer shelter interventions at community level
- Implement cash and voucher assistance interventions to address multiple needs
- Pursue partnerships in integrated community-based programming
- Work with the authorities on resilience programming
- Engage youth and volunteers for integrated programming in schools and communities
- Mainstream community engagement and accountability and protection gender and inclusion minimum standards in programming
- Enhance quality and accountability across all programmes

## Statistics

The INFORM Risk Index ranks Afghanistan at **number three out of 191 countries**.

## Health and wellbeing

Afghanistan faces significant gaps in the provision of basic health care across the country. Health facilities, including secondary and tertiary structures, are often understaffed, undertrained and under-resourced. Many of the country's 3,500 health facilities are struggling to sustain services.

Women with more complex health needs, such as those who are pregnant, are reportedly facing major health care access issues. Challenges include fear and insecurity, mobility restrictions that require women and girls to travel with a guardian, long distances to travel to reach health services, a lack of safe transportation, and not enough trained female staff at health facilities.

In two thirds of the country, people are experiencing severe water scarcity, and there is a projected trend of continued drought. Aquifers in the central region

have been severely affected by the water scarcity crisis, and reduced water levels are causing hand-dug wells, springs, underground irrigation tunnels, boreholes and streams to dry up.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are leading contributors to morbidity and mortality of infants and children under five years. The country remains endemic for polio transmission, and measles outbreaks continue. Water-borne diseases such as dengue fever, cholera, leishmaniasis and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever are all present in Afghanistan, and incidences are likely to increase the impacts of climate change. The country already has one of the highest rates of under-five diarrhoeal deaths in the world.

With its strong health capabilities and capacity for integrated programming, the National Society is a leading provider of support to the health and well-being of communities.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Deliver emergency health and water sanitation and hygiene assistance to people affected by disasters and crises
- Enhance the health and water sanitation and hygiene programming capacity of personnel
- Strengthen the delivery of primary health, immunization, maternal and child health, and emergency health services, through static and mobile health facilities
- Strengthen the capacity to provide emergency transfer of patients to appropriate health facilities
- Implement mental health and psychosocial support interventions in communities and schools, as well as for responders
- Strengthen the capacity to provide institutional mental health care in its marastoons
- Scale up community-based health and first aid interventions
- Institutionalize commercial first aid within the National Society
- Expand risk communication and community engagement, and COVID-19 vaccination support
- Scale up water sanitation and hygiene inclusion in schools programme, including water sanitation and

hygiene facilities, provision of hygiene items for girls, and hygiene promotion in nearby communities

- Engage young people as agents for behavioural change, including addressing substance abuse
- Support the National Society in engaging with MoPH in formulating national health priorities and strengthening the auxiliary role for health services

## Statistics

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**A quarter of children are severely undernourished** and 40 per cent have stunted growth

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**Less than 20 per cent of people in Afghanistan are vaccinated** against COVID-19

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## Migration and displacement

The National Society's neutrality and integrated programming provide a strong foundation for its work with displaced people. Following decades of conflict, Afghanistan has one of the largest refugee populations, with 2.6 million registered Afghan refugees around the world, mainly in Iran and Pakistan. In 2021, internal displacements continued. Disasters in 2021 displaced 25,000 people, 16,000 of whom experienced flooding in 14 provinces. According to the International Organization for Migration, a third of the population in Afghanistan has migrated or been displaced since 2012, due to climate and conflict.

With 5.9 million Afghans living abroad, one in 10 Afghan families depends upon overseas remittances. As agriculture becomes less viable due to extreme weather and drought conditions, migration from rural to urban areas is expected to increase.

## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC network will support Afghan Red Crescent to prioritize the needs of internally displaced persons and returnees through its emergency interventions. Further integration of response activities, such as disaster management and livelihood support, health and water sanitation and hygiene services, will facilitate the delivery of assistance.

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Deliver humanitarian assistance to people on the move
- Enhance migration and displacement programming capacity

- Implement interventions to strengthen the economic resilience of returnees
- Engage with the authorities on possibly involving the National Society in social protection
- Establish humanitarian service points in branches of border provinces
- Engage young people as agents for behavioural change, including promoting social cohesion
- Mainstream community engagement and accountability and protection gender and inclusion minimum standards in migration and displacement programming
- Enhance programme quality and accountability across migration and displacement interventions
- Pursue partnerships on migration and displacement programming
- Work with the authorities on migration and displacement solutions

## Statistics

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**One in three people in Afghanistan have migrated or been displaced** since 2012.

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## Values, power and inclusion

While hostilities in the country have subsided significantly, the security situation remains precarious. This is due to the long-lasting effects of years of large-scale armed conflict, and sporadic incidences of violence. Following years of conflict and trauma, Afghanistan has one of the world's highest proportions of people living with psychological, cognitive and physical disabilities. These people are likely to face high rates of poverty, as well as discrimination, stigma and marginalization.

The economic empowerment of women became a global policy priority in Afghanistan, with the introduction of the UN's global Sustainable Development Goals. This collection of goals aims to achieve gender equality and empowerment for all women and girls (Goal 5), decent work and economic growth (Goal 8), and justice (Goal 16). After the political transition of August 2021, education for girls above sixth grade was suspended, and there are growing concerns about their future development and opportunities. Reliable data on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence is scarce because of inherent systemic weaknesses, a fragile health system, engrained social norms, and a lack of social safety networks.



## Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC will support the National Society and its network partners to:

- Enhance programme quality and accountability across migration and displacement interventions
- Establish minimum standards for community engagement and accountability and protection gender and inclusion in migration and displacement programming
- Establish women-led support activities to engage young women in service delivery
- Promote access and inclusion for people living with disabilities
- Promote child protection and safeguarding

- Strengthen safeguarding mechanisms within the National Society's own structure and programmes
- Implement interventions to strengthen the economic resilience of widows
- Engage with the authorities on the possible involvement of the National Society in social protection for widows
- Expand the number of marastoons and improve the quality of those that already exist

## Statistics

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Afghanistan has one of the **highest rates of disability** in the world.

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## Enabling local actors

The National Society is in a strong position to address the compounding crises faced by people in Afghanistan, with targeted, sustainable and locally led solutions to complex challenges. It must engage with partners where needed, and be accountable to, and trusted by, the communities it serves.

In addressing the key drivers of fragility, including conflict, climate change, and migration and displacement, the IFRC will support Afghan Red Crescent to enhance its services in response to multiple crises. It will also seek to build community resilience through its humanitarian and development work.

The increasing human needs and deterioration of economic gains leading to extreme poverty reduction levels is demonstrating the important national role of the Afghan Red Crescent Society. It collaborates closely with public authorities on their shared goals, sometimes through formal memoranda of understanding.

The IFRC will support Afghan Red Crescent to develop humanitarian diplomacy, as part of its strategic plan to target decision-makers, international and national partners, and community organizations. Together they will manage the increasing presence of domestic military and other security forces in the same humanitarian space, to help preserve the National Society's reputation for delivering principled humanitarian action.

There will be a digital transformation of all critical organizational aspects of the National Society, including

governance, branch development, management and accountability systems, and youth and volunteering development. The IFRC will also support the National Society to digitally transform its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting development, communications and resource mobilization. It is critical that gaps in power supply and connectivity are addressed, and that hardware, software and essential tools are in place.

In May 2022, the National Society updated its strategic plan for 2021–2025, and developed a consolidated operational plan for 2022–2023. These documents set collective objectives with clear activities, targets and indicators, as well as defined roles and responsibilities. Building on commitments made during the partnership meeting in Doha in May 2022, a Federation-wide approach has been agreed.

The IFRC will support the National Society in demonstrating individual and collective accountability, improved business processes, and submitting its annual externally audited financial statement. Meanwhile, the IFRC will facilitate the adoption of the IFRC Working with Project Partner framework, for managing financial transfers to the National Society in line with proper and supported accountability practices and standards. It will also enhance quality assurance processes and accountability across all programmes.

## Engaged

- Implement Afghan Red Crescent's strategic plan by developing an operational plan, and engage key stakeholders in a partnership meeting which results in agreed outcomes
- Strengthen advocacy and communication efforts
- Enhance humanitarian diplomacy and representation
- Guide the National Society to develop internal awareness on appropriate ways to engage with domestic military and other security forces
- Bolster coordination with public authorities, the humanitarian community and donors
- Strengthen local branches
- Train and equip disaster response teams at head-quarter and branch levels
- Pre-position relief items and winterization kits in strategic locations
- Develop organizational skills in legal matters, governance, management and other areas
- Scale up the digital transformation of the National Society
- Improve the institutional disaster and crises readiness of state agencies, especially ANDMA and MoPH

## Accountable

- Enhance compliance
- Institutionalize fraud and corruption prevention and promote the importance of integrity
- Institutionalize risk management practices
- Strengthen safeguarding and improve duty of care
- Engage a third-party entity for independent monitoring
- Expand the feedback response mechanism

## Trusted

The IFRC is engaging with other member National Societies that support Afghan Red Crescent bilaterally or multilaterally in moving forward the New Way of Working mechanism, as laid out in the IFRC's Agenda for Renewal. This unified plan is a work in progress, and it will be revised during the first half of 2023 when the Common Country Plan is ready. It will ensure links between all programming and response work – including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically – and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network supporting the National Society, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

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## The IFRC

**The IFRC** has been operating in Afghanistan since 1990. It supports the National Society in disaster and crisis humanitarian operations, primary health care and immunization services, and longer-term resilience-building programmes. It coordinates the activities of IFRC network partners, represents the National Society internationally, and supports its organizational development. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years IFRC supported the Afghan Red Crescent through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal operations in relation to floods, droughts and earthquakes. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response, including for immunization.

For the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis operation, the IFRC provides membership coordination, and other services for the operation such as procurement, transportation, accommodation and security management services. It has also engaged two financial service providers, which channel cash transfers to community members. A quality and accountability team has been put in place to ensure that community engagement and accountability measures are applied for close monitoring of implementation, and to enhance measures that will improve organization-wide performance. The IFRC is strengthening compliance and risk management activities, through the recruitment and empowerment of a talented, diverse and inclusive team.

The IFRC is supporting the National Society in joint advocacy, humanitarian diplomacy, and coordination

with the authorities and other humanitarian actors – to ensure that humanitarian crises in Afghanistan are profiled. Collaboratively, they will also seek to influence policy and investment decisions, to ensure they address humanitarian needs.

## IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC provides the membership with strategic coordination, and supports the implementation of milestones relating to the IFRC’s Agenda for Renewal’s New Way of Working, an initiative piloted in 14 countries. It aims at establishing a new model of membership coordination, working over multiple years to instill a thorough change management in the ways the IFRC network works together and placing the National Society of the country at the centre. This includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains, optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings and common standards, and ultimately achieving greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that National Society partners present in-country participate in one multi-year country plan, which will ensure that the resources and expertise of the network in-country are used in a complementary and efficient way.

The Afghan Red Crescent receives support from 23 National Societies. Strong support from IFRC network partners ensures that the National Society receives financial, material and technical support at a local level. The Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent all have a physical presence in Afghanistan. These partners bring a long-standing country knowledge and expertise in protracted crises, enabling them to work together to address the country’s humanitarian challenges.

In 2023, the IFRC network will support the National Society through three pillars:

**Addressing immediate humanitarian needs and recovery:** This entails the delivery of humanitarian assistance, both immediate and recovery, to people affected by disasters and crises via DREF and Emergency Appeal operations.

### **Bridging humanitarianism and development:**

The first component of this pillar is a comprehensive humanitarian-development bridging programming. This will build health teams to address maternal and child health (including routine immunizations), mental health and psychosocial support, risk communication and community engagement and COVID-19 vaccination. It will integrate other services such as water and sanitation in schools and communities, community-managed livelihood projects (including on food security), cash transfers, and community risk reduction.

The second component of this pillar is climate action, with a focus on climate resilience (including forecast-based action, early warning early action, and mitigation projects at a community level). The third component is alleviating economic hardship. This targets vulnerable households, especially women and widows in marastoons (safe social welfare refuges for people experiencing hardship). The last component is youth in action, whereby the National Society will engage with young people as agents for behavioural change in the areas of climate action, safe shelter awareness, substance abuse, and enhancing employability through vocational training.

**Strengthening local response capacity:** The National Society will strengthen its local branches, to meet its humanitarian and development goals. It will train and equip disaster response teams, and pre-position relief items and winterization kits in strategic locations. This pillar also focuses on organizational development and digital transformation, and the institutional readiness for disasters and crises of state agencies such as the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

## Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Pillar1	Pillar2	Pillar3	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Albanian Red Cross	●					
Austrian Red Cross	●			●		●
Bahrain Red Crescent Society	●					
British Red Cross	●	●	●	●	●	●
Canadian Red Cross				●		●
Danish Red Cross	●	●		●	●	●
Finnish Red Cross	●	●		●	●	●
German Red Cross	●	●	●			
Irish Red Cross Society	●					
Italian Red Cross	●	●	●			
Japanese Red Cross	●	●				
Korean Red Cross	●					
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	●	●				
Monaco Red Cross	●					
Netherlands Red Cross	●	●	●	●		●
Norwegian Red Cross	●	●	●	●	●	●
Philippine Red Cross	●					
Qatar Red Crescent	●	●		●		●
Red Cross Society of China	●			●		
Singapore Red Cross Society	●			●		
Slovenian Red Cross	●					
Swedish Red Cross	●			●		●
Turkish Red Crescent	●	●	●	●		●

**Total funding requirements**

25.00M

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## Movement coordination

Coordination and cooperation mechanisms in Afghanistan are anchored under a Movement Cooperation Agreement. The Movement Platform Meeting involves the Afghan Red Crescent, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) leadership, focusing on strategic level engagement. Movement Operational Coordination Meetings bring together the Afghan Red Crescent, the IFRC, the ICRC, and other National Societies working in Afghanistan. Technical working groups focus on specific technical areas of common interest and bring together specialists from each organization. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

For the complex emergency operation, the IFRC contributes to Movement coordination through the established in-country mechanisms.

The ICRC has a strong historical presence in Afghanistan, and works in collaboration with Afghan Red Crescent and other International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners. It is responding to the humanitarian crisis by providing health care and rehabilitation support, supporting health care infrastructure, assisting people in establishing livelihoods and incomes, helping families who have been separated to reconnect, and improving access to clean water, sanitation and energy.

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## Coordination with other actors

Afghan Red Crescent is well recognized as a principled, nationwide humanitarian organization with unparalleled access to, and acceptance in, underserved and unsafe areas. The IFRC network members operating in Afghanistan work in collaboration with other key humanitarian and development operators. This leads to a wide range of partnerships, including government departments, UN agencies, international NGOs, the donor community, civil society and the private sector – particularly farmers and rural producers' organizations.

With nationwide coverage, the National Society in Afghanistan is able to implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes, and address climate risks and environmental issues in coordination with the public authorities. Together with the IFRC, it aims to enhance the institutional disaster and crises readiness of state agencies, especially ANDMA and MoPH.

As auxiliary to public authorities, the National Society has developed connections with public authorities

to contribute to common goals in addressing health-, disaster- and development-related issues, including through formal memoranda of understanding. The National Society participates in high-level commissions established for emergency situations. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has contributed to the shaping and implementation of the national response, and it was designated as an essential health service. With the COVID-19 operation now closing, the IFRC will support it to integrate COVID-19 into its ongoing health programmes, and to develop a pandemic preparedness and response framework.

Priority areas in 2023 will be advocacy and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, coordination with the authorities, inter-agency coordination, and engagement with donors. The IFRC will work with local authorities on early warning early action measures, resilience programming, migration and displacement solutions, and social protection for widows.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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