Every year winter bites across Afghanistan, in some cases with deadly consequences. During the winter of 2022-2023, ARCS distributed winterization kits (comprising winter jackets, sweaters, shawls, wraps, gloves, caps, socks, and boots) to more than 68,000 people in 14 provinces to keep them warm during a harsh winter. Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal №:</th>
<th>To be assisted:</th>
<th>Appeal launched:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDRAF007</td>
<td>2 million people (overall) 750,000 people (this OS)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DR-2021-000022-AFG EQ-2022-000232-AFG</td>
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<table>
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<th>Federation-wide funding requirement for this OS: 100 million CHF</th>
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<tr>
<td>OS for Humanitarian Crises</td>
<td>Overall IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: 120 million CHF</td>
<td>Overall Federation-wide funding requirement: 300 million CHF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TIMELINE

21 June 2021: The authorities declare a state of emergency due to drought.

15 August 2021: Rapid change of authorities. International community adjusts approach of channeling development and humanitarian financing as sanctions are triggered.

May 2021: IPC report indicates that 55 percent of Afghanistan's population is experiencing high levels of food insecurity, with some 20,000 households facing famine.

22 June 2022: A devastating earthquake strikes south-eastern Afghanistan, impacting Khost and Paktika.

23 June 2022: IFRC Issues fourth revision of Emergency Appeal for CHF 90 million to incorporate interventions aimed at alleviating conditions in areas affected by the earthquake.

December 2022: Measures limiting the participation of women in education and workplace are announced.

5 July 2023: IFRC issues fifth revision of Emergency Appeal for CHF 130 million aiming to deliver assistance to 2 million people, with focus on specific niche areas and incorporating solutions which provide some degree of longevity.
DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Two thirds of Afghanistan’s population (28.8 million people) is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance as the country enters its third consecutive year of drought conditions and the second year of crippling economic decline, while still reeling from pre-existing effects of decades long conflict. Unrelenting multiple shocks, including climatic and seismic events, are compounding humanitarian conditions. In this backdrop, Afghanistan is currently one of the world’s worst humanitarian crises.

While delivery of humanitarian assistance is crucial for addressing urgent needs, provision of aid must incorporate solutions which provide some degree of longevity beyond ‘hand-outs’. However, significant humanitarian funding gaps are forcing humanitarian actors to focus on the most vulnerable of the vulnerable, leaving many affected people behind.

Under this Operational Strategy, interventions will be reoriented for multisector interventions to prioritize:

- Female headed households (mostly widows)
- Households severely impacted by destitution
- Underprivileged households with children with congenital heart defects and households with malnourished children

- Households with members with severe mental health illness and those affected by substance abuse
- Returnees and internally displaced households.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

1. Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services
   - 15.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity, of whom 2.7 million people are one step away from famine.
   - 3.2 million children and 840,000 pregnant or lactating mothers are facing moderate or severe malnutrition.
   - Over 85 per cent of the country’s population is now living below the poverty line. The result is increased destitution.
   - Prolonged drought conditions have resulted in the drying of surface water sources and a significant drop in groundwater levels.
   - Poor sanitation conditions are a driver of some infectious diseases, such as acute watery diarrhea (AWD).
   - Recovery support needed in areas affected by the devastating June 2022 earthquake.
   - Constraints relating to the participation of women impacting their access to services.

2. Impact on physical and mental health and psychosocial well being
   - There are significant gaps in access to healthcare, with vaccine-preventable diseases increasing risk of child morbidity and mortality.
   - Significant increase in congenital heart defects in children requiring medical and other support.
   - Multiple mental health and psychosocial impacts due to decades of long conflict, limited access to mental health services, economic hardships, other pre-existing needs, including substance abuse has resulted in an astronomical number of people with mental illness.
   - A major effect of almost half a century conflict in Afghanistan is a high number of widows largely struggling to access income-earning and other opportunities.

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1 OCHA 2023 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview
3. **Risks and vulnerabilities**

- High risk of intense and recurring natural hazards – including earthquakes and floods – which often cause disasters, some deadly.
- Recurrent multiple communicable disease outbreaks, including measles and polio.
- Safety and security concerns remain due to criminality and presence of armed opposition groups.

**CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE**

1. **National Society response capacity**

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

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

ARCS volunteers play a critical role at all stages of ARCS programmes. This includes assessment, identification, and registration of target communities including internally displaced people (IDPs). In addition, volunteers carry out hygiene promotion and community mobilisation. With nationwide coverage through 34 provincial branches and a network of at least 26,500 volunteers (6,700 of them female), ARCS can implement large-scale and long-term preparedness and response programmes in coordination with the public authorities.

Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys an elevated level of acceptance and has access to communities across the whole country. The branches in targeted areas have teams of trained volunteers in disaster preparedness and response through established national and branch disaster response teams, mobile health teams, and community mobilizers as part of the CBHFA programme.
ARCS also provides access to healthcare services through a network of 200 plus facilities that are active across the country (71 fixed and 141 mobile).

The ARCS is the only organization in Afghanistan that provides treatment for congenital heart defects and is also active in the field of immunization through mobile health teams (MHTs) providing vaccination and primary healthcare packages in underserved areas. More information on the ARCS response to the operation can be found on the IFRC GO platform.

1.2 Capacity and response at national level

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

ARCS has a five-year Strategic Plan (2021-2025) providing operational priorities. Its four goals are:

- 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 long-term resilience through risk reduction, improved health and livelihood, and adaptation to climate change and migration.
- Communities respect fundamental principles and promote diversity, human dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion, and peace.
- A reformed national society delivering impartial, neutral, effective, sustainable, relevant, and accountable humanitarian services.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

ARCS is supported by the IFRC Secretariat, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Participating National Societies (PNS) with in-country presence or those supporting multilaterally. Since the start of the operations, ARCS has reached 1.7 million people using resources mobilized via the IFRC emergency appeal as of July 2023. This includes one million people reached by health interventions, more than 115,000 people reached with WASH interventions, 68,000 people who have received winterization kits, more than 500,000 people provided with food and livelihoods assistance, and 112,000 people reached with cash assistance. Alongside activities funded under this emergency appeal, ARCS reached overall 3.5 million people with various services and programmes.

IFRC membership

The IFRC Country Delegation for Afghanistan, established in 1990, continues to support ARCS with the following: humanitarian operations related to disasters and crises caused by natural hazards; health services in hard-to-reach areas; longer-term resilience-building programmes; coordinating support by IFRC membership to the ARCS; enhancing the organizational development of the ARCS; and representing the ARCS internationally. Participating national societies (PNS) with presence in Afghanistan are Danish Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, and Qatar Red Crescent.
Participating National Societies that have channeled support via the IFRC emergency appeal are the Albanian Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Bahrain Red Crescent, British Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Hong Kong Branch of the Red Cross Society of China, Irish Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Kuwait Red Crescent, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Red Cross of Monaco, Singapore Red Cross Society, Slovenian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Taiwan Red Cross Organisation, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Philippine National Red Cross and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross.

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. There are no overlaps between the support being provided by the ICRC and that provided by the IFRC network. There is complementarity and close cooperation.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response
Inter-Agency Clusters are well established as sectoral coordination mechanisms at the national and regional levels. Among others, they clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including non-governmental organizations, United Nations (UN) agencies, public authorities, and other stakeholders. Cluster meetings are held monthly at the national level, coordinated by the respective cluster lead agencies as well as UNOCHA and cover education, food security and agriculture, health, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, and emergency non-food items and shelter. Meetings are attended by cluster partners, members, and observers to share information, coordinate humanitarian interventions at cluster or multi-cluster levels, address operational challenges, and feed into funding instruments such as the Afghan Humanitarian Fund. This Operational Strategy has factored priorities of the Revised Humanitarian Response Plan.

The IFRC supports the external coordination within the humanitarian situation as an observer to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) which 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.

Following the earthquake of June 2022, the IFRC has enhanced engagement with the Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, to ensure that collective efforts are focused on areas where needs are greatest and under the key principle of good coordination. IFRC also engages actively in shelter technical working groups established to define technical specifications for safer construction practices.

3. Gaps in the response
According to the latest food insecurity assessment by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), 15.5 million people are facing acute food insecurity, of whom 2.7 million people are one step away from famine. Women and children are disproportionately affected by the humanitarian crisis, with some 3.2 million children facing moderate (MAM) and severe (SAM) malnutrition in addition to 840,000 undernourished pregnant and lactating mothers. There is, therefore, a need to continue providing nutritious food in some places as well as support for addressing MAM and SAM.

Economic hardships, exacerbated by sanctions to a great extent, are a key driver of the dire humanitarian situation. The situation of 28.8 million people already in need of humanitarian assistance remains critical due to significant humanitarian funding gaps while more people are becoming dependent on relief aid every day. According to Afghanistan Socio-Economic Outlook 2023 released by UNDP, over 85 percent of the country’s
population is now living below the poverty line. With most jobs traditionally around the agricultural sector, those who rely on agriculture continue to suffer from the negative impacts of consecutive droughts. The projections for June-September 2023 forecast somewhat below normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures for Afghanistan which are unlikely to ease the situation. There is a need to continue providing cash assistance and livelihood support at household or community levels.

Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring natural hazards – including earthquakes, floods, landslides, avalanches, and droughts – which often cause disasters, and disease outbreaks, some deadly. It is ranked fourth in the world among countries that are more likely to require international assistance for humanitarian crises. Furthermore, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index ranks Afghanistan among 15 countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and least prepared to adapt. Need for preparedness and anticipation actions. In the second half of July 2023, heavy offseason rainfall caused flash floods in more than a dozen provinces, killing at least 50 people, damaging more than 1,200 houses, and washing away vast tracts of agricultural land and hundreds of livestock. IFRC supports ARCS in response to the flash flood by launching an IFRC-DREF.

Owing to limited funding for public healthcare, there are significant gaps in access to healthcare, especially in rural areas. Related costs, like those for transport, present additional barriers to accessing healthcare due to increasing poverty. Among key health threats are acute disease outbreaks, including multiple outbreaks of measles, acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), dengue fever, pertussis, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), and malaria. The threat of vaccine-preventable diseases to child morbidity and mortality persists. Cases of measles, pertussis, and polio continue to be detected in 2023. There is a need to enhance routine immunization efforts alongside primary health services.

Some infectious diseases, such as AWD, are driven by other conditions including poor sanitation and insufficient water quality and quantity. Prolonged drought conditions have resulted in the drying of surface water sources and a significant drop in groundwater levels. As a result, there are major gaps in access to water across the country. There is a need to support improvement of community water supply as well as promoting hygiene and sanitation practices.

Multiple mental health and psychosocial impacts due to decades of long conflict, economic hardships, and other pre-existing needs including widespread substance abuse have resulted in an astronomical number of people with mental illness. The UN estimates that one in two Afghans – most of them women – suffered from psychological distress prior to August 2021. A BBC report issued in early June 2023, highlights the alarming mental health crisis. There is a need to provide mental health and psychosocial support through integrated approach.

On 22 June 2022, a devastating earthquake struck Afghanistan, leaving a trail of destruction mainly in the provinces of Khost and Paktika. While affected households have since had their immediate and medium-term needs met, gaps in recovery – including for rebuilding destroyed houses – remain. There is a need to support communities which were affected by the earthquake to rebuild destroyed houses and to restore livelihoods.

Compounding the humanitarian situation are constraints relating to the participation of women and minority groups. In December 2022, the authorities announced measures limiting the participation of women in education and workplace. Pragmatic approaches which ensure the inclusion of women need to be pursued. A major effect of decades of conflict is the high number of widows. While there are currently no official statistics, the Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) estimates, in an article issued in June 2023, that there are at least two million widows in Afghanistan. This vulnerable group largely struggles to access income-earning and other opportunities. There is need for providing multisector support to widows and their children as they are among community members who are disproportionately affected by humanitarian crises.

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1. UNDP 2023, Afghanistan Socio-economic Outlook
2. South Asian Climate Outlook Forum, Consensus Statement, April 2023
3. INFORM Risk Index Mid 2023
4. Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative
Finally, a somewhat parallel structure, in which local authorities and actors are not the main drivers, has persisted over the past two years, reducing potential for strengthening local capacities or sustainability of investments made. There is a need for investments to also contribute to strengthening capacities of local actors, including of state entities responsible for humanitarian services. That is because aid cannot substitute for state, and experience world over has demonstrated that local communities and entities are always the first to respond in the event of a disaster or crisis.

**OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS**

While access to all parts of the country has improved since August 2021, safety and security concerns remain due to increasing criminality prompted by economic hardships and presence of opposition armed groups which occasionally mount deadly attacks. It is crucial that safety and security protocols are reinforced and followed by all personnel involved in the operation.

Despite the UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2615 which provides exception for humanitarian action, disruption of financial services and cash flow continue to be felt. Hurdles in making money transfers and payments or completing transactions occasionally cause operational delays. The IFRC continues to closely monitor and assess the situation to manage these risks including in private meetings with various stakeholders among them financial institutions.

Although there has been an improvement in availability of supplies and services in the local market, some local vendors lack crucial documentation required for competing in tenders for supplies and services. The IFRC supply chain management has undertaken a market assessment and planned vendor orientation sessions to socialize them about the IFRC procurement policy as well as the fraud and corruption prevention policy. In addition, the IFRC compliance and risk management team ensures screening of vendors against UN and OFAC sanctions lists prior to engaging them. Operational flexibility is also maintained by keeping the option to deliver assistance via cash-based assistance or in-kind modalities as may be informed by contextual circumstances.

There are unpredictable and increasing restrictions on humanitarian actors including limitations on participation of female humanitarian workers. For now, programmes and operations of the IFRC network continue with engagement of female staff and volunteers. Priority of the IFRC network remains to alleviate human suffering whenever it is found, and that means continuing to deliver services to as many people, wherever possible, and as much as resources permit, pragmatically finding solutions to ensure the inclusion of women and all groups in the process.

**FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH**

The Emergency Appeal which this Operational Strategy is linked to is part of a Federation-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the Host National Society and in consultation with all members of the IFRC contributing to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities, including interventions supported by bilateral Participating National Societies working bilaterally and those of ARCS funded domestically or by non-Movement partners. It will assist to leverage the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.
The main guiding document is ARCS Strategic Plan 2021-2025, which sets out the strategic direction of the Host National Society and is aligned with the IFRC Strategy 2030. To operationalize its strategic plan, ARCS issues annual Consolidated Operational Plans. Collective interventions of the IFRC network are reflected in the ARCS Consolidated Operational Plans, with this Operational Strategy to span Consolidated Operational Plan 2023 and Consolidated Operational Plan 2024.

Building on commitments made during the ARCS Partnership Meeting held in Doha in late May 2022 and as part of moving forward the IFRC's Agenda for Renewal's New Way of Working, a Federation-wide approach is fully entrenched. A system for comprehensive Federation-wide reporting, reflecting both narrative and financials, will be agreed in due course.

**OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

The Revised Emergency Appeal has Federation-wide Funding Requirement of CHF 300 million and Secretariat Funding Requirement of CHF 120 million, we have three operational strategies: Initial Operational Strategy for the wider humanitarian crisis operation, the second operational strategy for Paktika and khost earthquake response operation, and the third new operational strategy related to the Humanitarian protracted crises. The first and second operational strategy are valid till end of December 2023 while the third one will continue till end of December 2024. The two operational Strategies will be streamlined to the new Operational Strategy once revised by the end of 2023.

**Vision**

This IFRC supported operation aims to address **multisector needs of people most affected** by the humanitarian crisis. This is a third separate Operational Strategy under the same Emergency Appeal. This specific OS will **focus on specific niche areas** of the ARCS and incorporating solutions which provide some **degree of longevity** while contributing to **strengthening capacities** of ARCS and state entities responsible for humanitarian services.

This Operational Strategy is informed by three considerations. First, in a background where humanitarian funding is reducing, the **IFRC network will focus on specific niche areas** which are not largely covered by the wider humanitarian system. Second, there is a need to **capitalize on the strengths of ARCS as a local organization** with wide reach across Afghanistan, including in areas where the wider humanitarian system may not be able to access should contextual limitations arise. Third, delivery of humanitarian assistance will not only address urgent needs but also incorporate solutions which **provide some degree of longevity** looking beyond ‘hand-outs’. Furthermore, investment will be put in strengthening local preparedness and response capacity.

Specifically, the operation will contribute to meeting **urgent cash, food and non-food needs** (in the event of new shocks and for particular vulnerable groups), delivering quality **health assistance** through established or improved ARCS capacities (including treatment and follow up for children with congenital heart disease), providing **shelter** solutions, supporting **livelihood restoration and diversification**, **strengthening socio-economic resilience** (especially of widows and households facing destitution), **improving access to WASH**, and support for coping with winter, **and integration of risk reduction measures** as well as streamlining of **protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI)** and **community engagement and accountability (CEA)** across all interventions. The operation will also invest in **strengthening local response capacity** of ARCS and state entities for humanitarian services.

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

Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring climate induced hazards – including floods and droughts – which often cause disasters, some deadly. Effects of drought will continue being felt while it is anticipated that floods and harsh winter will impact some provinces of Afghanistan during the operation’s timeframe. The operation will, therefore, include pre-positioning of relief items and winterization kits in strategic locations across the country as well as training and equipment of response teams.
Targeting

1. People to be assisted

The revised Emergency Appeal operation targets to reach two million people across all 34 provinces in Afghanistan. Of these, one million people will be reached under the initial Operational Strategy for the wider humanitarian crisis operation by end of 2023, and another 200,000 people will be reached under the Operational Strategy for the Khost and Paktika earthquake response also by end of 2023, and 800,000 people will be reached under this Operational Strategy by end of 2024.

The operation will be reorientated so that interventions focus on the most vulnerable of the most vulnerable. As such, in this Operational Strategy, IFRC multisector humanitarian interventions will prioritize:

- Female-headed households (mostly widows and elderly).
- Households severely impacted by destitution.
- Underprivileged households with children with congenital heart disease and households with children that are malnourished.
- Households with members with severe mental health illness and those impacted by substance abuse.
- Recent Returnees and internally displaced households.

2. Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability

The intervention will ensure that protection and gender considerations are mainstreamed across while ensuring that all the different sections of the populations, including people with disability are reached out to. This perspective will also be incorporated during the data and information collection process. Targeting will be conducted in consultation with the communities, ensuring that the different groups are well represented, enabling them to contribute with their own perspectives and take decisions.

Continuous needs analysis will also ensure that other vulnerable groups are not accidentally excluded, including ongoing engagement with groups who face discrimination, marginalization, and barriers to accessing support (for instance through household visits and focus group discussions, linking to relevant grassroots groups). The selection criteria and targeted populations will be explained to the communities through sensitization during the registration process, briefing and orientation during the distribution, providing clear selection criteria on a banner in local languages and install it in the distribution site. In addition, community-based platforms members such as grandmother committee and health shura members will be provided with information on the targeting and selection criteria. These members will also communicate it to families in their target areas.

The ARCS is reviewing gender and diversity policy that will be used throughout to ensure dignity, access, participation, and safety (DAPS), together with adherence to the “do no harm” principle. Community engagement and accountability will be integrated across the response, with a focus on placing targeted populations at the centre. The needs, proposed solutions, suggestions, and feedback of the targeted populations will be integrated throughout the project management cycle, including planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to facilitate greater participation of local people and communities.

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 ARCS is committed to clearly explain the programme, the process and scope of services, as well as the mandate of the ARCS to various stakeholders, including community leaders, men, women, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups.
# PLANNED OPERATIONS

## INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

### Shelter, Housing and Settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18</th>
<th>Female &lt; 18</th>
<th>Total Target</th>
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<td>2,637,000 CHF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female &lt; 18</td>
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<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>18,900</td>
<td></td>
<td>80,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td>16,100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Households affected by humanitarian crises meet their immediate non-food item priorities, and restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through culturally appropriate shelter and settlement solutions.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Undertake assessments to determine the nature and scope of shelter and settlement needs of affected households.
2. Undertake surveys to identify households that will receive assistance, revalidate their eligibility, and register them.
3. Provide selected households with orientation on the intervention, and the distribution process.
4. Provide essential household items.
5. Provide inputs for coping with winter (cash or in-kind).
6. Provide emergency shelter assistance (cash or in-kind).
7. Provide shelter repair/rebuilding support (cash or in-kind).
8. Provide selected households with guidance on building back better and safer principles.
9. Provide rental assistance.
10. Provide support to host households (cash or in-kind).

### Livelihoods

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18</th>
<th>Female &lt; 18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>37,800</td>
<td>32,200</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &lt; 18</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Households and community groups affected by humanitarian crises have received life-saving resources, and enhanced capacities for restoring or diversifying their livelihoods through provision of CVA and /or in-kind.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Undertake assessments to determine the nature and scope of livelihoods needs of affected households and community groups.
2. Undertake surveys to identify households and community groups that will receive assistance, revalidate their eligibility, and register them.
3. Provide selected households and community groups with orientation on the intervention, and the distribution process as well as guidance to generate proposals.
4. Provide identified households with agricultural or livestock kits based on their preferred farm-based household livelihood activities.

5. Engage and partner with relevant entities to guide households provided with agricultural or livestock kits to apply better techniques with the view of increasing yields.

6. Provide identified households and community groups with working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.

7. Undertake monitoring to ensure that households and community groups provided with working capital or inputs have utilized them in line with their approved proposals.

8. Based on job and skill market feasibility, and in consultation with communities, select women and youth at risk who will receive support for vocational and tools of trade.

9. Engage and partner with training institutions to deliver vocational training for identified women and youth at risk.

10. Provide women and youth at risk with tools of trade in their respective fields of practice upon successful completion of vocational training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-purpose cash</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18: 64,800</th>
<th>Female &lt; 18: 55,200</th>
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<td>Male &lt; 18: 36,800</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**
Underprivileged households affected by humanitarian crises meet their immediate multi-sector needs.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Undertake inclusive surveys mainstreaming PGI guidelines to identify underprivileged households that will receive assistance, revalidate their eligibility, and register them ensuring principled humanitarian actions.

2. Provide selected households with orientation on the intervention, and the distribution process.

3. Provide one or multiple rounds of unconditional cash assistance, using existing financial service providers (FSP), to selected underprivileged households.

4. Monitor the performance of FSP and ensure services provided are following the humanitarian principles of the organization.

5. Conduct Post distribution monitoring (PDM) for all interventions following the minimum standards to inform the quality and adjust interventions accordingly.

6. Participate actively in Afghanistan CVWG to ensure alignment following the minimum expenditure basket guidance and a coordinated approach for the CVA interventions nationwide.
**HEALTH & CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH/ MEDICAL SERVICES)

<table>
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<th>Health &amp; Care</th>
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<td>Total target: 600,000</td>
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</table>

**Objective:**

Households and communities affected by humanitarian crises reduce immediate and medium-term risks to their health.

**Priority Actions:**

1. **Mental health and psychosocial support**
   a. Conduct training of trainers (ToT) of facilitators (staff and volunteers) on stress management, peer support, lay counselling, and community-based mental health and psychosocial support.
   b. Conduct guided workshops and sport/recreational activities for children and youth, facilitate psycho-education group sessions for adults, and refer those with special psychological needs to professional practitioners.
   c. Reproduce and distribute IEC materials on mental health and psychosocial support.
   d. Conduct community-based psychosocial support activities as part of social reintegration of individuals from Marastoons.
   e. Conduct peer support sessions and organize ‘rest and recreation’ days as well as team building activities for staff and volunteers.
   f. Conduct foundational baseline work on substance abuse.

2. **Community health**
   a. Mobilize community-based health and first aid volunteers and grandmother committees as facilitators of community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, and health promotion activities focusing on MNCH.
   b. Undertake assessments to determine levels of awareness on disease prevention in affected communities to guide programming.
   c. Conduct community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, and health promotion activities in affected communities.
   d. Engage school WASH clubs in promoting health and wellbeing including mental health, nutrition etc. Reproduce and distribute IEC materials and other methods supporting positive behavior change on community-based disease prevention, epidemic preparedness, and health promotion,
complemented by using youth as agents of behavior change (YABC).

e. Promote and support the integration of community health and health services.

3. Management of injuries

a. Train community volunteers in first aid and psychological first aid (PFA).

b. Facilitate establishment of school and community first aid groups.

c. Provide first aid kits to school and community first aid groups.

d. Mobilize school and community first aid groups to support management of injuries, and PFA, to people in need.

4. Medical services

a. Provide primary health and immunization services through mobile and fixed health facilities.

b. Provide integrated nutrition services, through mobile and fixed health facilities.

c. Rehabilitate ARCS health facilities and install new ones where needed.

d. Supply mobile and fixed health facilities with standard equipment, medicines, and medical items.

e. Support treatment, including surgeries, for children with congenital heart disease through cash modality.

f. Support capacity building for quality health service delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18: <strong>64,800</strong></th>
<th>Female &lt; 18: <strong>55,200</strong></th>
<th><strong>1,467,000</strong> CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male &gt; 18: <strong>70,200</strong></td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: <strong>59,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total target: 250,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:** Households, communities, and schools affected by humanitarian crises reduce their immediate and medium-term risk of waterborne, water-related, and vector-borne diseases.
## Priority Actions:

1. **Water**
   a. Undertake assessments to determine gaps in water needs of affected households, schools, and communities.
   b. Provide safe water storage containers and support for water treatment to target households, schools, and communities.
   c. Establish/rehabilitate temporary and/or longer-term water distribution points in schools and communities.

2. **Sanitation**
   a. Undertake assessments to determine gaps in sanitation needs of affected households, schools, and communities.
   b. Support establishment/rehabilitation of latrines as an integral component of shelter repair of rebuilding interventions.
   c. Establish/rehabilitate temporary and/or longer-term sanitation facilities in schools and communities.

3. **Knowledge, attitude, and practice**
   a. Retrain and mobilize community volunteers, grandmother committees, and teacher-student groups as facilitators of hygiene promotion, MHM, and water treatment activities.
   b. Undertake surveys to determine baseline and endline levels of awareness on hygiene and MHM in affected communities and schools to guide programming.
   c. Provide culturally appropriate hygiene and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) to target households and schools.
   d. Conduct hygiene promotion and MHM activities in affected communities and schools.
   e. Provide hygiene kits to schools and communities.
   f. Reproduce and distribute culturally acceptable IEC materials on hygiene promotion and MHM, complemented by using youth as agents of behavioral change (YABC).

4. **Coordination**
   a. Coordinate with the Ministry of Education and school heads in identifying schools to be supported with WASH facilities.
   b. Coordinate with the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and local authorities in identifying communities to be supported with WASH facilities.
   c. Engage with the WASH Cluster and Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group in planning for WASH interventions.

---

**PROTECTION AND PREVENTION**

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

PGI is a contextualized understanding of how programs can address and respond to social differences and inequalities that are driving the cause of exclusion and protection risks. Mainstreaming PGI into operation and response aim to ensure that the emergency programming of IFRC and NS provides dignity, access, participation, and safety (DAPS) for all people affected by disasters and crises. The DAPS minimum standards will be integrated into all sectors such as disaster management, Health, WASH, and Marastoon...
in different levels of the ARCS emergency operation and response. The standards address protection, gender, and inclusion concerns by providing practical ways to engage with all members of the community, respond to their differing needs and draw on their capacities in the most non-discriminatory and effective way. This helps to ensure that local perspectives guide assistance delivery. The standards also support the incorporation of the seven Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection, Gender, and Inclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female &gt; 18:</strong> 198,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male &gt; 18:</strong> 206,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Inclusive and principled humanitarian actions are meeting the needs of the affected population following the IFRC minimum standards for PGI in emergencies.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Provide refresher training to staff and volunteers on PGI in emergencies.
2. Integrate PGI in assessments and selection of people to receive assistance.
3. Mainstream PGI in other sector activities, including measures to address vulnerabilities specific to gender and diversity factors in their planning.
4. Orientation of technical team of NS such as DM, WASH, and Health on sector specific PGI minimum standards.
5. Undertake service (GBV, MHPSS, and protection) mapping and referral pathways for people at risk and disseminate them to all sectors, and training and staff accordingly.
6. Improve integration of DAPS and IFRC minimum standards for PGI in an emergency into the emergency operation. Sensitize the ARCS leadership on PSEA draft policy and get the approval. Orientation of staff and volunteers on the PSEA policy. Build capacity of ARCS on child safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and carried out child safeguarding risk assessment.
7. Establish a PSEA reporting mechanism and orient staff and volunteers; and people who receive assistance.
8. Engage with relevant inter-agency Clusters and Working Groups to harmonize approaches in PGI, Child Safeguarding, child labor child marriage, and PSEA.
9. Promote and ensure gender and diversity representation among staff and volunteers, also to ensure reach of diverse groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Engagement and Accountability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Female &gt; 18:</strong> 198,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Male &gt; 18:</strong> 206,550</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Communities receive timely, accurate, trusted, and accessible information regarding the services they are entitled to get from...
the IFRC network as well as on the channels through which they may provide feedback to guide programmes and operations.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Undertake assessments to ensure that the response is based on a thorough understanding of community needs, priorities, and context, including preferred ways to receive information, participate and give feedback.
2. Provide refresher training to staff and volunteers on CEA to enhance their knowledge and capacity to engage communities effectively.
3. Integrate CEA in assessments and selection of people to receive assistance.
4. Mainstream CEA across all sectors, including guiding and supporting staff/volunteers to inform communities about operation plans, progress, activities, selection criteria, distribution processes, delays and challenges, and their entitlements.
5. Utilize feedback response mechanisms (FRM) as well as community-based platforms, such as grandmother committees, to engage communities effectively.
6. Coordinate with the third-party monitoring entity engaged by the IFRC to triangulate feedback from the communities.
7. Engage with the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) Working Groups to harmonize approaches in CEA.

---

**Migration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>18+</th>
<th>18-</th>
<th>Total Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>21,168</td>
<td>18,032</td>
<td>618,000 CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>22,032</td>
<td>18,768</td>
<td>618,000 CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total target:</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Returnees and internally displaced populations have their needs met through humanitarian assistance, protection, and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

**Priority Actions:**

1. Include returnees and IDPs in cross-sectorial needs assessments, and in the selection of people to receive assistance.
2. Ensure that services across all sectors are accessible to returnees and IDPs as a priority group to receive assistance.
3. Provide specific multi-sector assistance to returnees and IDPs.
4. Promote social cohesion by ensuring that specific assistance to returnees and IDPs does not exclude host communities.

---

**Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>18+</th>
<th>18-</th>
<th>Total Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female &gt; 18</td>
<td>19,980</td>
<td>17,020</td>
<td>2,644,000 CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18</td>
<td>17,820</td>
<td>15,180</td>
<td>2,644,000 CHF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total target:</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Objective:**

Communities reduce their vulnerability to and strengthen their capacity to cope with future disasters and crises.
Priority Actions:

1. Support, and mobilize target communities and schools to undertake assessments to enhance their understanding of risks, vulnerabilities, and capacities in view of future disasters and crises.

2. Accompany and enable communities and schools with guidance and inputs for strengthening their preparedness and capacities to respond better to future disasters and crises.

3. Promote locally led community and school activities that mitigate the adverse effects of future disasters and crises.

4. Incorporate risk reduction measures in all programming sectors and provide adequate information to communities on such measures.

5. Promote Nature-based solutions and when not appropriate, ensure that all construction-related interventions, across sectors, factors resilience to disasters and climate impact.

6. Support the strengthening of national legal framework for international disaster assistance.

7. Support the development of legal framework and access to legal services that will minimize regulatory barriers to post-disaster humanitarian assistance.

8. Train ARCS staff (HQ, region) on DRR using EVCA and develop roadmap to community resilience, climate change adaptation based on identified local risks and vulnerabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Sustainability</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18: 19,980</th>
<th>Female &lt; 18: 17,020</th>
<th>53,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 17,820</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 15,180</td>
<td>Total target: 70,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective: A “do no harm” approach is incorporated in the response to contribute to protecting the environment.

Priority Actions:

1. Ensure that needs assessments consider the potential local environmental impact of planned activities.

2. Promote and pursue WASH interventions that will minimize groundwater extraction.

3. Utilize cash assistance as the preferred modality, with in-kind support only when items are not available in local markets.

4. Pursue cash for work interventions which support initiatives to collect and manage waste.

5. Raise community and school awareness on environment-friendly practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Female &gt; 18: 10,800</th>
<th>Female &lt; 18: 9,200</th>
<th>272,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male &gt; 18: 8,100</td>
<td>Male &lt; 18: 6,900</td>
<td>Total target: 35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objective: Education facilities and students receive multi-sector support.
## Priority Actions:

1. Support rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools. (See WASH section)
2. Support for activities that mitigate the adverse effects of future disasters and crises in schools. (See Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery section)
3. Support vocational training for youth and women at risk. (See Livelihoods section)
4. Support multi-sector needs, including school items, of families headed by widows. (See Multi-Purpose Cash section)

### National Society Strengthening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective:</th>
<th>1,538,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Society's organizational development as well as level of preparedness for future disasters and crises, and capacity to deliver principled, accountable, sustainable programming and services strengthened.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Actions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Identify National Society response capacity strengthening and organizational development priorities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Guide and support ARCS to develop, approve, and socialize its NSD initiative/plan.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Guide and support in strengthening ARCS's level of preparedness for future disasters and crises.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Guide and support in increasing skillsets of ARCS staff and volunteers for delivering this operation, future disaster, and crisis operations, and delivering sustainable programming and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Guide and support in increasing material capacity for ARCS to deliver sustainable programming and services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Guide and support the improvement of legal base and auxiliary role of ARCS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Guide and support the improvement of systems and processes of ARCS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Guide and support digital transformation of ARCS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Guide and support strengthening the capacity of ARCS zone offices and branches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Coordination and Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective:</th>
<th>3,301,000 CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The IFRC network's collective capacity for analyzing, anticipating, planning, responding, resourcing, communicating, influencing, and being accountable as in favor of affected populations is optimized.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Actions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Identify National Society response capacity strengthening and organizational development priorities.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Guide and support ARCS to develop, approve, and socialize its NSD initiative/plan.</td>
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<td>3. Guide and support in strengthening ARCS's level of preparedness for future disasters and crises.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Guide and support in increasing skillsets of ARCS staff and volunteers for delivering this operation, future disaster, and crisis operations, and delivering sustainable programming and services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Guide and support in increasing material capacity for ARCS to deliver sustainable programming and services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Guide and support the improvement of legal base and auxiliary role of ARCS.</td>
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<td>7. Guide and support the improvement of systems and processes of ARCS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Guide and support digital transformation of ARCS.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Guide and support strengthening the capacity of ARCS zone offices and branches</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Priority Actions:**

1. **Membership Coordination**
   a) Pursue a Federation-wide approach.
   b) Harmonize planning, monitoring, and reporting.
   c) Have Participating National Societies implemented portions of the Emergency Appeal with ARCS.
   d) Develop a common risk register.
   e) Organize predictable Membership Coordination meetings.
   f) Organize periodic Red Cross Red Crescent partners’ calls.
   g) Engage a coordinator for Membership Coordination.
   h) Pursue the Agenda for Renewal’s New Ways of Working milestones.

2. **Communications**
   - Engage personnel of the IFRC network and professional entities to capture or develop audio-visual products for profiling the operations.
   - Provide relevant content (including but not limited to key messages, talking points, and audio-visual products) to practitioners in the IFRC network in support of their communications needs.
   - Respond to media queries and engage with the media to profile humanitarian needs, advocate for support, and showcase the humanitarian response of the IFRC network.
   - Create awareness of critical issues, operational or programme milestones, and locally led action of the IFRC network through mainstream and social media channels.

3. **Movement Cooperation**
   a) Socialize the Seville Agreement 2.0.
   b) Update the Movement Cooperation Agreement.
   c) Hold Movement Platform Meetings.
   d) Hold Movement Operational Coordination Meetings.
   e) Hold Movement Technical Working Group Meetings.
   f) Support ARCS in its Partnership Meetings.

4. **Engagement with external partners**
   a) Hold meetings with the authorities for private diplomacy.
   b) Hold meetings with diplomatic missions to Afghanistan.
   c) Organize period briefings for the IFRC Donor Advisory Group.
   d) Engage consistently with institutional donors.
   e) Engage actively in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT).
   f) Engage actively in inter-agency Clusters and Working Groups.

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**Shelter Cluster Coordination**

**Note: Budget linked with shelter, housing, and settlements since IFRC is not co-convenor of the Cluster in Afghanistan**

**Objective:**
The IFRC network’s capacity for influencing the prioritization, design, resourcing, implementation, and quality of shelter interventions in favor of affected populations is optimized.

**Priority Actions:**
1. Engage actively in Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster.
2. Engage a Shelter Delegate and technical team.
4. Coordinate with the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster for access to 10 tractors – already provided to ARCS by the IFRC – for transportation of shelter materials in remote areas by all shelter actors.

### IFRC Secretariat Services

**Objective:**
IFRC member National Societies supporting programmes and operations in Afghanistan, with or without in-country presence, receive high-quality corporate services from their Secretariat.

1. Provide key services to integrated National Societies, including procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management.
2. Provide ad hoc services to non-integrated National Societies based on their requests.
3. Maintain and follow an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process, including a Federation-wide risk register and business continuity plan.
4. Facilitate global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities).
5. Facilitate joint monitoring, quality assurance, and evaluations, including access to third-party monitoring services.
7. Support improved follow-up on audit recommendations.
8. Support improved financial management.

### Risk management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Likelihood</th>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Mitigating actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Natural hazards such as harsh winter, floods and landslides, constraining access, and distributions. | High       | Medium | To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC will:
|                                                                      |            |        | • Preposition supplies at strategic locations in zone and branch levels.          |
|                                                                      |            |        | • Map out alternative road options for access.                                   |
| Situations of violence in target provinces/districts that impact:   | Medium     | Medium | To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC will:
| Access                                                              |            |        | • Negotiate with the authorities and groups that may be controlling specific areas. |
| Safety (of staff and volunteers)                                     |            |        | • Engage local volunteers and community leaders at all stages of service delivery.|
| Supply chain                                                        |            |        | • Provide security briefing to staff and volunteers.                             |
|                                                                      |            |        | • Ensure that staff and volunteers are equipped with identification and visibility items. |
- Disseminate the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented.
- All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Level 1-3.
- Preposition supplies at strategic locations in zone and branch levels.
- Map out and use alternative road options for access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major supply chain risks in Afghanistan:</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Logistics bottleneck and delays in procurement impact programme delivery timelines.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited supplies in the markets hinder procurement.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delay on international procurement due to the global supply chain disruption.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted banking services affect cashflow, including for payment of suppliers.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraud and/or corruption.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Strengthen supply chain management team and continuously review processes to make improvements.
- Sub-contract a portion of the operation to PNS present in Afghanistan based on their unique capabilities and capacities.
- Diversify sourcing options, including from neighbouring countries.
- Preposition readiness stocks in strategic locations across the country for timely response.
- Engage financial service providers who are licensed by the Central Bank and thoroughly screened as well as use the UN Cash Bridge.
- Undertake regular context analysis to inform adjustments in approaches or implementing modalities, and thus switching between cash assistance or in-kind modalities as needed.
- Screen all vendors and service providers against UN and OFAC sanctions lists prior to entering contracts.
- Socialize the IFRC fraud and corruption prevention policy to vendors and service providers.
- Apply relevant control measures, including having the IFRC Country Delegation as the first-line defense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With restrictions on the movement of women, there may be limitations or challenges in the deployment of female staff from the headquarters for distribution and monitoring in the field.</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Medium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustain private diplomacy for the female staff and volunteers to continue operating in the fields and offices.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure that all staff are equipped with identification and visibility items.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Localize and customize arrangements.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize community-based volunteers and groups such as grandmother committees.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Quality and accountability

Efforts to ensure quality and accountability in this operation encompass a broad spectrum. They will include regular spot checks, programmatic monitoring, capturing learning and feeding into the operation, periodic and final evaluations, and annual audits. An emphasis will also be placed on rationalizing resources according to needs to attain value for money; this will be part of the shared Federation-wide vision to consolidate, streamline and link common services or support that is currently provided.

A Quality and Accountability Department is in place within the IFRC Country Delegation. It comprises personnel specializing in CEA, PGI, and planning monitoring evaluation, and reporting (PMER). To ensure transparency and accountability and capture satisfaction with cash and in-kind distribution, PMER teams of the IFRC network will conduct exit interviews during distributions and post distribution monitoring after 2-12 weeks of distributions. Post-distribution monitoring findings will be shared with programmes teams to inform improvements and to enhance the quality of services. Further, an independent entity will be engaged to undertake third-party monitoring to complement internal approaches.

Federation-wide monitoring and evaluation will put emphasis on timely information to support decision-making, with key indicators tracked on an online dashboard. The cross-cutting approaches of CEA and PGI will continue to complement and strengthen sectoral programming. Other efforts complaint and feedback mechanisms, and application of the respective IFRC and ARCS policies on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Key indicators for monitoring and evaluation are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter, Housing and Settlement</td>
<td>Number of multi-crises affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of households provided with cash/voucher and technical assistance for repairs or construction shelter that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>Number of targeted households reached with essential on-farm and/or off-farm and/or non-farm inputs/materials/tools for production.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of targeted households reached with essential on-farm, off-farm, and non-farm inputs/materials/tools for income generation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of households and/or community groups (disaggregated by types) received working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of women and youth at risk received support for vocational training and tools for starting income-generation activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose cash</td>
<td>Number of households who successfully received cash for basic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Care</td>
<td>Number of health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of people reached with primary health services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of people reached with first aid by trained volunteers or staff.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene | Number of water sources constructed or rehabilitated (wells with pumps, spring protection, community ponds with filtration).  
Number of constructed household/communal sanitation facilities (this is more than excreta disposal)  
Number of people (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities |
| Protection, Gender, and Inclusion | Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming |
| Community Engagement and Accountability | Percent of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information. |
| Migration | Number of returnees and internally displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection |
| National Society Strengthening | Number of ARCS staff and volunteers trained in different sector(s) (disaggregated by sector and gender) |

The IFRC will facilitate a Federation-wide approach to support the ARCS PMER department to enhance its monitoring, reporting, information management, and learning capacity. This will include training in data quality, ethics, and management, planning, monitoring, and reporting as well as digital transformation. Moreover, the IFRC will have field officers who will, among others, undertake regular monitoring together with ARCS counterparts at zone or branch levels to complement remote monitoring. In addition to standard reports (such as operations updates which serve as public reports for donors/partners and other audiences) and pledge-based, other Federation-wide products to be produced will include, situation reports, and a 3W dashboard to be issued on the Afghanistan page of IFRC GO.

A Compliance, Risk Management, and Safeguarding Department has been established within the IFRC Country Delegation. In addition to a manager, it includes personnel specializing in compliance, risk management, and safeguarding. The team ensures adherence to internal/external compliance requirements, response to sexual exploitation and abuse including misconduct related to child safeguarding, and ensures all possible risks are identified and mitigated.

A Supply Chain Management Department exists within the IFRC Country Delegation. In addition to a manager, it includes personnel specializing in customs, fleet management, logistics, procurement, and warehousing. Procurement 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), utilizing, if required, IFRC GHS & SCM structures and existing regional arrangements.

**FUNDING REQUIREMENT**

**Federation-wide funding requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federation Wide Funding Requirement including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Partner National Society funding requirement</th>
<th>IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement in support of the Federation Wide funding ask</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 million CHF</td>
<td>30 million CHF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For more information on Federation-Wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

The Federation-wide funding requirement reflected above are for this Operational Strategy only. The Emergency Appeal has three operational strategies:
• Initial Operational Strategy for the wider humanitarian crisis operation (IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement of CHF 80 million and Federation-wide Funding Requirement of CHF 180 million)
• The Operational Strategy for the earthquake response operation (IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement of CHF 10 million and Federation-wide Funding Requirement of CHF 20 million)
• This Operational Strategy (IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement of CHF 30 million and Federation-wide Funding Requirement of CHF 100 million).

The Federation-wide funding requirement for the entire Revised Emergency Appeal are as follows:

ARCS provides primary healthcare and immunization services reaching the last mile in rural and remote areas of Afghanistan (read more on this link). (Photo: Meer Abdullah Rasikh, IFRC)
## Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement

### OPERATING STRATEGY

**MDRAF007 – Afghanistan – Protracted Humanitarian Crisis**

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned Operations</th>
<th>Amount (in CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and Basic Household Items</td>
<td>2,637,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>4,374,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose Cash</td>
<td>4,732,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>6,639,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>1,467,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</td>
<td>507,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>272,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>618,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery</td>
<td>2,644,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement and Accountability</td>
<td>397,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>53,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enabling Approaches</th>
<th>Amount (in CHF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Partnerships</td>
<td>3,248,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Services</td>
<td>960,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Society Strengthening</td>
<td>1,538,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

- **24,340,000**
- **5,746,000**
- **30,086,000**

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*
Contact information

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

At the Afghan Red Crescent Society:
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- Hae-Won Son, SEP, Asia Pacific Regional Office; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)
- Mursidi Unir, PMER in Emergencies Coordinator, email: mursidi.unir@ifrc.org

Reference
Click here for:
- Previous Appeals and updates