



ARCS provides essential household items to the households affected by floods in Baghlan province. (Photo credit: Meer Abdullah/IFRC)

Appeal No: MDRAF015	To be assisted: 140,000 people	Appeal launched: 15/05/2024
Glide No: FF-2024-000049-AFG	DREF allocated: CHF 750,000	Disaster Categorization: Orange
Operation start date: 13/05/2024	Operation end date: 31/05/2025	Date of issue: 12/06/2024

IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: CHF 5 million
Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 7.5 million¹

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Afghan Red Crescent Society in response to the emergency. It includes funding requirements of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as well as other expected bilateral support (CHF 2.5 million), and the funding requirements of the IFRC Secretariat (CHF 5 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

TIMELINE



16-20 April 2024: Persistent rains cause flooding across 24 provinces of Afghanistan. Initial reports indicate at least 40 deaths, and 84 injuries. Over 8,200 houses damaged, with at least 80,000 people affected.

10-11 May 2024: Heavy rainfall causes deadly flashfloods in northeastern region of Afghanistan, with the provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar bearing the brunt. More than 200 lives are lost, over 8,900 houses damaged or destroyed.

14 May 2024: Data consolidated by ARCS indicates that the number of deaths nationwide owing to flooding, since April, exceeds 250. At least 30,000 households (210,000 people) affected nationwide.

17 May 2024: A new wave of heavy rainfall and floods sweep across the provinces of Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Samangan, and Sar-e Pul killing at least 50 people.

18 May 2024: Data consolidated by ARCS indicates that the number of deaths nationwide owing to flooding, since April, exceeds 300. More than 35,400 households (247,850 people) affected nationwide.

16-20 April 2024: The Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) deploys Branch Disaster Teams (BDRT) for immediate assistance and rapid assessments. Mobile health teams (MHT) mobilized to provide emergency health services.

4 May 2024: IFRC allocates CHF 750,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to enable ARCS deliver immediate assistance to 4,000 households (28,000 people). The operation targets 11 of the most affected provinces.

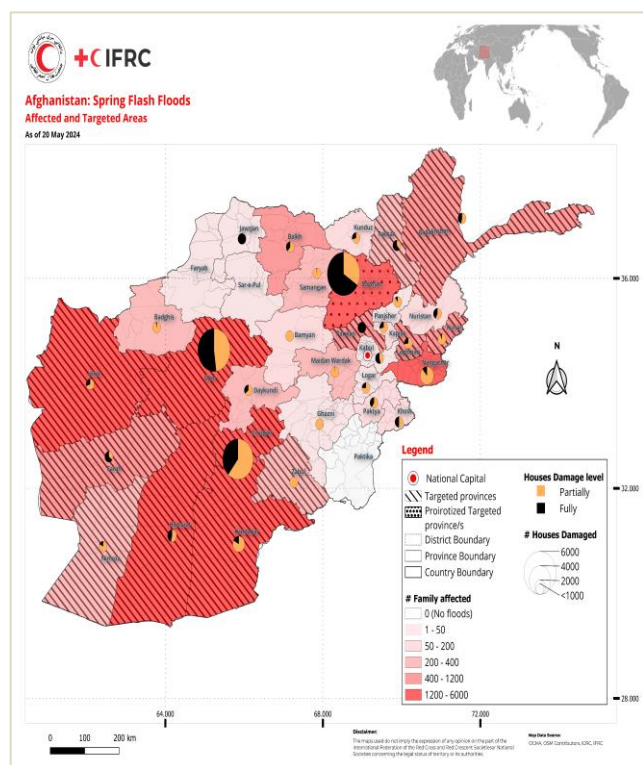
5 May 2024: IFRC dispatches non-food items (NFI) for 1,500 households from preparedness stocks in Kabul to seven provinces affected by floods.

12 May 2024: IFRC dispatches non-food items (NFI) for 500 households from preparedness stocks in Kabul to Baghlan.

25 May 2024: IFRC dispatches NFI for 400 households from preparedness stocks in Kabul to Ghor.

28 May 2024: Distribution of IFRC-provided NFI to 2,570 households (17,990 people) in eight provinces and multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) to 2,500 households in six provinces completed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT



On 10 May 2024, flash floods swept across multiple provinces in the northeast region of Afghanistan, leaving more than 250,000 people homeless. The provinces most impacted by the flash floods were Badakhshan, Baghlan, and Takhar. These floods followed earlier flooding from 16 to 20 April 2024, which had affected 24 provinces.

Based on data consolidated by the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), as of 18 May 2024, at least 300 deaths had been reported in 33 provinces. More than 35,400 households (257,850 people) have been directly affected across the country, with one million people at risk of being indirectly affected nationwide.

An estimated 22,000 livestock and close to 120,000 acres of agricultural land were destroyed. There are also numerous reports of bridges being destroyed, though the total numbers are yet to be confirmed. The 10 May 2024 flash floods intensified the flooding across the Northeast, and by 17 May, the situation had worsened. The combination and accumulation of these floods have caused severe humanitarian needs. A total of 33

provinces (out of 34 provinces in Afghanistan) have been impacted, with Baghlan and Ghor hardest hit. The situation continues to develop, as more rainfall is still forecasted in the affected areas in the coming days.

ARCS is supporting the immediate response with teams comprising dozens of responders, augmented by staff from the IFRC network in-country, who are on the ground responding.

This situation also occurs against the backdrop of ongoing crises across Afghanistan, following the compounding impacts of multiple shocks, including severe drought, multiple instances of flooding and earthquakes, public health emergencies, and economic hardship. The political changes of August 2021 prompted the application of a sanctions regime, which has fueled economic hardship due to constrained international banking.

An estimated 23.7 million people—more than half of Afghanistan’s population—require humanitarian assistance² to survive as the country enters its fourth consecutive year of drought conditions and the third year of crippling economic decline, while still reeling from the pre-existing effects of decades-long conflict. According to the INFORM risk index 2024, Afghanistan ranks as the fourth country in the world with the highest risk of humanitarian crises and disasters that may require international assistance.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

1. Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services.

There have been widespread impacts on transportation infrastructure in many districts, particularly in the provinces of Baghlan, Badakhshan, Ghor, and Uruzgan. Floodwaters caused by several days of intense rains rendered many roads impassable, washed away bridges, and deposited significant quantities of material from landslides.

Moreover, there has been extensive damage to homes across various provinces, with 30,128 houses affected, including 11,245 fully destroyed and 18,883 partially damaged. Uruzgan, Baghlan, and Ghor are among the most

² OCHA Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024

severely impacted provinces. Uruzgan has 2,203 houses fully destroyed and 3,462 partially damaged, totaling 5,665 affected homes. Baghlan has 4,013 houses fully destroyed and 2,041 partially damaged, resulting in 6,054 affected homes. Ghor has experienced 338 houses fully destroyed and 2,383 partially damaged, totaling 2,721 affected homes. This widespread devastation has displaced numerous families, highlighting the urgent need for humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts to restore stability and support the affected populations in rebuilding their lives.

Furthermore, most households have lost food stocks, agricultural inputs, and livestock, and traders have lost stocks they would have sold to earn an income. Essential commodities are scarce in the market, with existing supplies being damaged or spoiled by the floods. People do not have food or the financial means to buy essential household items. Those already in debt will struggle to repay due to a reduced means of income. Therefore, there is a need to support the re-establishment of livelihoods utilizing in-kind or Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA).

The widespread destruction highlights the urgent need for shelter and recovery efforts, particularly in Baghlan, Ghor, Uruzgan, and other severely impacted provinces. Additionally, there is a need to provide affected households with water storage containers, water purification tablets for household water treatment where necessary, and hygiene items that meet the needs of all groups, including appropriate sanitary materials for menstrual hygiene management.

The flooding has negatively impacted businesses, according to the REACH Rapid Market Assessment. Though vendors continued to operate their businesses within their marketplaces, there have been reports of constrained operations, with some areas experiencing a reduced number of traders or inaccessibility to some commodities.

The coordinated response from humanitarian partners and local authorities is crucial to addressing these immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery.

2. Impact on physical and mental well being

The recent floods have left more than one million people reeling from compounding realities magnified by previous events earlier in the year. Given the existential humanitarian situation, which disproportionately affects the rural population, there will be challenges in providing basic essentials such as medicines, clean water, and sanitation. Additionally, access to health and mental health services over the medium term may not be possible for many.

There is a critical shortage of medicines, emphasizing the need for increased supplies. Non-medical and medical equipment in certain health facilities have been damaged, while some health centres need repair and rehabilitation. Several health facilities are at risk of flooding and need preventive measures. Some clinics providing essential nutrition services were rendered non-functional due to flood damage. There is an urgent need for clean drinking water in the flood-affected districts.

The floods have resulted in the separation of families, some due to deaths and others due to relocation to shelters and other means of accommodation. These families have had to bear the added stress of not knowing the status of their loved ones and the likelihood of reunification. Many also suffered the trauma of seeing family and community members drown, as well as the destruction of their homes, farms, and the death of livestock. These situations can have a profound psychological impact on individuals and may require intensive and prolonged treatment.

Livelihoods have been significantly affected, as most of the population depends on agriculture and livestock to support their families. With vast tracts of farmland washed away and thousands of livestock killed, there is an increased risk to national food security and resultant malnutrition. ARCS assessment findings indicated that flood survivors adopt negative coping strategies, such as skipping meals. Additionally, the nutrition supplements provided by other partners meant for children under five are being shared by entire families.

These needs highlight the critical areas where support and resources are required to address the health and well-being of the communities impacted by the floods.

3. Risks & vulnerabilities

With more rains anticipated and potentially increasing as Afghanistan moves into the monsoon season, there may be additional and catastrophic flooding as already saturated regions of the country are impacted once more. The risk of landslides also increases significantly, posing a major threat to villages precariously located on hillsides or at high elevations. Additionally, rockfalls and mudflows may damage or destroy houses and other infrastructure located in the path of downslope flows.

The population's vulnerability is exacerbated by the poor quality of the housing stock, limited to no supporting infrastructure, and high levels of land degradation. Vulnerable groups already displaced by the recent flood event are also faced with considerable risks for waterborne diseases due to damage to sanitation facilities and disruption to water supplies.

Protection concerns for women and girls are on the rise, with many women at risk of not obtaining information on flood preparedness and missing out on much-needed assistance.

Residents, including women, children, and adolescents, have evacuated their villages and are currently residing in mountainous or open areas in the affected provinces.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

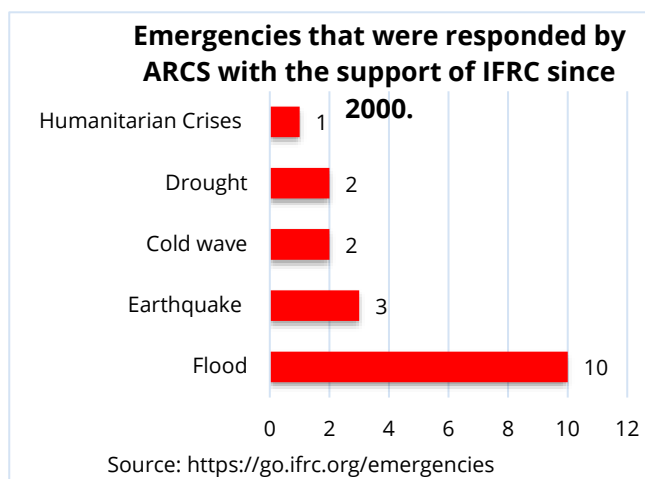
1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

ARCS has a strong nationwide presence and local networks, enabling it to reach vulnerable populations, including those in remote and underserved areas. The National Society has extensive expertise across a range of humanitarian interventions and long-term programming, supported by the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other partners. These interventions include 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, dissemination of international humanitarian law (IHL), humanitarian values, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, and physical rehabilitation for internally displaced persons (IDPs) with physical disabilities.

ARCS volunteers play a critical role throughout programming, handling assessments, identification, registration, hygiene and health promotion, and community mobilization. With 34 provincial branches and 24,000 volunteers (6,700 females), ARCS is well-equipped for large-scale, long-term preparedness and response programs in coordination with authorities. ARCS has a history of lifesaving assistance across Afghanistan and is a key national partner in disaster response and preparedness.

Key National Society data: FDRS - 2022	
Number of staff	3,909
Number of volunteers	24,000
Number of local units	122³



³ This includes one national headquarter, seven regional or zone offices, 34 provincial branches, and dozens of district assemblies that are currently being established.

Since 2000, ARCS, with the support of IFRC, has responded to 18 emergencies, with floods comprising the highest number (10), followed by earthquakes, droughts, and cold waves. Applying principled humanitarian action, ARCS enjoys an elevated level of acceptance and has access to communities across the entire country. Its branches have teams of volunteers trained in disaster preparedness and response. Further, it has 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 over 200 facilities, which includes a 50-bed hospital in Kabul, 46 fixed clinics, one comprehensive health centre (CHC), 23 health sub-centres, and 101 mobile health teams (MHTs) and/or emergency MHTs active in all 34 provinces. These 168 facilities (71 fixed) are augmented by temporary facilities known as health camps. There are 168 health camps and satellite camps focusing on polio eradication, operational since 2023. Additionally, ARCS is the only organization in Afghanistan that provides treatment for congenital heart defects (CHD).

Currently, there is one ongoing emergency appeal, Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) for Humanitarian Crises in Afghanistan. Under this appeal, the IFRC Secretariat's funding requirement is CHF 120 million, while the Federation-wide funding requirement is CHF 300 million. Two million people (286,000 households) are targeted to be reached via IFRC Secretariat support and five million through Federation-wide efforts.

The Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) has two active Operational Strategies:

- [Protracted Humanitarian Crises Operational Strategy](#) – timeframe to end on 31 December 2024.
- [Herat earthquakes Operational Strategy](#) – timeframe to end on 31 December 2024.

After December 2024, any pending activities of Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) will continue under the Afghanistan Unified Plan 2025/2026. The IFRC Network Country Plans provide an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This approach aims to streamline activities under one plan while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due course should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Likewise, there are two ongoing IFRC-DREF operations:

- Afghanistan population movement [\(MDRAF013\)](#)- timeframe to end – 31 May 2024
- Afghanistan cold wave [\(MDRAF014\)](#)- timeframe to end – 31 July 2024

Furthermore, in early May 2024, IFRC allocated CHF 750,000 from the IFRC-DREF for the current floods operation. The IFRC-DREF allocation has since become loan to the subsequent Emergency Appeal - [MDRAF015](#).

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 work for the next 1 and half years is guided by its Strategic Plan 2021-2025 which was refreshed in May 2022 to realign priorities with the evolving country context. The strategic plan, whose theme is "everywhere for everyone", has four goals:

- Goal 1: Communities with strengthened life-saving resources and capacities to respond to and recover from natural disasters, health emergencies, and conflict-generated shocks.
- Goal 2: Communities with higher long-term resilience through risk reduction, improved health and livelihoods, and adaptation to climate change and migration.

- Goal 3: Communities respecting the Fundamental Principles, and promoting diversity, human dignity, tolerance, non-discrimination, social inclusion, and peace.
- Goal 4: ARCS, 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

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 Humanitarian Crises Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) 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 Organization, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Philippine Red Cross and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross.

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 is no overlap 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

As of 16 May 2024, Health Cluster partners have been actively involved in responding to flood-affected areas. Actions taken include the deployment of mobile teams by organizations such as AKF, ORCD, and JACK Kunduz, as well as the provision of ambulance services by AKHS. The Health Cluster coordination team collaborated with Shelter/NFI partners to address the need for tents in flood-affected health facilities.

Additionally, in close collaboration with the Nutrition and Shelter/NFI Clusters, the Health Cluster ensured the availability of essential nutrition and shelter services for affected communities. Multiple organizations, including AADA, AFGA, AKF, AKHS, ARCS, ICRC, IMC, IOM, JACK, MMRCA, MoPH, MSF, ORCD, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNICEF, and WHO, supported health responses in Baghlan, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces.

This support involved the deployment of 33 Mobile Health and Nutrition Teams (MHNTs), provision of medical supplies, deployment of ambulances, and assessment of affected areas. In Baghlan, 30 MHNTs were deployed to deliver emergency healthcare services, benefiting a total of 7,476 flood-affected individuals, including women, men, girls, and boys. Services provided included primary healthcare consultations, health promotion activities, mental health and psychosocial support, maternal and child health services, and trauma care services. (Afghanistan Health Cluster Report)

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, 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

The widespread floods across much of Afghanistan, affecting 33 out of the country's 34 provinces, highlight the massive scale of this disaster and the substantial humanitarian needs that have emerged. Since the beginning of April, preliminary data consolidated by the ARCS indicates that 30,128 houses have been affected, along with significant loss of life and injuries across various provinces. Despite the scale of the disaster, there are notable gaps in the response. Provinces like Baghlan, Ghor, and Hilmand have reported high numbers of fatalities and injuries, with Baghlan alone accounting for 236 deaths and 251 injuries. Ghor and Hilmand follow with 62 and 36 deaths, respectively, and significant injuries. However, several provinces, such as Panjsher, Kapisa, Bamyan, Nimroz, Paktya, and Kunduz, have reported no casualties, which might indicate discrepancies in reporting or varying levels of disaster impact and response efficiency. The widespread devastation, particularly in Uruzgan, Baghlan, and Ghor, underscores the urgent need for a more coordinated and comprehensive humanitarian response to address the immediate needs of the affected populations and mitigate further suffering.

Basic household relief items, shelter, and other basic needs remain a challenge for the over one million people displaced who are living in temporary settlements without any basic facilities. These needs continue to be a priority for affected populations. Major needs include immediate shelter and housing solutions, as many families have lost their homes or are living in severely damaged structures. There is an urgent need for essential household items such as blankets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and dignity kits tailored to meet the different needs of men and women, to help restore a sense of normalcy and dignity.

Additionally, there is a need for comprehensive community training on safer building practices and disaster resilience, particularly focusing on flood and earthquake-resistant construction techniques. The training and engagement of local masons in constructing disaster-resilient transitional shelters are crucial for sustainable recovery. Efficient debris clearance is essential to facilitate reconstruction efforts and ensure safety and accessibility in the affected areas.

Many affected households have lost food stocks, agricultural inputs, and livestock, while traders have lost stocks they would have sold to earn an income. People who were already in debt will struggle to repay due to reduced means of income. Protection concerns for women and girls are increasing, with many at risk of not receiving information on disaster preparedness and missing out on much-needed assistance. There is, therefore, a need to support the re-establishment of livelihoods using in-kind or Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). People whose homes were swept away are in dire need of clothing, and NFIs, especially women and girls, need culturally appropriate dignity kits.

Afghanistan is largely a mountainous country with limited vegetation. Settlements are usually established on plains along seasonal rivers, which allow communities to access rich alluvial soil deposited by floodwater and navigate the lands easily, but also expose them to flood hazards. With enhanced rainfall in the mountains, running water causes floods in the plains, as seen in this case. Families resting in their homes were caught

unaware by rains in the distant mountains, resulting in homes being destroyed and swept away, causing loss of life and massive destruction of homesteads in affected areas. Affected communities are now without homes and are being sheltered in temporary camps. They need assistance in rebuilding their homes in safer areas.

Due to over 40 years of protracted conflict, little progress has been made in investing in disaster risk reduction measures across the country. Most people are unaware of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) protocols that can be cascaded at the community level and led by them. There is a need to establish community DRR committees in intervention areas.

More than 80 per cent of Afghans rely on agriculture as a means of livelihood. With floods sweeping away crops and fruit trees, there is a need not only to assist the affected population with food to meet their dietary needs but also to support their recovery efforts by providing saplings to restart their orchards. Health services penetration in the country is quite poor, and health facilities have been swept away, along with other critical infrastructure. This calls for the deployment of mobile health teams to provide basic primary health services in communities, prevent the spread of diseases, treat manageable conditions, and educate communities on hygiene practices in light of floods. Additionally, water and sanitation facilities have been destroyed or damaged, and communities should be assisted with emergency hygiene kits, clean drinking water, and water treatment sachets.

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. Furthermore, IFRC has framework agreement with four financial service providers for cash based assistance.

Although there has been an improvement in the 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 is part of a **Federation-wide approach**, based on the response priorities of the Operating National Society and in consultation with all IFRC members contributing to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist to leverage the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for this Emergency Appeal comprises all support and funding to be channeled to the Operating National Society in the response to the emergency event. This includes the operating National Society's domestic fundraising ask, the fundraising ask of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the funding ask of the IFRC Secretariat.

The Norwegian Red Cross supported the mobilization of three emergency MHTs to Baghlan to strengthen the ARCS emergency health response. The Danish Red Cross donated DKK 500,000 towards the ARCS response in addition to mobilizing one mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) staff to complement the ARCS team in Baghlan. The Iranian Red Crescent has provided blankets, food items and tents for distribution in flood-affected areas of Herat⁴. The Qatar Red Crescent Society has provided food and NFI for distribution to 1,000 households in Baghlan⁵. The Turkish Red Crescent has provided a total of 200 tents – 50 for Badghis, 100 for Baghlan, and 50 for Ghor – and is supporting ARCS in provision of hot meals to displaced population in Baghlan.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

This operation aims to address the **multisectoral needs** of the people most affected by the floods in **14 provinces**. Specifically, the operation will contribute to meeting urgent basic needs, including food, shelter, livelihoods, health, WASH, and essential household items through in-kind and cash assistance. It will deliver quality health assistance through established or improved ARCS capacities, including treatment and follow-up for children with congenital heart disease. The operation will provide shelter solutions, support livelihood restoration and diversification, and strengthen socio-economic resilience, especially among women-headed households, widows, and households facing destitution. Additionally, it aims to improve access to WASH services, support for coping with winter conditions, and integrate risk reduction measures. The operation will streamline protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) considerations and enhance community engagement and accountability (CEA) across all interventions. Furthermore, it will invest in strengthening the local response capacity of ARCS and state entities for humanitarian services.

Proposed strategy

Integrated assistance

The health facilities mobilized to provide emergency health services in the aftermath of the flooding have gradually reverted to serving their usual catchment areas. Medicines and other consumables that were utilized to address emergency needs resulting from the floods will be replenished using financial resources mobilized for this Operational Strategy, ensuring there is no disruption to pre-agreed service delivery. Similarly, some Non-Food Items (NFI) that were prepositioned under Emergency Appeal - MDRAF007 have been utilized to address immediate needs in flood-affected areas; replenishment will be funded through the financial resources mobilized via Emergency Appeal - MDRAF015. Looking ahead, it is anticipated that more rains and floods will affect Afghanistan over the coming months. This may prompt a revision of Emergency Appeal - MDRAF015, with the option to update this Operational Strategy or create another one linked to the same Emergency Appeal.

The target population will receive emergency and transitional shelter, cash-based assistance, essential household items, healthcare, WASH services, and livelihood support to enhance socioeconomic resilience for vulnerable groups, bridging gaps towards sustainable development. Central to this strategy is the commitment to evidence-based health and WASH operations, ensuring that all actions are grounded in thorough needs assessments and relevant data.

⁴ <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/498954/IRCS-send-relief-consignment-to-flood-hit-Afghanistan>

⁵ <https://www.gulf-times.com/article/683394/qatar/qrcs-steps-up-humanitarian-aid-co-ordination-in-afghanistan>

The IFRC aims to provide integrated, quality basic health services through the deployment of well-coordinated mobile health teams and a robust network of community-based volunteers trained in Psychological Support Services (PSS) and Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). This network will be instrumental in maintaining the agility and relevance of the IFRC's response to health emergencies.

An integrated operational approach will be adopted to address these critical areas effectively. Additionally, the IFRC will prioritize efficient pharmaceutical supply management, working closely with the logistics team to ensure the timely and safe delivery of medical supplies to those in need. This strategy underscores the IFRC's dedication to providing immediate and impactful support to the affected communities.

As part of the Community Health and First Aid programme, the plan involves establishing 17 community health committees and 17 grandmothers' committees (including orientation on CEA, PGI and feedback mechanisms) first. This will be followed by the training of 760 volunteers on eCBHFA (community-based health and first aid), epidemic control for volunteers (ECV), and hygiene promotion. The project will then conduct eCBHFA Training of Trainers (ToT) for ARCS staff and trainers. Additionally, the trained volunteers will be equipped with first aid kits and the necessary training kits and materials will be procured to support the program's implementation.

As part of the Community Initiative Micro Project-water supply network (CIMP), ARCS will focus on improving access to clean water through community-based health programs. In 2019 & 2020 through CIMP (Community Initiative Micro Project) three drinking water supply schemes implemented in Herat and Kapisa provinces. Implemented projects improved the climate resilience of water supply and increased storage and access. CIMP will continue and is part of ARCS strategic plan 2025.

A key aspect of the CIMP is its integration of climate resilience measures, including the use of energy-efficient and renewable energy-powered water pumping systems. These systems aim to achieve significant energy savings and reduce environmental impact. The CIMP will also incorporate community-driven initiatives to promote water conservation and address increasing water stress faced by communities. It is a comprehensive and community-driven approach that effectively addresses the immediate WASH needs of flood-affected communities, while also building their long-term resilience to climate-related health risks through sustainable water supply infrastructure and awareness-raising initiatives.

Shelter recovery efforts will be informed by ongoing consultations with authorities and the ES-NFI Cluster. Alongside the construction of transitional shelters, the targeted population will receive socio-technical and financial support for the construction of latrines by IFRC/ARCS. The Shelter Strategy aims to include an integrated resilience component through enhanced safer construction practices, including "building back safer" and constructing latrines.

The operational strategy for ARCS's shelter operation involves several key components to address the immediate and long-term needs of flood-affected households. ARCS will continue its detailed assessment operations to accurately identify all affected households and comprehensively document their needs. This will involve deploying additional Joint Assessment Teams and using alternative transportation methods to reach inaccessible areas. To meet the immediate needs of affected families, ARCS will continue distributing essential household items such as blankets, jerrycans, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, and dignity kits to approximately 4,000 households, prioritizing those most severely affected.

In addition, ARCS will organize "Building Back Safer" sessions to educate communities on safer construction techniques and disaster resilience, focusing on flood and earthquake-resistant structures. These sessions will include training for volunteers and staff on safe shelter awareness. Furthermore, ARCS will conduct on-the-job training for at least 150 masons through six training events, focusing on building disaster-resilient shelter construction. This hands-on training will be crucial for rebuilding efforts and creating a knowledgeable workforce capable of promoting safe building practices within their communities.

ARCS plans to construct transitional shelters, starting with six demo shelters along with latrines to serve as models and training sites for masons. Following this, ARCS plans to build an additional 194 transitional shelters along with latrines for families whose homes have been completely or severely damaged. This extensive

construction effort will follow a community-driven approach with conditional cash assistance, complemented by the provision of essential materials not readily available in the market, ensuring that shelters are built to high standards of safety and durability.

The IFRC is currently looking to launch a mobilization table to solicit and track in-kind donations. Livelihood interventions will focus on optimal use of natural resources and building community resilience, emphasizing environmental sustainability. The intervention will also provide winter support, integrate risk reduction measures, and streamline protection, gender, inclusion, and community engagement across all activities. It will invest in strengthening the local response capacity of the National Society and state entities.

Cash-based assistance

Cash-based assistance enables populations affected by the floods to make decisions according to their own priorities, boost local markets, and cost less than other aid options. For the cash disbursement, the partner financial service providers (FSPs) will be deployed in the flood affected area. ARCS/IFRC will continue to prioritize the cash-based assistance modality as needed in the operation. ARCS has experience in implementing CVA programmes. Additionally, IFRC Delegation and Partners in country has resource capacity in the country to support in this area. IFRC has developed framework agreements with FSPs that will enhance capacities to meet the humanitarian evolving needs using the cash modality.

National Society Development and localized action:

By investing in ARCS's institutional preparedness and development, this operation aims to enhance the National Society's ability to deliver effective humanitarian assistance and increase its operational efficiency, especially at the local level and at critical moments. The National Society Development (NSD) and National Society Preparedness (NSP) frameworks will guide the capacity strengthening initiatives for the affected branches to improve response capacity, preparedness, and integrated programme delivery.

Protection and prevention

The operation will streamline PGI as well as CEA in all activities. Through the initial assessment and household registration, ARCS will use vulnerability criteria such as seniors with responsibility for children, households headed by widows or single mothers with young children, households with chronically ill members, households with a member with a disability and households with pregnant and lactating women for prioritizing assistance in the communities. The operation will reach different layers of the community such as supporting single-parent households in addressing their livelihood needs.

Anticipated climate related risks and adjustments in operation

Afghanistan is highly prone to intense and recurring climate induced hazards – including earthquake, floods and droughts – which often cause disasters, some deadly. 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

This Emergency Appeal is targeting to reach 140,000 people directly through the support of the IFRC Secretariat to ARCS, across the 14 most affected provinces (Badakhshan, Baghlan, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nimruz, Parwan, Takhar, Uruzgan and Zabul) of Afghanistan, with priority on Baghlan. Indirectly, the operation will reach around 790,000 people through awareness campaign, community-based health and first aid (CBHFA), and community meetings.

Interventions will focus on the most vulnerable among the population affected by the floods based on specific targeting and selection criteria's and considering contextual realities resulting from the floodings. This operation will address immediate needs arising from the floods and anticipated medium-term needs,

considering that the recovery process will be happening during the colder months. The Emergency Appeal will be integrated into the IFRC Unified Plan in 2025/2026 to ensure continuity in addressing the recovery needs of the affected population. The IFRC's integrated multisectoral humanitarian intervention will prioritize:

- Households headed by women at risk (mostly widows);
- Households severely impacted by floods;
- Underprivileged households with children with congenital heart defects;
- Households whose heads have severe mental health;
- Households whose heads have been extensively impacted by substance abuse;
- Returnee and internally displaced households.

Within this, the following vulnerability criteria will be used to prioritize selection:

- Households without/ lost their livestock.
- Household who lost their agriculture land by the recent flash flood.
- Households headed by widows or single mothers with young children.
- Households with chronically ill members.
- Households with a member with a disability.
- Pregnant and lactating women.
- Elderly people with responsibility for children in the household.

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 and have their needs assessed. This perspective will also be incorporated during the data and information collection process also with a focus on collecting sex, and age disaggregated information 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.

The IFRC and ARCS staff, members and volunteers will be trained on how to use and implement the minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in emergencies in each sector – which includes information on ensuring dignity, accessibility, participation and safety such as child Safeguarding It aims to ensure that the emergency programming of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and National Societies provides dignity, access, participation and safety for all people affected by disasters and crises.

Continuous needs analysis will also ensure that other at-risk groups are not 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 grandmothers committees 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 needs around a gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive response, and the preferred feedback communication channel will be identified. Thus, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be mainstreamed throughout the response according IFRC's existing quality standards contextualised to the needs in this instance. A feedback channel, with clear protocols for feedback handling, and a comprehensive coordinated referral system will be mapped and established to ensure a protection mainstreamed approached.

The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups in the response teams and they will receive training on gathering and analysing sex, age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD), the Minimum Standards on PGI and on how to use and orient people in the volunteer and community groups to a feedback and complaint system which will allow for safe, confidential safeguarding and for referrals of sensitive feedback to other agencies.

Gender and diversity analysis will be considered during the need assessment to understand and respond to individuals and groups based on their specific needs, risks and concerns. SADDD has been and will continue to be collected and analysed to inform the implementation of the emergency response. After the flood, ARCS and IRC gender balanced team collected SADDD for the families affected by loss and damages. Within the response phase SADDD was also utilized for reach of support across gender. A continuous coordination among ARCS and IFRC will be done to ensure programmes mainstream Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS) approach and Minimum Standard on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), based on the identified needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground.


IFRC PGI focal point will support the gender balanced assessment teams to ensure collection and analysis of SADDD and provide chapter level orientation for staff and key volunteers on PGI with specific focus on Minimum Standard Commitments incorporation with other trainings as well as ensure identification and proactive inclusion of different target groups including gender. Provide orientation for staff and key volunteers on protection, gender and inclusion with specific focus on Minimum Standard Commitments incorporation with other trainings (including PSEA) DAPS enables us to ensure better access to assistance for vulnerable groups including marginalized and excluded people and ensures that those people have a meaningful say in the design and implementation of programmes designed to assist them. It puts in place necessary measures to minimize the risks of exploitation, abuse and violence.


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.


ARCS with support from IFRC, will ensure community engagement and accountability (CEA) is integrated into the program or operation. Well communication will be delivered through open and honest communication to communities to avoid any conflict, misinformation, and track rumors. The participation of community is also a crucial CEA part in the program which involves community's dialogue to plan, implement, and evaluate the ARCS program. And to ensure the community listening during the whole operation, community feedback will also be provided through Hotline, face-to-face meeting (individual or group), community meetings and other feedback channels that preferred by diverse community. Feedback data will be analyzed and reported to the operation team for action and program adaptation. 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 and community groups, including community leaders, men, women, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalized groups.

PLANNED OPERATIONS


	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: 300	Female < 18: 735	CHF 1,751,000
		Male > 18: 300	Male < 18: 765	Total target: 2,100
Objective:		Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct 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. Distribute essential household items. 5. Provide shelter repair/rebuilding support (cash or in-kind). 6. Provide cash assistance to enable people to purchase materials and hire labor. 7. Offer guidance on climate-smart building techniques and nature-based solutions (NBS), considering building back safer principles, to selected households, as well as volunteers and staff of ARCS. 8. Engage local construction specialists to advise on climate-smart and safe building techniques. 9. Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for in-kind/cash distributions. 		

	Livelihoods	Female > 18: 4,000	Female < 18: 1,500	CHF 188,000
		Male > 18: 4,000	Male < 18: 1,500	Total target: 11,000
Objective:		Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods.		
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct project kick-off meeting. 2. Establish community mobilization and local stream community committee. 3. Provide conditional cash to targeted households for livelihood activities. 4. Provide technical training to targeted households. 5. Procure tools for Cash for Work (CFW) activities. 6. Conduct lessons learned workshop. 		

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 5,000	Female < 18: 12,250	CHF 882,000
	Male > 18: 5,000	Male < 18: 12,750	Total target: 35,000
Objective:	The most affected communities are able to access and purchase essential food and household items and services in a secure and dignified manner.		
Priority Actions:	<p>MPCA offers people affected by crises the flexibility and dignity to choose how to cover their basic needs by providing unconditional cash. Priority actions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordinate with CVWG and other stakeholders. 2. Carry out community mobilization and sensitization. 3. Conduct market assessment. 4. Provide a one-time multipurpose cash assistance of USD 156 to each of 5,000 households to meet their essential emergency requirements for a period of one month. 5. Conduct lessons learned workshop. 6. Conduct exit survey, site observation, and PDM. 		


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

(MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT / COMMUNITY HEALTH)

 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 39,618	Female < 18: 54,710	CHF 1,073,000
	Male > 18: 36,570	Male < 18: 50,502	Total target: 181,400
Objective:	The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care		
Priority Actions:	<p>Primary Health and Immunization</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide primary health and immunization services through 15 ARCS MHTs. 2. Provide essential medicines and medical consumables to ARCS MHTs operating in the affected areas. 3. Provide integrated nutrition services through the MHTs deployed to respond to the affected communities. 4. Provide health education and awareness through the supported MHTs. <p>Mental Health and psychosocial support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Map MHPSS services and establish reliable referral pathways. 6. Train MHT staff on Psychological First Aid (PFA) 7. Train volunteers on PFA to conduct psychological first aid for affected people in their communities. 		


Community Health and First Aid

8. Conduct training of 760 Volunteers on eCBHFA and epidemic control for volunteers (ECV).
9. Establish 17 community health committees and 17 grandmothers' committees (including orientation on CEA, PGI and feedback mechanism)
10. Conduct eCBHFA ToT for ARCS staff and trainers.
11. Equip trained volunteers with first aid kits.
12. Procure training kits and materials.


	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female > 18: 13,978	Female < 18: 19,302	CHF 275,000
		Male > 18: 12,902	Male < 18: 17,818	Total target: 64,000
Objective:		Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities		
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training 760 volunteers on hygiene promotion. 2. Conducting hygiene promotion awareness-raising sessions, including menstrual hygiene management and household water treatment and safe storage messages, in the community. 3. Implementing 5 Community Initiative Micro Projects (CIMPs) for water supply networks. CIMP is a community-based, climate-resilient approach to improving access to clean water and promoting sustainable water management practices in targeted communities. 4. Installing 20 pit latrines in the most affected and needy communities. 5. Procuring and distributing 7,000 family hygiene kits. 6. Printing and distributing IEC materials. 		

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION


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

	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female > 18: 8,400	Female < 18: 5,600	CHF 167,000
		Male > 18: 3,600	Male < 18: 2,400	Total target: 20,000


Objective:	National Societies and the IFRC adopt and ensure Protection, Gender, and Inclusion approach across all operations, programmes, and services.
Priority Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mobilize volunteers or staff to conduct needs assessments in 7 regional provinces, focusing on females, children, and people with disabilities. 2. Train 250 staff and volunteers, including grandmothers' committees, on PGI minimum standards (DAPS). 3. Mainstream PGI in Health, WASH, Relief, Cash, Livelihood, and other relevant sectors. 4. Ensure that the Code of Conduct and Safeguarding (including Child Safeguarding and PSEA mechanisms) are in place and that staff and volunteers are sensitized. 5. Review and update the ARCS Gender policy. 6. Develop and train ARCS staff/volunteers on the sensitive feedback mechanism in collaboration with CEA. 7. Ensure the participation of vulnerable groups (women, girls, boys, children, people with disabilities, and minorities) in the program cycle. 8. Attend protection/GBV cluster and Gender in Humanitarian Actions working group meetings and actively participate in relevant ones. 9. Update the dignity kits list and leaflet to ensure PGI minimum standards are mainstreamed. 10. Distribute 3,000 dignity kits to the most vulnerable affected people in targeted provinces. 11. Support the ARCS Gender Department and Communication to develop and distribute key messaging on PGI to staff, volunteers, and communities

 <p>Community Engagement and Accountability</p>	Female > 18: 8,400	Female < 18: 5,600	CHF 62,000
	Male > 18: 3,600	Male < 18: 2,400	Total target: 20,000
Objective:	CEA will support the response to have a thorough understanding of community needs, priorities, and context, and integrate meaningful community participation, open and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback throughout the response		
Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train 250 ARCS staff and volunteers on CEA introduction and feedback mechanism in 14 targeted provinces. 2. Incorporate CEA questions in need assessment survey. 3. Mainstream CEA minimum action in Health, WASH, Shelter, Livelihood, Multipurpose cash and other relevant sectors. 4. Develop Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) for affected communities. 5. Inform community members about operation plans, progress, activities, selection criteria and distribution processes, delays and challenges, and their rights and entitlements. 6. Conduct community consultation meetings including 7 focus group discussion, 14 key informant interview and 14 interviews with male and 		


	<p>females separately to ensure the response is based on a thorough understanding of community needs, priorities, and context, including preferred ways to receive information, participate and give feedback.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Establish a ARCS Hotline system as an option of communication channel (beside face-to-face) to ensure the community listening during the operation. 8. Hire both female and male staff and build their capacity to handle the Hotline, feedback logbook, and communication techniques on the floods response for more effective responses to callers. 9. Develop community feedback and management guidelines, including SOP for the ARCS, to guide feedback integration and digitalization in response/long-term operations. 10. Promote the Hotline number through printing materials in the aid distribution area. 11. Analyze, respond to, and act on community feedback, using it to make changes or improvement to the operation.
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	Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	Female > 18: 100	Female < 18: 50	CHF 27,000
		Male > 18: 200	Male < 18: 150	Total target: 500
Objective:		Strengthen the capacity of communities in high-risk areas to anticipate and reduce risks associated with disasters and climate change.		
Priority Actions:		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that due consideration is given to the designs of transitional shelters, health, WASH and education facilities to build resilience to seismic and weather-related shocks. 2. Promote the 'build back better' principle and include "climate smart" considerations and designs. 3. Engage with the authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that sites considered for resettling displaced persons are not vulnerable to floods and associated impacts. 4. Conduct Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Training of Trainers for the ARCS. 		

Enabling approaches

	National Society Strengthening		CHF 188,000
		Objective: To strengthen National Society capacity to prepare and effectively respond to emergencies in accordance with its mandate.	

<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<p>Strengthen ARCS processes, systems, and procedures, and enhance service delivery to include training in EOC structure functioning and management for the National Headquarters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen ARCS Supply Chain Management (SCM) mechanisms and processes through training and development of required policies and procedures. 2. Advance the development of ARCS Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan and support its dissemination across all seven regions. 3. Expand the connectivity and digital capacity of ARCS branches through the provision of IT equipment and the required training for select branches. 4. Strengthen planning monitoring evaluation reporting and information management (PMER-IM) capacity of the National Society 5. Strengthen resource mobilization capacity of the National Society 6. Review and strengthen financial management systems. 7. Ensure human resource optimization at all levels of ARCS. 8. Conduct governance and leadership development activities at the branch and headquarters. 9. Conduct Financial Management, to include Budgeting for Preparedness and Response training for the ARCS. 10. Strengthen ARCS mechanisms for the effective roll-out of CVA (to include the development and alignment of policies of policies). 11. Develop Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Plan for the National Society. 12. Conduct Branch Disaster Response Team refresher training for branches located in provinces most at risk of being impacted by large-scale flooding. 13. Develop Provincial Preparedness and Response Plans aligned to existing National Plans and Policies of the ARCS
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 <p>Coordination and Partnership</p>			<p>CHF 171,000</p>
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>Technical and operational complementarity through the cooperation of Movement partners while engaging effectively with outside actors to influence actions at the local, regional, and global levels</p>		
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<p>There is a need to invest more to better articulate the auxiliary role of the National Society with all stakeholders, and accordingly, strengthen the IFRC's network footprint in the response.</p> <p>Membership Coordination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate and harmonize multilateral and bilateral support provided to the ARCS through a Federation-wide approach. 2. Apply Federation-wide planning, monitoring, and reporting with the ARCS at the lead and IFRC providing strategic coordination. 		


3. Hold coordination meetings for in-country RCRC partners.
4. Organize virtual coordination meetings for RCRC partners supporting the operation but with no in-country presence.
5. Ensure continued engagement through a dedicated coordinator for Membership Coordination.

Engagement with external partners

1. ARCS is a member of the disaster response committee of the ministry of disaster response which is assisting the humanitarian service delivery in the country in accordance with the seven fundamental principles of the movement.
2. Represent the IFRC network at various external forums involving other stakeholders (authorities, donor community, humanitarian community) including the possibility of deployment of a liaison officer to ensure that representation is adequate.
3. Accompany and support the ARCS in enhancing dialogue with the authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Movement Coordination

1. Promote a Movement-wide approach and support to the ARCS, wherever possible.

 <p>Shelter Cluster Coordination</p>			CHF 0
<p>Objective:</p>	<p>The IFRC network’s capacity for influencing the prioritization, design, resourcing, implementation, and quality of shelter interventions in favor of affected populations is optimized</p>		
<p>Priority Actions:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish risk mapping to inform the response. 2. Organize discussions on practical improvements to the needs assessment process and involve relevant counterparts. 3. Address cross-checking of villages/ beneficiaries' lists among partners/organizations 4. Discuss implementation modalities (cash/vouchers and in-kind) and hybrid approaches. 5. Review transitional shelter (one room and two rooms) design, drawings and BOQ. 6. Conduct an in-depth need analysis for shelter intervention in the flood affected areas. 7. Promote the shift from emergency to durable shelter solutions. 		



**IFRC
Secretariat
Services**

CHF 216,000

Objective:

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

Priority Actions:

Security

1. Maintain security assessments and plans of the operational areas including enhancement of security protocols in-country in coordination with all in-country partners.
2. Take adequate measures to ensure safety and security of all RCRC personnel involved in this operation:
 - All IFRC must, and NS staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.
 - The IFRC Country Delegation security team is maintaining close coordination with external humanitarian actors in-country on the situation particularly at the disaster affected areas.
 - The security team will also be maintaining close coordination with the ARCS units and local administrations in the operational areas.
 - The National Society's security framework will be applicable throughout the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers.
 - For personnel under the IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will be applicable.
 - Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel will follow the current IFRC travel approval process.
3. Maintain and follow an enhanced Federation-wide risk management process, Federation-wide risk register, contingency planning, and business continuity plan for Afghanistan.
4. Provide key services to integrated National Societies, including but not exclusively on procurement, transportation, accommodation, and security management.

Information technology and telecommunications

1. Support with suitable communication system (top up credit for phones or other telecommunication systems) and/or internet for the parties involved and as required.
2. Ensuring the use and providing (if required) licensed computer software and hardware as support for the operational requirements.

PMER - IM and learning

1. Roll out ARCS PMER/M&E framework.
2. Develop and maintain a monitoring system, including an appropriate data-management mechanism (e.g., a centralized database for storing and retrieving data)
3. Conduct exit survey at distribution points and post distribution monitoring.
4. Mobilize third party monitoring, if found applicable.
5. Conduct monitoring activities including joint monitoring visit.

6. Provide PMER-IM support enabling the effective planning and implementation, as well as reporting of the operation.
7. Conduct review meetings and lessons learned workshop.
8. Conduct final evaluation.
9. Develop a follow-up mechanism to implement the recommendations from review/evaluation.
10. Provide training to staff and volunteers on information management, PMER.

Communication

1. Develop and implement an emergency communications strategy for the disaster impact and response.
2. Coordinate with PMER on evidence-based messaging from research and evaluations, and SPRM for donor visibility requirements.
3. Showcase success stories from the implementation.
4. Promote flood response on social media and media
5. Generate photos and videos to support promotion and visibility of the flood response.
6. Coordinate with the humanitarian diplomacy, operations, and programmes team on relevant angles to be included in the communication materials planned to be produced for this operation.
7. IFRC's communications teams in APRO will provide support in communications efforts in sharing voices from the community and showcasing its response activities through international media coverage and the production of audio-visual materials. These materials will be shared with the wider IFRC network and the public to ensure broad visibility to the recovery efforts on various communications channels.

Supply chain management.

1. The IFRC country delegation has well-established procurement system to ensure required local procurement of goods and services under proper risk management and mitigations and in close coordination with the Regional Logistics unit in Asia Pacific within the IFRC Secretariat's of Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management structure.
2. Utilize framework agreement (FWA) for food parcels procurement.
3. Reorder household items locally if needed.
4. Import standard and replenish household items through Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Asia Pacific, Kuala Lumpur under the global FWA.
5. Based on need, urgency, and available opportunities, PNSs support and sourcing process may take place under the signed agreement between IFRC and PNSs.
6. Facilitate global supply chain and logistics services including procurement of in-kind items (for distribution) and engaging financial service providers (for cash assistance activities).
7. Facilitate joint monitoring, quality assurance and evaluations.
8. Support improved financial management and implement financial audits.

Finance

1. Finance unit supporting on validation of the plan and budget, account booking.
2. Coordination on procurement, expense validation, and payment process.

3. Ensure review of project proposals and financial compliances which support on audit process.
4. Ensure timely submission of pledge analysis and financial report in accordance with donor/partner requirement.

Risk management

In accordance with the IFRC's Risk Management Framework, the IFRC Country Delegation in Afghanistan has living risk register documents capturing risks relevant to the office and the organization, including safeguarding risks. The documents are regularly updated, and operations and security risk register documents are reviewed bimonthly. Risks analyzed and considered outside of the risk appetite are escalated to the regional and global levels. Since 1 September 2021, the IFRC has handled all procurement files in Afghanistan.

The IFRC country delegation has well-established procurement systems and a team to ensure procurement is open, fair, competitive, and transparent. The country delegation's procurement processes follow the global IFRC procurement procedures. In compliance with its internal policies, the IFRC screens its staff and suppliers in Afghanistan against UN sanctions lists. It also undertakes its own screening of all new ARCS staff at both headquarters and branch levels. All IFRC project managers have been trained in fraud and corruption, with training for new ones to be done within a month of joining. The IFRC screens all individuals and vendors paid by ARCS with funds from the IFRC and supports ARCS to ensure that sanctioned individuals are not responsible for the management of IFRC funds and resources.

Furthermore, there is a 100 per cent completion rate of the IFRC online course on fraud and corruption prevention. Awareness of the Integrity Line and the IFRC Whistleblowing and Case Management System is reinforced with posters in the corridors as well as during staff meetings.

Furthermore, since 1 May 2023, the country delegation has had a dedicated risk and compliance team responsible for reinforcing the systems of financial controls and risk management, working with the ARCS's audit and compliance department to regularly review all transactions and processes for compliance. Additionally, the IFRC has hired a Senior Safeguarding Officer based in Kabul who focuses primarily on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse, misconduct related to child safeguarding, and whistleblower protection policy. The officer develops and delivers safeguarding communication strategies, tools, and guidance for affected people and personnel of the IFRC network.

The Senior Safeguarding Officer coordinates with the IFRC global safeguarding team to review and update the IFRC Afghanistan country delegation safeguarding policy and rollout, ensuring that the policy aligns with the Movement Protection from PSEA policies. The Senior Officer is responsible for developing and delivering safeguarding training to personnel of the IFRC network and implementing partners, as well as providing strategic support to the ARCS to enhance knowledge and understanding of safeguarding issues and support the establishment and/or strengthening of safeguarding systems within the National Society.

A PSEA self-assessment is on the ground for assessing and ensuring best safeguarding practices within the IFRC and National Society. SEA Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis will be conducted for each project to ensure all IFRC programs are safe and mitigation actions are in place for possible safeguarding and SEA risks. Despite the regular PSEA, Child Safeguarding, and whistleblower protection policy training for staff and volunteers, during/after a disaster, the emergency response teams are oriented on the aforementioned policies before they deploy to the field, and community sensitizations are done regarding IFRC safeguarding policies.

For community sensitization, key safeguarding messages, available reporting channels, and referral pathways are discussed during assessments, distributions, health services, post-distribution monitoring, help desks, IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) materials, and other face-to-face meetings with communities. This helps service providers receive refresher training on IFRC PSEA and safeguarding policies, and communities are sensitized on the IFRC do-no-harm policy and their right to receive free services from IFRC/National Society and

share any concerns or feedback confidentially through available and discussed reporting channels.

Below is a list of the risks that were anticipated during the planning phase and mitigation measures followed during the operation period.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Natural hazards such as harsh winter, floods and landslides, constraining access, and distributions.	High	Medium	To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Safety of staff and volunteers • Supply chain 	Medium	Medium	The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. To mitigate the risk, ARCS and IFRC will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with the authorities and groups that may be controlling specific areas. • Engage local volunteers and community leaders at all stages of service delivery. • 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. • Conduct area-specific security risk assessment for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there. • Identify and implement risk mitigation measures. • Make the IFRC Stay Safe e- learning courses; Stay Safe 2.0 Global edition Level 1-3 mandatory for all IFRC staff and encourage RCRC staff and volunteers to complete the course. • Preposition supplies at strategic locations in zone and branch levels. • Map out and use alternative road options for access.
Major supply chain risks in Afghanistan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logistics bottleneck and delays in procurement impact programme delivery timelines. • Border closure by neighboring countries leading to longer transit time. • Limited supplies in the markets • hinder procurement. 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted banking services affect cashflow and payment to suppliers. • Number of checking, screening, and verifications must conduct due to sanction country. Lack of documentation like financial audited report during financial due diligence checking, hence this is not abundant by the local authority. • Fraud and/or corruption. 			<p>analysis to inform adjustments in approaches or implementing modalities, and thus switching between cash assistance or in-kind modalities as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 defence.
Risks associated with community-based cash and/or in-kind distribution activities	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish proper community engagement and accountability mechanism in place. • Put in place crowd control mechanisms, including gender-segregated queuing structures outside of the distribution centres and will mark queues using hazard tape inside the distribution centres. • Invite people receiving assistance to come to the distribution centres in groups, thereby reducing the amount of time they spend queuing outside.
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.	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain private diplomacy for the female staff and volunteers to continue operating in the fields and offices. • Ensure that all staff are equipped with identification and visibility items. • Localize and customize arrangements. • Utilize community-based volunteers and groups such as grandmother committees.
Transportation (road & air), Kabul to provinces	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan all activities involving air travel in advance. • Regularly monitor and update list of available, both commercial and humanitarian flights to provinces.
Fragility of the Banking system affecting liquidity. Fluctuation of exchange rates affecting the approved budget lines	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess the and monitor the situation and explore option to ensure funding is secured and brought into country through proper channels. • Review and revision of the budget including reallocation of expenses to remain aligned with budgets.
In the event of resurging COVID-19 and its impact on physical health and business continuity.	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure safety of the people cases receiving assistance and staff who will be involved in distribution. • Follow the COVID-19 standard operating procedure and safe programming guide. • Maintain physical distance.
Risk of outbreak such as AWD due to limited access to water, unsafe			

sanitation practices and disrupted health services.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make masks, handwashing facilities and sanitizers available at distribution sites. • Carry out health and hygiene promotion activities
Perception issues related to the 'Conduct of the Operation' or activities which may impact the access and acceptance of ARCS	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate ARCS operation and operational activities, including the recipient selection process, was ensured. • Maintain proper communication with the communities. • Conduct sensitization meetings with community elders and members to manage crowds at the distribution site.
Extreme weather conditions hinder and delay access and/or distributions.	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preposition supplies at the branch/community level • Map out alternative road options for access.

Quality and accountability

In the ongoing flood response, proactive measures will be taken to ensure both quality and accountability. This involves clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of response teams, external partners, communities, and individuals involved. A structured hierarchy with designated leaders and decision-makers will streamline the decision-making process. Robust communication systems will be maintained to facilitate real-time information sharing among response teams, and regular updates will be provided to stakeholders on the response status.

The IFRC will facilitate a Federation-wide approach to support the ARCS PMER unit to enhance these processes. This will include training in data collection, ethics, quality, visualization, management, information sharing, planning, monitoring, and reporting, as well as digital transformation. Various reporting tools, including situation reports and operations updates, will be regularly presented to promote transparency, document actions, inform decision-making, engage affected communities, ensure accountability to donors and partners, and support continuous improvement in the response operation.

Additionally, documenting findings through written reports and photographs will play a crucial role in ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective communication. These records will provide evidence of aid distribution, conditions at distribution sites, and community feedback. This supports decision-making, resource allocation, monitoring, evaluation, and legal requirements while also contributing to lessons learned for future response efforts and advocacy and fundraising initiatives. Moreover, the IFRC will have field officers who will, among other duties, undertake regular monitoring together with ARCS counterparts at zone or branch levels to complement remote monitoring. In addition, 5W data collection tools alongside interactive dashboards will be developed for the collection, consolidation, visualization, and sharing of disaster impact and response-relevant data. Furthermore, flash updates, situation reports, and operation updates will be shared through the Go platform. Initiatives will also be launched to conduct third-party monitoring and final evaluations. These assessments are pivotal for assessing the impact and performance of response operations, gauging effectiveness and efficiency, and providing data-driven insights and timely feedback. They enable informed decision-making, resource allocation, and risk mitigation while also promoting accountability, quality assurance, and continuous improvement. The findings of these monitoring and evaluations serve as evidence of performance to external stakeholders and empower response teams to learn from experiences and enhance future preparedness and response efforts.

Compliance with relevant industry regulations, standards, and legal requirements will also be ensured, with regular monitoring of changes in regulations and timely updates to quality control measures to maintain compliance and mitigate associated risks. Efforts to ensure quality and accountability in this operation encompass a broad spectrum. This will include regular financial audits, site observations, exit surveys, post-distribution monitoring, and a lessons-learned workshop. The monitoring findings are regularly shared with programming teams to inform improvements and enhance the quality of services.

Key indicators for monitoring and evaluation are as follows. These may subject to further changes:

Sector	Indicator
Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Number of households provided with emergency shelter and essential household items.
	Number of households provided with cash/voucher/in-kind and technical assistance for transitional/durable shelter construction that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity.
	Number of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter.
Livelihoods	Number of targeted households reached with livelihood support (livestock, agriculture).
	Number of people receiving temporary employment opportunities (cash for work)
	Number households receiving support for income generation activities.
	Number of people receiving vocational/ soft skill training (disaggregated by types)
	Number of households and/or community groups (disaggregated by types) received working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.
	Number of women and youth at risk received support for vocational training and tools for starting income-generation activities
Multi-purpose Cash	Number of households who successfully received cash for basic needs
Health and Care	Number of health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health services.
	Number of people reached with primary health services.
	Number of staff and volunteers trained on CBHFA/ECV/first aid
	Number of people reached with first aid service
	Number of people provided with MHPSS interventions including PFA
	Number of people reached with CBHFA activities
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 reached with safe water.
	Number of people (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities
Protection and Gender	Number of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion programming.
	Number of people (and households) reached by dignity kits.
	Number of people (and households) reached by delivery and newborn babies kits.
Community Engagement and Accountability	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information
	Percentage of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been briefed on community engagement and accountability and trained on the community feedback mechanism
	Number of feedback comments collected, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, including sensitive feedback linked to SEA, fraud, corruption or protection concerns
	Percentage of people who received a response to their feedback about the operations
Safeguarding	Number of children and adults with access to safe and accessible channel to report SEA

	Number of children and adults reached through awareness raising activities and community mobilizations on PSEA
	Number of sites where awareness raising campaign activities on how to report SEA and how to access victim /survivor centered assistance.
	Number of personnel trained on PSEA guidelines and protocols
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)
	Number of warehouses extended/renovated/ constructed

Key indicators identified will be used to establish an M&E framework to monitor the flood operation, including the approach, quality of work, as well as tracking of planned activities.

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Federation-wide funding requirement*

Federation Wide Funding Requirement including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Partner National Society funding requirement CHF 7.5 million	IFRC Secretarian Funding Requirement in support of the Federation Wide funding ask CHF 5 million
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**For more information on Federation-wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations 4,425,000

Shelter and Basic	1,751,000
Household Items	
Livelihoods	188,000
Multi-purpose Cash	882,000
Health	1,073,000
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	275,000
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	167,000
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	27,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	62,000
Environmental Sustainability	0

Enabling Approaches 574,000

Coordination and Partnerships	171,000
Secretariat Services	216,000
National Society Strengthening	188,000

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

5,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

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Reference

Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)