

Emergency appeal №: MDRAF007 Emergency appeal launched: 10/4/2021 Emergency appeal revised: 14/10/2023 (sixth revision) Operational Strategy published: 10 /11/2023 (specific for Herat Earthquake Response)	Glide №: EQ-2023-000184-AFG
Operation update #4 Date of issue: 10/07/2024 Operation timeframe: 15 months (7/10/2023 - 31/12/2024)	Timeframe covered by this update: From 07/10/2023 to 30/09/2024 Number of people targeted: 50,000 Number of people reached: 87,000
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 9 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal; CHF 20 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 750,000 (loan to Emergency Appeal)

Sixth revision of Emergency Appeal MDRAF007 seeks CHF 120 million overall and is currently **42 per cent funded**. The funding requirement for Herat earthquakes Operational Strategy is **CHF 9 million**, of which contributions amounting to **CHF 5.17 million (57 per cent)** had been recorded as of 3 November 2024. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), to continue with humanitarian assistance to people affected by the earthquakes in Herat Province.



A woman in Zenda Jan district of Herat Province receiving cash assistance from the Afghan Red Crescent Society, supported by the IFRC, to help her family recover from the devastating earthquake that struck the region. (Photo credit: IFRC)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis



TIMELINE

7 Oct 2023	An earthquake of magnitude 6.3 strikes western Afghanistan with its epicenter in the Zinda Jan district of Herat Province. Several aftershocks are recorded.
7 Oct 2023	ARCS activates its Emergency Operation Centre, deploys branch disaster response teams, and mobilizes existing resources from neighboring provinces to the affected areas.
8 Oct 2023	ARCS convenes its Emergency Response Task Force (RTF) meeting with in-country Movement partners participating for a coordinated joint.
8 Oct 2023	Authorities report that the death toll has exceeded 2,000 people and more than 9,200 people are injured.
8 Oct 2023	Reports from ARCS teams on the ground indicate extensive damage to shelters. Non-food and emergency shelter items are dispatched from prepositioned stocks to the affected areas.
10 Oct 2023	CHF 750,000 is allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support early action activities of the ARCS.
12 Oct 2023	ARCS organizes partners call to share the extent of impact and scope of the earthquake, and the urgent humanitarian needs on the ground.
14 Oct 2023	The IFRC issues 6th Revision of Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007), incorporating interventions to address needs wrought by Herat earthquake.
14 Oct 2023	ARCS hosts Movement Platform Meeting (MPM) to serve as a Mini Summit. The MPM comprises ARCS President, ARCS Secretary General ICRC Head of Delegation, and IFRC Head of Delegation.
31 Dec 2023	ARCS supported by Movement and non-Movement partners reaches more than 240,000 people with multisectoral assistance.
31 Mar 2024	ARCS continues to deliver primary health services through five MHTs and carries out technical assessment of shelter construction in the affected areas.
31 May 2024	ARCS/IFRC supports transitional shelter construction through owner driven approach
30 Sep 2024	Successfully completed the construction of 288 houses to provide shelter and improve living conditions for affected communities.

On October 7, 2023, a magnitude 6.3 earthquake, accompanied by several aftershocks, hit western Afghanistan. The epicenter was in the Zinda Jan district, roughly 40 km (about 24.85 miles) northwest of Herat City. Herat experienced the most severe impact, but the tremors were strongly felt in four provinces: Badghis, Farah, Ghor, and Herat. According to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA), the earthquakes primarily affected 382 villages across 10 districts (including Ghoryan, Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Karukh, Kohsan, Kushki Kohna, Robot Sangi, and Zinda Jan), leading to over 2,000 fatalities.

The impacted communities experienced significant devastation, resulting in the loss of lives, homes, livestock, farmland, and livelihoods. Humanitarian aid is crucial for helping them rebuild their lives, restore agriculture, and develop business and job skills to recover from this disaster. Volunteers and staff from the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in Herat, along with teams from surrounding provinces, were among the first to respond. ARCS deployed 32 response teams, supported by Red Cross/Crescent partners, to conduct lifesaving operations such as search and rescue, first aid, food and water distribution, shelter provision, and medical transport.

In reaction to the earthquake, the IFRC Secretariat sent emergency shelter and household supplies, allocated CHF 750,000 from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), and relaunched the Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007) to meet the immediate and recovery needs resulting from the disaster. Additionally, a specific operational strategy for the Herat Earthquake Response was developed, aiming to assist 50,000 individuals with comprehensive support, including food, cash, shelter, health services, livelihood assistance, winter preparations, and enhancing the National Society's response capacity, with a funding target of CHF 9 million. This initiative is part of a broader set of responses supported by the IFRC amidst multiple humanitarian crises in Afghanistan.

As of 2024, two operational strategies remain active under the existing Emergency Appeal (MDRAF007):

- [Protracted Humanitarian Crisis Operation Strategy](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.
- [Herat Earthquake Operation Strategy](#) – timeframe ends on 31 December 2024.

The situation has been exacerbated by the following crises and disasters:

Population movement:

Over the past eight months of 2024, approximately 970,000 Afghans have returned to Afghanistan from abroad, with around 88,000 coming from Pakistan, 5,000 from Turkey, and the majority from Iran. Meanwhile, the Chief of Tehran Police reports that 700 to 800 Afghan migrants are detained and deported daily, with a total of 70,000 undocumented migrants deported and about 70,000 returning voluntarily, bringing the total rounded up to approximately 170,000 individuals. Migrant rights activists emphasize the urgent need for improved facilities in host countries, particularly regarding shelter and basic living necessities. Additionally, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has noted an 18% increase in deportations of Afghan migrants from Iran compared to the previous year, with nearly 560,000 deported in the first nine months alone¹.

Cold wave:

An unusually late winter season has severely impacted multiple provinces in Afghanistan, leading to heavy snowfall and extremely low temperatures. Many high-altitude regions experienced significant losses of livestock, blocked roads, and disruptions to economic activities. Over 325,000 people were affected across at least 18 provinces, with thousands of livestock lost, greatly impacting households and livelihoods. The IFRC has allocated CHF 500,000 to assist 22,400 individuals in 11 provinces: Badakhshan, Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Sari-e-Pol, Uruzgan, and Zabul. Further details about the operation can be found in the report. [Afghanistan Cold Wave Operation \(MDRAF014\) Update 1](#).

Floods:

Since April 2024, heavy rains have triggered a series of devastating flash floods in 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, continuing until mid-May 2024. These floods directly impacted over 280,000 people and put an additional 1 million individuals at risk, resulting in at least 300 fatalities. In response, the IFRC allocated CHF 750,000 from its DREF to assist the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) in executing immediate lifesaving measures. Additionally, an Emergency Appeal was launched to provide multisectoral support to 20,000 households in the 14 hardest-hit provinces: Badakhshan, Baghlan, Farah, Ghor, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Kunar, Laghman, Nimroz, Parwan, Takhar, Uruzgan, and Zabul. More detailed information about the operation can be found in the report. [Afghanistan Floods Operation \(MDRAF015\)](#).

Summary of response

- ARCS has a presence in every province of Afghanistan, including Herat, where it operates a regional office and a dedicated branch office. The National Society participates in a committee led by local authorities to organize

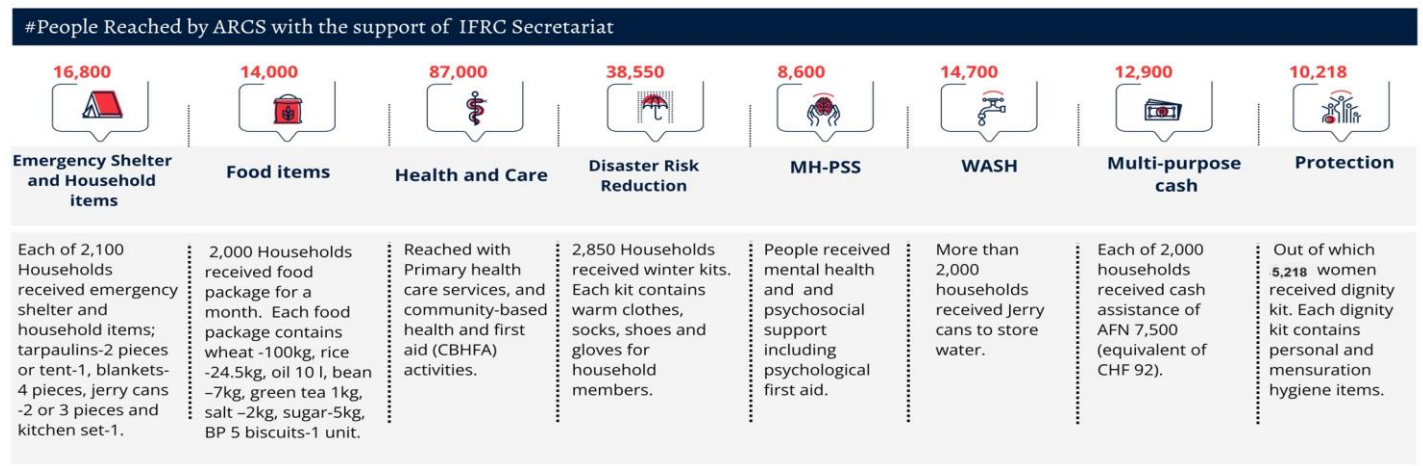
¹ [900,000 Migrants Returned From Iran, Turkey, Pakistan in 8 Months | TOLONews](#)

the overall response. In the area of Shelter, Housing, and Settlements, ARCS has reached 15,857 people (Female > 18: 4,500, Female < 18: 2,900, Male > 18: 5,143, Male < 18: 3,314) with the objective of helping communities in disaster-affected areas restore their safety, well-being, and recovery through shelter solutions. Key achievements include providing emergency shelter and household items to 15,857 earthquake-affected individuals, completing the construction of 288 transitional shelters, and training 300 individuals on safe shelter practices.

- The focus during the Operation Update #4 was on the completion of shelter construction. The construction of 288 transitional shelters by ARCS, with the support of IFRC, has been completed and provided much-needed relief and safe, dignified living spaces for the affected communities. In addition to the shelter efforts, ARCS has also undertaken in the Livelihoods sector. ARCS has reached 13,994 individuals to restore and strengthen livelihoods in disaster-affected areas, successfully providing food packages to 2,000 households. For Health & Care, ARCS has reached 87,000 people to reduce health risks through improved access to healthcare, including outpatient care and psychosocial support.
- In the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector, ARCS has reached 14,700 people to reduce waterborne disease risks by distributing jerry cans and hygiene kits. ARCS has also focused on Community Engagement and Accountability, ensuring meaningful community participation and feedback mechanisms, with high satisfaction levels reported. In terms of Risk Reduction and Recovery, ARCS has reached 37,943 people, distributing winterization kits to 5,218 households to emphasize the need for disaster preparedness.
- With support of Danish Red Cross, ARCS has distributed solar panel, batteries including other required tools for generating solar energy to the 920 households affected by the earthquake.
- Please refer to the below links for further information on the above-mentioned activities - [Operation Update #1](#), [Operation update #2](#) and [Operation update #3](#)

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

ARCS has a presence in every province of Afghanistan, including Herat, where it runs a regional office for the West and a branch office dedicated to Herat. As part of its support role, the National Society participates in a committee set up by the authorities and led by the local governor to organize the overall response.



Furthermore, ARCS/IFRC is constructing 300 shelters through an owner-driven approach in Gulran (297) and Zinda Jan (3) districts of Herat province. Each shelter costs AFN 356,500 (CHF 4,800), including AFN 82,000 (CHF 1,104) in construction materials and cash assistance in three tranches: 45 per cent (AFN 123,500/CHF 1,663), 45 per cent (AFN 123,500), and 10 per cent (AFN 27,500/CHF 370). The first tranche of cash was provided in May 2024 while the second tranche was provided in July 2024 & the third tranche was provided in October 2024.

Federation wide response

Apart from the aid facilitated through resources mobilized via the IFRC Emergency Appeal, Movement partners have contributed significantly to the ARCS response. As of 31 September 2024, ARCS had provided humanitarian assistance to over 248,000 people from 35,400 households, offering a range of services with the backing of IFRC networks.

From the beginning of the operation, ARCS has actively collaborated with the IFRC networks to provide assistance in various activities, including assessments, search and rescue, rubble clearance, emergency first aid, and the distribution of cash and relief items. ARCS also managed injuries and provided health services through 16 health facilities, consisting of 13 mobile health teams (MHTs) and three static clinics. Injured individuals were transported to hospitals after receiving initial aid, particularly during the initial two months of the operation in 2023. The health facilities received support from the Danish Red Cross (DRC), Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross), and the IFRC Secretariat - Since December 2023, ARCS has operated five new emergency mobile health teams (EMHTs) with the backing of the IFRC Secretariat and NorCross through the IFRC Emergency Appeal fund. The EMHTs assisted 86,864 people (57,665 males and 29,199 females) through outpatient consultations and treatment, maternal and newborn services, nutrition screening, and community mobilization. Additionally, NorCross procured and provided 1,000 hygiene kits for women and 1,000 safe delivery kits through the EMHTs. NorCross also dispatched 1,000 winterization kits for distribution through the five EMHTs.

The DRC supported ARCS in training and mobilizing 31 volunteers (18 females, 13 males) to assess the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs of affected households. These volunteers provided psychological first aid and outreach support to 7,588 people. They were deployed in earthquake-affected districts, villages, and open areas within Herat City, where people sought shelter due to fear of the earthquake and aftershocks. Additionally, the DRC supported ARCS in providing winterization assistance to 500 households in Herat. The IFRC cross-cutting team conducted community engagement and accountability (CEA), gender protection and inclusion (PGI), and safeguarding training for 31 volunteers in Herat Province.

Similarly, the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) supported ARCS by providing food and household items for distribution to people affected by the earthquake. The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran assisted with search and rescue operations, and provided food and household items (refer to [Herat Earthquake Response Situation Report # 2](#) for more details).

Furthermore, TRCS supported ARCS in assessments and provided food packages to 2,000 households through funds mobilized by the IFRC Emergency Appeal. Additionally, with TRCS support, ARCS offered winter heating assistance to 700 households and distributed 500 four-season tents to those affected by the earthquake. These durable shelters provide crucial protection and comfort during harsh winter conditions.

Needs analysis

The needs identified can be categorized into three phases: Immediate, Medium-Term, and Long-Term. Immediate needs include food assistance, cash support, winterization aid, emergency shelter, household items, emergency health services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) such as psychosocial first aid (PFA) and reestablishing family connections (RFL), as well as emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, including hygiene and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits. For further information on this, please refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation Update #3](#).



IFRC and ARCS response teams on the ground in Herat, delivering immediate relief with mobile health units and prepositioned supplies. 15th March 2024. (Photo: ARCS)



1st October 2024: Rebuilding after the devastating earthquake - Afghan Red Crescent Society and IFRC workers constructing transitional shelters in Zinda Jan and Gulran districts. (Photo: ARCS)



A completed shelter in Herat Zenda Jan has been handed over to an affected family after the devastating earthquake - the inside look of the construction, September 2024. (Photo: ARCS)

Shelter

An earthquake and subsequent aftershocks caused damage to 48,000 houses in Afghanistan, displacing families and leaving many in inadequate shelters, especially during the harsh winter season. With 20,430 houses severely damaged, 10,002 destroyed, and 5,370 under construction or committed to, the demand for 25,066 shelters and latrines remains urgent. For further information, please refer to the [Herat Earthquake Operation Strategy](#).

Zindajan, Enjil, and Herat districts are among the most impacted, with Zinda Jan reporting the highest number of houses destroyed—2,573 homes reduced to rubble, according to cluster reports. These districts have received attention from various donors and private sector support. In contrast, due to its remote location and lack of engagement or priority from humanitarian partners, Gulran remains one of the most neglected districts despite significant devastation.

The findings revealed significant structural vulnerabilities in the targeted communities, particularly in the Gulran District of Herat Province. Homes were constructed using traditional methods like cob and adobe, lacking proper foundations and structural integrity, with domed adobe roofs susceptible to collapse during disasters. Joint families without compound walls indicated further vulnerabilities.

The shelter intervention initiated by ARCS, with the support of IFRC, in the Gulran and Zinda districts is a significant step towards alleviating the suffering of vulnerable individuals displaced or made homeless by the earthquake. The construction of 288 transitional shelters through community based has undoubtedly provided much-needed relief to many, offering them safe and dignified living spaces.

However, it is important to recognize that despite this important intervention, some people still remain in need of proper shelter. Those living in traditionally designed dome-type structures are particularly vulnerable, as these shelters are not resistant to future natural hazards, such as earthquakes. These structures, while historically significant, lack the necessary resilience to withstand seismic events, which poses a significant risk to the safety and well-being of

the individuals and families relying on them.

Moving forward, it will be essential to address these remaining shelter needs, possibly through the construction of more resilient housing, continued support for those in at-risk structures, and community-based disaster preparedness initiatives to ensure that vulnerable populations are better protected against future disasters. Ensuring long-term safety requires a comprehensive approach that includes both immediate relief and sustainable, hazard-resistant infrastructure development.

Health and WASH

The series of earthquakes has inflicted considerable damage on water systems, healthcare facilities, and other essential infrastructure. Communities are grappling with significant challenges related to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Many residents are unaware of safe hygiene practices, which heightens the risk of waterborne diseases, particularly acute watery diarrhea (AWD) and other health issues. In certain areas, water sources are limited, exacerbating water scarcity, especially during dry seasons. These findings underscore the urgent need to enhance hygiene practices, improve access to healthcare services, and tackle water scarcity within the communities.

Access to healthcare services is critically restricted, with villages situated far from hospitals or clinics. Poor road conditions, especially during the rainy season, further impede access to healthcare facilities and worsen health-related challenges. Additionally, residents' lack of awareness regarding preventive health measures increases the risk of waterborne diseases and other health concerns. Addressing these issues is vital for improving healthcare access, enhancing health education, and resolving infrastructure deficiencies to boost community well-being. Furthermore, community members are experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues due to rural poverty and inadequate living conditions.

Food, cash, and livelihood

Households in the affected districts were already grappling with severe poverty, unemployment, and food insecurity, conditions that were exacerbated by prolonged drought and economic challenges. The recent earthquake has intensified these issues, leading to the loss of food stocks for many families and livestock for herding communities.

To address their immediate needs and rebuild their livelihoods, households require skills and resources to restore their income sources. The residents primarily depend on agriculture and livestock, particularly herding, for their livelihoods. However, limited market access, poor road conditions, and the distance to urban centers pose significant obstacles to economic opportunities. Additionally, the lack of alternative income sources and vocational training further hampers efforts for economic diversification.

Seasonal agricultural activities and reliance on natural resources also make communities vulnerable to environmental risks and market price fluctuations. Tackling these challenges necessitates initiatives that enhance livelihood opportunities, improve market access, and build economic resilience. Focusing on income diversification, vocational training, and sustainable agricultural practices is crucial for long-term poverty reduction and livelihood stability in the region.

Community engagement accountability

With support from IFRC, ARCS successfully conducted a three-day training in Herat province on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Safeguarding which was attended by 63 ARCS staff and volunteers (31 male, 32 female). Additionally, a CEA orientation session was provided for 28 ARCS engineers.

Throughout this period, 67 pieces of community feedback were collected and addressed. Currently, ARCS collects feedback through face-to-face channels, and plans are underway to expand options, including a hotline, social media, SMS, and other methods, to ensure all community members can easily share their feedback and concerns with ARCS. Recommendations based on community feedback were shared with IFRC and ARCS program teams. Notably, no sensitive feedback was received during this reporting period.

Preparedness and local response capacity

The response to the earthquake of 7 October 2023, underscored the importance of both community and institutional preparedness. The initial efforts by local community members, and organizations were crucial, especially given the challenges faced by responders due to the remoteness of affected areas and the accompanying connectivity issues.

Investing in preparedness not only helps in immediate disaster response but also builds long-term resilience. By enhancing the capacity of local actors, communities can become more self-reliant and better equipped to handle future crises. This approach aligns with the principles of disaster risk management, emphasizing the need for readiness, adaptation, and rapid recovery.

The lessons learned from this response are integrated into the capacity building efforts being undertaken with the ARCS and is also deliberately mainstreamed into their Contingency Plan, which also takes into consideration the secondary threats which are associated with a crisis of this nature and magnitude. The lessons have also informed the work of partners as it relates to the design of the programmes and projects which are not solely geared towards building in institutional capacity, but directly impact the communities served.

Operational risk assessment

Humanitarian operations in Afghanistan face a range of risks and challenges. These include natural hazards that hinder access and distribution in earthquake-affected areas, violence that impacts safety and accessibility, significant supply chain risks, complications related to community-based distribution activities, restrictions on women's movement, transportation difficulties, the fragility of the national banking system, and the potential for disease outbreaks.

To address these risks, several measures have been implemented, such as prepositioning supplies, updating security plans, improving supply chain management, establishing community engagement mechanisms, advocating for female staff through sustained private diplomacy, monitoring transportation, assessing liquidity, and training volunteers for health promotion. Furthermore, efforts have been made to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers, manage supply chain delays, mitigate banking system fragility, and prevent disease outbreaks. Please refer to the [Herat Operation Update #2](#) for further information on risk assessment.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

The [Operational Strategy](#) for the operation remains the same. ARCS has reoriented its approach to focus on various sectors, prioritizing basic needs, livelihoods, health, shelter, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). This strategy incorporates community engagement and accountability, disaster risk reduction (DRR), National Society Development (NSD), and protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) aspects. The operation has also integrated preparedness for effective response action alongside relief efforts to strengthen the capacity for future disasters and crises.

Integrated Assistance

The operation strategy addresses the needs of affected communities through a comprehensive approach. It aims to provide emergency and transitional shelter solutions, household items, food, primary healthcare services, WASH support, and initiatives for livelihood and socio-economic resilience. The intervention focuses on helping the affected population cope with winter conditions while integrating risk reduction measures. The IFRC Emergency Appeal aims to reach 50,000 people with these integrated services.

Cash-Based Assistance

The operation implemented cash-based assistance to meet immediate emergency needs and support livelihoods and shelter requirements. ARCS provided multipurpose cash to 2,000 households impacted by the earthquake in three

districts, empowering individuals to make decisions based on their priorities and stimulating local markets.

Shelter Program through community base approach.

Under the Shelter sector, household kits containing essential supplies such as cooking utensils and hygiene products, along with winterization kits, were distributed to ensure families remain warm during the harsh winter months. Additionally, six demonstrative shelters are under construction, serving both as transitional shelters and training venues for local masons. Safe shelter awareness campaigns have been planned to educate the community on building back safer in preparation for future seismic events and flooding.

Three tranches of conditional cash grants, totaling AFN 274,500 (equivalent to CHF 3,696), are allocated to house owners. Based on previous project experience, efforts are made to ensure beneficiaries have access to good quality materials to maintain minimum quality benchmarks. Given the limited availability of materials in the local market, efforts include providing essential materials such as iron girders, planks, doors, and windows in addition to conditional cash grants to ensure quick and secure shelter solutions during the recovery phase.

Household registration and assessment ensure targeted assistance to the most vulnerable individuals. The strategy emphasizes coordination between IFRC, ARCS, and stakeholders at various levels to ensure tailored assistance and community ownership.

National Society Development and Localized Action

IFRC is assisting ARCS in enhancing human resource capacity through training and logistics support. The operation aims to institutionalize capacities and establish a robust enabling environment for future response and community engagement.

Protection and Prevention

The operation integrates protection and prevention measures, prioritizing assistance based on vulnerability criteria. ARCS utilizes vulnerability criteria to support various layers of the community, including single-parent households, in addressing livelihood needs. PGI sessions have been conducted for ARCS volunteers in Herat to understand the PGI minimum standards and the Dignity, Access, Participation, and Safety (DAPS) components in the operation.

Safeguarding

PGI and community engagement and accountability (CEA) are integrated into all activities, with training provided to ARCS volunteers to ensure dignified programming in humanitarian services. Safeguarding sessions were also conducted for ARCS volunteers in Herat, integrated with MHPSS.

Community Engagement, Accountability, and Mobilization

Community mobilization efforts have been strengthened to actively engage affected communities in decision-making and recovery processes. Community task forces have been established to assess needs and allocate resources effectively. This comprehensive overview highlights the integrated approach taken by IFRC and ARCS to address the needs of impacted communities while promoting resilience and recovery.

To enhance accountability and ensure that community voices are heard, ARCS, with support from IFRC, will continue its community engagement and accountability initiatives. This includes door-to-door outreach, community meetings, and the involvement of local leaders, elders, and women representatives.


Additionally, ARCS plans to re-establish a hotline to facilitate two-way communication with the community. This

hotline will be bolstered with trained operators and referral pathways for sensitive feedback regarding issues such as fraud, violence, protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH), as well as breaches of the code of conduct, integrated with protection, gender, and inclusion components.

Furthermore, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) emphasizes the importance of building resilient communities that are better prepared to withstand and recover from future disasters. Beyond immediate relief efforts, community mobilization focuses on implementing sustainable initiatives, including disaster risk reduction education, infrastructure improvements, and livelihood diversification programs. By fostering a sense of ownership and collective responsibility among community members, these initiatives not only enhance the effectiveness of earthquake response efforts but also lay the groundwork for long-term resilience and sustainable development in disaster-prone areas.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	People reached: 15,857	
		Female > 18: 4,500	Female < 18: 2,900
		Male > 18: 5,143	Male < 18: 3,314

Objective:	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>
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	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i># of earthquakes affected people provided with emergency shelter and household items</i>	15,857	14,000
	<i># 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,</i>	completed construction of 288 houses	500
	<i># of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter.</i>	300	500

Emergency shelter and household items distribution

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached 2,100 households, comprised of 15,857 people (Male –7,500 and female –7,200) with emergency shelter and household items such as tents or tarpaulins, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets and sleeping pads (refer to page 11 of [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#) for details of the distribution).

Shelter assistance

Rapid assessment, shelter strategy development and shelter orientation:

To initiate shelter activities, IFRC and ARCS conducted joint rapid assessments, coordinated with local authorities, engaged with the shelter cluster, and developed a community-driven shelter strategy. Following the endorsement of this strategy, they recruited staff, including four IFRC engineers, ten ARCS engineers, and four ARCS social mobilizers. All personnel participated in orientation sessions that covered construction procedures, safe shelter awareness, and community engagement, equipping them with the essential skills needed for an effective humanitarian response.



ARCS and IFRC staff jointly monitoring the construction progress of earthquake relief shelters in Zinda Jan district, Herat Province on 1 October 2024 (Photo: IFRC)

District selection and detail assessment: Initially, ARCS planned to construct 300 shelters in Zinda Jan district, conducting detailed assessments in seven villages. However, due to tribal disputes and changes in allocation, ARCS relocated 297 of these shelter interventions to Gulran district. Utilizing its grassroots network and capacity, ARCS has concentrated on remote areas where other organizations are reluctant to operate, leading to a reassessment of the intervention zones.

As of the reporting period, 288 out of the 300 targeted transitional shelters have been completed, including six demonstration shelters. However, due to budget constraints and time limitations, the construction of 12 shelters was canceled.

Shelter construction through owner driven approach: ARCS has allocated AFN 356,500 (Equivalent to CHF 4,800) for each shelter construction support in Herat province. Out of which, ARCS provided some main construction items amounting AFN 82,000 (Equivalent to 1,104), while AFN 274,500 (equivalent to CHF 3,696) distributed in three tranches; the first tranche- AFN 123,500 (equivalent to CHF 1,663), which is 45 per cent of the total amount, the second tranche of AFN 123,500 (45 per cent of the total amount), and the third tranche of AFN 27,500, equivalent to CHF 370 (10 per cent of the total amount). IFRC procured items like doors, windows, girders, and equipment, distributed to eligible households for shelter support. The construction items were dispatched to the people and were used in constructing the houses. All three branches are distributed, and the construction of 288 houses are now completed. The completed houses were handed over in the presence of a handover ceremony, and the house owners moved into their houses and started enjoying the safe and dignified living space.



The shelter hand-over ceremony held in Herat province on 7 November 2024. (Photo: IFRC)

Shelter Hand-Over Ceremony:

The IFRC and the ARCS held a handover ceremony on 7 November 2024 to mark the completion of 288 shelter construction in Herat. This event represents a significant milestone in their efforts to rebuild after the devastating earthquakes, as ARCS and IFRC handed over 288 newly constructed shelters to families in three affected villages in Herat's Gulran District. Funded by over 100 million Afghanis from ARCS and IFRC, these homes stand as a testament to the resilience of a community that has faced tremendous challenges. With winter approaching, this initiative offers essential relief to survivors who have endured inadequate shelter for over a year. However, many individuals still lack proper housing, underscoring our collective responsibility to

continue supporting one another in the rebuilding process. Together, ARCS and IFRC are committed to fostering community and ensuring that no one is left behind.

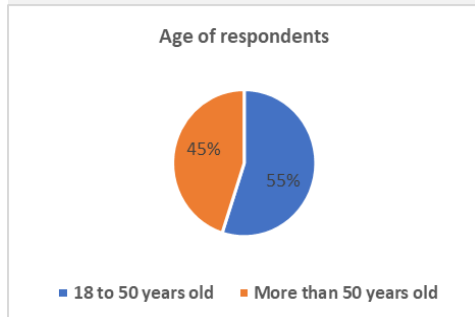
Enhancing Visibility and Communications Support for the Shelter Initiative:

IFRC facilitated visibility and branding support for the shelter initiative throughout the current reporting period. This support includes but is not limited to, collaborating and travelling with ARCS teams on various field visits to shelter intervention sites and providing communications-related efforts, including documentation of activities and collection of photos, videos, stories, and quotes. As a result of these travels, IFRC produced high-quality photos from the sites and created collages that were uploaded to https://shared.ifrc.org/collections/_pPmlN63m and video to [shaRED](#) for easy access to the public and journalists, and record-keeping. The communications team also produced two specific stories about the shelter interventions, which were published in the <https://ifrc.exposure.co/herat-earthquake-the-shelter-they-need>.

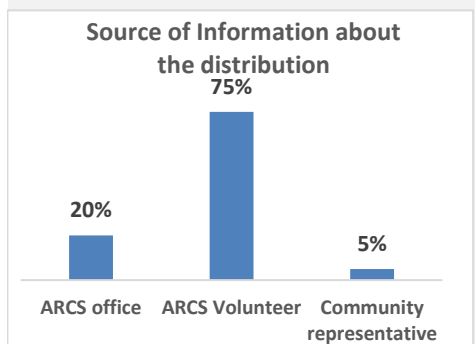
On the occasion of the first anniversary of the earthquake, the IFRC developed a press release along with key messages, available here: [20241008_Afghanistan_Herat_Earthquake_KM_ENG | shaRED](#). Additionally, IFRC communications team covered the shelter handover ceremony with photography and conducted media monitoring of the event, which was featured in both national and international media outlets <https://tolonews.com/index.php/afghanistan/provincial-191593>. The communication materials produced for the shelter intervention were shared across various platforms, including the IFRC websites (Exposure, IFRC website/Newswire) and other media outlets and social media pages. [Hundreds of Houses Delivered to Earthquake-Affected Families in Herat – Bakhtar News Agency](#)

Exit Survey:

In 2024, ARCS, supported by IFRC, provided conditional cash assistance to 300 households in the Gulran district of Herat province, Afghanistan. Each of the 288 households will receive AFN 356,500 (approximately CHF 3,450) in three installments throughout the year. This assistance aims to help those affected by the earthquake rebuild their homes.



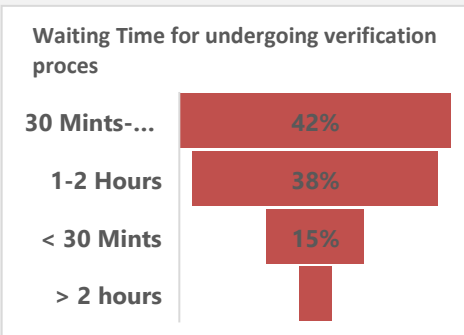
In July 2024, the PMER department of ARCS/IFRC, along with ARCS volunteers, conducted exit surveys at distribution points to gather feedback from recipients for immediate improvements in ongoing distributions. A total of 40 recipients were interviewed in Gulran district of Herat province, all of whom were male. Among the respondents, 55 per cent were aged between 18 and 50 years, while the remaining 45 per cent were over 50 years old.



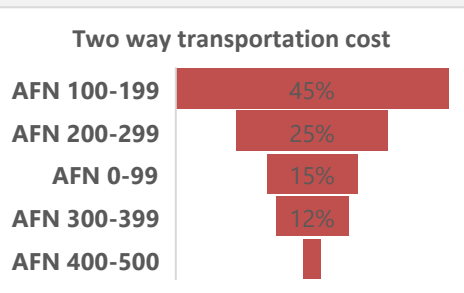
Access to Assistance(waiting time, transportation cost)

When asked how they accessed information about the distribution, the majority of respondents—75 per cent—reported that they obtained it from ARCS volunteers. Twenty per cent received the information from the ARCS office, while the remaining 5 per cent indicated that they learned about the distribution through community representatives.

In response to the question about the duration of the verification process, 42 per cent of respondents indicated that they waited between 30 minutes to 1 hour to receive their cash. This was followed by 38 per cent who reported waiting 1 to 2 hours, while 15 per cent waited less than 30 minutes. The smallest group, comprising 5 per cent of respondents, reported waiting for more than 2 hours.

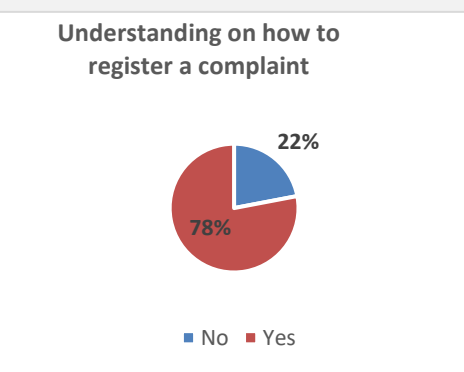


Specifically, at the maximum level, one respondent from Shakar Abb district spent AFN 500. At the minimum level, four respondents reported spending AFN 0, as they lived within walking distance. On average, respondents spent AFN 163 to come and collect their cash.



Community Engagement and Accountability & Feedback Mechanism:

Nearly all the respondents were satisfied with the information provided by the ARCS about the date and time of distribution, when it comes to understanding on how to register a complaint, 78 per cent of the respondents say that they understand how to register a, while 22 per cent respondents say that they complaint do not understand how to register a complaint. Additionally, the respondents indicated that they would prefer to register any complaints through the complaint desk.



100 % Respondents said that:

- They did not pay money or any other benefit to be included in the distribution list.
- ARCS staff and volunteers behaved with respondents respectfully.
- They were satisfied with the distribution process and information provided by the ARCS about the date and time of distribution.
- The distribution was safe and respectful to them.

Key Recoomendations:

It is recommended that, the operation/disaster management team and ARCS volunteers increase the number of sensitization or awareness session before each distribution at community level to provide all the information related to distribution to the communities. ARCS/IFRC PMER department shared the findings to operation team/shelter focal point in Herat for their needful action.

Post distribution monitoring:

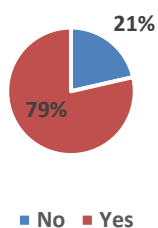


PMER senior officer conducting Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) interviews with shelter beneficiaries in Gulran, Herat Province in July, 2024. (Photo: ARCS)

Respondents Profile

In July 2024, the PMER department of ARCS/IFRC and ARCS volunteers carried out post-distribution monitoring (PDM) in the Gulran District of Herat province. They ensured that transparency and accountability were maintained throughout the conditional cash for shelter construction process. This monitoring also helped to understand recipients' perceptions and their satisfaction levels with the registration and distribution processes. Additionally, it assessed whether community members knew about any feedback and complaint mechanisms, and if so, what their preferred channels were for registering complaints or feedback. During the PDM, a total of 42 recipients, all male, were interviewed.

Sensitization sessions



Of these, 74 percent were aged between 18 and 50 years, while the remaining 26 per cent were over 50 years old.

Access to Assistance & Information: When asked about the sensitization sessions conducted before cash assistance, about 79 per cent of respondents stated that ARCS staff held a sensitization session prior to cash distribution, while 21 per cent said "No." Nearly 100 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the ARCS beneficiaries' selection process, and almost all felt safe on the day of cash distribution, both in keeping cash at home and in

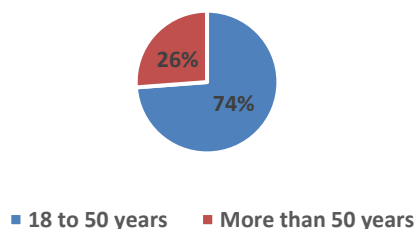
traveling with cash to the market. Furthermore, all respondents indicated that the cash assistance they received was useful for covering their most important family needs. Based on the PDM findings, the vast majority of respondents were satisfied with the ARCS selection process and the information provided about the location, timing, and cash distribution.

Preferred Assistance Type:

When asked about their preferred type of assistance, 69 per cent of respondents preferred cash, while 19 per cent preferred other options (such as drinking water supply schemes, construction of clinics, and toilets). Seven per cent of respondents preferred food, and the remaining 5 per cent preferred agricultural support or a combination of cash and food. Furthermore, all respondents were aware of the amount of cash distributed to them.

Community Engagement and Accountability: Based on the PDM findings, a significant proportion of respondents, 95%, indicated that there was a complaint desk, person, or location where they could register complaints if needed, while the remaining 5% stated that no such facility existed. Moreover, 98% of respondents preferred referring to the complaint desk, while the remaining 2% preferred contacting the ARCS branch office.

Age of Respondent

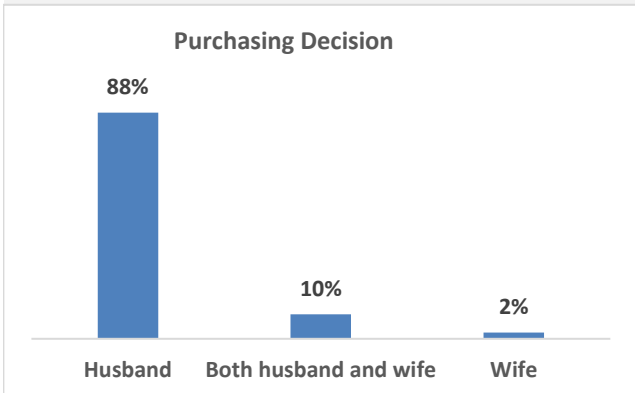


Based on the PDM findings, a significant proportion of respondents, 95%, indicated that there was a complaint desk, person, or location where they could register complaints if needed, while the remaining 5% stated that no such facility existed. Moreover, 98% of respondents preferred referring to the complaint desk, while the remaining 2% preferred contacting the ARCS branch office.

Additionally, respondents reported not observing any form of abuse (sexual, verbal, insult, or physical assault) or discrimination from Red Cross Red Crescent staff, volunteers, agency staff, community leaders, or authorities. Furthermore, all respondents reported feeling safe keeping cash at home or traveling to the market, and there were no reports of tension within their community caused by cash assistance.

Purchasing Decision:

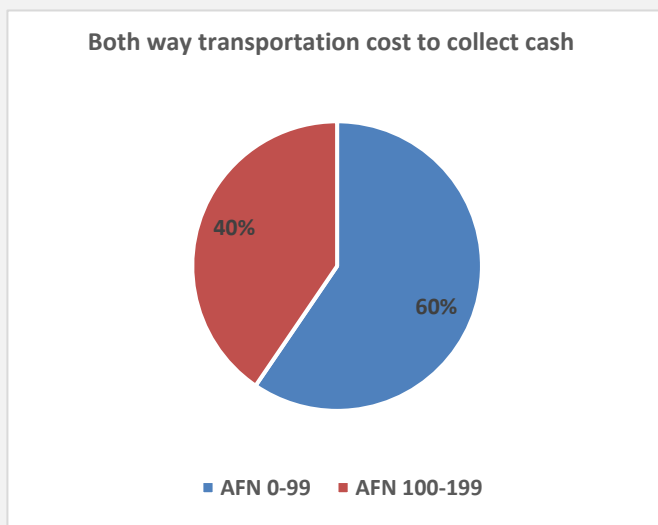
When it was asked that who decided what to purchase with the cash, 88 per cent of respondents responded husband, 10 per cent of the respondents ascribed the decision authority to both wife and husband while the rest of the 2 per cent respondents said wife.



Waiting Time and Transportation Cost:

In response to the question about travel duration, respondents provided a range of answers as they journeyed to the distribution site from various distances. The following chart presented categorical data on the travel times of the respondents to the distribution site. Furthermore, regarding the convenience of the distribution site, all respondents expressed satisfaction with its accessibility.

Respondents who traveled to the distribution site incurred varying round-trip transportation costs based on their different geographical locations. Among these travelers, 21 out of 42 respondents did not pay any transportation costs, as they lived near the distribution site, while 3 out of 42 respondents paid the highest amount of 150 AFN. According to the transportation cost analysis, the average transportation cost paid was 55 AFN. For further information, please refer to the following chart.




The household selection criteria for shelter assistance focused on identifying and prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals. This included assessing the level of damage to homes, with priority given to those that were completely, severely, or partially damaged. Vulnerable groups, such as women, people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limited resources, were also prioritized.

ARCS/IFRC prepared information, education, and communication (IEC) materials for building back safer sessions and provided technical guidance on shelter construction. These materials combined insights from various reliable sources on shelter operations. Additionally, ARCS and IFRC coordinated with the shelter cluster to present, endorse, and share the IEC materials with other partners.

Federation-wide response

Additionally, ARCS distributed 900 tarpaulins, 950 tents, 6,100 blankets, 500 kitchen sets, 1,234 mattress/carpet/beds, 60 quilts and 67 jackets to households in Herat with the bilateral in-kind support from PNS. Refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#), page #14 for detail information.

 Livelihoods		People reached: 13,994	
		Female > 18: 4,000	Female < 18: 3,503
		Male > 18: 4,000	Male < 18: 2,491
Objective:	<i>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</i>		
	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of households assisted through emergency food security²</i>	2,000	2,000
	<i># of targeted households reached with livelihood support (livestock, agriculture) essential on-farm and/or off-farm and/or non-farm inputs/materials/tools for production.</i>	0	1000
Key indicators:	<i># of people receiving temporary employment opportunities (cash for work)</i>	0	500
	<i># of people receiving vocational/ soft skill training (disaggregated by types)</i>	0	300 ³
	<i># of households receiving support for income generation activities</i>	0	200
	<i># of households and/or community groups (disaggregated by types) received working capital or inputs for livelihood activities in line with their proposals.</i>	0	200

Food distribution

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat/TRC reached 2,000 households, comprised of **13,994 people** (male-6,491, female-7,503) with food package. ARCS with the support of IFRC has also conducted PDM on food distribution. For further information please refer [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 2](#).

ARCS will implement livelihood activities based on the identified needs and scopes in Herat province. Furthermore, the IFRC is exploring resources for supporting ARCS to implement livelihood activities.

Federation wide response:

Additionally, ARCS reached more than 5,550 households with food items- with the support of other international/national non-government organisations and partners.

² This indicator has been added to better reflect operation results.

³ Vocation training -300 people cum soft skill training



Multi-purpose Cash

People reached: **12,872**

Female > 18:
2,994

Female < 18: **3,599**

Male > 18: **2,798**

Male < 18: **3,481**

Objective:

The most affected communities are able to access and purchase essential food and household items and services in a secure and dignified manner.

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of households that receive cash for basic needs

2,000

2,000

Following the earthquake, ARCS supported by the IFRC Secretariat reached 2,000 households, comprised of 12,872 people (male-6,279 and female- 6,593) with multipurpose cash.

PDM of multipurpose cash distribution:

In December 2023, the ARCS PMER department carried out a PDM of multi-purpose cash assistance provided to households affected by an earthquake in Herat province. Please refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation update 2](#) for further information:



Health & Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support /
Community Health / Medical Services)

People reached: **86,864**

Male <18: **33,446**

Female <18:
16,935

Male >18: **24,219**

Female >18:
12,264

Objective:

The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to health care

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of health facilities (mobile/fixed) supported with staff, equipment and/or running costs for the provision of primary health services.

15

5

of people reached with primary health services.

86,864

50,000

of staff and volunteers trained on CBHFA/ECV

420

450

<i># of people reached with CBHFA services by trained volunteers.</i>	6,038	31,500
<i># of people provided with MHPSS interventions including PFA.</i>	7,588 ⁴	NA
<i># of people trained on PFA and other MHPSS technical trainings</i>	37	30

ARCS reached 86,864 people (male-57,665 and female –29,199) with primary health and care services such as OPD, first aid, and transportation of serious cases to the hospitals in Herat province.

Mental health and psychosocial support

ARCS, supported by IFRC and DRC, conducted a three-day training session on psychological first aid, gender and inclusion protection, and safe referrals for 25 participants from five MHTs in Herat. These teams also provided primary health care services, screenings for malnutrition, immunizations, and health education sessions, reaching many people. Additionally, ARCS trained 420 volunteers in community-based health and first aid, established committees, and conducted awareness sessions on health and hygiene topics, reaching a total of 6,038 individuals in the earthquake-affected areas of Herat province by 30 April 2024. For further information regarding Mental health and psychosocial support, please refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation Update #3 - page #15,16,17](#).

⁴ DRC is supporting ARCS in MHPSS



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People reached: 14,700

Female > 18:
4,200

Female < 18:
3,000

Male > 18: **4,300**

Male < 18: **3,200**

Objective:

Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		# households provided with jerry cans to store water	>2,100
	# of water sources constructed or rehabilitated (wells with pumps, spring protection, community ponds with filtration).	0	5
	# of constructed household/communal sanitation facilities (this is more than excreta disposal)	0	500
	# of people reached with safe water	0	7,000
	# of people (and households) reached by hygiene promotion activities	0	28,000

As of 31 December 2023, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat reached more than 2,100 households with 6,250 jerry cans for them to store water. Each household received 2 to 3 jerry cans based on their household size.

Federation-wide response

Additionally, ARCS distributed 500 bottles of water, 8,866 jerry cans, and 867 hygiene kits with its own source or with the support of other Movement and non-Movement partners to meet the urgent water and hygiene needs of the people. Refer to [Herat Earthquake Operation Update 1](#) for the overall WASH items distributed by ARCS.



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective: *Ensure the operation is integrating meaningful community participation, timely, open, and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen, respond to and act on feedback to collaboratively understand and address community needs, priorities, and the context.*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		<i>% of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information.</i>	99% ⁵
	<i># of staff and volunteers working on the operation who have been briefed on community engagement and accountability and trained on the community feedback mechanism.</i>	136	250
	<i># of feedback comments collected, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, including sensitive feedback linked to SEA, fraud, corruption or protection concerns.</i>	288	2,000
	<i>% of people who received a response to their feedback about the operation</i>	100%	100%

ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat accomplished following activities:

- Developed frequently asked questions or key information about the earthquake response for staff and volunteers.
- Engaged in discussions with BBC Media Action to collaborate on producing life-saving information talks, leveraging expertise of IFRC networks in mental health and psychosocial support. The aim was to disseminate vital information to communities through four local radio stations in Herat.
- Formulated questions for the CEA assessment targeting the communities affected by the earthquake, both male and female. The feedback received through the face-to-face channel totaled 288 responses.
- Established a hotline to address concerns, questions, and complaints from the community regarding the earthquake response in Herat.
- Distributed 7,000 cards and 200 stickers containing information about the hotline service to the communities.
- Conducted CEA orientation for 136 ARCS psychosocial volunteers (15 males, 18 females).
- Community feedback collected through interviews and focus group discussion played a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of the response. Direct engagement with affected community members provided invaluable insights into their immediate needs and priorities. The identification of major needs, such as

⁵ 150 respondents were interviewed for food and household items, of which 99% reported receiving useful information. 202 respondents were interviewed for MPC assistance, of which 98% reported receiving useful information. Likewise, 176 respondents were interviewed for Winterization kits assistance, 100% of them reported receiving useful information. Hence the average is 99%.

the necessity of adequate shelter for all household members, including livestock, highlighted the urgent requirements for ensuring the safety and well-being of the affected population. Additionally, the recognition of food storage needs underscored the importance of addressing food security concerns in the disaster's aftermath.

- Furthermore, the acknowledgment of the need for psychosocial support emphasized the operations commitment to addressing the holistic needs of the community beyond just physical infrastructure.
- Three-day training on CEA, PGI and Safeguarding held in Herat for 63 ARCS staff and volunteers (31 male, 32 female)
- Based on community feedback, recommendations were provided to IFRC/ARCS program teams.
- No sensitive feedback received during this period.

Challenges:

- Training and mobilization of female volunteers in field has been challenging. However, ARCS is discussing within the organization and public authorities for finding the way to mobilize female for reaching the most vulnerable groups such as women and children in the earthquake affected areas.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

People reached: **37,943**

Female > 18:
10,429

Female > 18:
8,593

Male > 18: 9,873

Male > 18: 9,048

Objective:

Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of households receiving winterization kit

5,218

2,000

of multi hazard contingency plan developed and tested

In progress

1

Winterization assistance

Winterization kit distribution								
District	# of Villages	# of households Targeted	# of households Reached	# of people benefitted			# of female headed households	# of child headed households
				Male	Female	Total		
Kushk-e Kohna	41	2,000	2,000	7,282	7,492	14,774	22	13
Guzara Gulran Injil, Kushk, Zinda Jan	22	3,218	3,218	11,639	11,530	23,169	749	45
Total	63	5,218	5,218	18,921	19,022	37,943	771	58

Adoption of preparedness for effective response

The preparedness for effective response approach emphasizes the development of local capacities to ensure National Societies are well-equipped to provide services during disasters. Given Afghanistan's vulnerability to disasters, ARCS is actively working to strengthen its response capabilities, with a particular

focus on institutional readiness. As part of the Herat earthquake response, ARCS, supported by the IFRC Secretariat, is currently engaged in developing a multi-hazard contingency plan and enhancing the capacity of its volunteers and staff.

Adoption of climate smart and seismic shocks

The performance of the transitional shelter under gravity loads was adequate. The foundation consisted of stone masonry resting on well-compacted natural soil. Bracing was included in the walls of varying heights, and ring beams were added at the plinth and lintel top levels to improve lateral stability and ensure the structure's safety.

For better structural integrity, it was recommended to include several vertical reinforcement steel bars in the corners to ensure proper connections of the horizontal ring beams and enhance overall structural stability. This would guarantee resilience to future seismic shocks and support the goal of "building back better." Additionally, to make the design climate-smart, mud-gypsum plaster was used to help maintain warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Adequate openings were also provided to maximize natural daylight in the rooms.

Multidisciplinary coordination was conducted to address the challenges and opportunities in land allocation for households, involving ARCS and other stakeholders to ensure an effective and streamlined response for those affected. It is important to note that most people were willing to move from their current locations impacted by the earthquake. Therefore, it was imperative to ensure that the newly allocated land was less vulnerable to future seismic shocks.

Federation wide support

DRC supported ARCS to provide winterization assistance to 500 households affected by earthquake in Herat. Each household received one heater and 500 Kg of charcoal. Likewise, TRC supported ARCS to distribute winterization kits, including stoves and coal to 700 households across Gulran and Robot Sangi districts. These kits are essential for households affected by the Herat earthquake, helping them cope with the harsh winter conditions.

Enabling approaches

	National Society Strengthening		
Objective:	<i>Ensure that the ARCS has the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform.</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of ARCS staff and volunteers trained in different sector(s)(disaggregated by sector and gender)</i>		NA

		42 ⁶	
	<i>ARCS compliance with principles and rules for humanitarian assistance is improved</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>Communities are engaged and kept informed of operational plans and progress</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>Exit Strategy is developed in consultation with the communities</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>ARCS engages with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>IFRC and National Society are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	Ongoing	Yes

In partnership with the NorCross, the IFRC is coordinating the support for the ARCS to assess their financial system and support developing a robust finance system by upgrading the software and creating access for the branches to share real-time data to bring more accountability and sustainability.

Optimizing human resource

IFRC supports ARCS in developing its human resource capacity through national/provincial level training for the staff and volunteers and strengthening logistics and warehousing capacity such as prepositioning relief items. Further, IFRC is supporting ARCS in institutionalizing capacities and establishing a more robust enabling environment where organizational policies and strategies are reviewed/updated/introduced that eventually govern future response, recovery, and community resilience engagement of ARCS.

Enhancing digital capacity at the branch level

IFRC established a field office in Herat with internet access and laptops to support ARCS in delivery services. Some new equipment such as monitors, printers, and other information technology accessories are procured and installed. In addition, training for staff to use technology and Microsoft 365 and other platforms is a priority.

Strengthening PMER-IM capacity of National Society

ARCS and IFRC PMER teams organized a data collection training for 11 volunteers (5 males and 6 females) in Herat on 5 November 2023. The training aimed to improve data collection techniques, data quality, and community engagement. Key topics covered included the objectives and timing of exit surveys and post-distribution monitoring (PDM), as well as ethical considerations for data collection. The training also featured practical group exercises on collecting data using Redrose.

With support from the IFRC, ARCS successfully hosted a three-day training session in Herat province focusing on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Safeguarding. The training was attended by 63 ARCS staff and volunteers, comprising 31 males and 32 females. Additionally, a session on the fundamentals of Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) was offered to the participants.

⁶ ARCS supported by DRC trained 31 ARCS staff and volunteers on MH-PSS and same people were oriented on PGI/CEA with the support IFRC Secretariat. Likewise, ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat trained 11 staff and volunteers on data collection.

Strengthening the logistics structure

Development of terms of reference for the logistics structure assessment for all the seven regions is underway and will be completed by February 2024. One of the deliverables will be a plan of action for capacity enhancement. By systematically implementing the action plan, the delegation will fortify ARCS logistics structure, ensuring defined criteria are met across warehouses, procurement, and fleet management, thereby enhancing the capacity to deliver logistics services in both normal and emergency situations.

Developing ARCS warehousing capacity

The IFRC has installed four rub halls in Kabul to support ARCS in its operations in 34 provinces. Plans are underway to design and develop a medical warehouse set up in Kabul to serve as a central medical supply chain hub for the rest of the regions. It is planned that the warehouse enhancement will move to the 7 regions gradually on a need- by-need basis.

Establishing software-based warehouse operation

ARCS supported by IFRC Secretariat is assessing the warehousing and stock management procedures to improve the reporting systems. Terms of reference for the warehousing management system is underway and will be completed by the end of February to give way for the tendering process.

Developing logistics and procurement capacity

ARCS, with support from the IFRC Secretariat, organized logistics management training for 60 logistics officers from different regions and branches in December 2023. The training emphasized essential aspects of warehousing, procurement, fleet, medical logistics management, and emergency logistics. The training was well received, with participants expressing satisfaction during the question-and-answer sessions. The engagement showcased improved understanding of logistics procedures among the participants, who also gained practical knowledge.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

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.

	Indicator	Actual	Target
Key indicators:	<i>Movement wide coordination mechanism is described and active</i>	Yes	Yes
	<i>ARCS engage with other humanitarian actors for coordinated humanitarian intervention,</i>	Ongoing	Yes
	<i>IFRC and ARCS are visible, trusted, and effective advocates on humanitarian issues,</i>	Ongoing	Yes

Membership Coordination

- ARCS held three joint meetings with IFRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) to coordinate a timely response for those affected by the earthquake in Herat. A comprehensive Earthquake Operation plan was developed through a collaborative and participatory approach to address the disaster effectively.

- Additionally, ARCS hosted a quarterly Movement coordination meeting attended by ICRC, IFRC Secretariat, and PNS. During this meeting, ARCS senior management and the IFRC Secretariat provided updates on the humanitarian situation and discussed ARCS's priorities, highlighting areas where support from Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners is needed.
- Three operational-level meetings were also conducted in the Herat region, initiated by ARCS and involving the IFRC Secretariat and PNS (DRC and NRC). The primary focus of these meetings was to discuss humanitarian service delivery and coordinate the distribution of relief items (non-food items) provided by the partners.

Engagement with external partners

ARCS and IFRC Secretariat have been coordinating with diverse stakeholders to deliver a unified and effective response to the earthquake-affected communities in Herat. It encompasses aligning the coordinating efforts with shelter cluster, different private organizations such as Azizi Foundation, Qamar foundation and Khawafi organization; public authorities, and other national and international non-governmental organizations such as Rahila Afghan Aid and Rehabilitation (RAAR), IOM and UNHCR to maximize resources, avoid duplication, and address the multifaceted needs of the affected populations.

Shelter Cluster Coordination

IFRC/ARCS actively engages with the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster to enhance collaboration and ensure effective delivery of shelter interventions. Participation in monthly cluster meetings, both in-person and online, allows the teams to contribute significantly to discussions, helping to shape strategic decisions and productive outcomes. A Shelter and Settlements Coordinator is providing support and ensuring dedicated shelter officers are engaged for the coordination with Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster coordination at regional and NHQ level for necessary updates and to keep them up to date and discuss the challenges faced in the field.

The team plays a crucial role in ensuring that all technical standards are met and that operations are efficiently executed across the affected areas, Further involvement includes active participation in Shelter Technical Working Groups (TWIGs). These groups focus on addressing specific technical issues related to shelter design, drawing, specifications, and the Bill of Quantities (BOQ) of the current shelter modality in Herat and future interventions. Participation in these technical discussions ensures that the shelter solutions are appropriate and sustainable.

D. FUNDING

As of this reporting period ending 31 October 2024, the overall Emergency Appeal coverage is 42 per cent (including in-kind donations) against a funding requirement of CHF 120 million. The donor response can be accessed [here](#). Additionally, an interim financial report for the overall Emergency Appeal is attached at the end of this report for more details.

Specific for the Herat Earthquake Operational Strategy, CHF 5.17 million (57 per cent) has been obtained (income) against a funding ask of CHF 9 million. As of reporting period, the Herat Earthquake operation has recorded an expenditure of CHF 5.07 million (98 per cent against income).

Contact information

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

At the Afghan Red Crescent Society:

- Mohammad Nabi Burhan, Secretary General; email: sg@arcs.af
- International Relations Department; email: ir@arcs.af

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- Maz Afiqah Mohammad Khairrul Azmi, Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilization; email: PartnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Nuraiza Khairuddin, Manager – Regional Logistics Unit; email: Nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org

For IFRC PMER and Quality Assurance and Performance and Accountability support:

- Mursidi Unir, PMER in Emergencies Coordinator, email: mursidi.unir@ifrc.org

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Annex I: Map for number of people reached through different sectoral intervention in different districts of Herat Province.

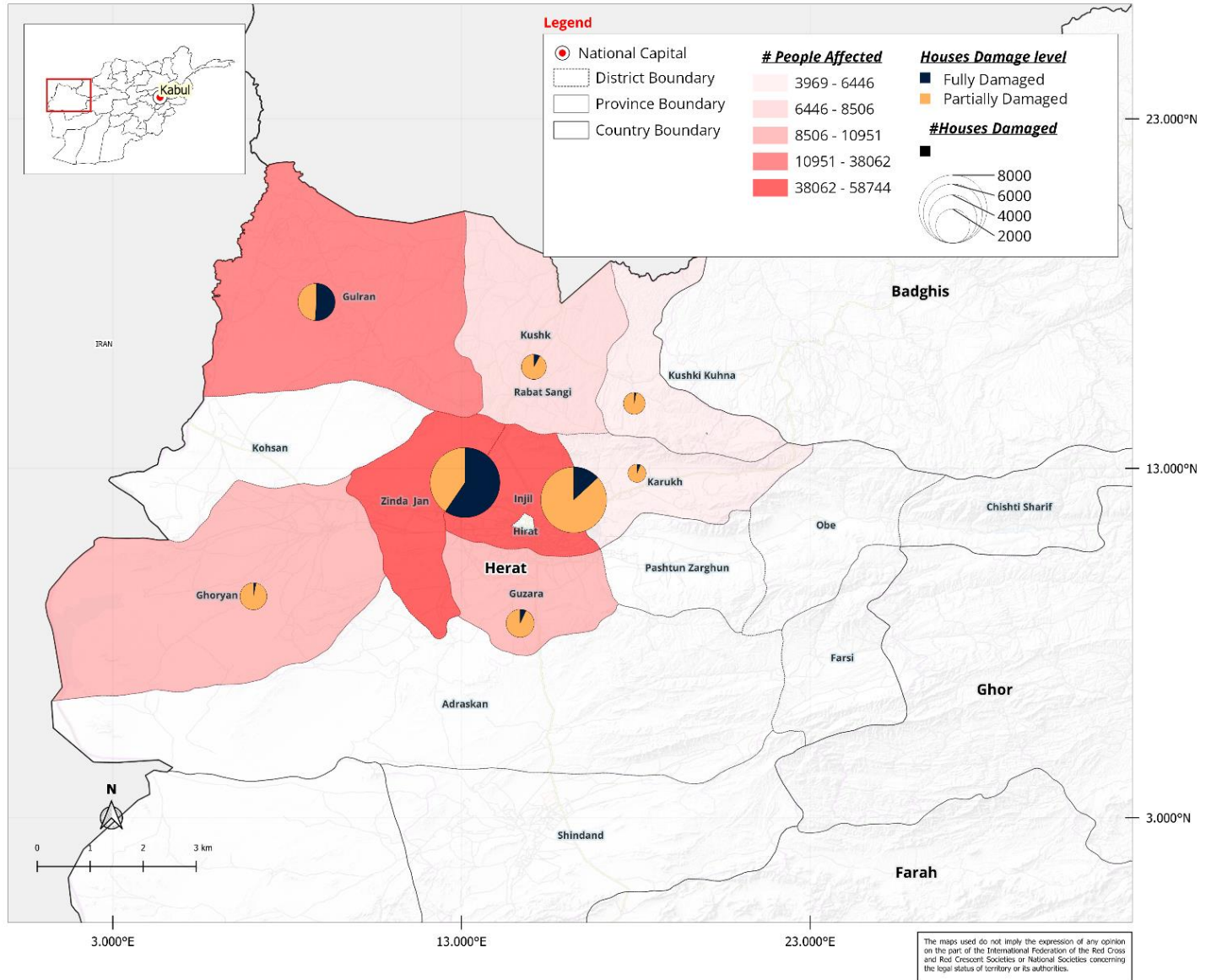


Afghanistan: Herat Earthquake

Disaster Impacts

Operation Updates #4

As of 30 Sep 2024



Operational Strategy

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/3-2024/10	Operation	MDRAF007
Budget Timeframe	2021-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26 Dec 2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAF007 - Afghanistan - Humanitarian Crises

Operating Timeframe: 19 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2024; appeal launch date: 10 Apr 2021

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	120,000,000
Donor Response* as per 26 Dec 2024	50,663,353
Appeal Coverage	42.22%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Strategy	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	12,127,000	12,348,279	7,748,164	4,600,114
PO02 - Livelihoods	20,086,000	9,037,885	6,357,869	2,680,016
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	18,248,000	4,131,540	6,176,106	-2,044,566
PO04 - Health	18,927,000	4,517,674	4,533,614	-15,940
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	8,294,000	870,284	843,894	26,390
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,703,000	263,878	367,129	-103,251
PO07 - Education	379,000	0	2,242	-2,242
PO08 - Migration	9,426,000	14,208	3,686	10,522
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	8,702,000	5,396,444	13,206,880	-7,810,436
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	1,513,000	53,233	64,647	-11,413
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	53,000	1,714,162	274,986	1,439,176
Planned Operations Total	99,458,000	38,347,587	39,579,217	-1,231,630
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	7,779,000	1,171,459	1,605,277	-433,818
EA02 - Secretariat Services	4,571,000	6,128,880	6,646,678	-517,799
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	8,278,000	2,024,456	1,626,492	397,965
Enabling Approaches Total	20,628,000	9,324,795	9,878,447	-553,652
Grand Total	120,086,000	47,672,381	49,457,663	-1,785,282

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2024/10

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	50,441,432
Expenditure	-49,457,663
Closing Balance	983,769
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	983,769

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	2,500,000	Reimbursed :	2,500,000	Outstanding :	0
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V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
Opening Balance					0	
AAWAG-Asian Ambassadors Wives Association	5,000				5,000	
Albanian Red Cross	10,000				10,000	
American Red Cross	426,531				426,531	
Austrian Red Cross	458,917				458,917	
Austrian Red Cross (from Austrian Government*)	1,065,859				1,065,859	
Bahrain Red Crescent Society	48,175				48,175	
Bloomberg	1,142				1,142	
British Red Cross	2,860,960	11,977	161,331		3,034,268	
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	15,399,676				15,399,676	
Danish Red Cross	1,547,648				1,547,648	
Electrolux Food Foundation	6,348				6,348	
European Commission - DG ECHO	221,194				221,194	
Finnish Red Cross	958,998				958,998	
Finnish Red Cross (from Finnish Government*)	3,090,010				3,090,010	
France - Private Donors	403				403	
French Government	1,053,056				1,053,056	
German Red Cross		106,671	21,574		128,245	
German Red Cross (from German Government*)	6,872				6,872	
Government of Malta	28,830				28,830	
Great Britain - Private Donors	87				87	
Hong Kong branch, Red Cross Society of China	66,804				66,804	
Hong Kong branch, Red Cross Society of China (from)	498,531				498,531	
Irish Red Cross Society	48,142				48,142	
Islamic Development Bank IsDB	515,870				515,870	
Italian Government Bilateral Emergency Fund	1,627,543				1,627,543	
Italian Red Cross	189,765				189,765	
Japanese Government	8,113,793	206,582			8,320,375	
Japanese Red Cross Society	1,071,719	1,331			1,073,050	
Kuwait Red Crescent Society	123,550				123,550	
Kuwait Society for Relief	2,623,452				2,623,452	
Luxembourg Government	524,175				524,175	
Luxembourg Red Cross	1,488				1,488	
New Zealand Red Cross	57,876				57,876	
Norwegian Red Cross (from Norwegian Government*)	1,039,245				1,039,245	
On Line donations	17,517				17,517	
Other	266		245		511	
PricewaterhouseCoopers	85				85	
Red Cross of Monaco	46,703				46,703	
Red Cross Society of China	323,225				323,225	
ShelterBox	50,000	100,187			150,187	
Singapore Red Cross Society	111,791				111,791	
Slovenian Red Cross	5,184				5,184	
Spanish Government	655,506				655,506	
Supreme Master Ching Hai	29,100				29,100	
Swedish Red Cross	1,651,967				1,651,967	
Swiss Government	800,000				800,000	
Tahir Foundation	259,285				259,285	
Taiwan Red Cross Organisation	85,028				85,028	
The Canadian Red Cross Society	215,519				215,519	
The Netherlands Red Cross	268,361				268,361	

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Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	1,370,077				1,370,077	
The Philippine National Red Cross	9,044				9,044	
The Republic of Korea National Red Cross	137,695				137,695	
Turkish Red Crescent Society			26,700		26,700	
Twitter	46,273				46,273	
United States - Private Donors	552				552	
Z Zurich Foundation	30,000				30,000	
Total Contributions and Other Income	49,804,835	426,748	209,850	0	50,441,432	0
Total Income and Deferred Income					50,441,432	0