



ICRC

# Emergency in Afghanistan



“ The ICRC is determined to stand by the Afghan people and help men, women and children cope with the unfolding situation. More than 40,000 people wounded by weapons have been treated at ICRC-supported facilities in June, July and August.

– Robert Mardini, ICRC Director-General

## Context and needs

Afghanistan is among the deadliest places in the world to be a civilian – and women and children make up nearly half of all civilian casualties.

Health care is a clear and urgent need. Thousands of people have been injured in recent weeks as fighting raged in cities like Lashkar Gah, Kandahar, and Kunduz. Some will require long-term care. More than four decades of armed conflict have all but decimated Afghanistan's health care system.

While fighting has come to a halt, people continue to be injured by mines and improvised explosive devices. Our staff at Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar report receiving referrals from people wounded by explosive weapons, many of whom are children. Amputations are

often required. This comes on top of having received a huge influx of patients injured by weapons during heavy fighting in recent weeks.

With COVID-19 adding yet another deadly threat, access to health care is among the most pressing humanitarian needs everywhere in the country.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes and essential infrastructure such as hospitals, electricity and water supplies has been damaged and requires urgent repair.

All this is happening against the backdrop of decades of conflict in which civilians have already suffered extreme physical and psychological harm.

Afghanistan is in the middle of a difficult and unpredictable period of transition. One thing is certain: **humanitarian needs will remain high.**

## The ICRC's access

The ICRC has staff and access across the country and does not plan to evacuate or withdraw. We have been present in Afghanistan for more than 30 years and working in Taliban-controlled areas for much of this time. We maintain good contacts with all parties and have

not experienced a detrimental impact on our operations, besides basic security precautions during fighting. We do not foresee a reduction in our operational footprint across Afghanistan, on the contrary, we remain committed to help people in need.



“We will not be reducing our presence in Afghanistan. We have worked in the country for 30 years and this will not stop now.”  
– ICRC Head of Delegation

# The ICRC's response



## Health:

the ICRC will continue to work with hospitals and detention facilities to support health care and to provide and improve critical infrastructure. For instance, supporting the Mirwais Regional Hospital in Kandahar with drugs, medical consumables and equipment, and a team of clinical specialists to strengthen the surgical, obstetrics/gynaecology and paediatric departments.



## Essential supplies:

the situation is tense and unpredictable, so essential goods and other supplies have been pre-positioned to support interventions as and where needed. Maintaining logistics and chain of supply may be challenging in the coming days and is an issue our team is working to secure.



## Working together:

the ICRC's activities in Afghanistan are delivered in close collaboration with our main partners the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and the Norwegian Red Cross, and in coordination with other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners operating in Afghanistan.

## Your support makes the difference

Whilst the ICRC is committed to assisting and protecting people in Afghanistan, **we need your help to do so**. All our funding is voluntary and we currently have a significant gap in funding for our essential operations in Afghanistan. With your help, we will act at the speed and scale needed to save and protect lives.

To support the work in Afghanistan, donations can be made by bank transfer. Please choose the account that matches your desired donation currency. **Thank you.**

Bank address: UBS SA, P.O. BOX 2600, 1211 GENEVA 2, Switzerland

Swift code (BIC): UBSWCH ZH80A

	BANK ACCOUNT	IBAN
CHF	240-FP100883.2	CH97 0024 0240 FP10 0883 2
USD	240-C0129986.4	CH52 0024 0240 C012 9986 4
EUR	240-C0129986.5	CH25 0024 0240 C012 9986 5
GBP	240-C0183929.1	CH73 0024 0240 C018 3929 1

The situation in Afghanistan is evolving rapidly. So too will the ICRC's response to the humanitarian needs. For the latest information, please contact Ben Paine via [bpaine@icrc.org](mailto:bpaine@icrc.org)

Cover image: A mother and child wait to see a doctor in the paediatric department of Mirwais hospital in Kandahar (L. Billing/ICRC)



ICRC

International Committee of the Red Cross

19 Avenue de la paix

1202 Geneva

Switzerland

[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

© ICRC, August 2021