



Joint Movement Statement on the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan on 31 August 2025.

7 September 2025

BACKGROUND

On 31 August 2025 at 11:47pm local time, a powerful 6.0 magnitude earthquake struck across five of Afghanistan's eastern provinces, having a particularly devastating impact on Nurugal and Sawaki Districts in Kunar province. Tremors and aftershocks were felt throughout the night and well into the morning. Entire villages were destroyed. More than 2,200 people are reported dead and reportedly more than 3,600 people were injured and partly airlifted and evacuated towards the nearest hospitals in Asadabad and Jalalabad. Many more people are displaced. The full extent of the loss of lives, injuries and devastation is yet to be assessed, as many communities remain inaccessible due to landslides, destruction of roads and mountainous terrain.

Communities within the areas most affected by the earthquake already had significant humanitarian needs, due to the past armed conflict. In particular, districts such as Nurgal, Sawkai, Sarkanai and Chapadara in Kunar province and Dara e Nur in Nangarhar province were the hub of armed conflict before the IEA's return to power in August 2021. As an illustration, ISgK established its presence and activities in these areas in 2016-17, which led to limited territorial control of the group in these areas. Subsequent military left behind significant humanitarian needs within communities in these areas.

Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) response

The ARCS Branch in Kunar deployed within an hour, followed by teams from Nangarhar and Kabul. It was supported by teams arriving from the ARCS East Regional Office at the early hours of the morning. Disaster Management and Mobile Health teams were immediately deployed to the areas hit by the earthquake, where initial support and rapid assessments were conducted. Due to difficulties in accessing the areas, some health teams were airlifted and others walked several hours to reach remote the villages. Since then, the volunteers of the ARCS across all specialties and programmes, have been working around the clock assessing the needs, providing immediate support to the victims and organizing for the mid- and longer-term response. The immediate needs are medical assistance, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), hot meals, NFIs, emergency shelter, and clearing of roads and pathways to enable access to assist and evacuate the wounded and survivors.

The immediate strategic response of the ARCS is on addressing life-saving needs during the emergency phase while laying the foundation for recovery as part of the Movement's broader humanitarian response.

Movement support

ARCS convened the first Emergency Operations Center (EOC) meeting on the 1 September 2025 bringing together all Movement partners present in-country participated to ensure effective coordination, technical alignment, and collective support to ARCS' response efforts.

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners in Afghanistan - comprising the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - are working together to support and complement emergency relief efforts.

The ICRC and IFRC support the ARCS, as per their area of expertise and available capacity, with technical, financial and in-kind support. A number of Participating National Societies, including those not operationally present in Afghanistan,

have mobilized support through public appeals and other initiatives. Several others are preparing to contribute to the collective efforts in support of the Afghan Red Crescent Society's response.

Movement Coordination

A Movement Coordination Agreement (MCA) is signed and in place in Afghanistan. Accordingly, Movement Partners are all supporting the ARCS in its central role in coordination and response, as well as in advising the Partners on the main urgent needs and the support it requires to deliver its response timely and effectively.

The IFRC will support the ARCS' overall response capacity and the coordination of support coming through its Membership, both within and outside of Afghanistan, with established coordination mechanisms. The IFRC will also ensure strategic alignment of the Membership, including through Partners' calls which will be jointly organised and attended by all Movement Partners.

Given the specificity of the area, the ICRC will advise the Movement Partners on security analysis and developments, guidance on the use of the emblem, and on the external communication messages and language, together with the IFRC. The ICRC will also support the ARCS emergency response and on the Safer Access Framework at the Regional level. The ICRC will engage and coordinate with the relevant authorities on its direct emergency support at Provincial and National levels.

The EOC organised by the ARCS on 01 September 2025 fulfils the requirements of Operational Coordination among the in-country Movement Partners. It will continue to be reinforced with a view to get clear data on the needs, what has been received, what has been used and the way forward.

Technical Coordination at the programmes levels will also be in place to ensure complementarity and alignment.

Operational response plan of the ARCS and its Movement Partners – Way Forward

The IFRC will support ARCS to scale up its ongoing response efforts with emergency healthcare assistance, critical non-food items, such as tents, food and clean water, multi-purpose cash, immediate financial, surge personnel and relief supplies support including the launch of its global response tools to enable ARCS to continue responding swiftly and with agility to urgent needs. This support is expected to cover both relief and recovery needs.

The IFRC continues to provide support to the ARCS to plan and coordinate, increase its preparedness and strengthen its ability to respond to all in need, including support in designing response options together with ICRC and other Movement partners.

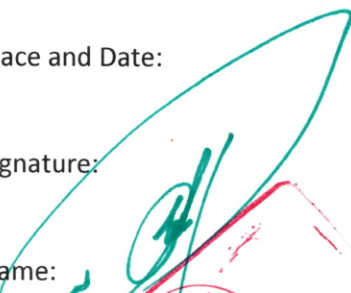
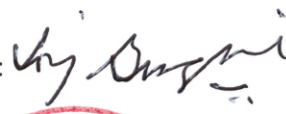
The ICRC will support the ARCS directly in specific areas, such as RFL, WeC, Safer Access and PRP, based on the needs assessed and priorities. Additionally, the ICRC will complement the Movement response through the provision of cash, medical items, relief and WASH.

Our Commitment

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners in Afghanistan remain committed to strong and efficient coordination and collaboration in the interest of helping people affected by this devastating crisis. All efforts will be made to significantly scale up the humanitarian impact reached through and with the ARCS, to continue saving lives, improving living conditions for people in harder to reach communities and to ensure solid accountability towards the affected people.

As the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we express our sincere concern for, and solidarity with the affected people. We encourage partners to contribute to the response operation either directly to the ARCS, through the IFRC emergency appeal or through the ICRC.

We thank all partners for their support

For the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Place and Date: Signature:  Name:  Function: 	For the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) Place and Date: Signature:  Name:  Function: 	For the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Place and Date: Signature:  Name:  Function: 
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