Amid a worrying increase in hostilities, its mounting impact on civilians and a surge in COVID-19 cases, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Afghanistan has adapted its humanitarian activities to respond to the pandemic while continuing to assist and protect victims of the ongoing armed conflict. We work with the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) and our partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to address the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, which may mean holding confidential and bilateral dialogue with the parties to the conflict.

**SUPPORTING HEALTH CARE**

- Strengthened measures to prevent and control infection at Mirwais Regional Hospital, Kandahar, by sharing recommendations, providing equipment and financial support and helping with renovations
- Ministry of Public Health supported with a border screening team at Spin Boldak
- 49,500 wounded patients treated at 416 ICRC-supported health facilities, including those run by ARCS
- 550 people trained in 42 first-aid sessions across the country
- 46 basic health clinics given medicines and other supplies through ARCS
- 1,540 war-wounded packs, 690 dressing packs, 525 oral packs and 330 IV packs supplied for emergency stabilization or surgery
- 6 hospitals under Kabul Medical University provided with hygiene items and PPE kits
- 5,000 facemasks donated to Laghman ARCS and 3,400 to participants of first-aid courses
- 4 hospitals benefited from infrastructure upgrading
- Advised ARCS on contingency planning for 140 clinics and mobile health teams along with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Norwegian Red Cross
7,138 new patients registered, including 723 amputees

79,953 patients assisted in the seven ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres

11,860 prostheses and orthoses manufactured

2,737 home visits made to help 2,178 patients

207 patients granted microcredit loans

81 patients given vocational training

129,654 physiotherapy sessions held

5,107 phone calls, 339 video teleconference calls and 1,216 family visits made to detainees at the Prison and Detention Facility in Parwan

574 tracing requests and allegations of arrest initiated and 205 people traced

6 positive matches found via Trace the Face

11 written interventions made for emergency response plans

High-level dialogue maintained with authorities responsible for managing detention facilities
**DIGNIFIED MANAGEMENT OF THE DEAD**

- Remains of 2,449 fighters and civilians retrieved, transferred and returned with the support of ARCS and ICRC-contracted taxi drivers
- 5 Land Cruisers donated and 10 vehicles repaired to support ARCS Human Remains Transfer Programme
- 1,980 body bags and other PPE material, including surgical masks, rubber gloves and boots donated to ARCS
- 2,200 booklets raising awareness of Human Remains Transfer Programme given to ARCS regional offices
- PPE items and disinfectants provided to ICRC-contracted taxi drivers
- 290 body bags, PPE items and 800 body tags donated to forensic medicine departments and other agencies
- Repaired freezers in 4 hospitals and upgraded facilities
- Donated IT equipment to Forensic Medicine Department of Ghazni Provincial Hospital
- Organized [workshop on forensic dentistry and human identification](#) in collaboration with Afghanistan Forensic Science Organization

**ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES**

- 49,650 people, including those living in Lashkar Gah and Jalalabad city, given improved access to water by repairing hand pumps and water towers and installing supply network
- 2 schools (Alikhel Boys and Girls High School, Laghman and Naw Bahar Balkh High School) repaired, benefiting 9,751 students
- 7,658 people given cash assistance

**PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW**

- 50 law students and 35 human rights officers of National Directorate of Security participated in one-day sessions on IHL
- Over 200 sessions organized to improve the community’s understanding of humanitarian law
- 3,620 armed and security forces personnel attended sessions on international humanitarian law
- 2,382 people joined iftar and other informal gatherings to discuss humanitarian concerns
- 240 professors and students of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari university and Hariwa Institute of Higher Education attended two IHL conferences
PARTNERING WITH AFGHAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY

- Trained staff of District Hospital, Kabul, in COVID-19 preparedness and sponsored a ten-day training workshop by WHO and Ministry of Public Health in critical care management
- 79 primary health-care facilities given medical supplies with the help of Norwegian Red Cross
- 161,522 routine vaccinations administered and 440,949 outpatient consultations carried out at 46 Basic Health Centres
- 3,350 surgical masks, 4,600 disposable gloves and other PPE items along with disinfectants donated to ARCS branches
- Supported COVID-19 emergency response plan along with IFRC and Turkish Red Crescent Society
- 254 ARCS staff and volunteers attended various technical training sessions
- Sfr 84,676 worth medicines, PPE kits and hygiene material donated (Sfr = Swiss francs)
- 10 ARCS health facilities marked with protective red crescent emblem
- Joint ICRC-ARCS partnership framework agreement (2021–2023) with 6 operational cooperation agreements finalized and signed
- Psychosocial support sessions organized for staff of ARCS Ghazni branch who were involved in the transfer of human remains
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