

# International Rescue Committee Afghanistan: Strategy Action Plan



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## IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC's global strategy, IRC2020 (shown at right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly, and better respond to clients' needs.

Figure 1: IRC at a Glance



## AFGHANISTAN OVERVIEW

Since 1979, Afghanistan has experienced continuous armed conflict.

Unrelenting violence has stunted Afghanistan's development and created one of the largest refugee and internally displaced (IDP) populations in the world. Despite large global investment and significant gains, Afghanistan still suffers from weak institutions and a crippled infrastructure that struggles to provide clean water,

electricity, safe roads, education, and adequate medical services.

The effects of underdevelopment have particularly affected women and children who are frequently subjected to violence, abuse, and child labor. They are also more likely to be food insecure and have inadequate access to healthcare, education, or rule of law.

Since 1988, the IRC has provided humanitarian relief and recovery

assistance in Afghanistan. As the country emerges from decades of neglect and seeks to build on its modest gains, the IRC in Afghanistan's experience and expertise is more valuable than ever.

The IRC's new strategy for Afghanistan illustrates the IRC's commitment to improving the health, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power of the most vulnerable people in Afghanistan.

## IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

Currently, the IRC in Afghanistan is implementing programs in nine provinces. Instead of provincial expansion, the IRC in Afghanistan will pursue holistic programming and achieve maximum coverage in these areas. Current programs focus on community-based and emergency education, economic well-being, and emergency response for people affected by conflict through livelihoods, WASH, protection, nutrition, and disaster risk reduction.

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's strategy in Afghanistan will prioritize outcomes in education, health, decision-making power, and economic wellbeing (see Figure 1). Programs will target IDPs, refugees, disaster affected people, and people living in urban and rural areas.

The IRC in Afghanistan will build on its extensive experience in community-based education for children, specifically building on its success in overcoming cultural barriers to girls' education.

Health programs will continue to improve access to safe water and promote hygiene through multi-media behavior change techniques. These strengthened WASH activities aim to prevent disease before they happen.

The IRC in Afghanistan will continue its decades-long support for the creation of inclusive governing systems that empower underrepresented voices in political decision-making.

Programs will also support emergency response activities through agricultural assistance, market-based skills training, and cash-based programming.

The IRC in Afghanistan's commitment to gender equality means that we will strive for equal educational and health outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming, such as raising awareness of the importance of women's health, into all activities.

Figure 2: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Afghanistan	Future Programs
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 6 - 14 year olds have literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills, according to their developmental potential</li> <li>&gt; Women and girls are equal to men and boys in literacy and numeracy, social-emotional skills, and livelihoods skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Train teachers and supply classrooms with education materials</li> <li>&gt; Develop a partnership with the Ministry of Education to measure and generate evidence on the quality of Afghani education services</li> </ul>
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People are protected from water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Build safe and easily accessible water and sanitation facilities that reduce travel time and insecurity when fetching water</li> </ul>
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Provide skills-based training and apprenticeship programs for high demand jobs</li> </ul>
POWER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People influence decisions that affect them collectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Educate communities about their rights when faced with land expropriation</li> </ul>



## COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve priority outcomes, the IRC in Afghanistan is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly, and be more responsive to clients and partners. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people we serve in Afghanistan.

Figure 3: Commitments to Ensure Impact



### Effectiveness

- > Improve monitoring and evaluation systems, specifically long-term evaluation capacity
- > Establish an inclusive program design system that ensures participation from clients and program, operation, and field-based staff



### Best Use of Resources

- > Build local staff capacity through workshops and professional development programs
- > Strengthen linkages between program and finance teams to improve budget design and procurement planning



### Scale & Reach

- > Conduct regional emergency preparedness analyses, including security risks, road access, type of clients, type of emergency and local capacity



### Speed & Timeliness

- > Train and enable staff to respond to emergencies within 72 hours
- > Conduct emergency preparedness analysis in disaster and conflict prone areas to strengthen response capacity



### Responsiveness

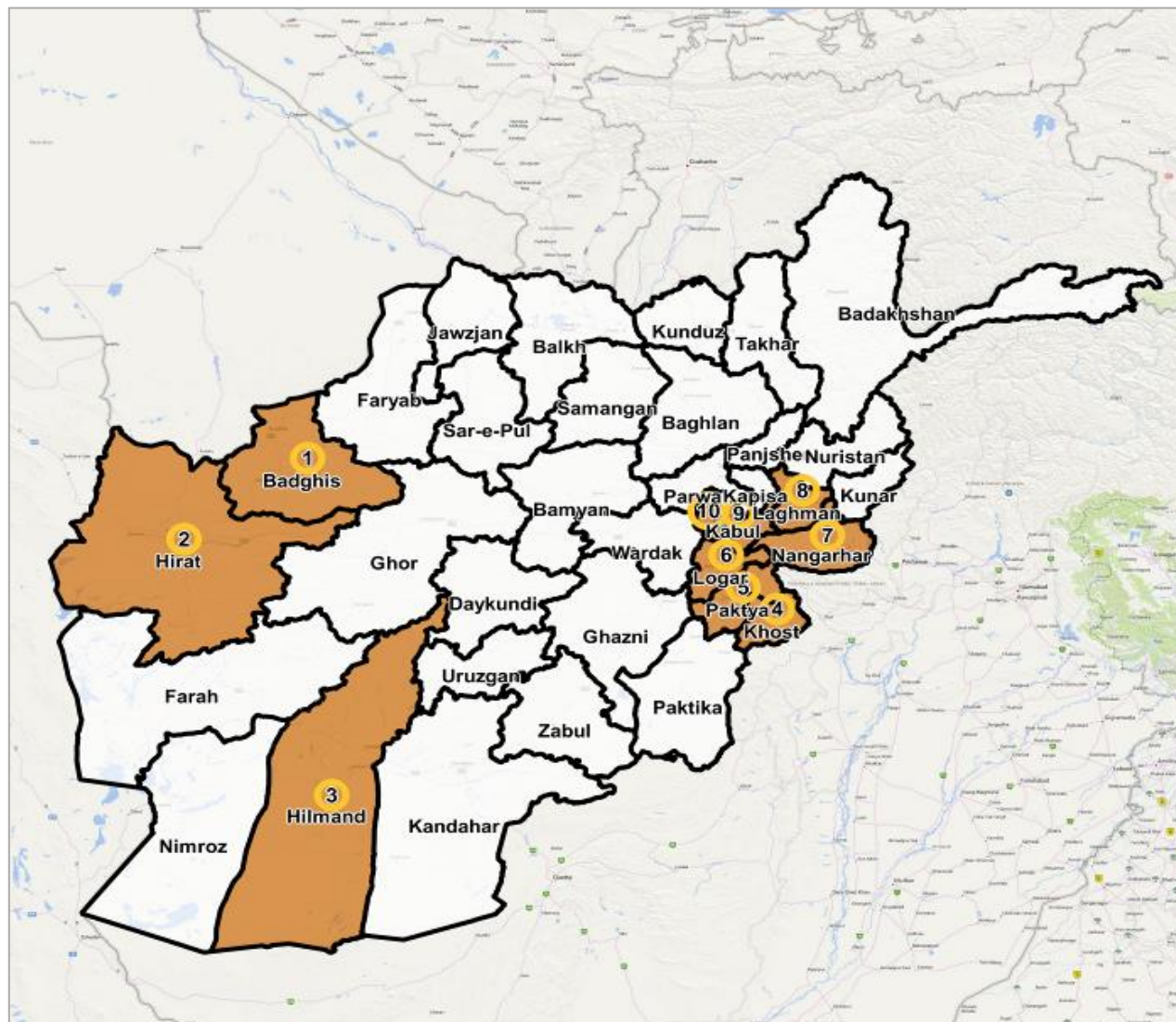
- > Improve knowledge of local laws, institutions, and context, including security, political, economic, and social conditions to be able to respond in a culturally sensitive manner



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## IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC in Afghanistan will expand or maintain its presence inside the nine provinces it currently operates in, based on an analysis of the security and needs, and where the IRC can add the most value.







# The IRC in Afghanistan



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