

# International Rescue Committee Afghanistan: Strategy Action Plan

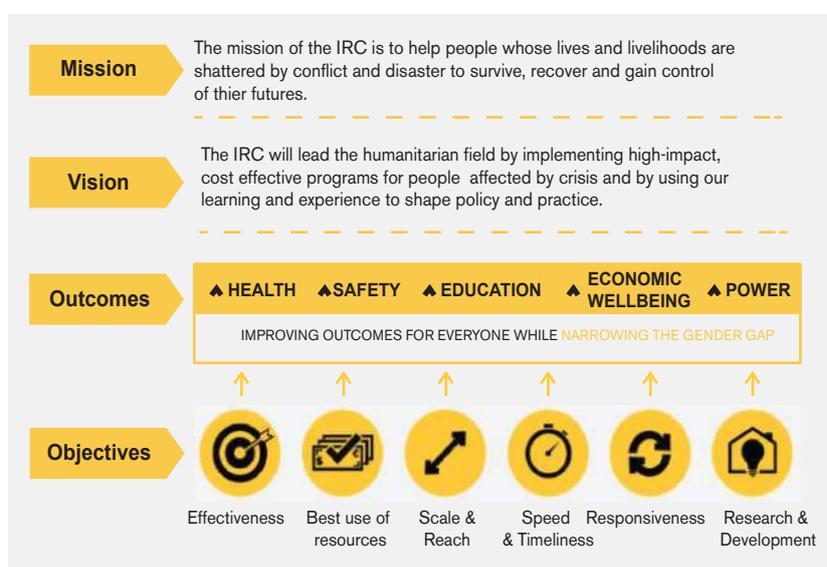


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## IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

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 on the 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.



## AFGHANISTAN OVERVIEW

Since 1979, Afghanistan has experienced continuous armed conflict for nearly 40 years.

Unrelenting violence has stunted Afghanistan's development and created one of the largest refugee and internally displaced populations (IDP) 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. Within Afghanistan, it is estimated that over 2 million people are severely food insecure, almost 12

million live below the poverty line and an estimated 3.7 million children are out of school. 25 of 34 provinces have experienced forced displacement in the first quarter of 2019 alone.

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 current 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 (Badghis, Herat, Helmand, Khost, Paktya, Logar, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kabul). From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's strategy in Afghanistan will prioritize outcomes in education, health, safety, and economic wellbeing (see Figure 1). Programs will target the most vulnerable (women, children, people with disabilities etc.) including IDPs, returnees, disaster affected people (natural and man-made) 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 behavior change techniques and construction of WASH infrastructure. These strengthened WASH activities aim to prevent water-borne diseases before they happen. Protecting the nutritional status of men, women, boys and girls in crisis is also a key priority and a means to advance other development outcomes, such as education and health.

Economic wellbeing programs will continue to support livelihood skills development (coupled with basic literacy and numeracy) for men and women and internships/on the job training to support sustainable employment– with 6,547 men and women reached in 2018 alone. Programs will also support emergency response activities through shelter and WASH assistance, provision of protection services, and cash-based programming.

Safety programs focus on community based protection and training, protection monitoring, use of Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS) and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), parenting training and case management and referral.

The IRC in Afghanistan's commitment to gender equality means that we will strive for equal 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 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

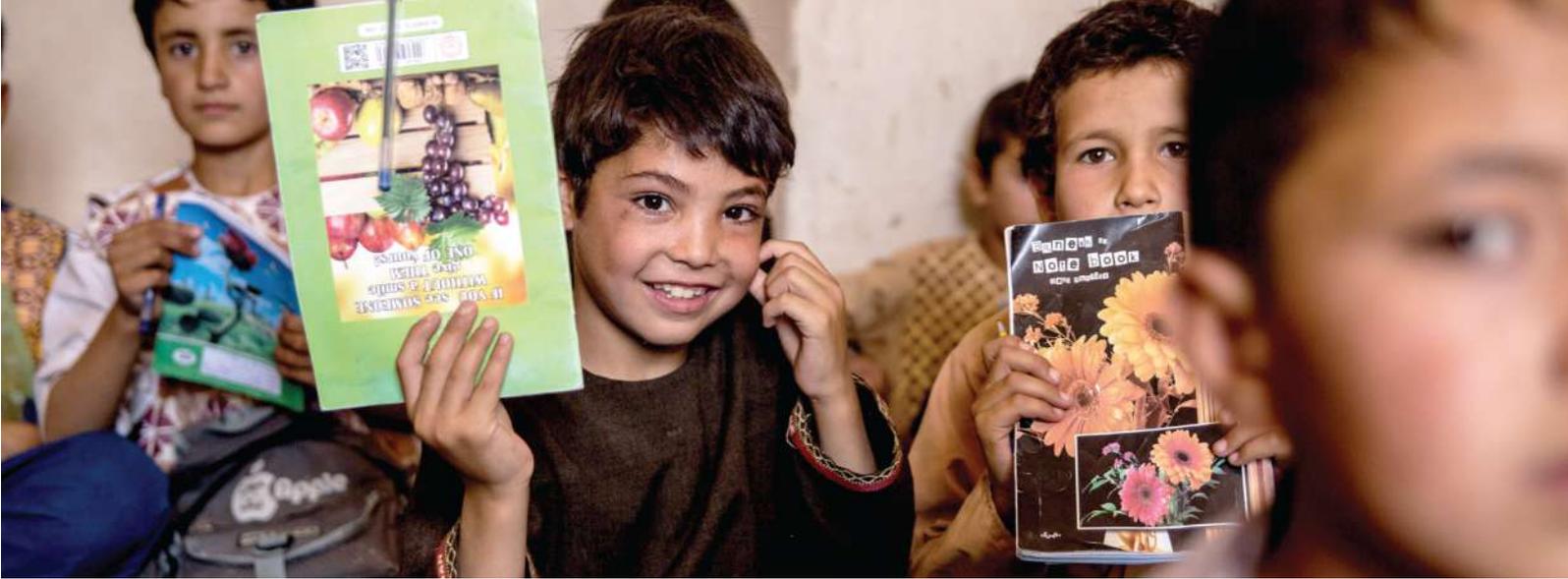
	Priority Outcomes in Afghanistan	Future Programs
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 - 14 year olds have literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills, according to their developmental potential</li> <li>Women and girls are equal to men and boys in literacy and numeracy, social-emotional skills, and livelihoods skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train teachers and increase access through CBE</li> <li>Contribute to reducing the gap of access and retention in education for girls</li> </ul>
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are protected from water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement holistic programming considering WASH and nutrition to best protect people from water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases</li> </ul>
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop market-relevant livelihoods with a specific focus on market linkage</li> <li>Ensure basic needs are met in cases of emergency through multi-sector response</li> </ul>
SAFETY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are safe in their communities and receive support when they experience harm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand protection activities by programming for community based protection and training, use of SHLS and SEL, parenting training, protection monitoring and case management</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.

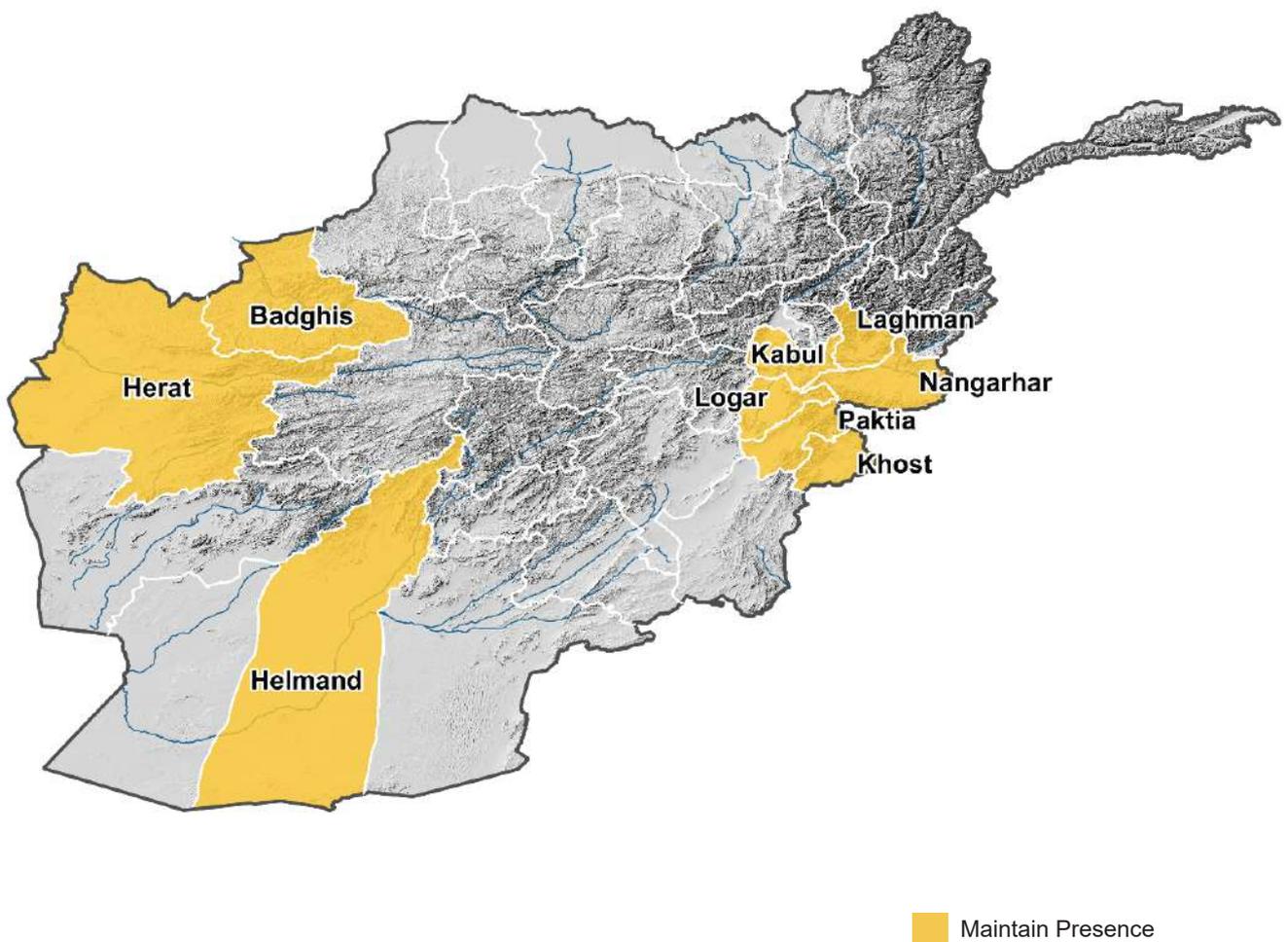
Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact





## 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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