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FINAL REPORT

IRAN: Sisakht Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRIR004
Date of Issue: 28 December 2022	GLIDE n° EQ-2021-000018-IRN
Operation start date: 17 February 2021	Operation end date: 31 January 2022
Operating National Society: Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS)	Operation budget: CHF 497,781
Number of people affected: 257,661	Number of people assisted: 17,500
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Iran, Local NGOs, UN Agencies	

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

<click [here](#) for the final financial report and [here](#) for contacts>

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the Disaster

On 17 February, according to the Iranian Seismological Centre, a 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit the country. The epicentre was 11 km from Sisakht city, 19 km from Madovan city, and 20 km from Komeh city in Isfahan province. Based on the magnitude and the distance to the populated areas around, a number of 19 cities with a population of 257,661 individuals and 1,144 villages have been affected by the disaster. Six aftershocks have been reported, the largest of which is a magnitude of 3.6. According to the COVID-19 fatality rate and the extent of the



Figure 1: Damages caused by the earthquake in Sisakht-Iran.
©IRCS

outbreak, Iranian authorities have divided the country into zones. The COVID-19 red zone was the most severely affected by the earthquake. Not only the earthquake but also the COVID-19 outbreak caused major disruptions to livelihoods.

Summary of Response

Overview of Operating National Society

The IRCS was established in 1922 and became affiliated with the IFRC in 1924. It has over 8,500 staff and some 1.5 million volunteers, being active through the Youth Organization, the Volunteers Organization, and the Relief and Rescue Organization. The IRCS has 500 local branches across the country. The National Society has a strong auxiliary link to the government and is mandated, under the law on Crisis Management, to conduct search and rescue activities, relief services and to provide emergency shelter. In addition, the IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness of disaster preparedness, including the provision of related educational activities.

On the first day of the earthquake, a total number of 147 villages were rapidly assessed by IRCS (121 villages in Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, and 26 in Isfahan). Five emergency ambulances were deployed to deliver basic healthcare services to injured people. Two emergency camps were set up for people in need, while most of the affected people were reluctant to stay in the camps and preferred to stay in their house's yards. It was therefore decided to distribute one emergency family tent per family for those households with urgent needs. Sixty-three were injured, 36 of whom received outpatient care from the IRCS and seven people were transferred to the medical clinic by the IRCS.

Since the immediate onset of the disaster, and in line with the urgent needs of the affected population, the IRCS reached 12,130 people through the distribution of 3,331 relief tents, 945 blankets, 6,644 kg of plastic sheets, 214 sets of heaters, 1,965 food parcels (for 72-hours) and 70 groundsheets. In addition, IRCS has reached a total of 3,500 households with unconditional cash grants through bank transfers.

Five relief and rescue teams consisting of 25 people from Najafabad, Tiran, Kron, Flavarjan, and Zarrinshahr were dispatched to the Sisakht earthquake-affected regions to carry out the distribution of the relief items.



Figure 2: IRCS response to the earthquake in Sisakht-Iran. © IRCS

During the operation, 55 heavy and 62 light vehicles as well as 289 operational personnel were deployed. The IRCS Basic Health Care Unit provided emergency health services to those in need in the earthquake-affected areas. In addition, 125,000 masks and 1,250 liters of disinfectant were distributed to those affected.

The IRCS Psychosocial Support (PSS) teams were also dispatched to the earthquake-affected areas to provide PSS to those who have been affected, particularly children.



Figure 3: IRCS response to the earthquake. ©IRCS

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in-country

The IFRC has a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in Capacity Building initiatives and supporting IRCS in Disaster Management, Shelter, Disaster Law, Youth, and Health. There are no participating National Societies (PNSs) present in the country, however, IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of PNSs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran with a various number of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS and is on standby to support the IRCS operation (e.g., through health support to migrants, mine risk education (MRE), restoring family links (RFL).

Overview of other actors' actions in-country

Efforts of Ministries, local authorities, national NGOs, and the IRCS are coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO). IRCS delivers relief, rescue, and emergency shelter. Sectoral services are led and implemented by line ministries. The governmental bodies and institutions were engaged in this operation. UN agencies are present in-country, including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. INGOs have a limited presence in-country, with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Relief International (RI) present in the country.

Needs Analysis and Scenario Planning

Needs Analysis

The IRCS had completed its intervention under this DREF in terms of direct support to the earthquake-affected population. An emergency shelter was provided immediately following the disaster in the form of family tents, while cash grants assisted affected families in populating some bounce-back ability to cater immediate support for repairs or livelihoods. The earthquake-affected area was in the COVID-19 red zone, with slow progression. The livelihood aspects had been severely harmed not only by the earthquake but also by COVID-19. In addition to high vulnerability, the dry rainy season has caused a slow progression in the severity of the drought.

Targeting

This DREF operation targeted the most vulnerable 3,500 households among the impacted populations in the afflicted districts within Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad province through cash assistance.

Risk Analysis

Risk Area	Controls Management
Delays in transfer of remaining DREF amount in the extended timeframe.	<p>The funds could not be transferred due to banking constraints imposed by the tightening of sanctions, delaying this intervention. The IFRC Legal Department was always advocating and discussing ways to secure a green-signaled banking channel for transferring funds.</p> <p>Due to the delays in the last trench of fund transfer, the National Society requested an extension until the end of January 2022 and the last trench arrived in the first week of January 2022.</p>


B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed Strategy

This DREF operation delivered emergency assistance and humanitarian relief to 3,500 households (17,500 people) in the province of Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad affected by the earthquake, by providing unconditional cash grants to help them meet their basic livelihood needs. At the same time, material readiness for the ongoing operation was bolstered by replenishing depleted shelter emergency stocks, particularly tents.

Please refer to the original DREF plan of action for details on the intervention strategy, available [here](#).

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter People reached: 3,975 (795 HHs) Male: 2,020 Female: 1,955</p>		
Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements		5,450	3,975
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance		1,090	795
Narrative description of achievements			
<p>In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the IRCS distributed heaters, blankets, ground mats, and tents to 121 villages in the affected areas. The IRCS set up two camps to house the affected households, but no families showed up, preferring to stay in their yards. As a result, IRCS reached 12,130 people through the distribution of 3,331 tents, 945 thermal blankets, 6,644 kgs of plastic sheets, 214 sets of heaters, and 70 groundsheets. This DREF aimed to replenish tent stocks that have been depleted (1,090).</p>			
Challenges			
<p>The DREF amount allocated for the planned procurement of 1,090 family tents was received by IRCS on the first week of January 2022, to which this DREF operation was extended. Due to local inflation and price fluctuations, the IRCS was only able to procure 795 family tents rather than the planned 1,090.</p>			
Lessons Learned			

Nothing to report.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 17,500 (3,500 HHs)

Male: 8,925

Female: 8,575

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants and able to cover their monthly basic needs	3,500	3,500
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants	3,500	3,500

Narrative description of achievements

People's lives had been disrupted by the loss of their homes and livelihoods. The emergency response operation fulfilled immediate needs. The provision of unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash to the affected population will have many benefits, allowing them to meet existing basic and diverse demands on a household level, have a positive impact on the local economy, and contribute to re-establishing market dynamics.

The targeted people were selected upon the following criteria:

- The affected population of Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad province;
- People with severely or completely damaged houses;
- Households headed by women, i.e., widows, divorced or separated women without income;
- Households with person(s) living with disabilities and other socially excluded / marginalized groups;
- Households with insufficient coping mechanisms;
- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

The list of beneficiaries was developed in close coordination with local authorities and the community.

A total number of 3,500 households (17,500 people) received one-off unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants of 100 CHF via bank transfer to meet their basic needs.

Challenges

The sanctions delayed the transfer of funds, which had a direct effect on the operation. The operation was due to be completed by mid-March (cash assistance), but the funds reached IRCS a month late.

Lessons Learned

Due to sanctions imposed on all Iranian banking systems, meeting treasury/legal compliances on a full scale is a huge challenge for both the IFRC and IRCS. Because no Financial Service Providers (FSP) has been certified in Iran, the IFRC is attempting to identify a solution that meets fiscal, legal, operational, and technical requirements in the long run. Future DREF activities should carefully weigh the benefits and drawbacks of implementing the CVA programme, as doing so revealed that it was not the optimal humanitarian intervention in Iran given the context at the time.

International Disaster Response

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources	Yes	Yes
Coordination tools and mechanisms are in use for the operation	Yes	Yes
% ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies	100%	100%

IFRC surge support is on standby for any surge deployment	1	0
Narrative description of achievements		
There was no need for an IFRC surge deployment to support the DREF operation.		
Challenges		
During the operation, the provincial branch found that other NGOs and institutions began distributing relief items such as tents to the affected population without consulting the IRCS's provincial branch. As a result, better coordination throughout the operation is required for future planning to avoid duplication of efforts in relief operations. Another challenge that the provincial branch of the IRCS has had to deal with is the lack of engagement of partners on the ground in the early stages of the operation, which has put the entire burden on the IRCS, despite the fact that they are the humanitarian actors in-country are mandated to do so according to the NDMO's law and regulations.		
Lessons Learned		
In terms of the challenges and issues raised, better coordination is needed in future operations planning to avoid duplication of efforts and to assist other partners in fulfilling their mandated responsibilities and commitments.		

Effective, credible, and accountable IFRC			
Indicators:		Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.		YES	YES
# of lessons learned workshop conducted		1	0
Narrative description of achievements			
The lessons learned exercise was not completed in order to document the findings due to the IRCS's overwhelming response to multiple disasters/crises.			
Challenges			
The key issues that have hampered timely cash distributions were directly related to sanctions affecting international and national money transfers.			
Lessons Learned			
IFRC regional and secretariat teams are coordinating their efforts with monitoring and assessments to identify the best available solutions to be used in future operations.			

D. Financial Report

There is a budget variance with a remaining balance of **CHF 7,366** that will be returned to the International Federation's DREF fund.

Please see below the final financial report.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	*	Operation	MDRIR004
Budget Timeframe	*	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 11/Jan/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIR004 - Iran - Sisakht Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 26 Feb 2021 to 31 Jan 2022

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	460,400	460,298	102
Shelter - Relief	110,400	111,782	-1,382
Cash Disbursement	350,000	348,515	1,485
Workshops & Training		6,799	-6,799
Workshops & Training		6,799	-6,799
General Expenditure	7,000	-6,613	13,613
Travel	7,000		7,000
Financial Charges		-6,613	6,613
Indirect Costs	30,381	29,931	450
Programme & Services Support Recover	30,381	29,931	450
Grand Total	497,781	490,415	7,366

Contact Information

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Ops update No.1](#)
- [Ops update No.2](#)
- [Ops update No.3](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.