

www.ifrc.org  
Saving lives,  
changing minds.

# Final Report

## IRAN /MENA: Droughts

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF operation</b>	<b>Operation n° MDRIR005</b>
<b>Date of Issue: 02 August 2021</b>	<b>Glide number: DR-2021-000089-IRN</b>
<b>Operation start date: 24 July 2021</b>	<b>Operation end date: 28 February 2022</b>
<b>Operating National Society: Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS)</b>	<b>Operation budget: CHF 748,013</b>
<b>Number of people affected: 2,850,000 (712,500 HHs)</b>	<b>Number of people assisted: 150,760 (37,690 HHs)</b>
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Iran (Department of Water), Local NGOs, UN Agencies, and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) – France.	

*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

The Iranian climate is mostly arid or semi-arid and is heavily affected by depleting water resources due to rising demand, salinization, groundwater overexploitation, and increasing drought frequency. The country, where groundwater is the primary source of water, has a long history of inefficiency in its water distribution network, particularly in the agricultural sector. Despite not experiencing food insecurity, Iran faces paramount challenges in safeguarding long-term water access during the dry spell. All sectors that rely on the water are exposed, from agriculture to power production and public water supply. On top of poor precipitation during the last winters, high temperatures have caused more snow to melt, reducing the amount of water stored for later use during the drier months (i.e., late spring and summer).

The drought has adversely affected nearly all drinking water supply systems in both rural and urban areas. In over 70% of rural areas, the flow of water has been disrupted to varying degrees - from moderate to severe. Almost 80% of drinking-water wells suffer from low water yield, a drop in the water table, intrusion of salt water, or complete dryness.

The IRCS was carefully monitoring the health situation and drought-borne diseases in drought-affected areas, particularly for cholera. As serious water shortages and other drought-related conditions were likely to worsen, a favorable environment for sudden outbreaks of diarrheal and communicable diseases could be expected.

Since the beginning of the drought onset, research units, the media, and public authorities have been emphasizing the potential severity with time. On 10 July 2021, the First Vice President of Iran, Eshaq Jahangiri stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran requires national solidarity and integration to overcome challenges and past crises. He described water as one of the biggest problems in Iran, saying "If we cannot deal with challenges in time, they can become complicated issues".

While meteorological/hydrological droughts act as triggers and intensify the rate of depletion in country-wide groundwater storage, basin-scale groundwater depletion in Iran is primarily caused by extensive human water withdrawals. The continuation of unsustainable groundwater management in Iran can lead to potentially irreversible effects on land and the environment, threatening the country's water, food, and socio-economic security. According to an alert in March 2022 from GDACS (Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System), Iran has been categorized in Orange Level along with MENA Neighbouring countries.

According to Iran's National Drought Warning and Monitoring Centre, the country was facing one of its toughest rainfall seasons in 50 years. The rainfall had dropped by nearly 50% in South Khorasan province this year compared to the long-term average and by as much as 80% in southeastern Sistan and Baluchistan provinces.

According to the energy ministry, drought-linked water shortages have also led to rolling power cuts in areas supplied by hydroelectric plants, which provide about 15% of Iran's power supply. According to the World Meteorological Organization, over the next five years (2021-2025) the average rainfall is expected to be 75 percent lower than normal, and the average temperature will be between 50 to 75 percent higher than the long-term average.

According to the National Centre for Drought and Crisis Management, since the beginning of the current water year (23 September 2020), precipitation has declined by 41 percent compared to the long-term average and 53 percent compared to the same period last year (May 2021). The lowest rainfall occurred in Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchistan, and Kerman provinces, being short of rain by 86, 82, and 65 percent, respectively. Over the last two years, Iran was doused with rain which was unprecedented during the past 50 years, but last year, the country faced drought, which showed a 40 percent decrease in rainfall. Official figures estimated nearly 5 million people – 70 % of the rural population of the worst drought-affected provinces are at high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote rural areas of the provinces, and livelihoods are decimated

## **Summary of response**

### **Overview of Host National Society**

Over the last ten years, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has focused its efforts on providing more sustainable water resources for villagers through the establishment of water reservoirs/containers, providing services and social support to vulnerable groups as well as distributing safe drinking water, and food packages among the vulnerable groups in the most drought-hit provinces.

The DREF was launched to provide livelihoods, Health, and WASH assistance for the affected households.

The selected households were prioritized according to the below criteria, the data for the selection of the households has been acquired from the Welfare Organization and Imam Khomeini Charity Committee

- The vulnerable households affected by drought,
- The families with the disabled individuals,
- Female-headed households,
- Low-income or jobless families,
- Unaccompanied children.

Using the IFRC-DREF, the IRCS implemented all three phases of the project and distributed in total, 8,170 food (livelihoods) packages and 839 water tanks among the drought-affected populations in the 4 target provinces namely Sistan-u-Balouchestan, Kerman, Hormozgan, and South Khorasan.

Furthermore, the IRCS has been addressing the humanitarian impact of the drought over the last ten years. The Water Donation Campaign IV has been implemented as well, a national IRCS initiative started years ago to reach the most vulnerable people in remote areas. The IRCS volunteers provided guidance and support to drought-affected people, such as free home visits by physicians and distribution of livelihood packages. Moreover, throughout the operation, the technical teams affiliated with the Youth and Volunteers Organizations provided psychological services to the affected communities.

The current IFRC-DREF addressed mainly the severity that triggered high vulnerability and scaled up basic needs like livelihoods, sustaining, and making water available temporarily acting like a pain killer. Essentially, more funding and broader programs were required to address the challenges and to provide sustainable solutions as explained above which hopefully provided under the Appeal launched with the support of the IFRC.



*Credit: IRCS responding to the drought-affected population in Sistan Baluchestan, Kerman, & Hormozgan, IRAN.*

### **Overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country**

The IFRC has had a presence in Iran since 1991 (reopened in 2021) and has been providing technical support in the thematic areas mainly capacity building, disaster management, shelter, youth, and volunteers initiatives, and emergency health. The IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with the German Red Cross (search and rescue dogs peer-to-peer and ToT knowledge and practical exchange). 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 (e.g. health support to migrants, physical rehabilitation, IHL, and Restoring Family Links). The Movement partners developed a contingency plan for responding to the influx of Afghan migrants in 2021-2022 mainly focusing on the prepositioned stocks and hygiene items.

## Overview of non-RCRC actors in the country

The Iranian government, along with UN agencies namely WFP UNICEF, and MSF, has played an active role in assisting populations affected by drought.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has successfully provided food packages to 13,752 people (3,438 households), which include essential items such as wheat flour, vegetable oil, and lentils. This effort aims to enhance food security for drought-impacted communities, in line with WFP's goal of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.



*Credit: IRCS*

Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has also offered healthcare and medical services to 3,468 people (867 households) in drought-stricken provinces including Sistan and Baluchestan, North Khorasan, Razavi Khorasan, Kerman, Hormozgan, and Fars, assisting both displaced Afghan refugees and local Iranian communities. The medical care provided involved treatment for 1,024 patients with heart issues, 1,723 patients with respiratory ailments, and 721 individuals with eye problems.

Additionally, UNICEF has facilitated the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) standards to ensure safe operations in schools, focusing on 1,000 schools in five drought-impacted and vulnerable provinces: Kerman, Sistan and Balouchestan, Hormozgan, Bushehr, and Khuzestan. Other forms of assistance from UNICEF aimed at meeting the urgent needs of these communities include:

- Distributing stationery to children and students
- Supplying safe, clean drinking water to approximately 2,250 people in six villages in the Talang district of southern Sistan and Balouchestan Province
- Enhancing the capacity of SAHAR (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support) teams within the Iranian Red Crescent Society's Youth Organization through specialized training
- Equipping 24 Helal Houses across Sistan and Baluchestan, Kerman, South Khorasan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Alborz, and Tehran with essential response kits and training materials.

The government of Iran to control the drought included water storage management, demand management, urban water waste reduction, water purification, facility resilience, and water distribution at the household level in remote villages. water and sewage disposal services. The government has been planning to purify and transport water from the seas in the South to some provinces including Yazd, Kerman, and Hormozgan, hence it could not offer drinking water because desalination is a complicated process that necessitates expensive modern equipment and huge funding. The government launched a national campaign to raise awareness and encourage water conservation among the public.

Some governmental organizations like the Iranian Environmental Protection Organization provided environmental protection services to the drought-hit regions such as planting trees with less water needed and using the less-consumption utilities. There were also online campaigns by some local NGOs to mobilize public

support and pressure the government to take more effective actions on preventing water usage, high taxes for the high consumers, and sensitization on the agricultural products that consume too much water.

## **Needs analysis and scenario planning**

### **Needs analysis**

The effects of the drought in recent years have had a significant impact on various aspects of the province's development, people's lives, and basic resources. Water scarcity has resulted in a dramatic reduction in Minab, Jegin, and Shamil dams. Severe reduction in groundwater level in the province's main plains, salinization, and reduced quality of groundwater resources due to improper abstraction, has resulted in:

1. Decreasing the areas under cultivation and livestock and poultry population.
2. Reducing the number of agricultural products and depending on water import.
3. Reducing discharge and drying out water resources such as wells and flumes.
4. Decreasing food products and increasing the price of food items.
5. Decreasing employment, income, and its social and economic consequences.
6. Increasing subsidence and soil erosion and its consequences.
7. Reducing the quality of life for border residents and problems of border security maintenance.
8. Putting family security, hygiene, and health at risk.
9. Increasing the negative impact on the COVID-19 situation and operation.
10. Increasing the migration from villages to towns.
11. Increasing tension among those who share joint water resources.

Targeted provinces went through serious multiple crises like red coding in COVID-19, droughts severity, and possible Afghan refugee influx operations taking place in these eastern bordering provinces.

The affected populations were selected based on the following criteria:

- Displaced people by drought,
- People with severe disabilities,
- Women-headed households, single parents with no income,
- Households with insufficient coping mechanisms,
- Households from vulnerable occupational groups,
- Households with socially excluded/marginalized members,

Due to the depletion of financial resources due to international sanctions, the pressure of scaling up with agility and ensuring the continuation of mandated public services in crisis/natural disasters, expectations of stakeholders from IRCS in these dire multiple crisis times, the sensitivity of the bordering provinces with Pakistan/Afghanistan (IRCS access/acceptance being only biggest well-rooted national set up), all these domains were compelling to launch DREF. IFRC's support was an added value by offering tools/resources to support the humanitarian action of IRCS.

The IRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted field assessments in the affected districts and branches in the affected provinces to identify the immediate needs and priorities. According to the preliminary assessments carried out in the areas, WASH and livelihood packages were among the most pressing needs of the drought-affected people. Under this DREF operation, the IRCS aimed to ensure the effective continuation of humanitarian operations, specifically for WASH and the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people. Unconditional cash grants as a dignified choice to the targeted population were supposed to be provided to the selected households, however, due to the unexpected rising tensions among the households in the neighboring districts, the cash modality was replaced with food packages according to the needs of the people.

## Risk Analysis

There were constraints in the affected areas due to cold waves, snow, and rainfall. Some areas were hard to reach due to road damage. Also, the health of staff/volunteers could be at risk if the scale of the operation demands more workload.

RISK AREA	CONTROLS MANAGEMENT
Staff and volunteer health: risk of contracting COVID-19 through community-based activities in the response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The IRCS has provided the vaccination for all staff and relief workers involved in this operation. Strict adherence to IRCS COVID-19 awareness protocols, Refreshing the risk awareness communication aspects by utilizing existing COVID-19 protection audio/visual learning platforms for staff/volunteers. Relief operations manager prioritizing the monitoring of adherence.</li> </ul>
Increase in COVID-19 community transmission if displacement occurs. In emergency shelters, the COVID-19 transmission could scale up.	IRCS chose places for IDPs where social distancing could be observed meaning an increasing number of places and the design of IDP transit setting could be less populated.
Disruption of the access to deliver support such as road cut-off access routes affected due to force majeure.	Mapping alternative routes and transportation.
Negative media coverage related to the handling of the response operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proactive communication with media and stakeholders.</li> <li>Engaging the community leaders, NGOs, and local authorities (such as village councils) during the needs assessment and implementation phases of the operation.</li> </ul>
Procurement delays of replenishment stocks.	The IRCS to conduct Local procurement.
Sanctions hindering cash grants to people in need	Due to the sanctions on the Iranian banking system, the cash transfer modality an alternative modality such as food distribution can be considered.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this DREF operation was to protect and save lives, and dignity and to mitigate adverse effects on the deteriorating livelihoods, trying to organize safe drinking water access and personal hygiene During the timeframe of the operation.

The IRCS's 5-month response planned to serve the following sectorial interventions:

- WASH** Water supply and sanitation, including the renovation of flumes and wells, the improvement of the state of water tanks, the purification of water, and the repair of water tanks.
- Health:** Improving the level of health including public health, mental health, and PSS (MHPSS). Deployment of volunteer physicians as health units to visit patients in need.
- Livelihood and Basic Needs:** Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), social damage reduction, and basic needs fulfillment. During the initial phase of the project, a working group comprised of local provincial officials from several disciplines identifies the needs, methods of action, and duties of each person and system in accordance with the project's timetable. They are in charge of purchasing, distributing, and providing needed items. All responsible and local agencies will support the activities based on previous similar efforts. Local authorities consist of villagers and local councils.

Regarding the changes in the planned operational strategy, there were expenditures under livelihoods with no allocated budget that happened during the implementation as a change made by the IRCS. Furthermore, the IRCS had decided not to implement some of the planned activities under this DREF funding and instead, these activities were replanned to be implemented under the consecutive Emergency Appeal launched in March 2022 as the drought situation deteriorated in the country, more about the drought appeal can be found in [Iran Drought Emergency Appeal 2022](#).

### **Summary of major revisions made to the emergency plan of action:**

This DREF operation timeframe has been extended for two months to complete activities that have been delayed or suspended due to measures related to the compounding disasters across the country such as earthquakes, floods, and Afghan population movement.

An assessment and market analysis was carried out on the cash transfer program (CTP) utilizing banks not on the sanction's lists. The Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) or cash distribution program, designed to alleviate the adverse impacts of drought and address the basic needs of the designated populations, encountered significant obstacles due to sanctions, local tensions between neighboring districts, and national financial and auditing protocols that introduced complexities and hurdles to the project's effective execution. As a result, a decision was made to change the planned activities in terms of Cash and Voucher Assistance into food parcel distribution.

Moreover, there were expenditures under livelihoods with no allocated budget that happened during the implementation as a change made to the operational strategy by the IRCS. Also, the IRCS decided not to implement the activities under the Health Sector covered by this DREF funding and instead, the activities were replanned to be implemented under the consecutive Emergency Appeal launched in 2022 as mentioned and linked above.

### **Human resources**

The International Operation Division of the IRCS served as the liaison between international support and operational units. Trained and field professionals working for the IRCS Volunteer Organization were deployed on the front lines. This operation did not require significant HR recruitment because the IRCS has a large pool of experienced personnel to be deployed to the field. COVID-19 protocols were strictly followed by IRCS personnel. The communication unit supported promotional/reporting and translations for operations updates. IRCS had been implementing for several years the "water donation" program, the staff and trained volunteers under the volunteers' organization were implementing the DREF operation, and in parallel, the recovery aspects were under the same file. The IFRC MENA Regional Office and the Iran Country Delegation provided additional technical support services, coordination, and technical assistance with an available pool of personnel when needed.

### **Logistics and procurement**

With the limitations constituted by the international sanctions in international procurement, the IRCS conducted the procurement for this operation locally, in alignment with the IFRC procurement regulations and standards (with the support of the IFRC Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain (GHS & SCM) MENA team). IRCS is well experienced in rendering and deploying fleet and logistic services to any part of the country.

### **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

CEA was streamlined throughout the implementation of the project. Branch officers and volunteers ensured timely feedback and response was provided and the response was effective. The project ensured people's safety, dignity, and rights, and avoided exposing people to further harm by ensuring a needs-based approach, transparent selection criteria, and clear communication of project activities and objectives. This ensured active and meaningful participation of the affected communities from the very beginning of the response to the transition phase into a longer-term program.

IRCS had a feedback and complaints mechanism to collect any complaints or feedback via its nationwide 112 hotline, social media, and communication channels. IRCS EOC centres, 112 hotline for emergencies, and Helal Houses rooted in deep communities were also two-way communication channels. IRCS social media (in Farsi) were also available tools functioning effectively in the operational context of the country.

### Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER)

The IRCS with the support of the IFRC country delegation and regional delegation led on reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of this operation. Reporting on the operation has been carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF reporting standards. One Operational Update has been issued during the operation’s timeframe to inform the timeframe extension of the DREF Operation. Technical PMER capacity and technical support have been provided through the IFRC MENA Regional Delegation PMER team. This helped identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve possible related issues.

### Security


The IRCS has good access and acceptance throughout the country due to its strong performance in line with its mandate. All four affected provinces are for the most part categorized by the government as a Red Zone (for COVID-19 reasons) in addition to Sistan Balochistan and South Khorasan which border Afghanistan and Pakistan. In these regions, and throughout Iran, IFRC colleagues were obliged to comply with the IFRC Minimum Security Requirements which outlined a strong security framework within which the IFRC operates in both regular and emergency operations. IRCS facilitated field monitoring operational visits which assisted and ensured access. IRCS sought all security clearances for delegates to have access to the operational sites. IRCS colleagues accompanied IFRC delegates during the field visits. The IFRC Country delegation closely monitored the security environment with support from the Regional Security Coordinator. All Red Cross Red Crescent personnel actively involved in the operations had to complete the respective IFRC security e-learning courses. Road travel also presented a risk, and mitigation measures were in place to reduce the likelihood and impact of these risks. Contingency plans were in place to manage any critical incident that might occur during this operation. For the most part, access to these areas was via air (except in South Khorasan).

### Exit Strategy

The IRCS water donation project was in its fifth year in the same areas. This project was renewed annually, and some local institutional donors contributed regularly. The severe dry season and lack of rains have put enormous strain on local resources; additionally, the severity of the drought was impacting the lack of water access and access to food for humans and livestock.

Droughts cannot be addressed locally without international assistance (available resources depleting). Sanctions have had a significant impact on access to resources (financial/technical/material). As a result, one exit strategy is to combine the DREF operation with a parallel ongoing water donation initiative. However, for the long-term continuation of humanitarian action, IRCS/IFRC will continue the response to the droughts under a planned emergency appeal for 18-24 months to cater to the needs and build some recovery-strengthening networks for the affected communities.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b> <b>People reached: 150,760 (37,690 HHs)</b> Male: 76,887 Female: 73,873								
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>						
# of individuals reached with food parcels	<b>13,200</b>	<b>150,760 (37,690 HHs)</b>						
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>								
The IRCS distributed 37,690 food packages and reached 150,760 individuals in the drought-affected areas. The food parcels (including canned fish, date, beans, and rice) have been procured and distributed as per the below table:								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Province</th> <th>Quantity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tehran</td> <td>1,044</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fars</td> <td>8,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Province	Quantity	Tehran	1,044	Fars	8,000
Province	Quantity							
Tehran	1,044							
Fars	8,000							

Kish	1,553
Hormozgan	1,663
South Khorasan	1,823
Khorasan Razavi	2,400
Boushehr	1,744
Sistan Va Baloushistan	2,726
Kerman	2,736
Zanjan	1,910
Semnan	1,656
Fars	7,185
Isfahan	3,250

### Challenges

As reported above, the original strategy outlined in the DREF involved providing cash grants for livelihoods or in-kind assistance based on market capacity. However, the legal and treasury departments of the IFRC recommended conducting a thorough assessment of banking financial service providers to determine if they were subject to sanctions. Regrettably, it was discovered that all 31 banks assessed were indeed under sanctions. Consequently, the IRCS and the IFRC country delegation made a strategic decision to pivot towards responding through food distribution instead of cash grants. This shift in approach was deemed necessary to ensure that the assistance reached the intended beneficiaries effectively and without encountering the obstacles posed by the sanctioned financial institutions.

### Lessons Learned

Given the country's context, cash interventions should be carefully weighed before being selected in planning for future operations. IRCS has requested regional technical support and an exchange of knowledge in the field of CVA so that the cash modality can be considered in its structure and for future humanitarian operations. Although the NS had implemented several cash distributions in some disasters (Kermanshah EQ 2017, Sisakht EQ 2018), it has faced challenges in implementing cash for this operation. So, cash interventions should be carefully weighed before being selected in planning for future operations.



### Health

**People reached: 00**

Male: 00

Female: 00

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of people assisted over the total number of people affected	100%	0%
# of deployed mobile medical clinics	20	0
# of days the mobile medical clinics are deployed	180	0

### Narrative description of achievements

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) made a strategic decision not to move forward with and implement the health activities initially planned under DREF funding. Instead, they opted to reassess and realign these activities to be implemented under the subsequent Emergency Droughts Appeal (MDRIR009), which was launched in March 2022.

This shift in approach may reflect a thoughtful evaluation of the ongoing needs and challenges faced by communities affected by the drought. By integrating the health activities into the broader framework of the Emergency Droughts Appeal, the IRCS aimed to ensure that the interventions were not only timely and relevant but also effectively coordinated with other relief efforts.

Implementing health programs within the context of a comprehensive appeal allows for a more holistic response to the crisis, addressing not just immediate health concerns, but also the underlying socio-economic factors exacerbated by drought conditions. The IRCS's decision underscores its commitment to maximizing the impact of its humanitarian efforts, ensuring that resources were allocated efficiently and that the health of vulnerable populations was prioritized in a sustainable manner. This approach also facilitated stronger collaboration with other humanitarian organizations and stakeholders involved in the emergency response, thereby enhancing the overall impact and reach of the health activities.

## Challenges

One significant challenge stemming from the IRCS's decision to forgo the planned activities under the DREF funding and instead reassess and reimplement the health initiatives under the Emergency Droughts Appeal (MDRIR009) was the pressing need to address the extensive healthcare requirements of a large population affected by the drought. This context presented two interconnected obstacles: the sheer scale of the health needs and the necessity to secure broader funding to adequately support these interventions.

The affected communities were experiencing a multitude of health issues exacerbated by the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the drought, including malnutrition, waterborne diseases, and mental health crises. Meeting these diverse needs required immediate action and vast resources, which necessitated a strategic approach to fundraising. Transitioning to an Emergency Appeal model might attract a larger scope and more sustained funding contributions.

Additionally, embarking on such a comprehensive funding strategy often entails navigating bureaucratic processes and securing commitments from various stakeholders, which can be time-consuming. Delays in funding or resource allocation could thwart timely interventions, potentially worsening health outcomes for the already vulnerable populations. Thus, the challenge was not only to mobilize adequate funding but also to ensure that the health activities could be implemented swiftly and effectively, thus safeguarding the welfare of those most affected by the ongoing crisis.

## Lessons Learned

A key lesson learned from this experience is the importance of flexibility and adaptability in humanitarian response planning. The IRCS's decision to reassess and integrate health activities into a broader framework demonstrates that a responsive approach can lead to more effective interventions. It highlights the necessity of continuously evaluating the evolving needs of affected communities and being willing to adjust strategies accordingly.

Moreover, this situation underscores the value of collaboration and coordination among humanitarian organizations. By aligning health programs with a comprehensive appeal, the IRCS not only enhances the relevance of its interventions but also fosters partnerships that can lead to more sustainable outcomes. This experience reinforces the idea that a holistic response, which considers both immediate and long-term needs, is essential in effectively addressing the complexities of humanitarian crises.



## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

**People reached: 1,628 (407 HHs)**

Male: 831

Female: 797

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of WASH assessments conducted in the targeted areas	3	3
# of monitoring visits in the targeted areas	3	0
% of the target population with access to an improved water source	100%	48.5%
# of households provided with a set of essential hygiene items	7,500	0
# of people provided with safe water in targeted areas	30,000	1,628
# of people reached with awareness sessions	54,000	0

## Narrative description of achievements

The IRCS decided not to implement some activities namely the provision of essential hygiene kits and conducting of the awareness raising sessions. However, the IRCS has provided access to safe drinking water in the target villages across the drought-affected provinces by renovating water aqueducts or underground networks.

## Challenges

Same as above.

## Lessons Learned

Same as above.

## Strengthen National Society

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers deployed to this response	500	141
# of volunteers briefed	141	141
# of volunteers that are trained	141	141
<b>Progress towards outcomes</b>		
<p>The volunteers have been trained in first aid skills, as well as preventive sanitation to work with the population and they were equipped with personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure their safety while on the field carrying out the planned intervention. The volunteers involved in this DREF Operation were given a thorough briefing on their rights and responsibilities, as well as an explanation of the operation's main goals and objectives. Furthermore, the volunteers have been provided with insurance and the necessary food allowance (food/water) to operate in drought and extreme heat conditions.</p>		

## International Disaster Response

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Effective and coordinated international disaster response ensured.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>YES</b>
# of expert members deployed	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
# of surge missions	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>No expert or surge capacity was deployed during the reporting period as decided by the IRCS to utilize partial DREF funding to address the most essential needs prioritized means food packages and WASH interventions, instead the IRCS decided to ask for the deployment of a surge in the consecutive Emergency Appeal launched to respond to the drought-affected communities.</p>		
<b>Challenges</b>		
<p>Blockage in the transfer of funds was the main challenge, especially during the period when multiple DREF and appeal operations were launched.</p>		
<b>Lessons Learned</b>		
<p>The IRCS' capacity needs to be improved in terms of handling several back-to-back operations across the country by a structured and organized PMER unit as the country is considered one of the most prone-to-disaster countries in the region.</p>		

## Influence others as a leading strategic partner

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of PMER monitoring visits	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>
# of Lessons Learned Workshop	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Narrative description of achievements</b>		
<p>No PMER monitoring could take place as there was no such capacity or focal point in either the IFRC delegation or the IRCS during the reporting period. In addition, the lessons learned workshop was canceled due to time constraints, overload, and profusion caused by the occurrence of numerous operations and responses within the country.</p>		
<b>Challenges</b>		
<p>The primary challenge was the absence of a designated PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting) staff or focal point within the IFRC delegation or the IRCS. This gap necessitated the reliance on available field staff, who had to juggle their regular duties with PMER responsibilities, supported technically by the Regional IFRC MENA PMER.</p>		

**Lessons Learned**

The situation highlighted the importance of adaptability in operations, showcasing the field staff's versatility and commitment to taking on PMER tasks. The collaborative efforts between IFRC, ICRC, and IRCS demonstrated the power of partnership, as seen in finalizing the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and launching joint activities at the country level. Strategic communication played a crucial role, with engagements with non-Movement partners and public authorities in this operation. The experience also emphasized the need for dedicated PMER roles to ensure focused and efficient monitoring and reporting, essential for the success of humanitarian operations.

**Effective, credible, and accountable IFRC**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of narrative and financial reports	3	2

**Narrative description of achievements**

Because the IRCS support services system had been engaged in multiple crisis responses, providing required data for preparation and drafting the operation update reports was slow and the targeted 3 reports could not be met and only one ops update was submitted during the reporting period prior to the final report.

**Challenges**

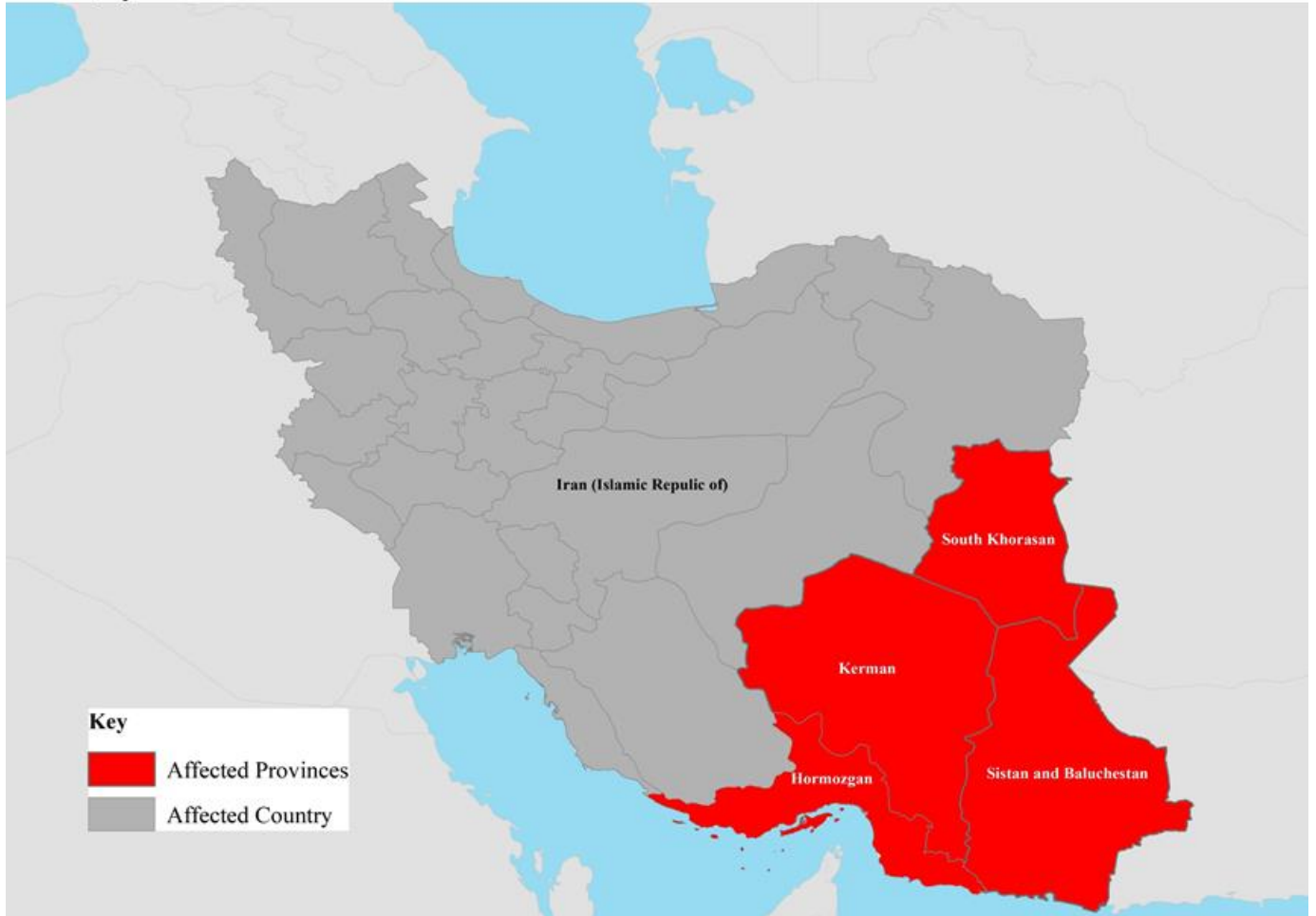
The slow flow of sharing the operational data and financial reconciliations hindered the timely reporting.

**Lessons Learned**

The capacity in terms of providing the needful data and financial documents needs to be improved in critical times when the IRCS's international operations division and the general treasury deputy are engaged in multiple responses. This can be achieved through launching a digitalized and systematic shared point that allows all stakeholders including the IFRC country delegation to access the data and status of the progress of the operation.



**Iran-Drought  
Disaster Relief Emergency Funds**  
*July - 2021*



## D. Financial Report

# DREF Operation

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

### MDRIR005 - Iran - Droughts

Operating Timeframe: 24 Jul 2021 to 28 Feb 2022

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/01-2024/05	Operation	MDRIR005
Budget Timeframe	2021/07-2022/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 03/Jun/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

## I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>748,013</b>
DREF Response Pillar	748,013
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-270,471</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>477,542</b>

## II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods		254,803	-254,803
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	351,450		351,450
PO04 - Health	109,599		109,599
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	270,989	15,667	255,322
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>732,038</b>	<b>270,471</b>	<b>461,568</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	5,325		5,325
EA02 - Secretariat Services	10,650		10,650
EA03 - National Society Strengthening			0
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>15,975</b>		<b>15,975</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>748,013</b>	<b>270,471</b>	<b>477,543</b>

# DREF Operation

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

### MDRIR005 - Iran - Droughts

Operating Timeframe: 24 Jul 2021 to 28 Feb 2022

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/01-2024/05	Operation	MDRIR005
Budget Timeframe	2021/07-2022/02	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 03/Jun/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>667,560</b>	<b>254,270</b>	<b>413,290</b>
Food		239,559	-239,559
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	240,650	14,711	225,939
Medical & First Aid	86,910		86,910
Other Supplies & Services	10,000		10,000
Cash Disbursement	330,000		330,000
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>19,800</b>		<b>19,800</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs	19,800		19,800
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>5,000</b>		<b>5,000</b>
Workshops & Training	5,000		5,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>-307</b>	<b>10,307</b>
Travel	10,000		10,000
Financial Charges		-307	307
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>45,653</b>	<b>16,508</b>	<b>29,146</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	45,653	16,508	29,146
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>748,013</b>	<b>270,471</b>	<b>477,543</b>

## Contact information

Reference documents

Click [here](#) for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

#### **In the Iranian Red Crescent Society**

Ms. Raziye Alishavandi, Under Secretary General, International Affairs & IHL, phone: +98-21 88662618; email: [intdep@rcs.ir](mailto:intdep@rcs.ir)

Operational Coordinator: Abbas Mohammadi, phone: +98 21-88201082; email: [intdep@rcs.ir](mailto:intdep@rcs.ir)

#### **IFRC Country Delegation:**

Atta Durrani, Program Coordination & Cooperation Manager, email: [atta.durrani@ifrc.org](mailto:atta.durrani@ifrc.org)

Mahdi Baghfalaki, Reporting Officer, email: [mahdi.baghfalaki@ifrc.org](mailto:mahdi.baghfalaki@ifrc.org)

#### **IFRC Geneva:**

Esther Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer; phone: +41 75 419 8604; e-mail [esztter.matyeka@ifrc.org](mailto:esztter.matyeka@ifrc.org)

#### **In the IFRC regional office:**

Hosam Faysal, Head of Disasters, Climate and Crises (Prevention, Response and Recovery); phone: +961 71 802219, email: [Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org](mailto:Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org)

Raja Assaf, Senior Response Officer; phone: +961 71 910896, email: [raja.assaf@ifrc.org](mailto:raja.assaf@ifrc.org)

**For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:**

Anca Zaharia, MENA Regional Head of Partnership and Resource Development; phone: +961 813 11 918; email: [anca.zaharia@ifrc.org](mailto:anca.zaharia@ifrc.org)

**For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:**

Goran Boljanovic, Regional Head of Supply Chain- MENA; phone: +961 5 428 505; email: [goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org](mailto:goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org)

**For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut: Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER Manager; phone: +961 71 802 775; email: [nadine.haddad@ifrc.org](mailto:nadine.haddad@ifrc.org)

---

## 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2030 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace