



IRCS' Response to the Quake Affected Population @IRCS

Appeal: MDRIR013	Total DREF Allocation CHF 833,363	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000007-IRN	People Affected: 261,387 people	People Targeted: 48,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date:	New Operational end date: 2023-08-31	Total operating timeframe: 7 months
Additional Allocation Re- quested 414,818	Targeted Areas:	Ardabil, Azarbayejan Gharbi	

Description of the Event

What happened, where and when?

Khoy EQ 18 Jan 2023

According to the Iranian Seismological Center, a 5.4 magnitude earthquake hit Firoragh village of Khoy city in West Azarbayejan province of North-Western Iran on 18 January 2023 at depth of 12 km at 13:19 p.m. local time. A 3.6 magnitude earthquake was happened at the same point at 13:19 p.m. Twenty-one aftershocks are reported so far, the biggest is 4.2 at 18:25 p.m. The nearest village named Vaar is 10 km away from the epicenter. The same region was also hit at 5th October 2022 by a 5.4 Richter magnitude earthquake resulted in 1,308 injured people. The affected area consists of one city and 55 villages with a total population of approximately 10,284 households (41,426 people). Firoragh district is the most hit area in Khoy city. People in the cities of Salmas, Chaldoran, Chaypareh, Poldasht, and Uroumia have felt the tremor. Iran is a prone country to several disasters specially earthquake due to the active faults in several regions of the country. The activated fault in this region which caused this earthquake is called Siyah Cheshme-Khoy.

Khoy EQ 28 Jan 2023

Based on the national seismological report, an earthquake of 5.9 magnitudes on the Richter scale occurred at a depth of 7 km in Safa district, Khoy city on Saturday 28th January 2023 at 21:44 p.m followed by 72 aftershocks felt the greatest of 4.5 magnitudes at 18:11 p.m the day after. Overall, 261,387 people were affected, 1,017 were injured and 3 died so far across 86 villages. Many urban residential buildings collapsed or were partially damaged in Safa district and Khoy city. Some residential buildings in 70 villages have been destroyed from 20 to 80 percent based on the governate general office of West Azarbayejan. The electricity and gas supply were cut in the affected region. The telecommunication means disrupted at least in four villages namely Chavoshqoli, Asgarabad, Aland, and Kalvan. The severity of the situation intensified by the heavy snowfall and zero temperature. The fear of aftershocks hindered affected households from returning to their houses and they preferred to be settled in the 70 camps provided across the affected region by the IRCS.

In short, both EQs affected Khoy county but different villages and districts were seeing more damage.



Scope and Scale

The table below compares and contrasts the scales of the two recent earthquakes (back-to-back earthquakes of 18 and 28 January 2023) as follows:

Indexes	Khoy EQ 18 Jan 2023	Khoy EQ 28 Jan 2023
EQ Magnitude	5.4 Richter	5.9 Richter
# of people affected	41,426 individuals (10,284 HHs)	261,387 individuals (65,346 HHs)
# of People injured	252 individuals	1,017 individuals
# of People died	0	3
# of People displaced	400 people (in 2 camps)	104,000 people (in 100 camps)
Scope: villages/districts affected	55 villages including Firouragh, Vaar, and Morteza Gholi Kendi in Khoy city.	86 villages (most vulnerable including Chavoshqoli, Asgarabad, Aland, and Kalvan) in Safa district, Khoy city.
Operational teams deployed	3 Helal House initial responders 3 RARO assessment teams 200 operational rescuers 41 operational vehicles. 1 mobile telecommunication unit	8 Helal House initial responders 5 RARO assessment teams (28 personnel) 1,100 operational rescuers 146 operational vehicles 15 search and rescue dog teams 72 MHPSS (SAHAR) teams 1 mobile health units 1 mobile telecommunication unit.

IRCS's response, shelter

Scope and Scale

Scope and Scale

The table enclosed compares and contrasts the scales of the two recent earthquakes (back-to-back earthquakes of 18 and 28 January 2023) is uploaded above in the previous section.

Under the MDRIR012 operation, 2 provinces and 8 cities (53 villages) with a total population of 3,195 households (11,288 people) were affected as a result of the 5.4 magnitude EQ which hit Khoy city on 5 October 2022.

Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification

This Operation Update informs changes to this DREF operation brought about by recent earthquake on 28 Jan 2023 in West Azarbayejan province, Khoy city, Safa district, after the first earthquake on the same city, Firoragh village on 18 Jan 2023.

Major changes will be:

1. The National Society (IRCS) requested a second allocation of CHF 414,817, bringing the total DREF allocation to CHF 833,362.
2. With the second allocation, the new target (the most vulnerable people to be assisted) will be 24,000 individuals (6,000 HHs).
3. Livelihood and Basic Needs sector target population has increased from 3,000 HHs to 12,000 HHs (48,000 individuals) to support the IRCS replenish 10 percent of the distributed food parcels from its warehouses.
4. Shelter sector (heaters distribution) target population has increased (to 41,426) in order to respond the urgent needs of affected people for emergency shelter impactfully based on the need assessment conducted.
5. With this OU, IRCS is planned to provide Medical and Health services, deploying 1 mobile Health Unit for 4 months across the affected villages. The second allocation will facilitate the National Society to cover the additional costs of revised activities.
6. Changing the crisis categorization from yellow to orange for the following reason:
 - a- The capacity of the IRCS to respond to the recurrent and back-to-back disasters was stretched due to its response to consecutive disasters in the recent months, putting a lot of pressure on its resources. The severity of the situation with more than 261,387 people affected led the national society to mobilize its resources and stocks from the different branches across the country swiftly to the affected region. The government has requested support from IRCS and there was a lot of pressure on the IRCS resources to respond to the two earthquakes. The severity of the situation was emphasized during recent parliament sessions discussing the urgency to support IRCS as a national priority as the warehouses of the national society are exhausted. Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, Speaker of the Parliament: "Supporting the Red Crescent Society is one of the most important issues in the country today, and this is highlighted in Note 13 of the constitution." (Source: www.iribnews.ir)
 - Ali Asghar Bagherzadeh, a member of the parliament, in the public session of Saturday, March 13, in the process of examining the expenditure section of the country's 1402 budget, said: "that the power of every government and every military is in crisis and disaster management, and the quality of governments is determined during disasters. He added: The Red Crescent should be helped, and considering that our country is prone to accidents, I am giving this warning that the Red Crescent's warehouses are empty. We have a problem in the air rescue fleet and the rescue fleet, we need to help it. We are far from global standards. We gave financial papers to the Red Crescent last year, but this year it didn't help." (Source: www.iribnews.ir)

The scale of the disaster has led the government to raise the national category of the disaster to red, mobilizing its resources to fundraise on a national level to support the IRCS response which many of the contingency stock used in this disaster to support the affected people.

b- The earthquake that hit Iran Azerbaijan province on January constituted a challenge for the national society. The region has been impacted by consecutive earthquakes (the most recent one on 18 January) in addition to the harsh winter with subzero temperatures in some areas.

The recent earthquakes have caused secondary hazards such as landslides which might have contributed to further damage, losses and accessibility challenges. (USGS Earthquake Shaking Yellow Alert: M 5.9, 14 km SSW of Khoy, Iran - Origin Time: 2023-01-28 18:14:44 UTC (Sat 21:44:44 local) - Iran (Islamic Republic of) | ReliefWeb)

The accessibility to the affected region and the movement of stocks across the country also constituted a challenge to the national society due to the topography of the region and the affected areas were remote areas and caused many logistics challenges. The region is mostly a mountainous region and the roads incurred damage due to the earthquakes.

Current National Society Actions



IRCS' response, Khoy EQ, 2023

IRCS provided the affected community with Relief Tents, Khoy 2

Assessment

The EOC in the affected province was notified by the EOC HQ at the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization (RARO) as soon as the Iranian Seismological Institute confirmed the earthquake. Three assessment teams from the Salmas and Khoy relief bases were immediately dispatched to the rural districts. The IRCS Helal Houses in Khoy City were requested to assist with the initial assessment process, which they carry out under the auspices of the local branches and report to the relief division of the Khoy city branch. The kick-off emergency response management meeting was held via video conference call between the emergency operations centers in the affected province and RARO. Information was also exchanged at the provincial level between the IRCS EOC, EMS, and Road department in order to oversee and manage the situation.

As additional support for the province, one assessment team made up of four personnel was also dispatched to the field by RARO. The preliminary assessment will be completed within the first week of the disaster. If the communities' evolving needs become apparent and there is a need for additional response activities, a more complete assessment will be conducted. Teams from the IRCS's research department will carry out the survey or evaluation for this operation.

Coordination	The IRCS is a key member of the inter-agency coordination mechanism at the national and provincial levels. At the provincial level, the Disaster Management Taskforce is organized, and meetings are held with the participation of the city Governorate, the IRCS Managing Director, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Road and relevant governmental departments to prepare and mobilize resources for emergency accommodation in order to set up an emergency camp with a capacity of 100 tents in two sport gymnasiums. In this taskforce, IRCS is in charge of search and rescue, emergency food and shelter, and public awareness. The public is also being informed about the response operation via social media. The IFRC country office team, as well as the IRCS Deputy for International Affairs, attended the coordination meeting in order to provide the required support the IRCS operation.
National Society Readiness	The IRCS operational teams from neighboring provinces are on standby. Logistics, warehouses, and fleet facilities are called for deployment. Psychosocial Support (PSS) teams are organized to be deployed to support families affected by the disaster. The IRCS deployed 200 operational personnel (42 teams: 39 from West Azarbayejan Gharbi and 3 from East Azarbayejan), 41 relief and rescue light vehicles, and one communication emergency response vehicle. A consignment of 1,500 food parcels for 72 hours, 1,000 electric heaters, 150 tents, 200 blankets and 51 ground mats were sent to the region from the provincial stocks. Video conference is set to allow for clear observation and assessment from the field to the headquarters. The air hopper and sniffer dogs were instructed to remain on standby in the event of new shocks and damage. The IRCS has mobilized its relief and rescue resources from the affected province and neighboring provinces. The RARO Deputy for Relief and Rescue Operations was deployed to the field to oversee and manage the overall operation activities. The Helal House, as the zero-ground response center, is the smallest local branch of the IRCS, typically in rural areas, and its primary duty is to support the local branches. It is run by local volunteers and community members who provide key disaster preparedness and response services to the local communities.
Community Engagement And Accountability	The community was involved in reporting the priority needs that helped shape the intervention in an evidence-based and community-driven approach, starting with the rapid needs assessment. Additionally, IRCS has established a community feedback mechanism through the 112 hotline. The IRCS operational teams are alerted to conduct the registration, carry out the post-distribution survey, and handle any complaints received via social media and the complaint mechanism (via RARO hotline 112). All food parcels and household items include contact information so that recipients can get in touch with the relief managers to express any concerns or provide feedback
Health	IRCS deployed one emergency mobile health unit from East Azarbayejan province to Khoy city in West Azarbayejan for maximum of 4 months to cover the emergency health and medical needs of the affected areas. This ERU will provide emergency services such as medicine, midwifery, environmental health, nutrition, etc. So far, in two days below services are provided to the needy people: Triage: 300, nursing services: 350, medicine: 300, hygiene items: 300, midwifery: 15, psychological services: 349.
	The operational teams from local branches deployed to the field for an initial assessment. In addition, 8 villages have been assessed by the nearest Helal Houses along with the deployment of 5 assessment teams from the RARO

National Society EOC	including 28 personnel. So far, 1,100 operational rescuers, 15 search and rescue sniffer dog teams, and 146 operational vehicles have been deployed to the field to respond to the affected population. Moreover, till Saturday 4th February, 100 emergency camps were set up to accommodate 104,000 persons. The camps were mostly set up in urban settings because of the population density and to mitigate the risks of further collapse. In rural areas, tents are given to the households to be accommodated in the yards and open areas in front of the houses. So far, the below items have been distributed among the families: Family tents (type 1 & 2) 40,150 Heater 9,870 Food parcel (72-hr basket) 120,000 Blanket 160,600 Ground mat 47,750 Total sent items from 23 auxiliary provinces include 10,919 tents, 720 blankets, 8,500 72-hr food parcels, and 1,930 bottles of edible oils. Also, 152 tons of relief items were deployed to the region by air cargo. The youth organization SAHAR teams are present in the affected areas and emergency camps for rendering psychosocial support to the victims of the disaster. One emergency health unit (ERU type 1 which is certified by the IFRC) is deployed to the field to provide basic medical services. The IRCS mobile telecommunication units were also deployed for proper communication from the field.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	The IRCS has distributed 90,000 food parcels (72-hours baskets) from its national warehouses. With the upscaled DREF, it can replenish food parcels for 24,000 individuals.
Shelter, Housing And Settlements	With the second DREF allocation, IRCS will also distribute relief tent and intends to provide 6,000 households with tents affected by the earthquake. As heater is highly needed, the same households in the affected regions will be provided with heaters. The initial target under this sector was 3,000 households (12,000 individuals) but need to be upscaled in tune with the impact of the second earthquake and increasing number of people affected. Thus, the revised target under this sector is 6,000 households (24,000 individuals). Activities planned under this sector will be implemented in 72 most vulnerable villages in Safa district and across Khoy city in West Azarbayegan province.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

IFRC	The IFRC country delegation is in close coordination with the IRCS senior management and through the International Affairs Department. The IFRC country office team attended a coordination meeting in RARO EOC on 19 January to assess the situation and provide possible support to the IRCS operation. During the coordination meeting, a call was set with the IFRC regional office to discuss the needs and support modality. EOC Tehran got the team connected to EOC in west Azarbayegan, and detailed briefings on the needs were presented. This engagement aimed to assist in the creation of this DREF Application.
ICRC	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 but did not intervene in this operation.

Participating National Societies	There are no Participating National Societies.
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Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The humanitarian efforts of the ministries, local authorities, national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the IRCS are coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) under the Ministry of Interior. IRCS is mandated to deliver relief, rescue, and emergency shelter at times of disaster. Sectoral services are led and implemented by line ministries. The governmental bodies and institutions are engaged in the ongoing operation. IRCS is responsible to respond to this earthquake. To fulfill its mandated role of crisis response, the IRCS used all of its resources from the center and neighboring provinces.
UN or other actors	UN agencies including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF are present in the country and collaborate with the line ministries. In addition, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have a limited presence in the country. Any form of relief assistance during an emergency will be coordinated with the IRCS. In the event that UN agencies intervene, a country level coordination framework should be established in accordance with the IRCS's request. There is no request for UN agency intervention in this operation from IRCS.
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

The need for health and MHPSS services is also crucial to reach affected people efficiently impacted by three earthquakes in the span of almost 3 months.

The IRCS has deployed one MHU and SAHAR teams also are providing their own PSS services wherever required. In addition, IRCS deployed one emergency mobile health unit from East Azarbayejan province to Khoy city in West Azarbayejan for maximum of 4 months to cover the emergency health and medical needs of the affected areas. This ERU will provide emergency services such as medicine, midwifery, environmental health, nutrition, etc



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the initial assessment conducted by the IRCS rapid responders, emergency food is the top priority of the affected populations. The event impacted the households' food security due to the poor economic circumstances in recent months, winterization, and limited access to gas and basic utilities. Emergency food packages for the first 72 hours are an appropriate alternative since they include foods in accordance with Sphere standards and respect local food cultures, as well as meeting the urgent food demands of the affected communities. Food parcels are standardized in accordance with national health criteria and are designed to feed a household of four members. Due to the country's challenging economic situation and rising commodity prices, people in affected villages will receive two rounds of food parcels (a 10-day package for a family of four containing rice, edible oil, tea, sugar, canned beans, and canned fish) to help mitigate the impact on their livelihoods in the coming months. The 10-day package will be issued every two months to assist people in dealing with the economic crisis. Every two months, a 10-day package will be distributed to assist people in dealing with the economic situations. This is the IRCS RARO standards package, which adheres to the Ministry of Health specifications. This is only an emergency support, and people will receive long-term assistance from other governmental agencies to return to their normal lives. Winter in Iran's western provinces lasts until the end of March. As a result, humanitarian aid must continue in impacted areas so that people can cope with the negative effects of the earthquake and the economic situation. IRCS female volunteers are distributing 5,000 hot meals to the displaced/affected population with the support of the community, mobilized through Helal houses and volunteers. Natural resources (gas supply/fuel) are hampered in practically all north, west, and eastern regions due to adverse weather conditions. As a result, food distribution to the displaced and severely impacted is critical. Future meteorological conditions suggest that the same patterns will continue. As a result, most vulnerable people require at least some continuation of food (hot meal or primarily dry ration) to mitigate the harmful consequences.

The country's economic situation is also causing communities to lose their established livelihoods. Rising prices and inflation can be tracked using the following links:

- Food Inflation in Iran - December 2022 Data - 2012-2021 January Forecast - Historical ([tradingeconomics.com](https://tradingeconomics.com/iran/food-inflation))
- Inflation Rate in Iran - December 2022 Data - 1957-2021 January Forecast - Historical ([tradingeconomics.com](https://tradingeconomics.com/iran/inflation-rate)).

It was observed that food commodity prices increased from 32% to 368%.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Emergency sheltering is one of the most important needs for the affected households because residential areas in rural settings are partially damaged by the earthquake (about 2,100 residential units between 20 and 60%). Up until the housing situation is stabilized by the secondary in-depth assessment by the appropriate authorities, people who are afraid of the tremor and aftershocks, as well as those whose houses have cracks in the walls,

must stay and be housed in emergency tents. People needed an emergency shelter as well as other household items like a blanket, ground mat, and heaters because they were afraid to stay inside their homes following the earthquake and its aftershocks, as well as because of the cold weather.

These tents are erected in front of each household area or yard to monitor their properties and household security. Because the low temperatures are rising at night and there is an urgent need for shelter, the IRCS delivered critical household items and family tents to affected families and set up two camps in Firoragh district with a capacity of 100 family tents. Due to the cultural customs of the affected people, feasibility, ease of erecting, and availability, the emergency tent is a suitable/acceptable sheltering alternative in such a context. Electric heaters are also supplied in the two campgrounds due to winterization. At the same time, the IRCS is responding to numerous provinces that are dealing with winterization and low gas pressure. Due to the limited access to fuel and gas, people in the eastern and western provinces are receiving electric heaters and ovens to help them deal with the rising challenges.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF aims at supporting 48,000 people (12,000 households) in the affected areas for six months, by providing them with food parcels, heaters, ground mats, blankets, medical services, and strengthening the capacity of the National Society.

Operation strategy rationale

Based on the initial assessment done by the IRCS Helal House first responders from Khoy city and IRCS rapid response teams from the West Azarbayegan province, since many of the quake-affected rural areas (86 villages) are also suffering from the harsh winterization, low gas pressure and economic hardship. The primary needs of the affected populations are emergency shelter, food packages, heaters, blankets, emergency health and psychological support services. Voluntary groups from different sectors are preparing daily hot meals and bread for the people in the camps. Those people affected and feared the aftershocks are staying in the 100 erected emergency camps till their housing situation is stabilized. With the upscaled DREF allocation, the IRCS intends to support 48,000 people (12,000 HHs) in affected areas hit by the earthquake, by providing food parcels, heaters, medical services, ground mats, and blankets, and the National Society capacity building for 6 months.

The IRCS has almost 7,000 Helal Houses across the country. These are defined as the first small branches/units which are run and managed by volunteers from the local communities, who help the NS branches in doing community awareness, risk mitigation, resiliency and emergency communication measures. Therefore, the local volunteer members are trained under the IRCS national community awareness scheme training modules. The local community groups also need to be aware of the disaster risks and risk reduction measures through Helal Houses. IRCS is mandated to deliver basic first aid, disaster preparedness and response awareness sessions to all public groups according to the national crisis management law. Therefore, it is necessary that Helal Houses and local communities' capacities in the affected provinces be strengthened and equipped with the minimum tools and training. During this operation, over 15 Helal Houses mobilized and used their first response kits. It is also critical and mandatory for the IRCS to complete and replenish its 22 food and household items in RARO central warehouses and the 32 provincial branches, since it needs to abide by the minimum contingency stock (equal to 2% of the total population of each province) to be able to cater any other natural/man-made disaster.

Under this upscaled DREF, the IRCS will reach and respond to the 48,000 people (12,000 households) whose houses had been destroyed at the centre of the earthquake and are considered the most vulnerable. The rest of the displaced households (out of 260,000) prefer to stay in the emergency camps due to fear of the aftershocks. By upscaling the support, heater and food parcels and then basic medical services are the top priorities based on the feedbacks from the field and the winter season in the region.

With food intervention by the NS, the most vulnerable households will cover their urgent needs for the initial two weeks. Later, the government will provide them with loans and supporting grants to recover them and back them to regular and normal life. In addition, under Shelter sector, based on the assessment made by the government,

across Firoraq city and 15 quake-affected villages in Khoy county, 750 houses with more than 50 percent damage were identified as needing reconstruction. Also, 7,500 residential houses with less than 50 percent damage were identified as repair units. Reconstruction and renovation loans will be granted to destroyed and damaged houses by the government. (source: www.irna.ir)

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The IRCS has prioritized the most vulnerable households among affected populations in the affected districts based on primary data obtained from the Welfare organization, and the selection criteria will be carried out in conjunction and consultation with the local authorities. Priority will be given to those who live in damaged houses, those with disabilities, women-headed households with children, and unemployed people. Food and essential household items, such as 10-day food baskets, blankets, heaters, and ground mats, will be distributed to affected families. Each family will receive one food package, one ground mat, one heater, and eight blankets. The electric heaters are safe and made in accordance with Iranian Standard Organization norms. People in Iran are familiar with how to use them as everyday facilities.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria will be based on primary data acquired from local authorities, the Housing Foundation, and welfare organizations. The following are the selection criteria.

- 1- People whose houses are severely or partially damaged.
- 2- People living in houses where the winterization impacted their living conditions due to low gas pressure.
- 3- Households headed by women, such as widows, divorced or separated, and women without income.
- 4- Households with person(s) living with disabilities.
- 5- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	-	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-		
Men:	-	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-		
Total targeted population:	48,000		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions	
Risk	Mitigation action
Climate triggered shocks and winterization in the affected province	Updating NS multiple crisis contingency plan from the neighboring provinces will be activated according to the needs of the affected province and more international resources will be mobilized from IFRC / DREF.
Funds transfer delays	The IFRC legal, financial and treasury departments have worked to unblock the banking transfers at various levels. Since the start of 2022, the IFRC managed to transfer almost all requested amounts to the country. At the national, MENA regional, and GVA levels, efforts are un-

	derway to strictly adhere to agreed protocols and are in constant communication with stakeholders to meet the needs so that funds transfers can happen with high speed. Banking channels and related compliance protocols are regularly consciously looked into. In order to keep donor-compliant/operational advances reconciliations intact, IFRC/IRCS offices receive daily technical financial supports at the country level.
Aftershocks	The continual exchange of information regarding what people can do in the event of an earthquake. Social media and short messages are exchanged and channeled to the affected people and neighboring areas to follow mitigation measures. IRCS sets up evacuation centers in the safe zone in case there is a displacement.
Procurement and reporting delay	Due to the financial situation and market fluctuation, the IRCS will facilitate the procurement process to be timely done based on the national guidelines and regulations. The tendering process will start when the funds transfer to the IRCS RARO account. This might take time due to the sanctions. A coordination working group is set up for increasing the speed and quality of the required activities and by the deadlines. The planned activities are presented with the relevant stakeholders to have an integrated approach meeting the IFRC guidelines. The IFRC CO is materializing capacity building fund tool for the NS to get access to program management digitalized tool for quality assurance. The IRCS will handle the procurement. Sourcing of relief items /food packages is to be done primarily from the local market, with adequate certification process (independent inspection) to be carried out. Technical approvals to be sought/received from IFRC through the support of IFRC MENA, Supply Chain Management Unit (IFRC GHS&SCM MENA) in Beirut. Any additional logistics support can be made available by the IFRC GHS&SCM MENA, as needed. Due to the financial situation and market fluctuation, the IRCS will facilitate the procurement process to be timely initiated once the funds are received and based on the national guidelines and regulations. This might take time due to the sanctions. A coordination working group is set up for increasing the speed and quality of the implementation of the required activities.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

There is no high risk of security for the operational staff and volunteers. IRCS is very well accepted among the communities and is well connected with all sectors in the country and the affected areas.

Planned Intervention

	Health	Budget	CHF 106,500
		Targeted Persons	12000
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of Mobile Health and Medical Units deployed	1	1	
# of people who received the emergency health services	12000	12000	

Progress Towards Outcome

IRCS deployed one emergency mobile health unit from East Azarbayejan province to Khoy city in West Azarbayejan for maximum 4 months to cover the emergency health and medical needs of the affected areas. This ERU will provide emergency services such as medicine, midwifery, environmental health, nutrition, etc. So far, in two days below services are provided to the needy people:

Triage: 300, nursing services: 350, medicine: 300, hygiene items: 300, midwifery: 15, psychological services: 349

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 25,560
		Targeted Persons	1
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of reports published	2	0	
# of surge personnel deployed	1	0	

Progress Towards Outcome

Progress Towards Outcomes

In order to overcome the challenges faced in previous operations regarding reporting, a surge alert was sent out by IFRC to identify an operations manager profile and a finance delegate was assigned to support Iran IFRC delegation.

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 39,938
		Targeted Persons	150
Indicators	Target	Actual	
	1	0	

# of Lessons Learned Workshop conducted		
# of Helal Houses equipped with the basic response kits	25	0
# Community based trainings for Helal Houses	25	0
# of people receiving community based awareness trainings (each training for 10 individuals)	150	0

	Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Budget	CHF 223,650
		Targeted Persons	48000
Indicators	Target	Actual	
% of households who reported to be satisfied with the food parcel's quality	80	0	
% of households who reported that the food parcel covered their needs for (72 hours)	80	0	
# of households reached with food parcels	12000	12000	
Progress Towards Outcome			
The IRCS has distributed 90,000 food parcels (72-hours baskets) from its national warehouses. With the upscaled DREF, it can replenish 12,000 food parcels for 48,000 individuals. The replenishment of the IRCS stocks distributed will be completed in the standard and relevant timeframes for procurement.			

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 437,715
		Targeted Persons	24000
Indicators	Target	Actual	
# of households reached with household items	3000	3000	
# of ground mats replenished	3000	3000	
# of blankets replenished	24000	24000	
	6000	6000	

# of heaters replenished (as per the market fluctuation and demand, the quantity might change)		
% of households who reported that they are satisfied with the shelter assistance quality	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

With the second DREF allocation, IRCS will also replenish the distributed relief tent and intends to provide 6,000 households with tents affected by the earthquake. As heater is highly needed, the same households in the affected regions will be provided with heaters.

The initial target under this sector was 3,000 households (12,000 individuals) but need to be upscaled in tune with the impact of the second earthquake and increasing number of people affected. Thus, the revised target under this sector is 6,000 households (24,000 individuals). Activities planned under this sector will be implemented in 72 most vulnerable villages in Safa district and across Khoy city in West Azarbayejan province.

The replenishment of the IRCS stocks distributed will be completed in the standard and relevant timeframes for procurement.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

There are 200 operational personnel in total, with 75% of them being volunteers. There are 42 teams from two provinces on the field. They are conducting needs assessment, carrying out food and household items distribution, and providing psychological support to the affected population. Volunteers are covered under the IRCS insurance scheme. The IRCS covers the costs of food, transportation, and lodging for relief workers and youth volunteers.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

An IFRC operation manager will be deployed to support the country delegation and Iranian RCS for managing and coordinating the DREFs operations under the standard IFRC role profile.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The IRCS will handle the procurement. From a technical standpoint, the IFRC Procurement Lead has already completed a one-month mission as part of the Afghan Appeal operation to streamline local procurement processes and to confirm and support local procurement mechanisms. The team has been instructed to adhere to the checklist provided by the IFRC MENA Logistic department. Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including procurement, storage, and forwarding to distribution sites, in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned with IFRC's logistics standards, processes, and procedures. Sourcing of relief items /Food Packages is to be done primarily from the local market, with adequate approvals to be sought/received from IFRC through the support of IFRC MENA, Supply Chain Management Unit (IFRC GHS&SCM MENA) in Beirut. Any additional logistics support can be made available by the IFRC GHS&SCM MENA, as needed.

Extension of timeframe:

Based on the IRCS' Financial and Audit Rules and Regulations, procurement is a long systematic procedure. When international funds arrived, it needs to be converted into IRR at the first step which normally takes 2 working days, and then, it takes 45 to 50 working days for the tendering process, issuing GRN, and generating inspection report. In addition, the Treasury General will be able to settle the converted fund into the concerned deputy's bank account (the RARO) to initiate the tendering process.

However, the period between March 20th to March 24th is a bank holiday. Adding to that, from March 25th to April 2nd the educational institutions continue the holidays, thus the parents take leave to stay with their families. Therefore, the proceedings move slowly if not fully stopped. Also, Ramadan starts from April 1 and production level decreases during this month.

Moreover, due to the economic situation in the country and the daily fluctuations in the exchange rates, the suppliers seldom show interest in tenders making the validity of the bid questionable.

Thus, an extension of the timeframe is highly requested.

How will this operation be monitored?

A joint PMER position was recruited by the IFRC, ICRC, and IRCS to build the PMER system and in-country capacity. The recent support from the IFRC Regional MENA PMER also helped to revise the tools that would be used in DREFs. Technical PMER capacity and support will be provided through the IFRC MENA Regional PMER team. Meanwhile, the IRCS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and operation division will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this emergency operation. The monitoring activities entail Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys that will be conducted with the recipients of relief items distributed. The PDM will measure the satisfaction of targeted people, along with the timeliness, relevance, and reach of the support provided. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF reporting standards, with a final report within three months after the end of the operation. An end-of-operation lessons learned exercise will take place to capture the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the operation as well as to ensure that the best practices are captured to inform the planning and designing of future operations.

Eventually, regular OPS updates and reports will be shared with IFRC CD and RO related to the progress against the targets and priorities and activities planned under this DREF including those of procurement timelines and financials.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

The IRCS has a strong Public Relations Department which leads the communications in this operation. Since the outset of the earthquake, the IRCS has been disseminating daily information for public awareness and information via their social media platforms (Telegram, Twitter, Instagram, and the official website). The National Society owns a TV studio and a newspaper, both disseminated nationwide. The IFRC MENA regional head of communications will provide additional support throughout the operation if required.

Contact Information

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

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