

OPERATION UPDATE

IRAN, MENA| Droughts

Emergency appeal №: MDRIR009 Emergency appeal launched: 03/03/2022 Operational Strategy published: 08/04/2022	Glide №: <u>DR-2021-000089-IRI</u>
Operation update #2 Date of issue: 5 September 2023	Timeframe covered by this update: From 22/01/2023 to 19/08/2023
Operation timeframe: 18 months (03/03/2022- 30/09/2023)	Number of people being assisted: 54,624
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 9 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 14 million Federation-wide	Loan amount initially allocated: CHF 438,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 9,000,000, is 4 per cent funded. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to the drought-affected people in the target provinces.





IRCS' response to the seven most affected province by drought. Credit: IRCS

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

The most dramatic proof of the devastating and prolonged drying of the past thirty years is the disappearance of lakes and wetlands mostly in the eastern parts of Iran. Excessive stress on water resources across the country, notably in the borderlands of the east and west, is becoming more pronounced and impossible to ignore. Safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene and health, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is under threat; while food insecurity and a breakdown in societal cohesion are highly likely to follow if increased strains on households and communities are not addressed. Current drought conditions are primarily human-induced, both locally and as a symptom of global climate change; caused, or intensified, by unsustainable land and water management domestically and in neighboring countries. Vast expanses of central and western Asia, including the majority of Iran within its mountain ranges, have been affected by drought conditions with degrees of severity and local magnitude that have varied throughout history. What brings the current situation into sharp humanitarian focus is the confluence of declining precipitation over the last 30 years, inadequate infrastructure projects, and the economic-political hit to the country, and thus its National Society, given the impacts of the renewed sanctions on the country, where all the while, some 3.5 million refugees are being hosted from war-torn lands.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

The IRCS, with a long history of providing life-saving assistance to people in need in Iran, has presence and local networks across the country are exceptionally well-established, which enables the National Society to reach vulnerable populations in highly remote and hard-to-reach areas. The IRCS enjoys nationwide acceptance and accessibility and plays a pivotal role as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field to respond to

disasters across the country and facilitate disaster preparedness activities with all its branches spread across the country. The organization is mandated under the law to lead emergency operations nationwide, to conduct search and rescue activities, relief services, and to provide emergency health and shelter services. In addition, the IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters and crises, including the provision of related educational activities.

During the reporting period, since March 2022, IRCS had multiple active IFRC-supported emergency operations focusing on delivering assistance to households affected by multiple shocks- drought, flash floods, earthquake, and displacement. Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal, IRCS, has reached 54,624 people (**13,656 households**) in 4 provinces namely Sistan and Baluchistan, Kerman, South-Khorasan, and Hormozgan through the distribution of **one month food packages** as well as hygiene kits funded by the Emergency Appeal. Moreover, During the reporting period (March 2022 to February 2023), IRCS reached **6,713 households** in the target provinces with **10-day and 72-Hr food parcels**.

Regarding **health**, IRCS continued to provide primary healthcare services and immunization services through seven mobile health teams (**MHTs**), reaching **9,000 households** (36,000 people) by distributing 3-layered masks and 100 first-aid kits during the reporting period. In addition, over 152 types of medicine (worth 20,345 CHF) were distributed among the affected people and 26 types of medical instruments for visiting and diagnosis purposes were utilized by the health teams (worth 32,856 CHF) during their operation. Considering **WASH**, IRCS has reached **8,200 households** with environmental health and hygiene kits including washing liquid, Antiseptic soap, hand sanitizer and hygiene promotion materials with key messages.

Needs analysis

Needs analysis

The compounded impact of the hazards across Iran has resulted in a significant increase in humanitarian needs in the country. In addition to severe droughts and food insecurity, the most significant impact can be seen with the contraction of the economy and increased level of country-wide unemployment as well as an increased number of people living under the poverty line, particularly in the rural areas. The outlook remains grim with climate forecasts indicating droughts will continue to prolong. This only further exacerbates the surging financial constraints and rural inability to access services, with a notable reduction in access to water across the country.

Moreover, the targeted provinces have faced serious multiple crises like red coding in COVID-19, droughts severity, and the Afghan refugee influx operations in these eastern bordering provinces. Due to the depletion of resources (sanctions suffocation), 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 this Emergency Appeal.

The IRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted field assessments in the affected districts and branches in the target provinces to identify the immediate needs and priorities. According to the preliminary assessments carried out in the areas, WASH, health, and livelihood packages were among the most pressing needs of the drought-affected people. Under this EA operation, the IRCS aimed to ensure the effective continuation of the humanitarian operations, specifically for WASH, health, and livelihoods for the most vulnerable people.

Operational risk assessment

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

RISK AREA	CONTROLS MANAGEMENT
Staff and volunteer health: risk of contracting COVID-19 through community-based activities in the response.	The IRCS has started the vaccination of all staff and relief workers involved in this operation since 03 July 2021. Strict adherence to IRCS COVID-19 awareness protocols followed.
Increase in COVID-19 community transmission if displacement occurs due to not only aftershocks but also harsh weather. In possible shelters, the COVID-19 transmission can 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.	Proactive communication with media and stakeholders. Community Engagement and Accountability.
Procurement delays of replenishment stocks.	Local procurement due to COVID-19 and sanctions international procurement took longer. IRCS anticipated depleting stocks in winter at a faster pace, not to wait for a long time for international procurement.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

In tune with recent developments and humanitarian operations in the region, the EA is 4 percent funded to date. Making the best use of the allocated funding, the IRCS could implement a good portion of the planned activities under this EA. However, IRCS will continue seeking further funding contributions with the support of the IFRC to implement the rest of the planned activities and to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to the drought-affected people in the target provinces (South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan and Baluchistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi). **The link to the published Operational Strategy could be found [here](#).**

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 Livelihoods	Female > 18:	Female < 18:	
	Male > 18:	Male < 18:	
Objective:	<i>Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of households receiving one-month food rations over an initial six-month cycle.</i>	13,656 HHs	18,300 HHs
	<i># of Post Distribution Monitoring conducted.</i>	4	4



IRCS 's FBS distribution across the four most affected provinces by droughts. Credit: IRCS

The table below displays the breakdown of food distribution in the four most vulnerable provinces.

Distribution of Food Packages			
Sr	Province	HHS	People assisted
1	Sistan & Baluchistan	3,277	13,108
2	Kerman	4,410	17,640
3	Hormozgan	1,970	7,880
4	South-Khorasan	4,103	16,412

	Total	13,760	55,040
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 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18:	Female < 18:
	Male > 18:	Male < 18:

Objective:	<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>
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Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of trained male and female volunteers in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities and community engagement so they can form teams to visit communities.</i>	210	210
	<i># of the Youth Organization PSS teams (SAHAB and SAHAR teams) deployed to the affected areas to provide PSS and MHPSS services in communities.</i>	7	7
	<i># of dignity kits distributed.</i>	7,500	7,500
	<i># of masks distributed</i>	36,000	36,000
	<i># of first aids kits distributed</i>	81	81
	<i># of medicines and instruments</i>	152	152

In tune with the medical services planned, seven mobile health teams deployed to provide vulnerable people with essential medical supplies for ailments aggravated by the dry, dust-carrying air which had reached 9,000 households in the target provinces by distributing more than 36,000 3-layered masks and 100 first-aid kits.



IRCS' medical services to the affected people by drought in target provinces. Credit: IRCS

In addition, over 152 types of medicine (worth 20,345 CHF) distributed among the affected people and 26 types of medical instruments for visiting and diagnosis purposes utilized by the health teams (worth 32,856 CHF) during their operation.

The SAHAR and SAHAB teams under the Youth Organization have provided PSS and MHPSS services to affected communities in 3 provinces namely Razavi Khorasan (Taibad, Sarakhs, Neishabour, Kashmar, and Torbat-e Jam), South Khorasan (Sarbishe and Darmian) and Sistan and Baluchistan (Khash).



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18:

Female < 18:

Male > 18:

Male < 18:

Objective:

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

of health and hygiene promotion campaigns carried out.

7

7

of hygiene kits distributed

8,200

50,000

Health and hygiene kits including washing liquid and hand sanitizer (different items) had been distributed among 8,200 households.



IRCS' response to the drought affected provinces including hygiene and medical services. Credit: IRCS

Enabling approaches



Secretariat Services

Objective:			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i># of surge deployments in support of the operation</i>	1	4
	<i># of PMER staff recruited</i>	1	1
	<i># of IFRC staff mobilized and deployed</i>	3	3

The IFRC Country Delegation facilitated the supports of the delegates and surge capacities namely Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Procurement and Finance and Admin and managed to recruit a local PMER with the required experience Movement PMER in collaboration with the ICRC to cope with the backlogs and to expediate the reconciliations of the working advances and improving the reporting system.

D. FUNDING

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Donor response

MDRIR009 - Iran - Drought

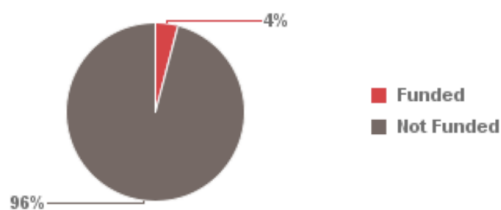
APPEAL LAUNCH DATE: 03-Mar-2022

TIMEFRAME: 03-Mar-2022 to 30-Sep-2023

LOCATION: Iran

Selected Parameters			
Appeal Code	MDRIR009	Year / Range	1900-2100
Refreshed on 29-May-2023 at 09:25			
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:	9,000,000		
RECEIVED TO DATE:	369,214		
APPEAL COVERAGE TO DATE:	4%		

	Cash contributions	Inkind Goods & Transport	Inkind Personnel	Other Income	Total
	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS					9,000,000
FUNDING					
Opening Balance					
Income					
Italian Red Cross	97,194				97,194
Japanese Red Cross Society	38,555				38,555
On Line donations	565				565
Red Cross of Monaco	15,505				15,505
The Netherlands Red Cross	106,665				106,665
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Government*)	110,731				110,731
Total Income	369,214				369,214
TOTAL FUNDING					369,214
COVERAGE					4%



Contact information

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

In the Iranian Red Crescent Society

- **Under Secretary General;** Dr. Behnam Saeidi; email: intdep@rcs.ir
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In the IFRC

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For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Office for MENA:** Francesco Volpe, Regional Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnership; email: francesco.volpe@ifrc.org.

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **Global Logistics Services** - Goran Boljanovic, Regional Head of Supply Chain; email: goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.