

IN SUPPORT OF THE IRANIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY



532

National Society branches



10,000

National Society staff



2M

National Society volunteers

PEOPLE REACHED

Disasters and crises



734,000

Values, power and inclusion



1M

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Total	Funding requirements	422.1M
	Income	1M
IFRC	Emergency Operations	
	Funding requirements	18M
	Income	345,000
	Longer-term	
	Funding requirements	25.8M
	Income	2.3M
Participating National Societies	Funding requirements	100,000
Host National Society other funding sources	Funding requirements	378M

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAAIR002, MDRIR005, MDRIR013**

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
British Red Cross	●						
German Red Cross		●				●	
Italian Red Cross	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						
Red Crescent Society of the Isla..	●						
Red Cross of Monaco	●						

● Planned

■ Supported

OVERALL PROGRESS

Context

Iran is one of the most seismically active countries in the world being crossed by several major faults. Iran is vulnerable to many types of disasters and from January to August 2023, the events so far include, earthquakes (115 cases), floods (672), heatwaves (49), and road accidents (13,966).

More than half of Iran's population is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, due to a combination of crises and hazards: a protracted and severe drought, flash floods, and multiple earthquakes across the country. The country is facing extreme economic hardship and unemployment, which has been exacerbated by the impact of international sanctions and severe drought.

Based on a recent update by UNHCR Iran regarding new arrivals from Afghanistan at the end July 2023, many Afghans are still fleeing to Iran in an irregular manner through unofficial border crossings and with the help of smugglers. Official border points remain closed for entry to people without valid passports and visas intending to seek asylum. In February 2023, UNHCR issued an updated Guidance Note on the International Protection Needs of People Fleeing Afghanistan.

Key achievements

The Iranian Red Crescent Society is mandated by Iranian law to lead national emergency operations, conduct search and rescue activities and relief services, and provide emergency health and shelter services. It is also responsible for raising public awareness around disasters and crises and providing related educational activities.

The Iranian Red Crescent has its national headquarters in Tehran, 31 provincial branches, over 500 local branches, 584 relief rescue bases and 7,368 Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses) (FDRS). It has 35 emergency operation centres (EOC's) across the country operating 24/7 hours. It has sniffer dogs and professional teams (35 centres) who specialize in the fields of search and rescue in rubble and mountains, sea airlifting, road accident relief, telecommunications (35 units), first aid and 35 rapid deployment teams. It also has its own textile production company, Iran Helal Textile Industries Co., which manufactures non-food, shelter, and relief items such as tents and blankets.

The Iranian Red Crescent also plays a vital role in contingency planning at national and local levels in cooperation with the authorities and other stakeholders. It has considerable experience in responding and operating in urban settings, and high levels of technical expertise in urban disaster risk reduction.

Through its mandate as an auxiliary to the Government, the Iranian Red Crescent supports the Ministry of Health with the ongoing provision of emergency health care and disease prevention. The National Society has 35 health and treatment centres, 31 Emergency Response Units (ERU's) Type I (rapid deployment mobile clinics) and 4 field referral hospitals. It provides physical rehabilitation through its 201 units (including physiotherapy, vocational therapy, audiometry, speech therapy, hydrotherapy, clinical nutrition, neurology, and clinical hypnosis), 37 pharmacies, as well as 41 vaccination centres.

The Iranian Red Crescent also provides road relief, basic emergency health care units during national and international disasters, rapid response field hospitals, medical equipment and supplies, procurement, and the production of medicines and specialized medicines. In the area of preventative health care, the National Society helps with reproductive health, vaccination campaigns, HIV awareness-raising, and health awareness-raising during the pilgrimage season.

The National Society also provides medical services locally and internationally in 10 countries. It coordinates with neighbouring National Societies when humanitarian assistance is required in response to crises affecting the region.

Challenges

It is challenging for the National Society to keep pace with such a high number of response operations, especially those which involve life-saving activities. The context of international sanctions impacts the Iranian Red Crescent, which has not been able to procure ambulances, air sorties/search rescue helicopters' spare parts, or search and rescue life detector batteries nor medical equipment and consumables, as these items currently cannot be imported.

Another example of the impact of the sanctions is the lengthy process required to channel financial resources to the National Society through the international banking systems.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Emergency Appeal	Iran drought
Appeal number	MDRIR009
Timeframe	18 months (3 March 2022 to 30 September 2023)
Funding requirement	Through IFRC Appeal: 9 million Swiss francs
Link to appeal	Iran Drought Emergency Appeal
Operational strategy	Iran Drought Operational Strategy
Latest operations update	Iran Drought Operations Update

For further live updates, please visit [IFRC GO: Iraq page](#)

The drought is one of the worst to hit the country in decades. It is affecting the eastern, central, and southern parts of the country, and contributing to one of the world's worst food insecurity and malnutrition crises. About 20 million people are in crisis, or experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity, and more than half of all children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition, particularly in the southeastern provinces.

The severe drought and its impact on agriculture and livestock, compounded by economic hardship, has forced hundreds of thousands of people to become internally displaced.

The IFRC supported the Iranian Red Crescent response to the drought through a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operation launched in August 2021. In view of the deteriorating situation, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in March 2023. The Emergency Appeal targets 800,000 people until the end of September 2023.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Water scarcity and severe droughts due to climate change pose serious threats, especially when combined with other hazards like sandstorms in eastern parts of the country. Other notorious climatic hazards are desertification, environmental degradation, displacement, floods and cyclones. The Iranian Red Crescent has a strategic commitment and imperative to tackle the impacts of climate change, through preparedness and adaptation efforts.

During the reporting period, the National Society has been working on:

- Developing community-level climate adaptation plans through the entrepreneurship initiatives of volunteers and 'Red Crescent Houses'
- Mobilizing health caravans to reduce the effects of climate change
- Developing or improving existing action plans

- Early warning early action against heat waves, droughts, and flash floods
- Integrating climate-related and environmental considerations across programmes and operations through the provision of practical guidance and 'do no harm' approaches
- Mobilizing youth as agents of behavioral change
- Developing sessions to raise awareness of the effects of climate change among targeted local communities, National Society staff and volunteers, with a focus on densely populated urban areas
- Developing culturally appropriate climate change information, education, and communication materials
- Providing staff with knowledge, tools, and skills to integrate climate change adaptation and climate-smart programming and operations
- Developing targets against the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter
- Reducing the National Society's carbon footprint

The IFRC continued to provide long-term support to help the Iranian Red Crescent to:

- Become equipped with knowledge, tools, and skills to integrate climate change adaptation and climate smart programming and operations
- Integrate climate-related and environmental considerations across programmes and operations through the provision of practical guidance and 'do no harm' approaches
- Develop or improve existing action plans against heat waves, droughts, early warning/early Action flash floods, etc.
- Develop targets against the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter that Iranian Red Crescent has signed



Disasters and crises

The work carried out in the first half of this year contributed in the following ways:

- Awareness sessions held for targeted communities to develop their knowledge of disaster risk reduction, health promotion, disaster preparedness and response – including forecast-based action protocols training, first aid and community-based emergency response teams
- Improving the National Society's capacity to respond appropriately to needs, through developing cash voucher assistance programming
- Establishing 26 micro-business community empowerment initiatives in vulnerable villages
- Developing urban contingency planning in megacities with a focus on earthquakes, and conducting a pilot plan in Tehran
- Developing a standard operating procedure and system in Tehran to keep a CHF300,000 revolving emergency fund to help overcome bank transfer challenges resulting from sanctions
- Supporting the National Society's rescue and relief organization to establish community emergency response teams – part of the 'Red Crescent Houses' initiative
- Increasing the National Society's early warning early action capacities, through training and links with forecast-based financing and the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund
- Supporting the National Society with the procurement of search and rescue specialized equipment
- Developing the National Society's surge capacity through the integration of technical human resources in the IFRC Rapid Response register
- Increasing participation in government and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to improve the National Society's institutional positioning

- Enhancing the community-based disaster risk reduction activities by sensitising the local communities
- Increasing Iranian Red Crescents' capacities through a training of trainers on early warning emergency actions (EWEA) and linkages with forecast based financing (FBF) and DREF for imminent crises



Health and wellbeing

The affordability of treatments for the most vulnerable populations remains one of the main challenges for the Iranian Red Crescent.

The work carried out in the first half of this year comprises:

- Adopting existing National Society curative and preventive systems to include pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response
- Supporting efforts to achieve and sustain national immunization targets and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines
- Conducting risk communication and community engagement and community-based health and first aid training for National Society staff and volunteers
- Revising and adapting the existing social listening and community feedback mechanism
- Revising existing health-related messages corresponding to the needs of community members
- Adapting global and regional information, education and communication and behaviour change communication materials and tools into Iran-specific contexts
- Engaging community-based stakeholders such as religious leaders, teachers, and influencers to develop a supportive environment for health promotion activities at community level
- Supporting the National Society's health staff to implement and monitor health programmes
- Conducting intersectoral training on mental health and psychosocial support, psychological first aid, health, and hygiene promotion
- Providing community psychosocial support activities and sessions during emergencies
- Creating technical capacities for mental health and psychosocial support services in emergencies
- Strengthening the capacities of staff and volunteers to provide psychological first aid, including in National Society branches
- Establishing a mapping of referral services linking community members to specialized services
- Training staff and volunteers on the Caring for Staff and Volunteers program and providing technical support to enhance the establishment of the system
- Adopting and piloting available evidence-based scalable mental health and psychosocial support interventions
- Enhancing knowledge and conducting sensitization workshops on protecting the mental well-being of staff and volunteers
- Becoming a member of the IFRC Middle East and North Africa mental health and psychosocial support network

The IFRC has supported the Iranian Red Crescent in the following areas:

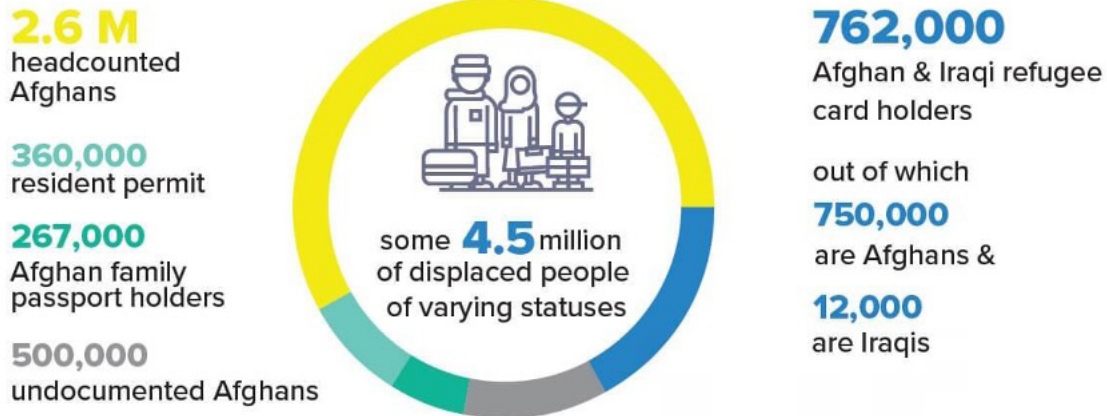
- Creating technical mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) capacities in emergencies
- Accreditation of Iranian Red Crescent's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) Health 2
- Supporting Iranian Red Crescent's branches with Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) training
- Supporting community psychosocial support (PSS) activities and sessions during emergencies



Migration and displacement

Due to economic crisis, multiple disasters, people on move and the displaced population from Afghanistan, the areas of migration and displacement in Iran represents not only the area of greatest humanitarian need in Iran, but also the biggest gaps in current and projected support.

Iranian Red Crescent is committed to supporting the affected population in terms of healthcare and treatment, shelter, livelihoods, and basic needs, and Restoring Family Links (RFL) in coordination with IFRC, ICRC, and UN agencies.



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Iran is a major host for refugees, primarily due to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. It hosts 800,000 refugees and at least 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Heavy flooding in 2019 also triggered significant internal displacement, contributing to the nearly one million Iranians who have been internally displaced due to disasters since 2010.

Refugees in Iran are concentrated in urban areas, with more than 96 per cent in cities or peri-urban settlements. They are often not part of formal humanitarian assistance systems. Challenges of migration and urbanization in the country include poverty, pollution in large cities, informal settlements, and a lack of assistance to migrants in destination cities.

The Iranian Red Crescent has a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to people on the move from Afghanistan, and it continues to do so. The National Society is in contact with the central authorities, humanitarian actors, and local stakeholders to coordinate operations and manage the delivery of dignified basic assistance. This includes providing emergency shelter, food, and household items for basic needs, alongside health, water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The IFRC, the ICRC and the German Red Cross are collectively supporting this action and the Iranian Red Crescent is utilizing its own resources as well.



Values, power and inclusion

The Iranian Red Crescent has a large pool of youth volunteers totaling 1,666,480, which requires huge efforts in terms of retention of volunteers and supporting their work and their engagement with the communities.

The activities of the Iranian Red Crescent in the areas of values, power and inclusion have been as follows:

- Improving understanding of protection, gender, and inclusion issues by collecting and analyzing sex, age and disability disaggregated data in all assessments, programs, and operations

- Adopting minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies and piloting their roll out in projects
- Developing and implementing a briefing and training package on diversity management
- Rolling out basic-level protection, gender and inclusion training to National Society staff and volunteers
- Conducting a protection, gender and inclusion self-assessment and developing a corresponding action plan
- Developing and rolling out standard operating procedures and training in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)
- Rolling out a child safeguarding policy and support tools, and ensure a child safeguarding risk analysis is in place across all operations
- Establishing and strengthening community-based social listening and feedback mechanisms to address community concerns, develop practical standard operational procedures and assign community engagement and accountability focal points
- Institutionalizing community engagement and accountability by developing and integrating related policies and standard operating procedures
- Conducting community engagement and accountability orientation and training sessions across the organization
- Mainstreaming of minimum standards and actions for CEA (Community Engagement and Accountability) and PGI (Protection, Gender, and Inclusion) across IFRC and National Society portfolios

The IFRC has also supported the integration of communication, participation and feedback and complaints within programmes and operations:

- Implementing community engagement and accountability approaches across the Movement, at all levels from programme and operations staff to senior leadership
- Conducting technical training to Iranian Red Crescent on data collection, analysis, and management
- Designing a data management system for data security which meets data protection guidelines
- Designing a monitoring and evaluation plan to track and report progress against all ongoing emergency operations

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

During the reporting period, the IFRC has supported the Iranian Red Crescent in:

- Promoting humanitarian footprint of the Iranian Red Crescent by establishing regular Movement Coordination collaboration leadership meetings in Iran and connecting local actors in humanitarian action, with Iranian Red Crescent being in a leading position
- Ensuring that joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Movement response where required
- Supporting the Iranian Red Crescent in launching financial and management systems and training staff and users
- Supporting the Iranian Red Crescent through participation in regional and global skill share events
- German Red Cross has one field officer coordinating in the field of sniffer dogs search and rescue and mountain rescue training



National Society development

The IFRC has supported the Iranian Red Crescent in the following ways:

- Assisted the National Society to prepare constitutional amendments
- Strengthened the National Society's results-based monitoring and evaluation to be able to better demonstrate its impact on communities
- Designed a monitoring and evaluation plan to track and report progress against all ongoing emergency response work
- Conducted technical training for the National Society on data collection, analysis, and management
- Designed a data management system for data security which meets data protection guidelines
- Completed the IFRC project partner financial management capacity review, and provided recommendations
- Conducted finance related training sessions to enhance the knowledge and skills in project financial management
- Continued working closely with the National Society and other stakeholders to speed up the transfer of financial resources through the international banking system
- Guided and coordinated complementary support from the Movement partners towards Iranian Red Crescent NSD plans and priorities
- Organized Movement Coordination meetings, and provided updates to the Movement partners
- Facilitated the procurement of 1,000 relief and rescue vehicles to strengthen the disaster response capacity of Iranian Red Crescent

The Iranian Red Crescent has applied for funds from the Joint ICRC-IFRC National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) and the IFRC Capacity Building Fund (CBF). The NSIA fund is in line with the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach which will help the National Society to identify and plan for critical capacity strengthening preparedness actions response, and to ensure timely and effective humanitarian assistance in line with the Iranian Red Crescent's auxiliary role and mandate.

The CBF will assist the Iranian National Society to create the Youth Volunteers Management database for developing and managing the volunteers in an efficient and effective way.



Humanitarian diplomacy

The main activities in this period have been as follows:

- Developing communication and public advocacy resources and guidance, supported by the IFRC to improve understanding amongst the international audience of Iranian Red Crescent's role and activities
- Developing a communication strategy plan
- Strengthening Movement dialogue on policy issues to consolidate its influence in the humanitarian sector
- Developing advocacy reports policy briefs on humanitarian diplomacy issues
- Promoting its image and advocating for change, affecting, public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

The following activities have been carried out in this period:

- Monitoring against performance and quality indicators mapped to National Society logframes
- Use of IFRC information products including operations updates against the Emergency Appeal, pledge-based reports, the IFRC Go page for Iran, and 3W's dashboard showing membership engagement
- Implementation of regular financial audits
- Adherence to IFRC and National Society policies on prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse
- Focus for IFRC capacity-building will include training and capacity-building on data quality, ethics, management, and digital transformation
- Acquisition of the goods and services according to IFRC procedures and standards, in close coordination with the IFRC Secretariat's Global Humanitarian Services & Supply Chain Management, utilizing, if required, IFRC structures and existing regional arrangements
- A unified risk management approach led by the National Society



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)

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