



IRAN



2026-2027 IFRC network country plan

18 February 2026

In support of the Iranian Red Crescent



579

National Society branches



7,897

National Society local units



7,454

National Society staff



3M

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



312,000

Climate and environment



1.1M

Disasters and crises



781,000

Health and wellbeing



781,000

Migration and displacement



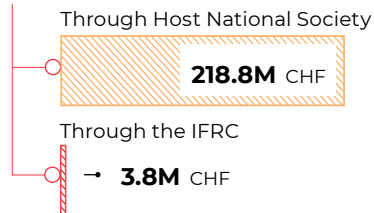
234,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 222.7M CHF



2027

Total 245.3M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

- British Red Cross*
- Italian Red Cross*

IFRC Appeal code

Longer-term needs:

MAAIR002

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.*

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Earthquakes



Extreme
heat



Climate
Change

IFRC network multi-year focus

Longer term needs

- Disaster preparedness
- Health • water, sanitation and hygiene
 - Population movement
 - Climate change

Capacity development

- Positioning and resource mobilization
 - Results-based management

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

75

World Bank Population figure

91.6M



The Iranian Red Crescent deployed ground teams and coordinated with aerial support to contain the 2025 forest fires.
(Photo: Iranian Red Crescent)

Detailed funding requirements

	2026		2027	
	Host National Society	IFRC	Host National Society	IFRC
Longer-term needs				
Climate and environment	6.4M	750,000	6.9M	938,000
Disasters & crises	189.1M	1.3M	207.9M	1.6M
Health & wellbeing	10.2M	625,000	11.1M	781,000
Migration & displacement	4.3M	375,000	4.7M	469,000
Values, power & inclusion	8.1M	188,000	8.9M	234,000
Enabling local actors	732,000	625,000	1.1M	781,000
Total	218.8M	3.8M	240.5M	3.8M

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The **Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iranian Red Crescent)** was established in 1922 and was [admitted](#) to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1929. It is the only local organization in Iran with nationwide community reach and access and is well respected. The National Society plays a pivotal role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian response.

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

According to its statutes, the objectives of the Iranian Red Crescent are to promote human dignity, establish sustainable friendship, peace, and mutual understanding among nations, strive to alleviate human suffering, and support the life and well-being of humans without discrimination. The Iranian Red Crescent's [Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#) outlines a vision for "safe, resilience, prepared communities in disasters that care for protecting human dignity and promoting peace, friendship and voluntary services both in Iran and around the globe." Its four priorities are:

- Promoting peace, friendship and understanding through humanitarian diplomacy
- Assisting in creating a resilient society, reducing risks, and responding effectively to disasters
- Assisting with safe and healthy livelihoods and preserving the environment
- Promoting social participation in humanitarian activities by strengthening the role of youth and volunteers

The Iranian Red Crescent is mandated by Iranian law to lead national emergency operations, conduct search-and-rescue activities, relief services, and provide emergency health and shelter services. It is also responsible for raising public awareness around disasters and crises and organizing related educational activities. The National Society 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 has high technical expertise in urban disaster risk reduction.

In [2024](#), the Iranian Red Crescent reached more than 100,000 people with disaster response and early recovery support and more than 49,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a population of more than 89.2 million people, Iran's economy is largely characterized by its hydrocarbon, agriculture, and services sectors as well as its noticeable presence in manufacturing and financial services. Globally, Iran ranks third in natural gas reserves and third in proven crude oil reserves. The country is ranked the eighteenth largest country in the world in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The challenges that Iran faces is multifaceted, involving the country's sensitive environment and its socio-economic condition. Iran continues to reel under the pressure of the devastating impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The challenges issuing from the pandemic, coupled with increasing US sanctions imposed in mid-2018, have led to the deterioration of Iran's economy. Unemployment and inflation rates have increased, weakening the banking system and decreasing income generation in the country. With limited fiscal space and high inflation, economic pressures on poor households are expected to continue. The country's recovery is projected to be slow and gradual. The repeated sanctions on Iran have led to a wide range of negative economic outcomes for Iran, which include the rapid devaluation of the Iranian currency, severe trade and fiscal deficits, inflation, and a rise in the poverty rates in the country.

Iran is prone to multiple disasters most notably destructive earthquakes, floods, droughts and water scarcity, and

road accidents. According to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the highest category hazards are flooding (river, urban, and coastal), earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, water scarcity, extreme heatwaves, and wildfire, while the medium category is tsunami and cyclone. Additionally, it is challenging for the National Society to keep the operational pace, especially in life-saving activities when sanctions are hindering. As an example, IRCS could not procure tools that are mandatory to keep running lifesaving actions: ambulances, air sorties/search rescue helicopters' spare parts, and search/rescue life detectors batteries as well as medical equipment and consumables that cannot be imported.

In 2023, rescue and relief operations in the country were mainly focused on earthquake damages, floods, heatwaves, and road accidents. The disaster-related risks to people's lives are extremely high and has catastrophic consequences for livelihoods and the economy. The World Risk Index 2023 and the vulnerability rate for Iran suggest that the country has a relatively high level of vulnerability, and the significant lack of coping capacities and mechanisms highlights the need for improved disaster preparedness and capacity building.

Humanitarian action in Iran is also hindered partly as a consequence of the sanctions on the country. Another example of the impact of sanctions is the lengthy process involved in channelling financial resources to the National Society through the international banking systems. The country is also home to a large number of refugees, primarily from neighbouring Afghanistan and Iraq.



Climate and environment

Iran is severely impacted by climatic changes and environmental crises namely in the form of land degradation, drought, heatwave, air pollution, and biodiversity losses. The country has often struggled from the impacts of desertification, extreme weather events, and water scarcity, among others. Man-made pollution is also one of the rising environmental concerns in Iran.

The country's proximity to the coastline means that there is climatic variation and that its high mountain ranges affect the temperature and the rainfall across the region. The country receives an average annual rainfall of 240 mm, less than a third of the world's average precipitation. However, annual precipitation in the inland dry deserts of the country can be as low as only 10 mm. As a result, most rivers are seasonal and their flows depend heavily upon the amount of rainfall.

The climatic variability year-on-year is influenced by El Niño Southern Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation. Warm El Niño events are oftentimes associated with wetter rainfall seasons, and the negative phase of the North Atlantic oscillation is associated with higher rainfall in parts of Iran.

Out of Iran's total land area of 164.8 million hectares (ha), 86 million ha (52.4%) are rangelands; 14.2 million ha (8.6%) forests and 32 million ha (19.5%) deserts including bare salty lands. Approximately only 18.5 million ha (11%) are under cultivation, of which 8.5 million ha are irrigated and 10 million ha are rain fed.

Droughts in Iran have historically been the most expensive and impactful climate-related hazard in the country, with cumulative estimated response costs of US\$14 billion since 1920. This is reportedly equivalent to more than 90 per cent of all allocated government response funds. Iran has seen rapidly increasing desertification linked to meteorological drought, or below-average rainfall, as well as anthropogenic factors such as population growth, soil salinization, and poor management of relatively scarce resources. There is a range of hydrometeorological and geophysical environmental hazards that Iran is exposed to due to its diverse and varied geography. These include flooding, flash floods, landslides, droughts, tropical cyclones and associated hazards, all of which are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Iran is also affected by earthquakes which—while not related to climate change—can produce the combined risks of flooding and landslides.

The most frequent type of climate-related hazards in Iran is flooding, mostly triggered by heavy and episodic rainfall events. Between 1980 and 2020, a total of 79 flash floods have occurred in the country. The March 2019 floods were particularly severe in the country's recorded history, which affected more than 10 million people living in more than 2,000 cities.

Heat waves have been linked to excess mortality, particularly for women and people over the age of 65. Projected temperature increases due to climate change and the resulting heat stress will have severe health implications across the region. Heat waves and extreme heat are of growing concern, worsened by increased urbanization and population growth.

Other hazards exacerbated by rising temperatures and droughts include increased dust and sandstorms, which cause air pollution and bring respiratory health risks. Air pollution is a significant issue in Iran, responsible for more than 13,000 deaths every year. Air pollution reduces life expectancy by 0.43 to 1.87 years and results in economic losses of more than US\$5.8 billion annually.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iranian Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme which aims to increase locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. This programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. It has a holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consisting of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness, (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change, (3) addressing climate displacement, and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Iranian Red Crescent has embedded a network of 7,368 Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent Houses) across the country to provide services and essential activities that increase the resilience of local communities. The Helal Houses help to mitigate and reduce the severe impacts of climate change. In the coming years, the National Society aims to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers in communication and community engagement skills to effectively engage the youth in communities to address climate change.

Planned activities in 2026

- Encouraging sustainable agricultural practices and resource management to enhance food security and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts
- Conducting community-based training programmes
- Conducting community Anticipatory Action Planning workshops based on the hazards analysis containing sustainable actions at target communities' level
- Conducting training for the staff & volunteers on DRR topics related to the [Anticipatory Action](#) and [Early Warning System](#)
- Develop culturally appropriate information, education, and communication materials to promote messages and behaviour on climate change
- Mobilize health caravans with the approach of reducing the effects of climate change
- Promote awareness to National Society staff and volunteers on climate change in cities and urban settings, particularly in high density areas

- Develop targets against the commitments of the [Climate and Environment Charter](#)
 - Encourage sustainable agricultural practices and resource management to enhance food security and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts.
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Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Iranian Red Crescent in developing and implementing climate-smart programming in both its long and short-term activities and developing an integrated approach that incorporates risk reduction, [early warning and early action](#) that is linked with [forecast-based financing](#), and reduces the [environmental footprint](#) of interventions. The IFRC support also consists of working with the National Society to capacitate its staff with the required knowledge, tools and skills to integrate climate change adaptation and climate-smart programming and operations, developing the National Society's targets against the commitments of the [Climate and Environment Charter](#), and ultimately reducing the National Society's carbon footprint.



Disasters and crises

For real-time information on IFRC emergencies, visit IFRC GO page [Iran](#).

Due to its geographical location, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country prone to disasters. Among the 40 different types of natural hazards worldwide, 31 of them have been identified in Iran. Major disasters in Iran include frequent earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, desertification, deforestation, and storms, among others. The country is part of the Alp-Himalaya orogenic belt and is known as part of the youngest and last orogenic regions of the world. Due to continuous seismic activities, the country suffers heavy economic and social damages. It is reported that on an average, Iran experiences about [one earthquake each day](#). Several regions in Iran are vulnerable to destructive earthquakes that cause a significant loss of life, fatal injuries, and damages infrastructure. According to the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction ([UNDRR](#)), it is feared that a major earthquake in Tehran, a megalopolis of more than 10 million inhabitants, could well lead to considerable loss of life and substantial financial damages if appropriate mitigation measures are not adopted.

In 2021, 29 of the 31 provinces in Iran, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan Balochistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi – were severely impacted by drought. The amount of rainfall in Iran's

main river basins were substantially lower compared with the year earlier, leading to a lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power in the affected regions. An estimated [4.8 million](#) people were impacted, causing the movement of individuals or households from rural to urban areas, resulting in the abandonment of villages in rural areas and the worsening of living conditions in urban areas.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In order to ensure disaster preparedness in the coming years, the National Society has a two-pronged approach: preparedness at the community-level through its established Red Crescent houses, and at National Society response system level through large projects. The network of Red Crescent houses established throughout the country will be connected to the National Society's emergency operation centres system. A mega city earthquake contingency planning project by the National Society focuses on preparedness for urban response in the event of a major disaster in big cities like Tehran.

The Iranian Red Crescent continues to conduct awareness sessions for targeted communities, focusing on community empowerment initiatives in vulnerable villages and continue

developing urban contingency planning in mega cities to prepare for natural hazards. As part of its [Preparedness for Effective Response](#) (PER) activities, the National Society has developed a simulation programme to improve the awareness and preparedness of individuals and communities for different crises and disasters such as floods, cyclones and road accidents.

Planned activities in 2026

- Conduct community-based disaster risk reduction and climate change activities
- Conduct Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment ([eVCA](#)) in target communities
- Carry out Preparedness for Effective Response (PER)
- Through the Green DADRAS initiative, prepare students for the upcoming emergencies & crises through training, awareness sessions, development evacuation plan & mock drills
- Provision of relief tent, blanket and ground mat
- Set up emergency camps wherever required
- Conduct rapid assessment to identify the most vulnerable for food assistance
- Provide technical assistance and advisory support to relevant ministries and government agencies in reviewing, developing, and updating disaster laws and policies aligned with international standards such as the Sendai Framework
- Lead capacity-building initiatives targeting staff, volunteers, government officials, and other stakeholders on disaster law principles, legislative advocacy, and the auxiliary role in disaster management
- Establish and maintain a National Focal Point on Disaster Law to coordinate activities related to training, dissemination, legal reviews, and government liaison
- Promote community awareness and understanding of disaster-related rights, roles, and responsibilities to enhance resilience and compliance with legal provisions via the network of Helal House across the country
- Utilize IFRC's disaster law tools, guidelines, and advocacy packages to enhance legislative advocacy efforts for improved legal recognition and operational space for National Society

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides support to the National Society's rescue and relief organization to establish community emergency response teams. It works to increase the National Society's participation in government and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to improve and enhance the National Society's positioning. IFRC continues to support the National Society in enhancing its capacity to respond to needs by developing cash voucher assistance programming and other activities. IFRC technical support in shelter is extended to ensure that National Society's relief tents are manufactured according to internationally accepted standards and are accredited for regional and global supply.

IFRC emergency response mechanisms such as the Emergency Appeal and the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) will continue to be drawn on in support of the National Society, when needed. In 2025, IFRC provided DREF allocations for three emergencies in Iran. The DREF allocations have been described below:

[IFRC-DREF Iran Complex Emergency 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 1,000,000 in June 2025 supported the Iranian Red Crescent in assisting approximately 200,000 people affected by significant military conflict in the areas of Azarbayejan Gharbi, Azarbayejan Sharghi, Bushehr, Esfahan, Fars, Ghom, Gilan, Hamedan, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Markazi, Tehran, and Alborz. The National Society continues to support the targeted people over a period of nine months with assistance such as mental health and psychosocial support, distribution of first aid, procurement of PPEs, search and rescue, among others.

[IFRC-DREF Iran Forest Wildfires 2025](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 500,000 in December 2025 supported the Iranian Red Crescent in assisting more than 6,500 people affected by wildfires in the areas of Azarbayejan Sharghi, Golestan and Mazandaran. The National Society continues to support the targeted people over a period of six months with assistance such as risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, which includes support for affected households, equipping basic response kits, dissemination of information, among a range of other activities.

[IFRC-DREF Nationwide Flooding in Iran](#): the DREF allocation of CHF 470,198 in December 2025 supported the Iranian Red Crescent in assisting approximately 12,000 people affected by nationwide floods which includes many areas of the country. The National Society continues to support the affected people over a period of six months with targeted assistance such as shelter, housing and settlements, livelihoods and basic needs, WASH interventions, climate adaptation and recovery, among others.



Iran faces increasing health-related challenges due to the projected rise in mean temperatures and prolonged heat waves in the region. These rapid climatic changes can lead to heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, rash, cramps, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and long-term cardiovascular diseases. Especially in urban areas, there is a higher risk of heat stress due to the urban heat island effect. Elderly people and people with underlying health conditions are likely to be most affected by the rise in temperatures. For children, prolonged droughts can pose risks of skin and eye diseases and respiratory problems which affect their cognitive development.

Instances of malnutrition and food-related illnesses are increasing as droughts, storms, and floods disrupt agriculture and food practices. This change in agricultural and food habits will lead to a rise in displacement, injuries, and deaths. Large-scale crises and disasters also increase the risks of mental health and psychosocial disorders.

Vector-borne diseases, especially malaria and leishmaniasis, are expected to increase in the country as a result of climate change. The Iranian government has committed to eliminate the disease by 2025. However, the widespread nature of the disease coupled with temperature rise could further increase the cases of malarial disease in the country. Depreciation of the quantity and quality of water will likely lead to an increase in water-borne diseases such as cholera, while high temperatures and low rainfall will provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

The most recent data from 2020 showed that Iran's health expenditure was 5.34 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. It ranked 90th out of 195 countries in the 2021 Global Health Security Index. The increased risks of morbidity, mortality, and illnesses caused by climate change will put greater strain on the country's healthcare system, infrastructure, and overall spending.

The global COVID-19 pandemic also exacerbated the growing gap in health provision for the long-term health needs of the Iranian population. The pandemic caused limitation of access to specialized equipment which was already scarce as a result of repeated economic sanctions on the country.

In terms of healthcare achievements, Iran has made remarkable progress, notably in reducing under-five mortality rates.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the focus of the Iranian Red Crescent will be on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), community-based health and first Aid (CBHFA), community engagement and accountability (CEA) mechanism for health services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and psychosocial first Aid (PFA). The National Society will

continue to execute its service delivery role in vaccinations and basic healthcare.

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote public health emergency preparedness and response coordination platforms
- Develop and Implement the Iranian Red Crescent health strategy/policy related to epidemic & pandemic preparedness and response
- Revise and implement health and WASH priorities by drafting health strategy/policy and relevant
- Implement Health Caravans (Health Convoys) on regular basis to the target communities through volunteers' organization & the vast network of Helal Houses
- Develop well-informed and context specific Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance on Preparedness and Response
- Conduct community-Based Trainings to behaviour change and risk communication strategies to improve knowledge, attitude, and behaviours of the community on various health issues
- Capacity building of healthcare workers and volunteers on key health issues and communication and community engagement skills
- Enhance integration and enforcement of the MHPSS in different programmes through Youth Organization
- Capacity building on community-based surveillance and early warning system for healthcare workers in coordination with the MOH in health facilities and staff and volunteer
- Lead the implementation of emergency and recovery WASH programmes ensuring communities have access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable services
- Conduct rapid assessments of water and sanitation infrastructure and community needs in emergency settings
- Rehabilitate or construct water supply systems and sanitation facilities with sustainable and context-appropriate technologies
- Promote hygiene behaviour change through community engagement, awareness campaigns, and capacity building

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in identifying and reducing health risks in communities through community engagement, accountability and behaviour change approaches

that ensure locally led solutions to address unmet needs. These include supporting the National Society's health staff to implement and monitor health programmes. The IFRC supports the National Society in meeting the mental health

and psychosocial support needs of the communities as well as volunteers and staff. During period of emergencies, the IFRC supports the National Society in providing community psychosocial support activities and sessions.



In 2025, the Iranian Red Crescent provided relief services to people affected by snowstorms across 25 provinces. (Photo: Iranian Red Crescent)



Migration and displacement

Polarized and politicized economic situations, with multiple disasters around the world, poverty in the less-served communities, and environmental degradation, combined with the absence of peace and security are all factors affecting international migration. In Iran, as a main migratory route, displacement remains a key challenge. With over 7 million migrants (documented and undocumented) migration and identity is an area of focus for the Iranian authorities.

Due to conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Iran has become a major host for primarily [Afghan refugees](#). As of 2022, Iran has 3,425,091 refugees, which is a 329.02% increase from 2021. The country's refugees include 780,000 Afghans and 20,000 Iraqis, as well as 2.6 million undocumented Afghans and 600,000 Afghan passport holders. Climatic hazards such as [heavy floods in 2019](#) have also triggered significant internal displacement, contributing to the nearly 1 million Iranians who have been internally displaced due to disasters since 2010. While the Iranian government has started voluntary screening, it has become a challenge to track the density of the population as the influx is scattered in different provinces.

A rise in temperature and reduced rainfall has also been a significant factor for inter-province migration in Iran, suggesting that internal migration will carry on as these climate trends continue. Most internal migration in Iran has remained urban-to-urban since the mid-2000s, with rural-to-urban migration decreasing over the decades. However, climate shocks like droughts cause people to leave their homes in search of economic opportunities, contributing to more rural-to-urban migration alongside general labour migration.

Following the announcement of the full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2021, territorial control rapidly shifted, leading to a rise in the number of displaced people, with many seeking refuge in larger cities and in foreign country. In [2022](#), the Government of Iran undertook a headcount of all undocumented Afghan nationals in Iran, including those who newly arrived in Iran following events in Afghanistan in 2021. 2.6 million Afghans were registered through this process. According to Iran, 500,000 undocumented Afghans did not participate in the headcount. It is estimated that since August 2021, a total of 1,000,000 Afghans have fled to Iran. Largely, the

refugees in Iran are concentrated in urban areas, with more than 96 per cent living in cities or peri-urban settlements. Challenges related to migration and urbanization in the country include poverty, pollution in larger cities, informal settlements, and a lack of assistance to migrants in destination cities.

Multi-year high-level objectives of the National Society

The Iranian Red Crescent works to ensure that migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes and durable solutions when appropriate. It has gained a prominent role in the country for addressing the needs of the migrants and the refugees and plays a key role in supporting registered and unregistered populations. In this connection, the National Society has acquired land in Zabol, Sistan Balochistan, for a large relief base to address the basic humanitarian needs of internally displaced people and migrants from Afghanistan.

Planned activities in 2026

- Ensure participation of concerned IDPs during the needs assessment & planning process, to learn their different needs, concerns, and perspectives
- Conduct community engagement workshops that bring together migrants, displaced persons, and local community members to promote dialogue, build trust, and allow for sharing of experiences and needs
- Develop and distribute multilingual information materials that educate migrants and displaced persons about

their rights, available services, and resources in host communities

- Provide immediate humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, and medical care, to meet the urgent needs of migrants and displaced individuals
- Train local volunteers to work effectively with migrants and displaced persons, equipping them with the skills needed to respond to their unique challenges

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** provides financial and technical support to the National Society to scale up its interventions in migration and help the National Society identify potential areas for operational response on migration. It supports the National Society's efforts under migration by enhancing its coordination and engagement with external stakeholders to advocate for the plight of migrants and ensure that timely assistance is provided those in need.

The **German Red Cross** works with the Iranian Red Crescent, concentrating on relief, volunteering and providing services as part of the collective response to the influx of people displaced from Afghanistan.

The **ICRC** supports the Iranian Red Crescent under the restoring family links ([RFL](#)) initiative.



Values, power and inclusion

Before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, Iran dedicated a significant portion of its national budget, around 40 per cent, towards social protection schemes, including the implementation of a universal basic income. However, despite these efforts, the current framework lacks inclusiveness, adequacy of coverage, and comprehensiveness, rendering it ineffective in targeting and supporting specific vulnerable populations within the country.

In terms of education, Iran has also witnessed positive developments, with 96% of children completing primary school. However, challenges persist, as evidenced by the fact that 70% of children fail to complete upper secondary school. Moreover, more than 20 per cent of school-aged children, including 500,000 refugees and 170,000 children living with disabilities, lack access to online learning opportunities, a gap that's particularly pronounced in low-income households and less-developed provinces.

Social protection efforts have reached only a fraction of the population, with only 28% receiving at least one benefit in 2020. Iranian women and girls have made significant strides in various domains, including education, research, science, entrepreneurship, employment, and sanitation, according to the United Nations Human Development Index.

However, challenges persist for women in Iran, as indicated by the underrepresentation of women in political spheres, with only 5.6% of parliamentary seats held by women as of February 2021. Furthermore, issues such as gender-based violence remain prevalent, with 17.6% of women aged 15-49 reporting experiences of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous year.

Moreover, there is gender disparity in unpaid care and domestic work, with women spending a significantly larger proportion of their time on such tasks compared to men. Additionally,

concerning trends such as child marriage and adolescent birth rates highlight the need for targeted interventions to address gender inequalities and protect the rights of women and girls in Iran.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iranian Red Crescent intends to enhance its institutional and operational capacity in Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). This will be done in alignment with the work of its Audit, Inspection and Complaints division which safeguards all aspects of prevention of fraud and corruption, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection among others. The National Society also emphasizes its commitment to institutional diversity and engagement and accountability to the communities it serves. In the coming years, it will work to enhance its capacity to respond and mitigate risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion towards specifically affected groups.

Planned activities in 2026

- Ensure PGI minimum standards in emergencies and National Society plan
- Organize training workshops to enhance community members' knowledge and skills in advocacy, negotiation, and decision-making, enabling them to effectively influence the processes that affect them

- Identify and train local leaders and representatives from affected communities to act as advocates for their peers, ensuring their voices are heard in local governance and development decisions
- Establish safe and accessible channels for community members to give feedback about services provided by the National Society and other organizations, ensuring their concerns are addressed, and improvements are made
- Involve community members in assessments to identify their priority needs and challenges

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in its efforts to undertake the groundwork for inculcating a culture of social inclusion in its programming and within the organization. In this connection, IFRC supports the strengthening and establishment of community-based social listening and feedback mechanisms to address community concerns – this includes the develop practical standard operating procedures and appointing community engagement and accountability focal points. The IFRC also works collaboratively with the National Society to mainstream PGI and improve community understanding of PGI issues in the long run.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Iranian Red Crescent is committed towards its institutional strengthening, and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2015. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. In 2024, an orientation was conducted for the Iranian Red Crescent on the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), with the aim of enabling the National Society to select the appropriate PER modality. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase peer-to-peer connections between the National Society and other Middle East and North Africa National Societies, including through participation in regional networks such as on disaster management
- Balance and maximize partnerships with UN agencies, leveraging the international organization status of the IFRC
- Expand the National Society's partnerships with multilateral and international financial institutions, bridging global and regional opportunities
- Invest in innovative entrepreneurship approaches and ideas developed by National Society youth and volunteers

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the Iranian Red Crescent in strengthening its engagement with international partners, including the UN Humanitarian Country Team. This engagement leverages the National Society's position as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC continues to provide technical support for coordination and networking with Movement partners. This support extends to joint planning and reporting beyond emergency situations. The IFRC also supports the National Society in setting up an improved coordination mechanism in all situations in which several Movement components are present.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Undertake constitutional amendments
- The Iranian Red Crescent will integrate community outreach training and volunteers' capacity building under [Helal Houses](#) (community-owned Red Crescent houses which serve as the first connection with communities). The National Society will empower the heads of the Helal Houses, encourage the members to increase the quantity and quality of voluntary activities, establish effective communication, provide context for the expression and exchange of ideas and suggestions, and most notably increase the network of Helal Houses to 10,000 over the next few years.

- Focus on the development of volunteers and youth action by including local volunteers in the activities and response mechanisms of the Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses)
- Conduct training on first aid and provide inductions for new recruits, involving young people and volunteers in the establishment of Helal Houses

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC supports the National Society in undertaking constitutional amendments. It also prioritizes volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Train staff and volunteers on the National Society's communications strategy and produce communication products for international audiences
- Enhance media coverage of the Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses) programme expansion and other National Society-owned digital tools and websites showcasing the initiative
- Develop advocacy communication tools to showcase the rationale and intended functions of the Helal Houses

for national-level organizations involved in disaster management – such as the Passive Defence Organization, the Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization, and the National Disaster Management Organization

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC produces humanitarian diplomacy documents and common narratives together with the National Society. It also supports the National Society by strengthening Movement dialogue on policy issues to consolidate its influence in the humanitarian sector.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to facilitate its Audit, Inspection and Complaints division which safeguards all aspects of prevention of fraud and corruption, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection among others
- Strengthen its results-based monitoring and evaluation, and better demonstrate its impact on communities
- Conduct finance-related training sessions to enhance knowledge and skills in project financial management

- Design a data management system for data security which meets data protection guidelines

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC continues to work closely with the National Society and other stakeholders to speed up the transfer of financial resources through the international banking system. Technical training is conducted for the National Society on data collection, analysis and management. Efforts will continue in reference to the completion of the IFRC project partner financial management capacity review, with recommendations.



The Iranian Red Crescent held its 13th National "Aamadeh" Olympiad for high school students to showcase their skills in first aid, firefighting, rescue, and more. (Photo: Iranian Red Crescent)

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC re-established a country delegation in Iran in 2021, to increase its support towards the National Society in undertaking its mandate as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC continues to facilitate increased membership support in Iran. In recent years, the

IFRC supported the National Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals [operations](#) in relation to earthquakes, droughts, floods and population movement.

IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of

people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

Participating National Societies support the Iranian Red Crescent remotely due to difficulties in establishing a presence in Iran.

Movement coordination

The Iranian Red Crescent ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). The IFRC and ICRC also jointly support the National Society's humanitarian diplomacy efforts and the enhancement of principled humanitarian action and support.

In Iran, **the ICRC** promotes international humanitarian law and works with the authorities in Iran and Iraq to address the consequences of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, particularly the issue of missing persons. It supports local initiatives to mitigate risks related to people's health and their exposure to mines and explosive remnants of war, and support access to health care for Afghan migrants. The ICRC works in partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent and other Iranian organizations and bodies in the fields of tracing, physical rehabilitation and international relief efforts.

Coordination with other actors

The Iranian Red Crescent, with support from the IFRC, will maintain its crucial engagements with local authorities, ensuring continued collaboration and reinforcing its roles as an auxiliary to the Iranian public authorities in the humanitarian domain. The National Society is well respected and strongly engaged within its national response system. In this connection, it is a member of the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) – a role which is recognized through legislation on the NDMO. The NDMO coordinates the disaster response efforts of the Iranian Red Crescent, ministries, local authorities and NGOs. Line ministries, supported by UN agencies in Iran, lead and implement sectorial services.

The Iranian Red Crescent is also mandated by the Iranian Government to serve as the local partner for all humanitarian agencies operating in the country. As such, it has established partnerships and is working closely with UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNOCHA, MSF (France/Swiss), the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Relief International.

Since its re-establishment in Iran, the IFRC has engaged with the other humanitarian organizations which are active in the country, and this includes engagement with the World Bank in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The IFRC aims to leverage its International Organization status and maximize support for the Iranian Red Crescent.



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC network databank](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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) 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
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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