



Appeal: MDRIR018	Hazard: Complex Emergency	Country: Iran, Islamic Republic of	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Red	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 1,525,304	
Glide Number: CE-2026-000026-IRN	People Affected: 82,000,000 people	People Targeted: 200,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 28-02-2026	Operation Timeframe: 9 months	Operation End Date: 30-11-2026	DREF Published: 01-03-2026

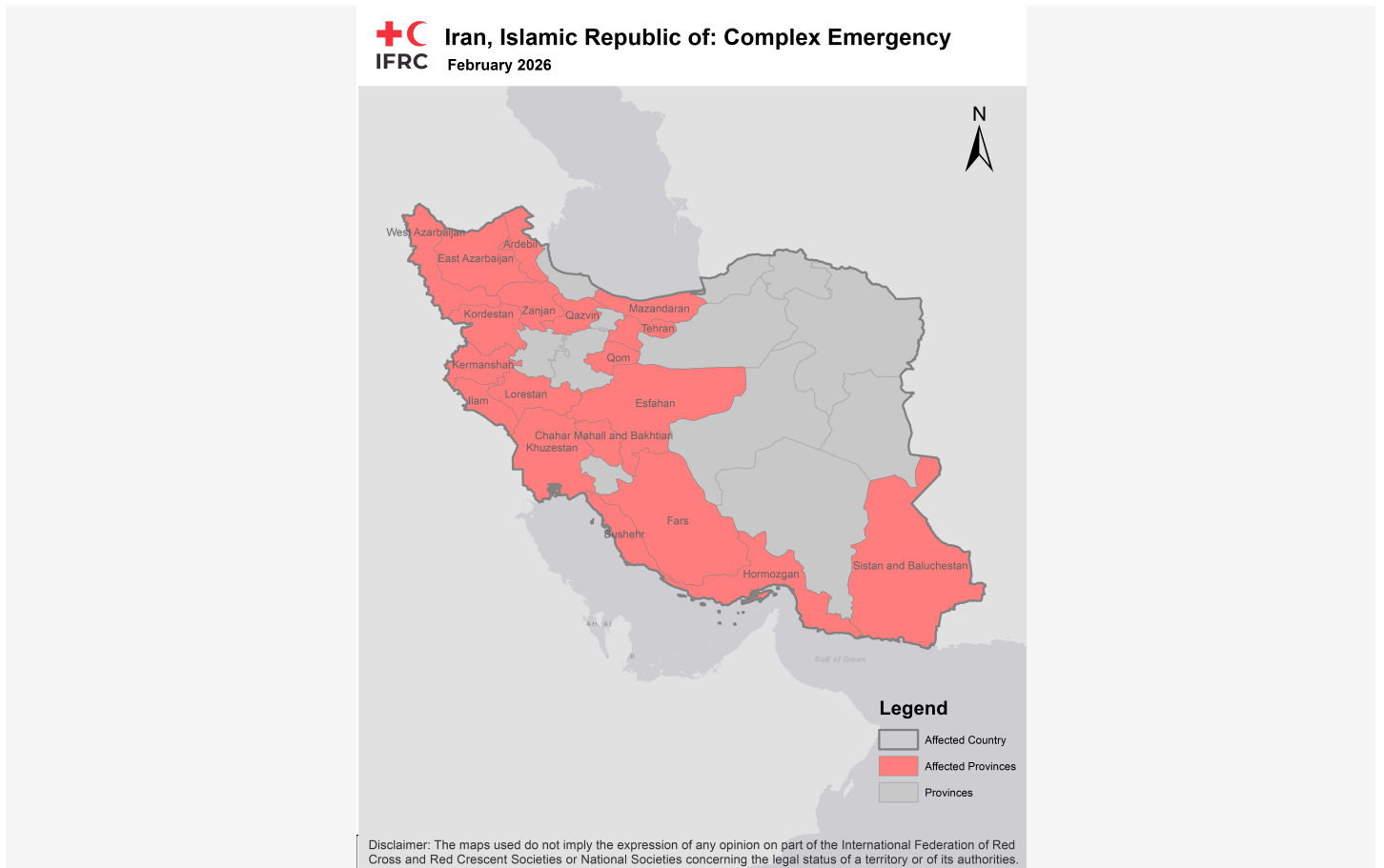
Targeted Regions:

Ardabil, Azarbayejan Gharbi, Azarbayejan Sharghi, Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Esfahan, Fars, Ghazvin, Ghom, Hormozgan, Ilam, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Lorestan, Mazandaran, Sistan-o baluchestan, Tehran, Zanjan

Description of the Event

Date of event

28-02-2026



What happened, where and when?

On 28 February 2026, a significant military escalation was reported across Iran following coordinated attacks against Iranian targets. Multiple explosions occurred in Tehran and other urban areas during the early morning hours, with air raid sirens sounding in parts of the country and reportedly in neighboring areas. The developments have heightened insecurity and concern among civilian populations. Information from within Iran remains severely constrained due to a near-total internet disruption, with reports indicating national connectivity dropped to approximately four percent, significantly limiting communication, coordination, and verification from affected communities. While no confirmed comprehensive casualty figures are available at this stage, reported strikes in populated urban areas raise concerns regarding potential direct and indirect impacts on civilians and reinforce the importance of prioritizing their protection. IFRC is maintaining close coordination with the National Society in Iran and monitoring regional developments as the situation evolves. This report is based on open-source information available at the time of writing and reflects a rapidly developing context with notable information gaps; it is intended as an initial humanitarian snapshot rather than a comprehensive field report.

Scope and Scale

As of 28 February 2026, the reported coordinated military strikes across multiple Iranian cities have produced immediate and significant humanitarian consequences. Explosions were reported in densely populated urban areas, including Tehran and other major cities, resulting in confirmed civilian casualties. Open-source reporting indicates confirmed civilian casualties across multiple provinces, with Iranian Red Crescent figures cited by international media reporting 201 deaths and 747 injuries across 24 provinces.

Particularly grave is the reported strike on a girls' school in Minab, Hormozgan province, where media sources indicate over 100 girls were killed and many more injured. Strikes affecting civilian locations especially educational facilities underscore the acute protection risks faced by children and the broader civilian population during military escalation.

Beyond direct loss of life, the strikes have caused widespread fear, panic, and disruption to daily life. Authorities reportedly closed



schools in several areas, and families have sought safer locations amid uncertainty. Nationwide internet connectivity disruptions, reported to have dropped to approximately four percent have significantly limited communication, hampered access to information, and constrained humanitarian situational awareness. Airspace closures, transport interruptions, and heightened security measures have further restricted mobility and may affect access to medical care, markets, and essential services.

The impacts extend beyond immediate casualties. Disruptions to electricity, telecommunications, transport networks, and potentially health facilities may create reverberating humanitarian effects, including interruptions in emergency and chronic healthcare, water access, fuel supply, and food distribution systems. Livelihoods are at risk due to market instability, temporary business closures, reduced consumer activity, and uncertainty linked to the security environment. Low-income households, daily wage earners, and informal workers are particularly vulnerable to sudden income loss and rising prices of essential goods.

The populations most affected are civilians living in densely populated urban areas, particularly those residing near strategic, governmental, or infrastructure sites. Children are among the most vulnerable, as highlighted by the reported attack on a school and the suspension of educational activities. Older persons, persons with disabilities, and individuals with chronic medical conditions face heightened risks due to mobility limitations and dependence on functioning public services. Women and caregivers may shoulder increased protection and care responsibilities during instability. Any internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, migrants, or economically marginalized urban residents face compounded vulnerabilities due to insecure housing, limited resources, and reduced coping capacity.

Historically, similar episodes involving the use of explosive weapons in populated areas have resulted not only in immediate civilian casualties but also in prolonged indirect harm stemming from damaged infrastructure, displacement, economic contraction, and psychosocial distress.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Reuters	https://www.reuters.com/world/iran-crisis-live-explosions-tehran-israel-announces-strike-2026-02-28/
2. Al Jazeera	https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2026/2/28/live-israel-launches-attacks-on-iran-multiple-explosions-heard-in-tehran

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRIR015- Iran complex emergency 2025

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

This is not a recurrent event, both events were complex emergencies where the country has been under attack, yet they are distinct events and not seasonal nor recurrent

Lessons learned:

In previous operations, some challenges were faced, including delays in procurement and delays in reporting. For this operation, an operations manager surge support will be deployed when the situation allows to support the proper and timely implementation of the operation in line with the IFRC standards. Until the deployment takes place, the IFRC RO operations team will be supporting the NS remotely. To address procurement challenges, the option of seeking support from neighboring national societies will be explored, in addition to remote technical support from Supply Chain and Procurement from the RO. As for the reporting, the



support of an operations manager in addition to the PMER and Finance RO teams will be closely monitoring the implementation of the operation, extending support to the national society as needed. Monitoring visits and regular and periodic follow-up meetings are planned under this response.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?

No

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

28-02-2026

<p>Health</p>	<p>IRCS emergency medical teams were immediately dispatched to impacted sites to provide on-site triage and first aid, stabilization of injured individuals and medical evacuation to referral hospitals.</p> <p>Red Crescent pharmacies and medical facilities nationwide have been placed on full alert to ensure continuity of access to medicines and emergency medical supplies.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Under the current circumstances, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) plays a central frontline role in supporting national response efforts in coordination with national authorities and in alignment with its humanitarian mandate. As an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, IRCS is supporting emergency medical response, first aid, relief assistance, search and rescue, and community outreach in affected areas, while maintaining adherence to the Fundamental Principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence.</p> <p>Coordination is being managed through the activated Crisis Management Headquarters, ensuring structured internal communication and operational oversight. Externally, IRCS is coordinating with relevant government institutions, including civil defense, health authorities, and local crisis management structures. This coordination enables alignment of response priorities, real-time information sharing, access facilitation, and targeted assistance to vulnerable populations.</p>
<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>The Iranian Red Crescent Society reports having approximately four million youth and volunteer members, including 100,000 specialized rapid response team personnel, all placed on full alert status.</p> <p>All logistical warehouses, relief stock, and medical capacities have been activated to ensure readiness for potential escalation and additional incidents. Operational teams remain on standby with full rescue equipment and stretchers for rapid deployment upon receipt of incident reports.</p> <p>Relief activities are ongoing across affected provinces, with priorities focused on lifesaving response, search and rescue, and assistance to injured and affected households as the situation continues to evolve.</p>
<p>National Society EOC</p>	<p>In response to the nationwide emergency situation, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) activated its Crisis Management Headquarters (EOC) and placed all operational branches across the country on full alert. All rapid response teams, relief bases, logistical hubs, and operational facilities nationwide have been mobilized. Relief and rescue bases across all provinces are currently on standby to respond immediately to new incidents as they are reported.</p> <p>More than 200 operational teams have been deployed to sites across the affected provinces, supporting search and rescue, debris removal, evacuation, and emergency assistance efforts.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC engages with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) through its regional and country level structures. Coordination remains at preparedness and monitoring level, with close communication maintained with IRCS (depending on availability of working communication channels) to assess evolving humanitarian needs and operational capacity.</p> <p>No Emergency Response Units (ERUs) or international surge staff have been mobilized, and response scaling will depend on formal requests from the National Society.</p> <p>Secretariat support currently focuses on remote technical and strategic readiness. This includes situation monitoring and scenario planning; including review of operational risks such as transfer and sanctions constraints; security risks and extending duty-of-care measures. IFRC also is extending support in terms of logistics monitoring of airspace and supply routes mapping, and HR standby surge roster identification. The approach remains precautionary and scalable, pending clarification of humanitarian impact and access conditions.</p>
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ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>The ICRC maintains a longstanding presence in Iran and continues to work closely with the Iranian Red Crescent Society. In light of the recent escalation, the ICRC is closely monitoring developments, engaging with relevant authorities and Movement partners. The ICRC has indicated its readiness to respond within its mandate, as needs are identified and access allows.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>Iranian national authorities have implemented a series of emergency and protective measures to manage the evolving humanitarian impact and maintain public order following the reported strikes across multiple cities. Civil defense protocols have been activated, with emergency services deployed in affected urban centers, including Tehran and other impacted areas. Coordination between national authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is ongoing to support medical response, provide first aid, and assist affected families where access permits.</p> <p>Following explosions in several urban locations, including the reported strike on a school in Hormozgan province resulting in significant civilian casualties, authorities have increased public safety alerts and precautionary measures. Schools have been temporarily closed in several areas, and hospitals have been placed on heightened alert to manage trauma cases and potential surge needs. The Ministry of Health has mobilized medical staff and emergency capacity to treat casualties and ensure continuity of care, while assessing any damage to health facilities. Airspace restrictions, movement controls, and communication disruptions remain in effect, contributing to broader efforts to manage security risks and stabilize the situation as it continues to evolve.</p>



Needs (Gaps) Identified



National hospitals and emergency medical services have been mobilized following the reported strikes across multiple provinces. Iranian Red Crescent emergency medical teams have supported on-site triage, stabilization, and referral of injured individuals, while hospitals in major urban centers continue to receive and treat trauma cases. However, given the geographic spread of reported incidents across more than 20 provinces and the scale of casualty reporting in urban areas, trauma care capacity may be strained, particularly in cities experiencing multiple strike locations.

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas presents risks of complex injuries—including blast trauma, burns, crush injuries, and shrapnel wounds—which can rapidly overwhelm emergency departments, surgical rooms, intensive care units, and blood supplies. If incidents continue or escalate, surge capacity—including surgical teams, trauma supplies, blood products, and critical care beds—may become increasingly constrained.

Continuity of care for individuals with chronic medical conditions (including patients requiring dialysis, insulin-dependent diabetes management, cardiovascular medications, oncology care, and oxygen therapy) remains a significant concern.

Exposure to explosions, displacement fears, media reporting of violence, and the reported attack on a girls' school resulting in the deaths of students and teachers are likely to generate acute psychological distress among children, caregivers, and affected communities. Structured MHPSS services, particularly child-focused support, psychological first aid, and community-based psychosocial outreach, may be limited relative to potential demand.

More clarity on the needs will be provided as the situation unravels.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The current assessment is constrained by several operational and contextual limitations. Severe telecommunications disruptions, including reported nationwide internet outages, have significantly limited real-time information gathering, verification of casualty figures, and community-level feedback. Access constraints due to ongoing security risks, movement restrictions, and airspace disruptions have restricted field-based assessments in some affected urban areas.

Information currently relies largely on secondary data sources, media reporting, and preliminary inputs, which may not fully capture the scope of humanitarian needs or provide disaggregated data (by age, gender, disability, or vulnerability status). Verified data on casualties, infrastructure damage, displacement patterns, and service disruption remain incomplete. There is also limited clarity on the extent of indirect impacts such as market functionality, healthcare continuity for chronic conditions, and psychosocial needs.

In addition, sensitivity around the security context may restrict open data sharing or public reporting. As a result, the overall picture remains dynamic, and findings should be considered preliminary. More comprehensive, community-level and sector-specific assessments will be required once access, security conditions, and communications stabilize.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to deliver immediate life-saving assistance for 200,000 people affected by the complex emergency in Iran through a 9-month operational timeframe, by supporting the Iran Red Crescent in their coordinated search and rescue operations, and emergency health services, while strengthening the operational capacity of the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Operation strategy rationale

The operation is designed to deliver immediate life-saving assistance to 200,000 people affected by the conflict, focusing on search and rescue, and emergency health services. The strategy is grounded in the urgent humanitarian needs and in coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), which is leading the national response.

The approach prioritizes rapid deployment of emergency teams, scaling up mobile health units, and strengthening IRCS operational capacity to ensure timely and effective service delivery.

Priority actions include:

- Search and rescue operations in urban areas affected by airstrikes, where civilians remain trapped under debris.
- Emergency medical care for injured individuals, including first aid and transportation to health facilities.
- Awareness raising messaging, including sharing alerts on possible strikes, best practices under the current situation, and messages targeting mental health for affected population, especially affected children
- National Society development actions, including logistics and volunteer support, will ensure IRCS can sustain operations and scale up as needed.
- Secretariat services: the IFRC will support the national society with an operations manager to support the response operation for 3



months, and ensure the support of finance in emergencies and procurement/supply chain.

Given the dynamic and evolving nature of the situation, the response plan will remain adaptable. A revision may be considered at a later stage to address emerging needs, informed by updated information, and any assessments conducted as access and connectivity allow.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will target 200,000 people most affected by the February 2026 conflict in Iran, with a focus on civilians in heavily bombarded urban areas, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and Afghan refugees. These populations face the highest risks due to direct exposure to violence, loss of shelter, limited access to healthcare, and barriers to humanitarian assistance. The strategy prioritizes life-saving interventions—search and rescue, and emergency health services, delivered through mobile teams and branches in different provinces to ensure timely and inclusive outreach. The targeting approach is grounded in needs-based prioritization and geographic vulnerability, ensuring that assistance reaches those in greatest distress.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population in this operation are based on a combination of exposure to conflict, level of need, and vulnerability status. Priority is given to individuals and communities directly impacted by airstrikes—particularly in urban centers — where casualties, displacement, and infrastructure damage are most severe. Within these areas, the operation targets those who have been either stranded under the rubble due to the targeting of building, those who have been displaced, who are in need of healthcare, and those who are suffering trauma and distress due to the conflict.

Total Targeted Population

Women	50,000	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	50,000	Urban	-
Men	50,000	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	50,000		
Total targeted population	200,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection	No



policy?	
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Security situation deteriorates impacting the NS ability to access some locations	The NS is in direct coordination and communication with the national authorities to monitor the situation and plan alternative routes and access points
The IFRC delegation staff may face displacement or may be affected by the conflict disrupting communications and the IFRC ability to provide adequate support to the NS	The IFRC is exploring business continuity plans ensuring staff wellbeing and continued support from the IFRC regional office as needed
The conflict escalates and spills over to neighboring countries	Coordination between the different regions and countries is ongoing to explore possible scenarios for this conflict and possible response options

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The operation continues to face acute security and safety risks due to the ongoing military escalation in Iran. Reported airstrikes, missile exchanges, and explosions in multiple urban centers — including Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan, and other areas — have created an unpredictable and hazardous environment. Civilians and responders alike are at risk from direct impacts of explosive events, damaged infrastructure, falling debris, and secondary hazards such as fires and structural collapse. The reported strike on a school in Hormozgan province, resulting in significant civilian casualties, highlights the elevated protection threats to non-combatants, particularly children, and underscores the unpredictable nature of the operating environment.

Search, rescue and medical teams deployed by local actors may face additional danger from unstable buildings, unexploded ordnance, and limited access routes, while health workers and volunteers supporting survivors are exposed to high psychological stress in overwhelmed facilities and crowded sheltering locations. Communication disruptions — including severe internet outages — complicate real-time coordination and incident reporting, increasing risk for field personnel. To mitigate these risks, strict security measures will be implemented, including updated risk assessments, pre-deployment safety briefings, real-time tracking and coordination with local authorities and community focal points, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) where appropriate, clearly defined movement protocols, and standby evacuation and medical support plans. Security guidance will continue to adapt to the rapidly changing context, prioritizing duty-of-care for personnel and volunteers while maintaining humanitarian access wherever safely possible.

Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 1,379,931
Targeted Persons: 200,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of advanced trauma kits procured	1,200
# of splints procured	1,200



# of AED defibrillator procured	370
# of evacuation chairs procured	1,200

Priority Actions

- Procurement of Advanced trauma first aid kits, splints, defibrillator AED, evacuation chairs for patient transport



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 84,668

Targeted Persons: 1,001

Indicators

Title	Target
# of items procured	1,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement of protective helmets and headlamps



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 60,705

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of Ops managers supporting the operation	1
# of lessons learned workshops facilitated	1

Priority Actions

- Ops manager for 3 months
- Lessons learned workshop
- finance in emergencies support
- supply chain coordinator support



About Support Services

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

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has a nationwide network of approximately 2 million volunteers, 10,000 staff members, and 532 branches across the country. Under the current operation, this extensive structure enables rapid mobilization at national, provincial, and community levels. While not all personnel will be directly engaged in frontline response, branches in affected and at-risk areas are expected to activate emergency teams to support first aid, evacuation assistance, relief distribution, community outreach, and psychosocial support.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) benefits from a broad and diverse volunteer base drawn from its nationwide network of 2 million volunteers across 532 branches. Volunteers include women and men of different age groups, cultural backgrounds, and communities, reflecting the demographic diversity of the country. Youth volunteers form a significant portion of the network, alongside experienced adult and senior volunteers, enabling outreach across generations. Female volunteers are actively engaged in health, psychosocial support, community engagement, and relief distribution, which is particularly important when assisting women, children, and single female-headed households. The geographically dispersed branch structure also helps ensure linguistic and cultural familiarity with affected communities, supporting trust and acceptance.

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

Due to sanctions-related constraints, financial transfer limitations, and disruptions to local markets and supply chains, procurement will be managed internationally by the IFRC in close coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). Essential relief items will be sourced through IFRC's established global procurement systems to ensure quality, compliance, and cost-effectiveness. IFRC will identify viable international suppliers and coordinate transport through available and compliant entry routes, while closely monitoring air, land, and sea access options. All processes will adhere to IFRC procurement standards, sanctions compliance frameworks, and due diligence requirements. Once procured, items will be transported and handed over to the IRCS for distribution in line with national response priorities. Continuous coordination between logistics, finance, and legal teams will ensure that procurement and shipment modalities mitigate operational risks while enabling timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

How will this operation be monitored?

Technical PMER capacity and support will be provided through the IFRC MENA Regional PMER team to ensure robust and timely monitoring and reporting for this operation. Meanwhile, the IRCS Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and operation division will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this emergency operation.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF reporting standards, with a final report within three months after the end of the operation. An end-of-operation lessons learned exercise will take place to capture the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the operation as well as to ensure that the best practices are captured to inform the planning and designing of future operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

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



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRIR018 - Iranian RC
Iran complex emergency 2026

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	1,464,599
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	1,379,931
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	84,668
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	60,705
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	60,705
National Society Strengthening	0
TOTAL BUDGET	1,525,304

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Dr. Danial Tabatabaee, dnl_tabatabaee@gmail.com, 00982185632722

IFRC Appeal Manager: Maria Martinez, Head of Delegation, maria.martinez@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Muhammad Zubair Khan, Programme Manager, zubair.khan@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Raja Assaf, Regional IFRC Roving Ops Manager-MENA, raja.assaf@ifrc.org, +961 05 428 493

Media Contact: Mey Al Sayegh, Regional Head of Communications-MENA, Mey.ELSAYEGH@ifrc.org, +96176174468

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