

EMERGENCY APPEAL

Iran, MENA | Complex Emergency



IRCS search and rescue teams in action

Appeal No: MDRIR018	IFRC Funding requirements: CHF 40 million	
Glide No: CE-2026-000026-IRN	People [affected/at risk]: 60 million people (TBC)	People to be assisted: 5 million people
DREF allocation: CHF 1,525,304	Appeal launched: 06/03/2026	Appeal ends: 30/06/2027

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 28 February 2026, the Islamic Republic of Iran has experienced a sharp escalation in hostilities following large-scale military strikes affecting multiple urban centres and strategic locations across the country. The strikes have reportedly affected more than 30 provinces, including Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, Alborz, Kermanshah, Hormozgan, Hamadan, Khuzestan, Fars, Ilam, Kurdistan, West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Zanjan, Markazi, Semnan, Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, Lorestan, Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Yazd, Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan, Bushehr, Ardabil, Kish and surrounding areas. The situation has evolved into a complex emergency characterized by missile attacks, air defence activity, and damage to civilian infrastructure in numerous provinces.

According to preliminary information reported by national authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), at least **1,332 people have been killed and approximately 787 injured** across more than 30 provinces, with incidents reported in over 197 cities and counties. According to IRCS assessments, **6,668 civilian infrastructures have been damaged by air strikes**, including residential buildings, hospitals, schools and sports facilities. In addition, 11 IRCS staff and volunteers have been injured in line of duty. A total of 13 IRCS branches and one warehouse have been damaged, and three operational vehicles have been hit and are no longer operational. These figures remain indicative due to connectivity disruptions and the rapidly evolving security situation.

The escalation has created a volatile operational environment, with heightened security risks, movement restrictions, and disruptions to civilian infrastructure and essential services, including transportation networks, telecommunications systems and health services. Hospitals and emergency medical services are operating under significant pressure due to the influx of trauma cases, while telecommunications disruptions and intermittent internet outages are affecting information flows and limiting the ability of humanitarian actors to conduct comprehensive assessments.

Several incidents have been reported near key urban areas, placing additional pressure on emergency response systems and referral mechanisms. Internal displacement is already being observed in some affected locations, as people move away from areas perceived to be at risk. While large-scale displacement has not been verified,

precautionary population movements continue to be reported in several urban areas, with a continued risk of further localized displacement should hostilities intensify.

The humanitarian impact of the escalation is expected to be particularly complex due to the concentration of strikes in densely populated urban environments. Damage to residential neighborhoods and civilian infrastructure in major cities such as Tehran, Isfahan and Kermanshah may generate significant disruptions to essential urban services, including water supply, sanitation systems, electricity networks and municipal waste management. Even localized infrastructure damage in urban settings can rapidly affect large populations. This increases risks related to public health, hygiene and access to basic services.

In such contexts, search and rescue operations also become significantly more complex due to the density of buildings, debris removal requirements, damaged roads and the need to operate safely in populated residential areas. Damage or disruption to Red Crescent branch facilities, warehouses, health centres and ambulance bases may further affect operational capacity and require temporary relocation of services or the establishment of alternative operational hubs.

Should the security situation deteriorate further, localized displacement from affected neighborhoods may occur, requiring the Iranian Red Crescent Society to support temporary accommodation centres or collective shelters in coordination with national authorities. In such scenarios, the provision of essential services in displacement settings—including basic relief items, water and sanitation support, health services and psychosocial support—would become critical. Ensuring continuity of education services for displaced or affected children is also an important consideration, as access to schooling contributes to children's psychosocial well-being and stability during crises while enabling parents to maintain livelihoods and economic activities where possible.

The crisis is unfolding in the context of long-standing economic fragility, sanctions-related financial restrictions and constrained access to international supply chains, which limit the capacity of affected communities to absorb additional shocks. Disruptions to fuel supply, medical consumables and market access are increasing vulnerabilities among affected populations.

Since the onset of the escalation, the IRCS, as the main national humanitarian actor, has been leading the humanitarian response. It has activated its nationwide emergency response mechanisms and mobilized substantial resources across the country.

Currently, **529 IRCS branches** are actively engaged in the response. To date, operations have reached **30 affected provinces and 197 cities**, with **2,100 response teams deployed** and a total of **6,565 personnel mobilized**, including **1,040 staff members and 5,525 volunteers**.

IRCS teams are providing a range of emergency services, including search and rescue, technical rescue, first aid and psychological first aid. Current response figures indicate **3,500 people supported through search operations, 397 through technical rescue interventions, and 3,101 through first aid services**. In addition, **24,000 calls have been received through the IRCS 4030 mental health and psychosocial support hotline**, while emergency medical response, relief distribution and community outreach activities continue across impacted areas.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the MENA Regional Office and in coordination with Geneva and the country delegation, has activated its operational coordination mechanisms to support IRCS. A **CHF 1.5 million Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation** has been released to support the immediate response, focusing on lifesaving assistance and operational readiness.

Given the evolving nature of the crisis and the potential for prolonged humanitarian impacts, the IFRC Secretariat is launching this Emergency Appeal to support the scale-up of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's response operations.

The IFRC will continue monitoring regional developments and review the scope of the operation if humanitarian impacts expand.

TARGETING

Iran has an estimated 82 million exposed people, with up to 60 million potentially affected by the nationwide impacts of the escalation. Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC will support the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in delivering humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

The response will target approximately five million people across 30 impacted provinces, prioritizing those directly affected by hostilities, infrastructure damage, and disruptions to essential services.

Based on ongoing assessments and operational monitoring, Iranian Red Crescent Society's assistance will focus on heavily affected urban areas in the provinces where incidents have been reported, with particular attention to:

- Individuals injured or directly affected by airstrikes, explosive incidents, and other hostilities
- Communities experiencing infrastructure damage
- Households facing disruptions to essential services
- Populations at risk of displacement
- Vulnerable groups, including children, women and girls, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, and low-income households
- Communities exposed to secondary humanitarian impacts

Provided that operational access is maintained, assistance will be directed toward communities where humanitarian needs are most acute and where IRCS operational capacities are actively engaged in response operations. Given the complexity of the operational environment, the scope and scale of the response will continue to be reviewed as additional information becomes available.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

This **Emergency Appeal** is issued in direct support of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and its role as convener of the Movement response to the ongoing conflict. It is fully aligned with the IRCS Emergency Response Plan and is designed in complementarity with the ICRC's mandate and actions, in its co-convener role, in accordance with the Seville Agreement 2.0. Through this Appeal, the IFRC aims to strengthen a coordinated and principled Movement response to address the urgent needs of affected communities in Iran.

The response strategy will support five million affected people over a 16-month period, focusing on lifesaving emergency services, preparedness for potential displacement scenarios, and addressing emerging humanitarian needs, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to the evolving context.

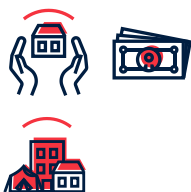
Responding to this fast-moving crisis requires a coordinated Movement-wide approach, ensuring complementarity between IRCS, IFRC, ICRC, and Partner National Societies. While this Emergency Appeal is issued to address the immediate humanitarian needs in Iran, the evolving situation may require a revision of the appeal, including adjustments to the operational scope and budget.

The IFRC will continue to monitor developments closely in coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent Society and Movement partners and will update the appeal accordingly if the situation deteriorates or humanitarian needs expand, ensuring complementarity with ICRC as well.

Through this operation, the response will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance

(Shelter, Livelihoods and Basic Needs)



- Assistance will prioritize the provision of essential relief items, including, household items, non-food items (NFIs), and emergency shelter support for households affected by infrastructure damage or displacement, including displaced and host communities.
- Support to affected families may also include assistance to repair or rebuild damaged homes through cash, in-kind support, or technical assistance, in coordination with relevant national authorities and partners to ensure a complementary approach.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and psychosocial support, Search & Rescue, Community Health)

- Support the deployment and operational readiness of Iranian Red Crescent Society Search and Rescue (SAR) teams to conduct rescue operations, debris clearance, and immediate life-saving interventions in areas affected by strikes or structural damage.
- Strengthen emergency medical services and ambulance operations, including pre-hospital care, triage, and referral of injured patients to appropriate medical facilities.
- Provision and strengthening of the existing facilities of IRCS Physical rehabilitation services.
- Provide first aid and emergency medical care through IRCS emergency response teams, health facilities, and mobile medical units.
- Deliver mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to individuals and families affected by the crisis, including psychological first aid and community-based psychosocial activities.
- Support community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) activities to promote health awareness and strengthen community resilience.
- Ensure the provision of safe water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion services, including the distribution of hygiene kits to affected communities where needed.



Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Migration, Environmental Sustainability, Risk Reduction, Climate adaptation and recovery, Education)

- Support IRCS in ensuring equitable access to basic services by integrating Protection and Prevention into the response using an evidence-based approach, and addressing needs of affected communities, especially displaced populations with a focus on Sex, Age and Disability.
- Support for dead body management.

- Provision of information regarding services with established referral mechanisms such as legal and health support in accordance with protection needs.
- Strengthen community engagement components and ensure CEA continues playing a vital role across all sectors and interventions implemented by IRCS.
- Support people on the move, including all returnees, IDPs and newly displaced population

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships



- IFRC will work closely with National Societies and ICRC to coordinate international support for this operation; this will include coordination on advocacy efforts and harnessing the Movement's capacities to support the IRCS response plan.
- Support IRCS and its branches through engagement in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy work with local stakeholders, partners and international actors.
- IFRC will also support coordination on regional, cross-regional and global levels to ensure smooth implementation to provide efficient and effective appeal management (through surge, etc.) as required and ensure complementarity of the actions of the different movement actors involved.
- Strengthen coordination and partnerships within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and with relevant external actors, including the private sector, foundations, governments, and UN agencies.

IFRC Secretariat Services



- Technical Support and Human Resources Capacity.
- Specific attention will be given to boost IFRC security management capacity in the region to ensure proper foundation for at-scale operations together with the membership.
- Facilitate collaboration and coordination for international support and regional response capacity.
- Strengthening humanitarian diplomacy, advocacy efforts, and joint activities.
- Support to scale-up information management and data analysis.
- Develop a communications and visibility action plan that aligns with the priorities that will be identified in this upcoming Operational Strategy, including key messages that showcase the work of the National Society and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- The operation will apply Results-Based Management (RBM) principles to ensure results-based planning, monitoring, and adaptive management throughout the response. This approach will facilitate consistent Federation-wide reporting, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making.
- Finance support with risk mitigation, planning and budgeting, account bookkeeping, payables and receivables, review donor project proposals and financial compliance, pledge validation, audit support, finance coordination with procurement, HR, payroll, and administration, relationships with banks, internal controls, payments, treasury and finance coordination, finance reports and analysis.

- Develop tailored guidance & Resource mobilization plan for the IFRC network to engage externally with strategic partners, including governments and donors of the IFRC as well as other humanitarian actors.
- Ensure strong and robust supply chain management in place.

National Society Strengthening

- Provide support in disseminating the concept and implications of the IRCS independence and auxiliary role to the public authorities so that it is well understood, institutionalized, and used to strengthen partnerships with key national and international stakeholders.
- Support IRCS in advocacy efforts based on their priorities for amendments/development of legal instruments to enhance humanitarian response with reduced risks and losses.
- Support IRCS in positioning as the leading humanitarian actor in the country and partner of choice in Iran.
- Enhance the capacity and development of the IRCS branches, including support to IRCS headquarter and branches affected by the escalation.
- Provide support to volunteers and volunteer management.
- Provide support for fleet and logistics in the affected areas.
- Enhance IRCS capacities in digital transformation, information and data management to improve the quality of programming.
- Ensure PGI, PSEA, and Safeguarding are institutionalized within IRCS, and all staff and volunteers are trained



The planned response reflects the current situation in a rapidly changing context and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the coming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies,

After 30 June 2027, response activities to this disaster will continue under the IFRC Network Iran Country Plan for 2027. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due time, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Iranian Red Crescent Society

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC maintains close coordination with the **Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS)** and Movement partners to ensure effective support to the national response. The IFRC delegation in Iran, led by the Head of Delegation, works closely with the Regional Office and Geneva headquarters to monitor the evolving situation and provide technical and operational support to IRCS.

IFRC membership coordination involves engaging with member National Societies to assess the evolving humanitarian context, identify gaps and needs, and agree on common priorities. This includes co-developing strategies to address issues such as humanitarian access, acceptance, resource mobilization, and consistent public messaging, while monitoring progress.

In line with the **Agenda for Renewal and the IFRC Way of Working**, the IFRC will coordinate the membership under the leadership of IRCS. While most support from National Societies will be channeled through the IFRC, some Partner National Societies, such as the **German Red Cross**, are also operational in Iran and continue to coordinate closely with IRCS. Under this Emergency Appeal, Partner National Societies will be proactively engaged through IFRC coordination to ensure that their capacities, expertise, and comparative advantages are effectively mobilized in support of the response. The Emergency Appeal will encourage contributions from best-placed National Societies across the Network, leveraging their regional presence, technical expertise to complement the response efforts of the IRCS, including through Red Channel supply chain efforts. Further details on the Federation-wide approach and partner contributions will be outlined in the forthcoming **Operational Strategy**.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The **Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS)** maintains regular coordination with the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** and the **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** to ensure alignment of support and action among Movement partners. Coordination is strengthened during emergencies and is carried out in line with the [Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation \(SMCC\) principles](#) and the [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

A platform for **strategic coordination between the senior leadership of IRCS, IFRC, and ICRC** has been established to facilitate regular exchanges and joint decision-making. The ICRC, which maintains a presence in Iran, has expressed its readiness to support IRCS as needed in the response, and a **mini summit** among Movement partners is being planned.

To support the immediate response, the **IFRC has already allocated CHF 1.5 million from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF)** as a loan to support IRCS operations. Further details on additional support and coordination will be outlined as the response evolves.

External coordination

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), as the auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, plays a central role in disaster management and humanitarian response across the country. The Society works in close coordination with the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO), whose mandate and coordination role are established through national legislation. The NDMO serves as the central governmental body responsible for coordinating disaster management across ministries, local authorities and relevant national institutions. Within this framework, the Iranian Red Crescent Society leads relief and rescue operations and provides humanitarian assistance during emergencies, while line ministries are responsible for sectoral services, often supported by United Nations agencies operating in Iran.

With a nationwide presence across all provinces and an extensive network of volunteers, branches, relief bases and operational facilities, IRCS represents the primary humanitarian responder in the country. The Society maintains strong operational partnerships with national authorities and international humanitarian actors present in Iran and regularly collaborates with United Nations agencies and international organizations, including UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR and UNFPA, as well as several international NGOs, in the delivery of humanitarian programmes and services. This extensive operational footprint and established coordination mechanisms position the Iranian Red Crescent Society as the key national actor supporting affected communities and facilitating humanitarian action during large-scale emergencies.

The 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 locations. Civil defense protocols have been activated, with emergency services deployed in affected urban centers. Coordination between national authorities and the IRCS is ongoing to support medical response, provide first aid, and assist affected families.

Coordination with international organizations and humanitarian actors will continue to ensure that assistance is complementary, avoids duplication, and aligns with national response priorities.

At Regional level, the IFRC will coordinate closely with key regional and international stakeholders to ensure complementarity of the response efforts. Through its regional structures, the IFRC will engage with relevant UN agencies, regional bodies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to promote exchange and support coordinated efforts.

Contact information

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

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At the IFRC

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For In-Kind Donations and Mobilisation table support:

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Reference



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