



IRCS Teams responding to the quake affected population. © IRCS

Appeal : MDRIR 013	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 833,363	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Earthquake
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000007-IRN	People Affected: 261,387 people	People Targeted: 48,000 people	People Assisted: 48,000 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 02-02-2023	Operational End Date: 30-09-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 7 months
Targeted Regions: Ardabil, Azarbayejan Gharbi			

Description of the Event



Epicenter: Firozgar district in Khoy city.

Date of event

18-01-2023

What happened, where and when?

Khoy EQ 18 Jan 2023

According to the Iranian Seismological Center, a 5.4 magnitude earthquake hit Firozgar village of Khoy city in West Azarbayejan province of North-Western Iran on 18 January 2023 at a depth of 12 km at 13:19 local time. A 3.6 magnitude earthquake happened at the same point at 13:19. Twenty-one aftershocks were reported, the biggest was 4.2 at 18:25. The same region was also hit on 5th October 2022 by a 5.4 Richter magnitude earthquake, resulting in 1,308 injured people. The affected area consisted of one city and 55 villages with a total population of approximately 10,284 households (41,426 people). Firozgar district was the most hit area in Khoy city. People in the cities of Salmas, Chaldoran, Chaypareh, Poldasht, and Urumia felt the tremor. The activated fault in this region, which caused this earthquake, was Siyah Cheshme-Khoy.

Khoy EQ 28 Jan 2023

Based on the national seismological report, an earthquake of 5.9 magnitudes on the Richter scale occurred at a depth of 7 km in Safa district, Khoy city on Saturday, 28th January 2023 at 21:44, followed by 72 aftershocks which felt the greatest of 4.5 magnitudes at 18:11 the day after. Overall, 261,387 people were affected, 1,017 were injured, and 3 died so far across 86 villages. Many urban residential buildings collapsed or were partially damaged in the Safa district and Khoy city. Some residential buildings in 70 villages were destroyed from 20 to 80 percent based on the governorate general office of West Azarbayejan. The electricity and gas supply were cut in the affected region. Telecommunication means were disrupted in at least four villages, namely Chavoshqoli, Asgarabad, Aland, and Kalvan. The severity of the situation was intensified by the heavy snowfall and zero temperatures. The fear of aftershocks hindered affected households from returning to their houses, and they preferred to be settled in the 70 camps provided across the affected region by the IRCS.

In short, both EQs affected Khoy county but different villages and districts were seeing more damage.





IRCS setting up emergency shelter/camp for the affected households @IRCS

Scope and Scale

The EQ resulted in 252 individuals injured, most of them due to fear, running, and escaping. Over 62 rural districts (villages) and one urban area were assessed by the rapid response personnel. 2,100 houses damaged. The EQ interrupted the gas, water, and electricity supply, which severely impacted the livelihood situation of the affected people. The transportation routes/roads and infrastructures, particularly houses, were disrupted. Winterization and zero temperature weather intensified the situation and added to the vulnerabilities. Several aftershocks terrified the population, resulting in a forced stay outside the residential buildings and dwellings.

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	The IRCS volunteers Organization held a campaign known as “Kind Sun” and collected 117 billion IRR in cash across the country to support the affected population in West Azarbaijan. Also, MHPSS (SAHAR) teams deployed to the region to provide psychological support to the people in the most vulnerable situations.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC country delegation was in close coordination with the IRCS senior management and through the International Affairs Department. The IFRC country office team was coordinating the implementation of activities under this DREF. There were also visits to monitor the proper implementation of interventions. There was continuous contact with the NS counterparts to provide technical support and ensure the timely reporting. A PMER Working Group session was also organized to brief divisions on the DREF operation and the coordination, wherever required.
Participating National Societies	There was no participation in the National Society.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had a delegation based in Tehran with a variety of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS, but did not intervene in this operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The humanitarian efforts of the ministries, local authorities, national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the IRCS were coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) under the Ministry of Interior. IRCS was mandated to deliver relief, rescue, and emergency shelter at times of disaster. Sectoral services are led and implemented by the line ministries. The governmental bodies and institutions were engaged in the ongoing operation. IRCS was responsible for responding to this earthquake. The IRCS utilized all its resources from the center and neighboring provinces to fill in the mandated role of crisis response.
UN or other actors	UN agencies, including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF, are present in the country and collaborate with the line ministries. In addition, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had a limited presence in the country. Any form of relief assistance during an emergency had been coordinated with the IRC. If UN agencies intervene, a country-level coordination framework could be established per the IRC's request. There was no request for UN agency intervention in this operation from the IRCS.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Emergency sheltering was also one of the most important needs for the affected households because residential areas in rural settings were partially damaged by the earthquake (about 2,100 residential units). Up until the housing situation had been stabilized, people who were afraid of the tremors and aftershocks, as well as those whose houses were damaged, were forced to stay outside and to be accommodated in emergency tents. People needed an emergency shelter as well as other household items like a blanket, ground mat, and heaters because they were afraid to stay inside their homes following the earthquake and its aftershocks, as well as because of the cold weather.

These tents were set up in front of each household area or yard to monitor their properties and household security. The negative low temperatures were rising at night and there was an urgent need for shelter. Due to the cultural customs of the affected people, feasibility, ease of set up, and availability, the emergency tent was a suitable/acceptable sheltering alternative in such a context. Due to the limited access to fuel and gas, people in the eastern and western provinces needed to receive electric heaters and ovens to help them deal with the rising challenges.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the initial assessment conducted by the IRCS rapid responders, emergency food was the top priority for the quake-affected populations. The event impacted the households' food security due to the poor economic circumstances in recent months, winterization, and limited access to gas and basic utilities. Emergency food packages for the first 72 hours are an appropriate alternative since they include foods in accordance with Sphere standards and respect local food cultures, as well as meeting the urgent food demands of the affected communities. Due to the country's challenging economic situation and rising commodity prices, people in affected villages needed to receive two rounds of food parcels to help mitigate the impact on their livelihoods in the coming months. Every two months, a 10-day package needed to be distributed to assist people in dealing with their economic situations. This was only emergency support, and people needed to receive long-term assistance from other governmental agencies to return to their normal lives. Winter in Iran's western provinces last until the end of March. As a result, humanitarian aid continued in impacted areas so that people could cope with



the negative effects of the earthquake and the economic situation. The support of the community, mobilized through Helal houses and volunteers. The supply of gas, electricity, and water was hampered in practically all north, west, and eastern regions due to adverse weather conditions. As a result, food distribution to the displaced and severely impacted was critical.



Health

The need for health and MHPSS services was crucial to reach affected people efficiently, impacted by 3 earthquakes in almost 3 months. In addition, emergency services such as medicine, midwifery, environmental health, nutrition, etc., were also needed to respond to the quake-affected population.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF supported and covered 48,000 people (12,000 households) in the affected areas for 7 months, by providing them with food parcels, heaters, ground mats, blankets, medical services, and strengthening the capacity of the National Society.

Operation strategy rationale

Based on the initial assessment done by the IRCS Helal House first responders from Khoy city and IRCS rapid response teams from the West Azarbaijejan province, many of the quake-affected rural areas (86 villages) were also suffering from the harsh winter, low gas pressure, and economic hardship. The primary needs of the affected populations included emergency shelter, food packages, heaters, blankets, emergency health, and psychological support services. Voluntary groups from different sectors prepared daily hot meals and bread for the people in the camps. Those people affected and feared the aftershocks were staying in the 100 emergency camps till their housing situation stabilized. With the upscaled DREF allocation, the IRCS had supported 48,000 people (12,000 HHs) in affected areas hit by the earthquake, by providing food parcels, heaters, medical services, ground mats, and blankets, and the National Society capacity building for 7 months.

The IRCS has almost 7,000 Helal Houses across the country. These are identified as the first small branches/units that are run and managed by volunteers from the local communities, who help the NS branches in doing community awareness, risk mitigation, resilience, and emergency communication measures. The local community groups needed to be aware of the disaster risks and risk reduction measures through Helal Houses. IRCS is mandated to deliver basic first aid, disaster preparedness, and response awareness sessions to all public groups according to the national crisis management law. Thus, Helal Houses and local communities' capacities in the affected provinces were strengthened and equipped with the minimum tools and training. During this operation, over 15 Helal Houses mobilized and used their first response kits.

With food intervention by the NS, the most vulnerable households covered their urgent needs for the initial two weeks. Later, the government provided them with loans and supporting grants to help them recover and then back to regular and normal life. In addition, under the Shelter sector, based on the assessment made by the government, across Firoraq city and 15 quake-affected villages in Khoy county, 750 houses with more than 50 percent damage were identified as needing reconstruction. Also, 7,500 residential houses with less than 50 percent damage were identified as repair units.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The IRCS had prioritized the most vulnerable households among affected populations in the affected districts based on primary data obtained from the Welfare organization, and the selection criteria were carried out in conjunction and consultation with the local authorities. Priority was given to those who live in damaged houses, those with disabilities, women-headed households with children, and unemployed people. Food and essential household items, such as 10-day food baskets, blankets, heaters, and ground mats, distributed to affected families. Each family received one food package, one ground mat, one heater, and eight blankets.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria were based on primary data acquired from local authorities, the Housing Foundation, and welfare organizations.



The following were the selection criteria.

- 1- People whose houses are severely or partially damaged.
- 2- People living in houses where the winterization impacted their living conditions due to low gas pressure.
- 3- Households headed by women, such as widows, divorced or separated, and women without income.
- 4- Households with person(s) living with disabilities.
- 5- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	-	Rural	40%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	60%
Assisted Men	-	People with disabilities (estimated)	3.7%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	-		
Total Assisted Population	48,000		
Total Targeted Population	48,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Climate triggered shocks and winterization in the affected province	Updating the NS multiple crisis contingency plan from the neighboring provinces, activated according to the needs of the affected province, and more international resources could be mobilized from IFRC / DREF.
Aftershocks	The continual exchange of information regarding what people can do in the event of an earthquake. Social media and short messages were exchanged and channeled to the affected people and neighboring areas to follow mitigation measures. IRCS set up evacuation centers in the safe zone in case there was a displacement.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

There was no high risk of security for the operational staff and volunteers. IRCS was very well accepted among the communities and well connected with all sectors in the country and the affected areas.



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 437,715

Targeted Persons: 24,000

Assisted Persons: 28,568

Targeted Male: 14,570

Targeted Female: 13,998

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households reached with household items	3,000	3,000
# of ground mats replenished	3,000	2,696
# of blankets replenished	24,000	14,284
# of heaters replenished (as per the market fluctuation and demand, the quantity might change)	6,000	10,670
% of households that reported that they are satisfied with the shelter assistance quality	80	87

Narrative description of achievements

- Under this DREF operation, the IRCS replenished 2,696 ground mats, 10,670 heaters, and 14,284 blankets, among the most vulnerable. The slight difference between the target and actual figures relies on the fluctuations in prices since, at the time of crafting the initial DREF, the price of each item was collected based on the exchange rate.
- The difference between targeted and actual heaters remains in the unavailability of electric heaters in the market, which were replaced by gasoline-operated heaters.

Lessons Learnt

- It was learned that one unique strategy should be adopted in the distribution of relief items in emergencies, and all public figures, local NGOs, and organizations need to coordinate with the IRCS as the lead to contribute to a systematic response to avoid duplication of efforts.

Challenges

- Lack of following a unique strategy in distribution and reaching people with shelter, security issues in distribution of relief items, and duplication of efforts by other local institutions (particularly in tent distribution) were the main challenges in this sector. However, setting up emergency camps in schools and sports complexes had positive points in providing emergency shelter and shelter management.





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 223,650

Targeted Persons: 48,000

Assisted Persons: 48,000

Targeted Male: 24,480

Targeted Female: 23,520

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
% of households that reported being satisfied with the food parcel's quality	80	83
% of households who reported that the food parcel covered their needs for (72 hours)	80	83
# of households reached with food parcels	12,000	2,560

Narrative description of achievements

- With this DREF allocation, IRCS replenished food parcels, which were distributed among the households affected by the earthquake.
- Due to fluctuations in the price of some commodities/relief items in the market in tune with exchange rate issues, a smaller number of food parcels could be procured with the allocated funds.

Lessons Learnt

An integrated distribution network should be implemented, and it is better to be channeled through the IRCS.

- Dried food and cash voucher assistance can be provided.

Challenges

Not all affected people liked the edible items in the food parcels based on their appetite and culture.



Health

Budget: CHF 106,500

Targeted Persons: 12,000

Assisted Persons: 12,000

Targeted Male: 6,120

Targeted Female: 5,880

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Mobile Health and Medical Units deployed	1	1
# of people who received the emergency health services	12,000	12,000



Narrative description of achievements

- IRCS deployed one emergency mobile health unit from East Azarbayejan province to Khoy city in West Azarbayejan for 4 months to cover the emergency health and medical needs of the affected areas. This ERU provided emergency services such as medicine, midwifery, environmental health, nutrition, etc. The MHU provided health services below to the affected households: Triage: 300, nursing services: 350, medicine: 300, hygiene items: 300, midwifery: 15, psychological services: 349

Lessons Learnt

- NA

Challenges

- Since it was a replenishment of the running costs of the BHCU, no specific challenge identified.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 25,560

Targeted Persons: 1

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of reports published	2	2
# of surge personnel deployed	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

- The activities and operational updates were reported and submitted during the timeframe. There was no possibility to deploy an IFRC surge manager.

Lessons Learnt

- More training needs to be conducted for the treasury and finance departments, and PMER training for operational divisions is needed at all levels to enhance NS knowledge and alignment with the IFRC procedure.

Challenges

- NA





Budget: CHF 39,938

Targeted Persons: 150

Assisted Persons: 150

Targeted Male: 80

Targeted Female: 70

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of Lessons Learned Workshop conducted	1	1
# of Helal Houses equipped with the basic response kits	15	15
# Community-based trainings for Helal Houses	15	15
# of people receiving community-based awareness trainings (each training for 10 individuals)	150	150

Narrative description of achievements

- With this DREF allocation, IRCS equipped 15 Helal Houses with basic response kits in the affected province. The basic response kits (torch, boot, pickaxe, personal equipment, etc.) were used during this operation, replenished under this DREF. As a key priority for the IRCS to prepare and mobilize the local communities in dealing with different emergencies, the IRCS had organized 15 awareness trainings under its national educational scheme for the local populations in the target areas. These trainings had prepared and informed the local communities of the types of disasters, mitigation actions, first aid, first actions at the time of emergencies, etc. Also, IRCS in coordination with the IFRC conducted a one-lesson-learned learnt workshop for the operation managers and personnel from different divisions in order to review the experiences, challenges, strengths and lessons learned of the 3 earthquakes that happened in the affected province of West Azarbayegan.

Lessons Learnt

- More trainings and further equipment of the Helal Houses are highly recommended.

Challenges

- The lack of proper basic response kits/equipment in local Helal Houses was observed.
- The CERT teams were unfamiliar with the standard needs assessment process and tools.



Financial Report

bo.ifrc.org > Public Folders > Finance > Donor Reports > Appeals and Projects > DREF Operation - Standard Report 2022

Page 1 of 2

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/05	Operation	MDRIR013
Budget Timeframe	2023/02-2025/05	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 01/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIR013 - Iran - Earthquake Khoy West Azarbayejan EQ 2023

Operating Timeframe: 01 Feb 2023 to 31 Aug 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	833,363
DREF Response Pillar	833,363
Expenditure	-792,577
Closing Balance	40,786

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	437,715	437,632	83
PO02 - Livelihoods	223,650	209,201	14,449
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	106,500	106,471	29
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			0
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	767,865	753,304	14,561
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	25,560		25,560
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	39,938	39,273	664
Enabling Approaches Total	65,498	39,273	26,224
Grand Total	833,363	792,577	40,786



DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/02-2025/05	Operation	MDRIR013
Budget Timeframe	2023/02-2025/05	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 01/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIR013 - Iran - Earthquake Khoy West Azarbayejan EQ 2023

Operating Timeframe: 01 Feb 2023 to 31 Aug 2023

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief Items, Construction, Supplies	740,500	-8	740,508
Shelter - Relief	27,000	27,305	-305
Construction - Housing		-283,861	283,861
Clothing & Textiles	120,000	121,361	-1,361
Food	210,000		210,000
Medical & First Aid	100,000	96,088	3,912
Utensils & Tools	19,500	13,593	5,907
Other Supplies & Services	264,000	25,507	238,493
Personnel	24,000		24,000
International Staff	24,000		24,000
Workshops & Training	18,000		18,000
Workshops & Training	18,000		18,000
General Expenditure		480	-480
Travel		532	-532
Financial Charges		-67	67
Other General Expenses		15	-15
Contributions & Transfers		743,732	-743,732
National Society Expenses		743,732	-743,732
Indirect Costs	50,862	48,373	2,489
Programme & Services Support Recover	50,862	48,373	2,489
Grand Total	833,363	792,577	40,785



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