



Aerial Firefighting Operations

Appeal: <b>MDRIR016</b>	Hazard: <b>Fire</b>	Country: <b>Iran, Islamic Republic of</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 500,000</b>	
Glide Number: <b>WF-2025-000221-IRN</b>	People Affected: <b>50,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>6,510 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>07-12-2025</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>9 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>30-09-2026</b>	DREF Published: <b>09-12-2025</b>

Targeted Regions: **Azarbajejan Sharghi, Golestan, Mazandaran**

# Description of the Event

## Date of event

22-11-2025



## What happened, where and when?

In early November 2025, a major wildfire emergency broke out in Iran's northern Hyrcanian forest region, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed temperate rainforest belt along the Caspian coast. The fire ignited near the Elit (Elite) forest area between Chalus and Marzanabad in Mazandaran Province and spread rapidly across steep, densely wooded terrain driven by severe drought, extremely dry leaf litter, and seasonal winds. Local and international media described the incident as one of the most significant forest fires Iran has faced in recent years, with at least 10–15 hectares of forest reportedly burned in the Elit sector alone and concerns that larger patches of the surrounding Hyrcanian belt were also affected. Reporting from outlets including Africanews, Caspian News, Iran International, Press TV, and IraqiAir wildfire monitoring, as well as statements from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), highlighted both the ecological sensitivity of the region and the challenges of suppression due to rugged topography and limited ground access.

The fire was first reported around 31 October–early November 2025, initially believed to be under control before re-igniting around mid-November, when it intensified and burned continuously for more than two additional weeks. As the situation escalated, Iran formally requested international assistance on 21–22 November, leading to deployment of Turkish firefighting aircraft alongside domestic assets. The response included large-scale operations by the Iranian Red Crescent Society, which mobilised dozens of response teams and several helicopters conducting over 100 water-drop sorties in coordination with forestry and disaster-management authorities.





Extent of fire spread and severity.



IRCS Volunteers responding to the wildfires.



IRCS helicopter providing aerial firefighting support.

## Scope and Scale

The ongoing wildfires in Mazandaran and Golestan Provinces in northern Iran, driven by severe multi-year drought, extreme temperatures, dry vegetation and strong seasonal winds, have spread across remote forest and rangeland zones within the UNESCO-listed Hyrcanian forest belt. Key affected districts include the Elit-Chalous-Marzanabad corridor in Mazandaran and parts of eastern Golestan such as Galikesh, Minoodasht and Azadshahr, where flames and subsequent flare-ups have burned through forested slopes and adjoining rangelands. While the fires have not directly destroyed large urban areas, their geographic expansion has placed surrounding rural communities and firefighting responders at sustained risk, both from the potential spread of flames toward settlements and from prolonged exposure to dense smoke and degraded air quality.

The humanitarian impact is primarily felt through livelihood disruption, environmental damage, and public-health risks rather than mass displacement. Many households in affected districts rely heavily on subsistence agriculture, orchard farming, livestock grazing, tourism and forest-based income sources. The destruction of rangeland and forest ecosystems reduces grazing areas, limits forest-product collection, disrupts local tourism activity and weakens soil stability, all of which undermine household incomes and community resilience. Continued closures of forest access as a fire-prevention measure further constrain livelihoods for small-scale guides, vendors, seasonal tourism workers and forest-dependent families. Over time, repeated fires and drought are expected to accelerate long-term environmental degradation, including loss of forest cover, biodiversity decline, soil erosion and decreased water retention, reinforcing cycles of economic vulnerability for already fragile rural economies.

The secondary health impacts are potentially significant. Dense smoke and sustained air pollution episodes have affected multiple communities along the Caspian hinterland, compounding an already severe national air-quality burden. Exposure to particulate matter increases risks of respiratory and cardiovascular illness, particularly for children, older people, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, and adults with asthma or other chronic conditions. These groups face heightened vulnerability both because of greater physiological sensitivity to smoke and due to reduced capacity to relocate, evacuate, or limit exposure during poor air-quality events. Mobility-constrained individuals may also face barriers accessing medical services when roads are disrupted by firefighting operations or travel advisories. Emergency responders, forest workers, and volunteers likewise remain at elevated risk of injury, exhaustion, and smoke inhalation during prolonged suppression efforts.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Wildfire Map Spotlight: Hyrcanian Forest Fire, Iran	<a href="https://www.iqair.com/newsroom/wildfire-map-spotlight-hyrcanian-forest-fire-iran">https://www.iqair.com/newsroom/wildfire-map-spotlight-hyrcanian-forest-fire-iran</a>
2. Iran battles wildfire in UNESCO-listed Hyrcanian Forests	<a href="https://www.africanews.com/2025/11/25/iran-battles-wildfire-in-unesco-listed-hyrcanian-forests/">https://www.africanews.com/2025/11/25/iran-battles-wildfire-in-unesco-listed-hyrcanian-forests/</a>
3. Iran battles fire in UNESCO-listed forest, gets Turkey's help	<a href="https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/iran-battles-fire-unesco-listed-forest-gets-turkeys-help-2025-11-22/">https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/iran-battles-fire-unesco-listed-forest-gets-turkeys-help-2025-11-22/</a>



# Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

**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:**

-

## Lessons learned:

Wildfires in Iran have become increasingly recurrent due to prolonged drought, extreme heat, and dense forest fuel loads. Previous responses highlighted several key lessons for improving preparedness and operational effectiveness.

- Community preparedness is essential: Local communities require clearer guidance on prevention, early reporting, evacuation procedures, and smoke-related health risks. Helal Houses have proven effective as hubs for awareness and training activities.
- Stronger coordination mechanisms improve operational impact: Effective wildfire response requires close collaboration between IRCS, crisis management authorities, Natural Resources Organization, fire brigades, and volunteer groups.
- Procurement and support services face recurring delays: Economic volatility, supplier capacity, and import procedures have affected timely replenishment in previous DREFs, underscoring the need for realistic procurement planning.
- RBM integration and PMER support: The Regional Office will provide remote PMER support to ensure RBM principles are fully integrated throughout the operation, including clear tracking of outputs, systematic monitoring, and strengthened reporting and learning processes.

Regional Office support is essential: Given the significant procurement component of this DREF and the need for accurate and timely financial reporting, the IFRC Regional Office will provide remote support in both logistics and finance to ensure compliance with DREF procedures and strengthen the quality and timeliness of implementation and reporting.

These lessons inform the current DREF operation, emphasizing preparedness, early detection, coordinated action, and strengthened operational support.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	No
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# Current National Society Actions

## Start date of National Society actions

22-11-2025

<b>Livelihoods And Basic Needs</b>	In response to the activation and deployment of operational teams—including Iranian Red Crescent responders, local response forces, and volunteer groups—the IRCS, alongside other governmental and local institutions, has been providing essential basic needs and immediate assistance to affected populations within the operational zones. These efforts aim to ensure that residents and responders in the impacted areas have access to critical items and services required for safety, continuity of daily living, and support during ongoing firefighting and emergency operations.
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<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b>	Since the onset of the wildfire incident, the Iranian Red Crescent has utilized mass media channels and its official social media platforms to disseminate public information on the ongoing firefighting operations, while simultaneously conducting awareness-raising activities. These efforts focus on educating the public on practical methods for preventing forest fires and promoting the protection of the environment and natural resources. By providing clear guidance and safety messaging, the IRCS aims to strengthen public responsibility and reduce the risk of future wildfires.
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	In order to support firefighting operations and prevent the further spread of the wildfire, the Iranian Red Crescent is actively engaging local communities within the affected areas through structured awareness and training activities. Community members are being trained on practical methods for preventing fire expansion, early reporting mechanisms, and safe participation in controlled firefighting efforts. By empowering local residents with essential knowledge and skills, the IRCS aims to strengthen community resilience, enhance coordinated response, and reduce the overall risk to lives, property, and natural resources.
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	Given that any further spread of the wildfire would place all villages within the affected operational areas at serious risk, the Iranian Red Crescent branches in the targeted provinces have been placed on full standby status to ensure the rapid evacuation and safe relocation of the rural population residing in these zones.
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	Since the Iranian Red Crescent Society is the only organization in Iran with the operational capacity to conduct aerial firefighting and response operations, the IRCS has mobilized its resources—including equipment and trained responders—to carry out humanitarian relief and firefighting efforts during these wildfires.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	IFRC Delegation present in the country and provided technical support on launching the DREF
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	No national society supported the IRCS in this operation

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

No support was extended from ICRC to this operation.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	Yes
<b>National authorities</b>	Iranian authorities activated national and provincial disaster-response mechanisms immediately following the escalation of the Hyrcanian forest fires in early to mid-November 2025. The National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) coordinated multi-agency operations involving the Natural Resources and Forestry Organization, provincial crisis-management offices in Mazandaran and Golestan, the Iranian Red



Crescent Society (IRCS), security forces, and volunteer groups. Ground firefighting teams were deployed to surrounding districts, while multiple helicopters were mobilized for sustained water-dropping missions, supplemented later by aerial firefighting aircraft from Türkiye following Iran's request for international assistance. Authorities imposed temporary closures of forest areas to the public across northern provinces to reduce ignition risks and support containment operations. Ongoing activities included hotspot surveillance using drones and patrol teams, continuous mop-up of smoldering roots and leaf litter, establishment of restricted access zones around active fire sites, and precautionary monitoring to prevent re-ignition as drought conditions persisted. Public advisories were issued to warn communities about air-quality risks and to discourage travel or forest access while suppression and cleanup efforts continued.

**UN or other actors**

Provincial Crisis Management Headquarters, Natural Resources Organization, Fire Department units, Law Enforcement, Army, IRGC, volunteer groups, and regional sports and mountaineering teams have jointly participated in coordinated multi-agency response operations.

**Are there major coordination mechanism in place?**

The National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) was the government entity responsible for the major coordination mechanism to avoid duplication of efforts among different entities and organizations and to monitor all concerned organizations performing their own assigned mandated roles and responsibilities. Ministries, local authorities, national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and the IRCS efforts are coordinated by the NDMO. The head of NDMO is assigned by the Minister of Interior (the same setup at the province level, the Director for Provincial DMO is assigned by the General Governor). According to national law, the IRCS is mandated to render search, rescue, relief, and emergency shelter during disasters and crises, while other entities and organizations must be under the IRCS coordination and command setup. Sectoral services are led and implemented by line ministries. The governmental bodies and institutions are engaged in the ongoing operation. UN agencies are present in-country, including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. The IRCS has deployed its operational capacities and worked jointly with partners agencies to conduct both aerial and ground-based wildfire suppression efforts.

# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

As the wildfire continues to threaten residential areas near the affected forest zones, there is a growing concern regarding the potential displacement of households living in rural communities. To ensure preparedness for possible evacuations, temporary shelter solutions and contingency planning are necessary to safeguard families who may need to relocate from high-risk locations.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Given the likelihood of fire expansion and the potential need for population movement from rural settlements, essential livelihood support remains critical. Immediate basic assistance—including household supplies, food items, and emergency goods—is required to sustain affected families and support livestock owners whose livelihoods depend on agricultural and animal resources. The IRCS, alongside other institutions, continues to provide these essential needs during emergency operations.



## Health

Communities located near active and recent fire zones in Mazandaran and Golestan Provinces are experiencing ongoing health risks primarily linked to prolonged smoke exposure, which has increased respiratory distress and exacerbated chronic conditions such as asthma and cardiovascular disease. Children, older people, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and individuals with existing respiratory illnesses are particularly vulnerable. At the same time, severe drought and elevated temperatures are increasing the risk of dehydration and heat-related illness, especially among outdoor workers, elderly persons, and households with limited access to safe drinking water or cooling options.

Exposure risks are heightened for residents of remote forest-adjacent villages who face limited access to emergency medical services and health facilities, creating gaps in timely care during acute respiratory or heat-related events. Delays in medical assistance reinforce the



need for strong early information flows and community awareness, particularly in rapidly changing fire conditions. Beyond physical health impacts, communities are also experiencing psychological stress and anxiety driven by fear of fire spread toward homes, uncertainty regarding potential displacement, prolonged livelihood disruption, and continuous exposure to emergency alerts.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The fires intensified pressure on already strained water resources, as helicopter water extraction and firefighting operations drew from local reservoirs and surface sources already depleted by drought. Ash fallout also raised concerns around surface-water contamination, though no comprehensive water-quality testing or community advisories were publicly reported. In rural communities dependent on wells, springs or surface catchments, there is limited capacity for water treatment or storage protection.



## Migration And Displacement

In the event that wildfire conditions worsen, displacement of village populations may become unavoidable. The Iranian Red Crescent branches are on full standby to ensure organized evacuation processes and safe relocation of at-risk families. Preventing chaotic movement and ensuring dignified, protected temporary resettlement remains a key operational priority.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires across northern Iran, driven by prolonged drought, rising temperatures and climate-related environmental degradation, underscore the urgent need for expanded risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery measures to address both immediate vulnerabilities and long-term resilience gaps. Communities living in and around the Hyrcanian forest belt remain highly exposed to repeat fire risk due to continued drought stress, fuel accumulation, human activity in forest areas, and limited local fire-prevention infrastructure. There is a clear need for strengthened community-based risk reduction, including improved public awareness on wildfire prevention, safe land and forest use practices.



## Environment Sustainability

The wildfires across the Hyrcanian forest belt in Mazandaran and Golestan Provinces have inflicted significant damage on forest ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resource systems within one of the Middle East's most ecologically valuable landscapes. The affected areas include ancient temperate rainforests recognized for their rich biodiversity and critical role in carbon storage, water regulation and soil stabilization. Burning of forest stands and adjoining rangelands has resulted in the loss of vegetation cover, degradation of grazing lands and increased soil exposure, heightening the risk of erosion, landslides and sediment runoff into rivers once seasonal rains occur. Habitat destruction threatens local wildlife populations, including endangered species, and disrupts ecological corridors essential to recovery and regeneration. Repeated fires in recent years, compounded by prolonged drought, have weakened natural regeneration capacity, extending recovery timelines and increasing vulnerability to future fire events.

The fires have also undermined the sustainability of land use in forest-dependent communities, where agriculture, grazing and eco-tourism rely on healthy ecosystems. Degradation of rangelands and forest resources reduces fodder availability, destabilizes soil nutrients, and diminishes water retention capacity, directly linking environmental damage to livelihood and food-security pressures.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Despite the multi-agency response efforts currently underway, significant unmet needs remain in relation to the early detection, containment, and suppression of the ongoing wildfires. Due to the extensive spread of fires across steep and remote forested terrain, many affected zones are inaccessible by ground teams, making early identification and rapid targeting of fire outbreaks highly dependent on aerial capacity. The lack of specialized aerial firefighting equipment—particularly thermal drones for real-time detection and monitoring, and Bambi buckets and complete sling sets required for helicopter-based water-drop operations—has limited the ability to effectively control rapidly advancing fire fronts. Although IRCS helicopters are operationally engaged in the response, their impact remains constrained without full outfitting with the necessary aerial suppression tools. On the ground, suppression teams require chainsaws and additional equipment to create firebreaks and prevent further spread, but current supplies are insufficient given the scale and intensity of the fires. Vulnerable groups, including rural households living adjacent to the forest areas and dependent on natural grazing lands and forest resources for their income, are facing heightened exposure to dense smoke and hazardous air pollution, in addition to the loss of pastureland and forest-based livelihoods. Hardware and resource shortages—including limited availability of specialized firefighting assets and operational support equipment—remain a significant challenge and continue to restrict the capacity to meet urgent operational needs and fully contain the wildfires.



# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

This IFRC–DREF operation aims to support the Iranian Red Crescent Society in assisting national efforts to contain active wildfire zones, protect rural populations and forest ecosystems, and reduce the health, environmental and livelihood impacts of the fires, by strengthening National Society response capacity through the replenishment of essential aerial and ground firefighting equipment, and by supporting disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities and community awareness-raising on wildfire risks and safe practices, thereby enhancing safety, dignity and resilience across affected areas over a six-month operational period.

## Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is shaped by the urgent need to prevent further escalation of wildfires and to protect the lives, livelihoods, and environment of communities living in the forest regions of Mazandaran and Golestan Provinces. As the IRCS is the only national entity with operational capacity and specialized resources to conduct aerial firefighting in Iran, rapid mobilization and reinforcement of its aerial response capability is essential to contain active fire zones and prevent their spread toward surrounding rural settlements. With villages located in close proximity to forested areas and at high risk of direct fire impact, strengthening immediate response capacity and ensuring rapid detection during the critical early minutes of ignition represents the most urgent operational priority.

The strategy directly addresses identified gaps in aerial suppression, early detection, and ground response capacity. The requested equipment — including water buckets (Bambi buckets) for helicopters, complete sling sets, thermal drones, and chainsaws — is selected to enable IRCS to scale up both aerial and land-based firefighting operations. Thermal drones will significantly enhance early detection of hidden hotspots and flare-ups, allowing rapid targeting before fires expand. Aerial tools and sling sets will improve the efficiency and volume of water-drop missions, while chainsaws will support ground teams in creating firebreaks and clearing vegetation to halt further fire spread. Together, these interventions strengthen the tactical capability to suppress fires quickly, which is critical to reducing risks of displacement, preventing loss of agricultural livelihoods and livestock, minimizing damage to forest ecosystems, and limiting smoke-related health impacts on vulnerable populations.

This strategy prioritizes urgent life-saving actions while also addressing essential community needs by protecting the population's homes, economic resources, and environmental stability. Mobilizing responders, volunteers, and local forces alongside specialized technical equipment creates an integrated approach that maximizes effectiveness during the emergency phase. The operation is guided by contextual factors including prolonged drought, high wind variability, difficult terrain access, and limited national firefighting resources, all of which require swift and well-coordinated intervention to avoid large-scale humanitarian consequences.

# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will primarily target the Iranian red crescent society's operational capacity to support firefighting efforts to reduce the impact on rural households residing in the forest-adjacent villages within the affected operational zones. These communities are in direct exposure to wildfire risks and strongly dependent on agriculture, livestock, and natural resources for their livelihoods. The rapid expansion of the wildfire poses a serious threat to their homes, economic assets, and safety, putting them at imminent risk of displacement and loss of livelihood.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Targeting these groups is essential because rural families in forest regions have limited coping capacity and reduced access to alternative shelter or income sources in the event of evacuation. Many households rely on farming, livestock, and forest-dependent occupations, which could be severely disrupted or permanently damaged by fire, smoke, and destruction of grazing and agricultural lands. Immediate support and rapid response measures are therefore critical to prevent irreversible socio-economic loss.

This operation also integrates support mechanisms for local response forces and community volunteers who are actively engaged in firefighting and emergency assistance alongside the IRCS. Their role is vital in protecting vulnerable groups and ensuring community safety, and equipping them appropriately contributes directly to safeguarding the rural population.

By protecting rural households and forest-line communities at highest risk, the operation aims to prevent displacement, support livelihood security, and reduce humanitarian consequences resulting from environmental hazards and climate-related disasters.

The selection criteria are:

Households located in high-risk zones with residential areas directly exposed to wildfire threats.

Livestock-dependent families whose grazing lands and rangeland are under significant risk due to fire damage.



Female-headed households and families with persons with disabilities who have limited capacity to cope with the disaster.  
Income-less or economically vulnerable households without sufficient financial resources to recover and maintain essential needs.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	3,190	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	-
Men	3,320	People with disabilities (estimated)	-
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	6,510		

## Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Re-ignitions in previously extinguished areas	Hotspotextinguishing
Entry of individuals into extinguished and affected areas	Authorities have officially banned public access to all forest zones until the end of December due to safety concern and ongoing wildfire response operations.
Risk of injury of first responders and volunteers	The Iranian Red Crescent deployed first aid teams on the ground to support the firefighting efforts and handle any injuries that can occur. All NS volunteers are insured before deployment.
Delays in procurement or delivery of specialized equipment	The Iranian Red Crescent requests support from the IFRC in procuring the needed items



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

There is no high risk of security for the operational staff and volunteers. IRCS is very well accepted in the region.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

## Planned Intervention



### Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 480,167

**Targeted Persons:** 6,150

#### Indicators

Title	Target
#of volunteers at Helal Houses have access to basic response kits	50
# Of local people of rural areas be prepared and trained against wildfires and disasters	6,100
# of people equipped with necessary skills	100
# of Helicopters equipped with required extinguishing tools	15
# of operational teams equipped with required extinguishing tools	25
# of Helal Houses equipped with basic response kits	10
# of individuals reached with educational sessions	1,300
# of chainsaws procured and distributed	100
# of sling sets procured	15
# of Bambi Buckets procured	15
# of thermal drones procured	10

#### Priority Actions

- 10 Helal Houses equipped with basic response kits
- Targeting one fifth of the total affected households (approximately 1300 individuals – 20%coverage) exposed to wildfire smoke and post-fire environmental health risks.
  - Conducting community-based educational sessions and door-to-door awareness campaigns led by trained health volunteers.
  - Providing guidance on respiratory protection, prevention of smoke-related complications, and safe return procedures to previously burned zones.
  - Delivering specialized instructional messages for vulnerable groups such as children, older adults, and individuals with chronic respiratory or cardiovascular conditions.
  - Distributing printed educational materials and brochures through community channels and local briefings.



- Utilizing local communication networks to enable fast and accurate dissemination of essential health information.
- 
- - Training of 100 local community members on wildfire preparedness, early response actions, and safe participation in fire prevention activities.
- Equipping helicopter and ground response teams to ensure rapid aerial and ground-based wildfire suppression operations.
- Provision of essential firefighting equipment, including:
  - 1- 100 chainsaws for ground-level firebreak creation and clearing operations.
  - 2- 15 complete sling sets for aerial water-bucket deployment.
  - 3- 15 Bambi Buckets for helicopter water-drops.
  - 4- 10 thermal drones for hotspot detection, night-time monitoring, and mapping of high-risk zones.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 19,833

**Targeted Persons:** -

### Indicators

Title	Target
# of finance advisors providing support	1
# of logistics staff providing support	1
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1

### Priority Actions

- Ensure adequate support to the operation through the allocation of 9 months for IFRC Delegation Staff  
1 month for IFRC RO Finance advisor  
1 month for IFRC RO Logistic staff
- Conduct a lessons learned workshop with key stakeholders to document best practices, challenges, and priority recommendations for future response operations.

## About Support Services

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

A total of 204 personnel from the Iranian Red Crescent Society will be engaged in this operation, including operational staff and volunteers deployed from provincial and local branches. Teams include field response units responsible for direct wildfire suppression, logistics and support teams managing equipment and relief supplies, and safety and coordination crews operating in affected forest zones. The operation will be supervised by the Provincial Operations Coordination Center, with designated field team leaders and sector coordinators overseeing ground-based firefighting activities, air-support operations, team deployment, and resource management, ensuring effective command and coordination throughout the operation.

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

Procurement for this DREF operation will be led by the IFRC, in close coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). At the request of the National Society, the IFRC will take primary responsibility for managing the full procurement process, including market assessments, supplier selection, contracting, quality assurance and compliance with IFRC procurement standards. The IRCS will support this process by identifying technical specifications, validating operational requirements, facilitating local market assessments where relevant, and coordinating customs clearance, receipt, and distribution of items once procured.

Procurement will involve both local and international suppliers, depending on availability, technical suitability, cost-effectiveness and



delivery timelines. Local procurement will be prioritized where compliant equipment is available domestically and can meet urgent operational needs. For specialized items not readily available within Iran—such as thermal drones, certified Bambi buckets, and complete helicopter sling systems—the IFRC will pursue international procurement to ensure all equipment meets aviation safety standards and performance requirements. This blended approach is intended to ensure the quickest possible access to essential equipment while maintaining strict quality and accountability controls.

## How will this operation be monitored?

Overall monitoring of this DREF operation will be conducted jointly by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the IFRC, with clearly defined roles in line with respective responsibilities. Monitoring of all procurement activities will be led by the IFRC Regional Office, as procurement falls under IFRC management. The Regional Office will directly track supplier engagement, contracting, delivery schedules, quality assurance, compliance checks, financial controls and final handover of equipment to IRCS. Given this structure, no parallel procurement monitoring by the National Society is required, beyond confirmation of receipt and operational deployment once items are delivered.

The IRCS will lead monitoring of field-based activities, including community awareness, disaster risk reduction (DRR) outreach and the operational use of equipment once received. IRCS will use its standard internal activity reporting systems and simple field monitoring tools to capture implementation progress and outreach coverage. The IFRC will provide standardized monitoring templates and tracking tools to support accurate reporting and aggregation of data related to community engagement and awareness activities.

Progress will be reviewed through regular coordination and follow-up meetings between the IFRC and IRCS operations teams, which will cover procurement pipeline updates from the Regional Office, deployment readiness, and status of community activities. IFRC will compile consolidated monitoring updates and financial tracking as part of routine DREF reporting processes.

At the conclusion of the operation, a lessons-learned workshop will be organized by the IRCS with IFRC participation to collect operational insights related to wildfire response, aerial suppression support, coordination arrangements, procurement processes and community engagement. Findings will inform recommendations for strengthening future preparedness, response capacity and multi-agency coordination in similar emergencies.

## 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 outset of the wildfires, the IRCS has been disseminating daily information for public awareness and information via their social media platforms (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

### MDRIR016 - Iranian Red Crescent Society Forest Wildfires

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>480,167</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	480,167
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>19,833</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	19,833
National Society Strengthening	0
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>500,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

