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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Iran: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n° MDRIR002</b>	<b>Glide n° <a href="#">FL-2019-000022-IRN</a></b>
<b>Date of issue:</b> 29 March 2019	<b>Expected timeframe:</b> 3 months, <b>Expected end date:</b> 29 June 2019
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> Orange	
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 499,751	
<b>Total number of people affected:</b> 156,531	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 15,000 persons (3,000 households)
<b>Provinces affected:</b> 31 Provinces	<b>Provinces targeted:</b> 31 Provinces
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> IRCS has approximately 2 million volunteers, 10,000 staff and 400 branches across the country.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> IFRC	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Iran, Local NGOs	

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

Flash floods in Golestan Province, in the North of Iran, began on 16 March causing flooding and landslides. The flooding subsequently spread further north and to the eastern provinces. The IRCS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) declared early warning based on metrological alerts. Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) snapped into action, disseminating community-based warnings and evacuating at-risk communities to safe shelters.

Continued rainfall has caused floods in 586 cities and villages across Iran. Flood water has destroyed infrastructure, livestock, agriculture and livelihoods, with estimated damage USD 150,000 million, in Golestan and Mazandaran Provinces alone. The disaster struck in the middle of Nowruz, Iranian New Year holidays. National Metrological service predicts more rainfall for the coming week.

By now, IRCS has reported 45 persons dead and at least 434 persons injured. The most affected areas are Golestan, Mazandaran, North Khorasan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Fars, Kermanshah, Khozestan, Semnan, Ilam and Hamedan. To date, IRCS has assisted 156,531 flood-affected persons and is provided temporary shelter for 50,732 people. As part of response, IRCS despatched helicopters, boats, ambulances, response vehicles and teams. After early warning for at-risk communities, IRCS provided emergency search and rescue, assessment, first aid and medical evacuation. IRCS has fulfilled its mandate of lead agency for disaster response, registering those evacuated and distributing food, water and household items to all those in need.



The IRCS operational teams immediately rendered the relief services having assisted 2,353 people and provided shelter for 588 people in temporary camps in Isfahan Province. Photo: IRCS

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society

The IRCS was established 93 years ago. It has over 10,000 staff and some, 2 million volunteers. IRCS has 400 local branches across the country. The IRCS has strong auxiliary link to Government and is mandated, under the Law on Emergency Operations, to conduct relief and rescue activities. In addition, IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters.

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

ICRC has a delegation based in Tehran, however they are not actively involved in this response at this stage. While there has not been a mini summit for this response, regular Movement coordination meetings are held between the three Movement partners and updates are shared on the response to date. There are no Partner National Societies in country, however IRCS has memorandum of understanding with a number of Partners such as German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent and Japanese Red Cross on general cooperation related to humanitarian issues. IRCS has ongoing partnerships with the RCRC Psychosocial, Livelihoods, Shelter and Climate Reference Centres.



**Flooding in Bushehr Province caused damage to 14 cities and villages. IRCS teams immediately assisted 17,474 people and provided shelter for 17,406 persons in temporary camps. Photo: IRCS**

### Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

A wide range of UN agencies are present in-country, including FAO, IOM, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO. While cluster are not operational, there are approximately 20 committees that are responsible for addressing various sectors related to the response. The IRCS is mandated to lead the 14-member relief committee which involves government departments and National NGOs. The UN is not part of these committees. IRCS is active in 5 or 6 committees, including the health committee.

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

The needs assessment was done assisted by IRCS helicopters and boats. IRCS evaluated at-risk communities, which are sheltered in public evacuation centres such as stadiums, halls and mosques. IRCS is registering displaced families and distributing household items (1 tent per family, 2 blankets and 1 hygiene kit per person). Food is distributed in two alternative packages available (1 package per family of 5 persons): a package with rations for 72 hours, or a package containing rations for one month. IRCS provides support in restoring family links to displaced people and monitors evacuation centres for protection issues.

Under this DREF operation, IRCS aims to provide vulnerable families with unconditional cash assistance. This was first done by the National Society in response to the Bam Earthquake in 2004 and with support from the British Red Cross as second phase. Most recently in response to the Kermanshah earthquake, cash distributions were undertaken to assist vulnerable families.

### Targeting

Based on IRCS typical selection criteria, the DREF response will target the vulnerable families: those single-headed, particularly female-headed households, disabled persons, orphans as well as those who have lost their homes. The IRCS will liaise with the Ministry of Social Welfare and other welfare-orientated NGOs, which already support the most vulnerable. Selection is made with advice from the governors and Disaster Crisis Management Division under the Ministry of Interior.

### Scenario planning

Rain is forecast to continue for the next week and more flooding can be anticipated in the provinces. IRCS is mandated to raise public awareness about the risks related to floods and to assist with evacuation of persons at risk. Risk information is being disseminated according to circumstances, which vary from province to province. IRCS remains on standby, with half a million volunteers ready to deploy.

## **Operation Risk Assessment**

Due to sanctions currently in place, there is a risk that the funds may not be transferred to the National Society. The IFRC will transfer funds in Swiss Francs rather than US Dollars. If necessary, the IFRC will draw on a tripartite Movement agreement as a pipeline for funds transfer.

If rainfall continues, as anticipated by weather forecast, it can increase flood response needs. IRCS Emergency Operations Centres facilitate, very early morning and evening, weather updates for provincial branches, through video conferencing, based on updates from Government agencies and metrological agency.

## **B. Operational strategy<sup>1</sup>**

### **Overall Operational Objective:**

To enable 3,000 most vulnerable flood-affected households to meet their basic needs through unconditional cash grants.

### **Proposed Strategy:**

IRCS began cash programming in 2004, including post-distribution monitoring, in response to the Bam Earthquake, with support from British Red Cross. Since the Bam Operation, Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) has been included in most IRCS operational responses. In the recent Kermanshah earthquake, CTP was also used to provide help to the vulnerable groups such as women-headed households, disabled persons and families with infants.

Cash assistance, provided within the current operation, will be harmonized with support provided by other agencies including government line ministries like Ministry of Health and Ministry of Housing. Selection of families will be based on vulnerability criteria agreed with welfare agencies.

The cash distribution will be unconditional cash, so that families can use the money based on their needs. IRCS will undertake a rapid market assessment to ensure that markets are functional and that essential items are available. Cash will be transferred to the recipients' bank accounts, as all Iranian citizens have identification and bank accounts.

IRCS will undertake post-distribution monitoring focusing on how the cash was used. This information will form the basis for a case study on the applied modality of CTP, promoting best practice and learning for the RCRC Movement.

### **Operational support services:**

#### **Human resources**

IRCS has deployed about 10,000 volunteers to support the flood response. However, this DREF operation will be managed by IRCS staff rather than volunteers. Based on previous experience, IRCS HQ will lead negotiations with the Ministry of Social Wellbeing and local NGOs which deliver welfare support. As cash transfers to targeted families will be done electronically, volunteers will not be required for the process. A member of the IFRC PECT Roster may be deployed as an RDRT to support the IRCS, if required, while in the same time to learn about IRCS approach to CTP.

#### **Logistics and Supply chain**

Logistics for the CTP programme will include the bank transfers to the recipient affected families via national banks. The DREF budget will cover the bank fees related to these transfers.

#### **Communication**

The IRCS Public Relations Department will lead communications in this operation. Since the onset of the floods, IRCS have been disseminating information for public awareness via twitter and the IRCS website. The IFRC MENA regional Communications Manager will provide additional support if required.

#### **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting**

IRCS PMER reporting unit is currently embedded in the IRCS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The IRCS PMER will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring of the implementation of this emergency operation. A lessons-learned workshop will be held after the end of the operation, with final report issued within three months from the end of the operation. The IFRC MENA RO PMER Unit will also support monitoring of the operation if required.

#### **Community Engagement and Accountability**

Community Engagement and Accountability will be implemented through the community feedback mechanism by IRCS. Post-distribution monitoring will be the responsibility of the IRCS Treasury General, who is responsible for auditing the quality of the operation.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 15,000 persons (3,000 households)

Male:

Female:

Requirements (CHF): 450,000

**Needs analysis:** Prolonged rainfall has caused floods to several provinces. Flood affected households have been evacuated. Their houses are damaged, livelihoods impacted and household effects damaged or lost. Vulnerable families will have some of their needs met with support from government and NGOs. However, these vulnerable households will require additional assistance to meet their basic needs.

**Population to be assisted:** IRCS aims to target the most vulnerable households, in the 31 affected provinces, with an unconditional cash grant of CHF 150 per household.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	Indicator: Number of beneficiaries supported															
		Indicator: Number of households which received cash grants															
P&B Output Code	Activities planned Week / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP081	Undertake market assessments	x															
AP081	Selection of the recipients for cash distribution		x	x													
AP081	Unconditional multipurpose cash distribution			x	x	x	x	x	x								
AP081	Post-distribution monitoring							x	x	x	x						



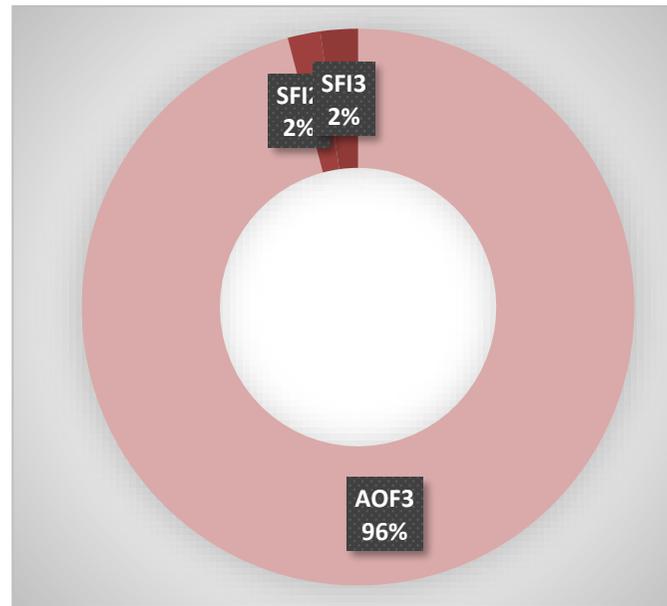
## Budget

### Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Cash Disbursement	450,000
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>450,000</b>
International Staff	5,000
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Workshops & Training	5,000
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>5,000</b>
Travel	5,250
Financial Charges	4,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>9,250</b>
DIRECT COSTS	469,250
INDIRECT COSTS	30,501
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>499,751</b>

### Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	479,250
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	
	Effective International Disaster	
SFI2	Management	9,585
	Influence others as leading strategic	
SFI3	partners	10,916
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>499,751</b>



## Contact information

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace

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



# Islamic Republic of Iran, Flash Floods Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

29 March 2019

