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Operation Update #01

Iran: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRIR002

30,000 households (150,000 people) to be assisted

Appeal launched: 07 April 2019

Glide n°: FL-2019-000022-IRN

499,751 Swiss francs DREF allocated

DREF issued: 29 March 2019

Date: 14 April 2019

5.1 million Swiss francs funding requirement

Appeal ends: December 2019

This Operation Update is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

As heavy rains continue to hit Iran since mid-March, floods remain a threat for many provinces, cities, villages, and infrastructure. Still more people are being evacuated and moved to safe areas and emergency shelters as the Iranian Red Crescent scale up its operations and resources to meet the imminent needs of the affected populations.

Extreme flooding and heavy rainfall which at times equaled more than half of the annual average within 24 hours; Golestan Province, for example, received 70% of its annual rainfall in just one day. This is unprecedented for the past 300 years.

Since 16 of March, almost all 31 provinces in Iran have been hit by flooding, damaging houses and infrastructure, affecting over 10,000,000 people. Most severely affected provinces are Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan, Lorestan, Khuzestan and Khorasan Razavi., 78 people are reported dead, 1,136 injured and 2 million are in need. Across all affected provinces, 54,000 houses are destroyed, another 90,000 damaged.

Forecasted storms and rains over the coming days may scale up the floods impact and have the potential to disrupt the efforts of the humanitarian response. Southern and eastern parts of the country will be at risk. Several cities and villages in Khuzestan Province have been recently evacuated, 5 districts in Ahvaz City are under evacuation order.



Map of the affected provinces by Floods. Source: IFRC

The IRCS has been mandated by the Government to respond to the emergency needs of the affected populations in providing rescue and relief support. With IRCS teams and branches are responding in all affected areas since day one, the focus has been on the most five pretentious provinces starting with Mazandaran, Golestan, Ilam, Lorestan, and more recently Khuzestan. The latter province holds two major dams (Dez and Karkheh) that might at risk to break. People in areas at risk have been evacuated to safe areas and emergency shelters. At present, this risk is consider contained, as water outflow form the dams was increased.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

To date, a total of 94 Emergency Camps have been established and are managed by IRCS (67 Khuzestan, 15 Golestan, 4 Lorestan, and 8 Ilam). IRCS has mobilised a total of 28,000 volunteers and staff (including 4,200 operational teams), 17 relief and rescue helicopters, 24 mobile clinics, 41 boats, and more than 2,000 light and heavy relief vehicles. Utilizing these resources, IRCS undertakes a major operations through air, road and land, which reached 457,000 people through relief distributions and other services as follows:

Relief Services:

- 239,000 people are provided with emergency shelters
- 4,487 people transferred to safe areas
- 4,809 vehicles towed from water or snow
- 5,853 houses drained from water

Basic Health Care Services:

- 2,890 outpatient cases referrals
- 2,171 paramedical cases
- 629 mother and child cases
- 125 malnutrition cases (children under 5 years)
- 638 first aid psychosocial support
- 193 environmental health cases¹



Relief and Rescue Organization's Staff and Volunteers in Khuzestan

Shelter NFIs	Tents	43,201
	Carpets	66,332
	Plastic Sheets	59,766 Kg (1,423 rolls)
	Blankets	135,529
	Kitchen Sets	1,956
	Heaters	4,825
Food Items	Food Parcels	136,134
	Bottled Water	425,341
	Canned Food	250,492
	Bread Loaf	807,667
	Dates	6,000 Kg
	Rice	76,000 Kg
	Edible Oil	19,109 Kg
	Sugar	21,932 Kg
	Beans	19,647 Kg
Water & Sanitation	Hygiene Kits	41,200

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in capacity building initiatives and disaster management, shelter, disaster law, youth and health. There are no partner National Societies present in the country, however IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of partners RCRC NSs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran with various number of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS, and is on standby to support the IRCS operation (e.g. through RFL). Regular coordination meetings are held in country between Movement partners.

¹ activities related to Hygiene and Sanitation

The German Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and Kuwait Red Crescent have sent bilateral in-kind assistance to the flood-affected people, items are being distributed by the Iranian Red Crescent in Golestan and Khuzestan provinces. ICRC has allocated financial support to the NS.

A four-person FACT team (TL, CBI, DM, PMER) has arrived in country and supports the NS. IFRC's Regional Director for MENA is in Iran to support local response efforts

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Governmental authorities, NGOs and international actors in country are responding to the emergency. The National Disaster Management Organization under the Ministry of Interior is coordinating relief efforts. Local communities are gathering to provide ad-hoc support as the need requires.

Governments of Swiss, Japan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, France, and Oman have provided in-kind donations, consigned to IRCS.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Appeal](#)

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

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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.

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



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.