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Operation Update #02

Iran: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRIR002	30,000 households 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: 18 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

Almost one month has passed since Iran has been continuously hit by heavy rain that have led to flooding of almost all its 31 provinces, affecting more than 2,000 cities and villages. This emergency is considered to be the most devastating in 15 years. The devastating floods, unprecedented for decades have affected more than 10 million people, leaving 2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 78 dead, and around 1,200 injured. Across all affected provinces, 54,000 houses are destroyed, another 90,000 damaged. Wide loss of crops and livestock are affecting the livelihoods of farmers.

The situation in Mazandaran and Golestan provinces (north-east Iran) is stabilizing, flood waters have widely receded, clean-up being in full swing. Displaced persons are returning to their homes, if houses are found inhabitable after an inspection done by the government. The markets infrastructure in both provinces is accessible and well function. There is no shortage of the basic products and price inflation for the time being. However due to the severity of the floods which have affected the agricultural sector and where hundreds of thousands of hectares were flooded, there could be deficit in the provision of sugar, flour, and summer vegetables.

In the South-west of Iran, flood peaks are moving downstream towards the sea. The provinces of Ilam and Lorestan have been severely affected with a now stable situation. Major dams in Khuzestan are still holding enormous amounts of water. In case of further rains, increased water release would be necessary to avoid overloads, posing the risk of structural damage and dam breaks. Evacuated people are still accommodated in emergency shelters and safe areas.



Figure 1: Dam Situation in Khuzestan as of 16 April 2019.
Source: Ministry of Energy, Khuzestan

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

IRCS continues to provide emergency shelter, food and NFIs to those, who cannot return to their destroyed or seriously damaged houses. Camps, widely set up in schools, sport clubs and alike, are managed by IRCS located mainly in Khuzestan (87), and four main cities in Lorestan (Noor Abad, Aligodarz, Pol-Dokhtar, and Dorood). IRCS has mobilised a total of 30,000 volunteers and staff (in 4,700 operational teams), 17 relief and rescue helicopters, 24 mobile clinics, 41 boats, and more than 2,000 light and heavy relief vehicles. The outstanding response operations of IRCS through relief distributions and other services have reached more than 600,000 people.

Relief Services:

- 269,000 people were provided by emergency shelters
- 8,340 people transferred to safe areas
- 4,809 vehicles towed from water or snow
- 5,853 houses drained from water

Basic Health Care Services:

- 7,195 outpatient cases referrals
- 2,033 paramedical cases
- 2,518 mother and child cases
- 406 malnutrition cases (children under 5 years)
- 2,007 first aid psychosocial support
- 512 environmental health cases¹



Figure 2: IRCS volunteers loading relief goods for distribution at the Khuzestan Provincial Branch Air Relief Base

Shelter NFIs	Tents	49,242
	Carpets	68,422
	Plastic Sheets	70,854 Kg (1,687 rolls)
	Blankets	166,480
	Kitchen Sets	2,313
	Heaters	5,673
Food Items	Food Parcels	174,996
	Bottled Water	531,096
	Canned Food	290,409
	Bread Loaf	1,026,606
	Dates	9,957 Kg
	Rice	77,790 Kg
	Edible Oil	20,626 Kg
	Sugar	26,187 Kg
	Beans	25,747 Kg
Water & Sanitation	Hygiene Kits	61,703

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 in the country, however IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of partners Red Cross Red Crescent NSs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran with a 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.

A Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies IFRC has been deployed to Iran's flood-hit areas for conducting a detailed needs assessment in line with developing the Emergency Plan of Action. The team includes a Team leader (Austrian RC) and experts for cash-based intervention (Kyrgyzstan RC), disaster management (Qatar RC and IFRC MENA RO), and PMER (IFRC MENA RO), visiting flood-affected areas together with a Field Coordinator from Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The team visited the affected areas in the northern province of Golestan and is now in the southwestern province of Khuzestan to assess the current situation of the flood-affected population and the response of the Iranian Red Crescent. Meetings with ministries, local and regional authorities, local NGOs, OCHA, and the affected population

¹ Activities related to Hygiene and Sanitation

are taking place. The FACT will end its field mission in Iran on Saturday. The emergency plan of Action (EPoA) is expected to be published next week.

The Red Cross Red Crescent societies of Australia, Canada, Japan, The Netherlands, Qatar, The United Kingdom, and the Governments of South Korea, Switzerland, and ECHO have pledged to contribute to this appeal. The total amount of the hard and soft pledges comes to CHF 2.2 million, at the time of publication of this update.

The Red Cross Red Crescent societies of Germany, Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, have already sent in-kind assistance to the flood-affected people, and the items are being distributed by the Iranian Red Crescent in the main affected provinces. ICRC supported IRCS with a financial contribution.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Almost everyone is on alert and is trying to engage and provide some sort of humanitarian aid to the affected people. Efforts of ministries, local authorities, national NGOs and the IRCS are coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organisation (NDMO). The Imam Khomeini relief organization, whose mandate is to support the underprivileged, has been also working on the ground as mandated. Local communities are gathering to provide ad-hoc support as the need requires.

The governments of Armenia, Belgium, Azerbaijan, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Italy, India, Iraq, Japan, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have provided in-kind donations, with more to come.

The Iranian army, police, NGOs and governmental bodies and institutions are also engaged in the relief operation, providing assistance in flood-hit areas while the National Disaster Management Organization, under the Ministry of Interior is coordinating the work with the active civil society on the ground.

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**.
