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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

### Iran: Sisakht Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation n°</b>	<b>MDRIR004</b>	<b>Glide n°:</b>	<a href="#">EQ-2021-000018-IRN</a>
<b>Date of issue:</b>	26 February 2021	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>	<b>4 months</b>
		<b>Expected end date:</b>	<b>30 June 2021</b>
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster: Yellow</b>			
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 497,781</b>			
<b>Total number of people affected:</b>	<b>24,291</b>	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b>	<b>17,500 (3,500 HHs)</b>
<b>Provinces affected:</b>	<b>Kohghiluyeh, Boyerahmed, and Isfahan</b>	<b>Provinces targeted:</b>	<b>Kohghiluyeh &amp; Boyerahmed</b>
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has approximately 1.5 million volunteers, 8,500 staff and 500 branches across the country.			
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).			
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Iran, Local NGOs, UN Agencies.			

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

On February 17, according to the Iranian Seismological Centre a 5.6 magnitude earthquake hit the country. The epicentre was 11 km from Sisakht city, 19 km from Madovan city and 20 km from Komeh city in Isfahan province. Based on the magnitude and the distance to the populated areas around, a number of 19 cities with a population of 257,661 individuals and 1,144 villages have been affected by the disaster. So far, six (6) aftershocks reported (the biggest is 3.6).

According to the report from the Ministry of housing, 380 houses have been seriously damaged in Sisakht city and 47 in Samirom city. The total population in Sisakht is over 10,000 individuals, in Madovan district is 18,078 and in



Figure 1 Iran earthquake map.

Komeh city 2,184. The total urban population is over 182,000 with 45,517 housing units, while the total rural populations is 197,140 with 48,627 housing units.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) responded to the disaster from the very beginning. The provincial crisis management taskforce was set up in the capital of the province with the participation of the governmental organizations related to response operation. The taskforce is run by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) in the provincial level.

### Summary of the current response

#### Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The IRCS was established in 1922 (as the 'Red Lion and Sun Society') and became affiliated with the IFRC in 1924. It has over 8,500 staff and some 1.5 million volunteers, being active through the Youth Organization, the Volunteers Organization and the Relief & Rescue Organization. IRCS has 500 local branches across the country. The National Society has strong auxiliary link to Government and is mandated, under the Law on Crisis Management, to conduct search & rescue activities, relief services and to provide emergency shelter. In addition, the IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters preparedness, including the provision of related educational activities.



Figure 2 Damaged Houses in Sisakht city. Credit: IRCS

On the first day of the earthquake, 147 villages were rapidly assessed by IRCS (121 villages in Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad, and 26 in Isfahan). Five emergency ambulances deployed to deliver basic health care services to the injured people. Two emergency camps were set up for people in need, while most of the affected people were reluctant to stay in the camps and preferred to stay at their houses yard. So, it was decided to distribute one emergency family tent per family for those households with urgent needs. 63 persons injured, out of which, 36 received outpatient services by IRCS and 7 people were transferred to medical clinic by IRCS.



Figure 3 Camp set up by IRCS in sports complex in Sisakht, Credit: IRCS

Since the immediate onset of the disaster and in line with responding to the urgent needs of the affected population, the IRCS reached to 12,130 persons through the distribution of 3,331 relief tents, 945 blankets, 6,644 kgs of plastic sheets, 214 set of heaters, 1,965 food parcels (for 72-hours) and 70 ground sheets.

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

The IFRC has a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in Capacity Building initiatives and supporting IRCS in Disaster Management, Shelter, Disaster Law, Youth and Health. There is no partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country, however IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of PNSs. 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 health support to migrants, mine risk education (MRE), restoring family links (RFL).

### Overview of other actors' actions in country

Efforts of Ministries, local authorities, national NGOs and the IRCS are coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO). IRCS delivers the relief, rescue, and emergency shelter. Sectoral services are led and implemented by line ministries. The governmental bodies and institutions are engaged in the on-going operation. UN agencies are present in-country, including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR and UNICEF. INGOs have limited presence in country, with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Relief International (RI) present in country.

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

### Needs analysis

By doing rapid assessments in the affected districts, IRCS identified the immediate needs and priorities using rescue vehicles such as pickups to carry relief items and 4x4 to reach hard areas. The initial assessments carried out in the affected areas show that tents, blankets, and ground sheets are among the urgent needs of the quake-affected people. Immediate emergency medical services were delivered on spot. Many houses damaged and electricity cut off in the early hours. Since the area is quite remote and mountainous, the harsh winters worsen the situation of affected population who are already vulnerable. Impacts of COVID-19 induced livelihoods loss is also prevailing for affected population. Short term cash support (100 USD/one time/3,500 HHs) will give the affected population some bounce back ability to cater immediate support for repairs or livelihoods.

### Targeting

IRCS has prioritized the most vulnerable 3,500 households amongst affected populations in the affected districts within Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad province through cash assistance. The selection will be carried out in close coordination with the local community and local authorities. Priority will be given to the needy people who are living in totally to partially damaged houses.

The below table shows a snapshot of numbers in the affected areas of Sisakht city:

Districts	Number of Villages	Number of Affected Families	Number of Affected People
<u>Sisakht &amp; Pataveh cities</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>3,331</u>	<u>16,655</u>

### Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Recurrent aftershocks coming	Increase in damage, impacts on poverty level/loss of livelihoods, effects on mental health, possible displacement.	IRCS with available resources scales up the assistance efforts, DREF can be prolonged and adapted.

Snow/blizzard/harsh winter weather in Sisakht mountainous topology	Hindrances in access to relief, more mental health, and Psychosocial support (MHPSS) issues, loss of alternative livelihoods, difficulty in rebuilding damaged houses.	IRCS to modify basic assistance modality by scaling up cash support to one/two more cycles.
Increase in COVID community transmission	Possible displacement might trigger the infection spread.	IRCS to continue risk awareness education action, following safety protocols, scaling up response with preparedness actions to limit spread
Sanctions	Operational pace reduced, international procurement and funds transfers will be impacted and hence replenishment and financial resources will be delayed to reach IRCS.	Local procurement, reimbursement to IRCS for the use of their shelter emergency stocks.

### Operation Risk Assessment

There are constraints in the affected areas due to cold wave, snow and rain falls. Some areas are still hard to reach due to road damages. Also health of staff/volunteers can be at risk if the scale of operation is demanding more workload.

RISK AREA	CONTROLS MANAGEMENT
Staff and volunteer health: risk of contracting COVID-19 through community-based activities in the response.	Strict adherence to IRCS COVID awareness protocols, Refreshing the risk awareness communication aspects by utilizing existing COVID protection audio/visual learning platforms for staff/volunteers. Relief operations manager prioritizing the monitoring of adherence.
IRCS is currently managing COVID-19 EPOA. Engaged in closing Sistan-Baluchestan floods Appeal and is fully immersed in responding to harsh winters crisis / country wide. Their system is engaged in multiple crisis response.	Will monitor the situation if winterization operation is scaling up, then adapting the DREF with short term HR support. Clear roles and responsibilities within engaged departments for open files.
Increase in COVID-19 community transmission if displacement occurs due to not only aftershocks but also from harsh weather. In possible shelters the COVID-19 transmission can scale up.	IRCS will choose places for IDPs where social distancing can be observed meaning increasing number of places and design of IDP transit setting could be less populated.
Disruption on the access to deliver support such as road cut off access routes affected due to snow/shocks	Mapping alternative routes and transportation
Negative media coverage related to handling of the response operation.	Proactive communication with media and stakeholders. Community Engagement and Accountability.
Aftershocks	Active communication on what to do during the earthquake Set up the evacuation centres in case displacement is happening in the safe zone.
Procurement delays of replenishment stocks	Local procurement as due to COVID-19 and sanctions international procurement will take longer. IRCS is anticipating depleting stocks in winters at faster pace, not to wait for long time of international procurement.

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the IFRC [global appeal](#), which will facilitate supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19 situation. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The NS will keep monitoring the situation closely, focusing on the health risks, and revise accordingly if needed taking into consideration the evolving COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of relief items and procurement issues, and movement of NS volunteers and staff as well as international staff. For more information, please consult the [Covid-19 operation page](#) on the IFRC Go platform.

Iran has a high number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases in the world and is the hardest-hit country in the Middle East. Iran's Health Ministry reported that the total nationwide infections is above 1.61M.

Below table indicates potential impact of the pandemic on this DREF operation and how IRCS will respond to the situation in the event of COVID 19 mitigation measures being implemented in Iran.

COVID-19 measures	Standard epidemic control measures	Temporary lockdown of society (schools, shops, public functions)	Sustained lockdown and restriction of movement during the implementation period
Likelihood	<b>LOW</b> IRCS is mandated actor for relief/rescue, hence their operations are not impacted by Government lock down measures, Government is currently very supportive of COVID-19 compliant humanitarian interventions. They have divided provinces/cities into red, orange, yellow and blue zones, strict adherence is applied to all country.	<b>MEDIUM</b> Kohghiluyeh & Boyerahmed, is graded orange, but DREF is to do local procurement of tents, hence suppliers/markets supplies might be at Low level of risk for making tents available in warehouses for IRCS, for cash support banking system is not affected that much and Government is also doing conditional grants via the system.	
Impact on operation	<b>LOW</b> On high alert. Will keep monitoring.	<b>LOW</b> The operation needs to be sure to adhere to the epidemic control measures. Will keep monitoring and adjusting appropriately.	<b>HIGH</b> Operation will speed up implementation from kick off, taking advantage of the pre-lockdown window of opportunity.
Mitigating measures	IRCS with support from IFRC is implementing its COVID-19 Plan. This operation is sensitive to this approach.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays might be experienced with procurements for replenishments. If this happens, a timeframe extension will be considered.	Same as under standard epidemic control measures. In addition, some delays might be experienced with procurements for replenishments. If this happens, a timeframe extension will be considered.

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective:

The overall objective of this operation is to ensure appropriate assistance for 3,500 households (17,500 people) affected by earthquake in the province of Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, providing them with support to meet their basic livelihood needs through unconditional cash grants. In parallel, material preparedness for the ongoing operation is reinforced by replenishing depleted shelter emergency stocks, specifically tents.

### Proposed Strategy

#### Shelter:

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 responding in all affected areas since day one, the focus has been on the most vulnerable district of Sisakht. IRCS distributed shelter items including tents, blankets, ground sheets and heaters. This DREF aims to replenish IRCS stocks for tents to complement IRCS contingency stocks for the ongoing operation and future responses.

#### Livelihoods and Basic Needs:

IRCS began using cash as response option in 2004 in response to the Bam Earthquake (with support from British Red Cross), and in Sistan-baluchistan floods in 2019 (with support from the IFRC). Since then, the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has been included in IRCS operational responses. In Kermanshah earthquake and floods 2019 response operation, CVA was also used to provide help to the vulnerable groups such as female-headed households, disabled persons, and families with infants. Cash assistance within the current operation will be harmonized with support provided by other agencies including government authorities (e.g., Ministries of Housing and Social Wellbeing). The selection of benefitting families will be based on agreed vulnerability criteria: Also IRCS CVA action will be via government social protection system. Winters/snow is envisaged as bigger hinderance in access to aid, hence better modality is to reach affected population via cash transfers.

The affected population of Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad province;

- People with severely or completely damaged houses;
- Households headed by women, i.e., widows, divorced or separated women without income;
- Households with person(s) living with disabilities and other socially excluded / marginalized groups;
- Households with insufficient coping mechanisms;
- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

The IRCS will provide one off unconditional unrestricted cash grant to the most vulnerable families (3,500), so that families can utilize 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 recipient's bank accounts, as all Iranian citizens have identification and bank accounts.

#### Operational support services:

IRCS will cover all related operational costs and expenses (such as logistics, human resources, and volunteer-related expenses).

#### Human resources

IRCS has deployed about 290 volunteers and staff to support the disaster response. These volunteers are insured under a national scheme.

#### Administration and Finance

Operational expenses such as volunteer accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities and field monitoring will be covered by the IRCS. Finance and administration support to the operation will be provided by IRCS Headquarters, with assistance from IFRC MENA Regional Office administration and finance team, when required.

**Logistics and Supply chain**

Logistics for the CVA component will include the bank transfers to the recipient affected households via national banks. The IRCS has necessary financial transfer mechanisms in place to ensure timely cash transfers to the targeted families including signed pre-agreement with banks. The MENA Regional Office will facilitate the cash transfer while is in contact with the IRCS / IFRC's Country Office to support as required.

For replenishment of non-food items, local procurement will be admissible, rationale being fast paced refills. Also local market strengthening is key aspect too.

**Communication**

The IRCS has a strong Public Relations Department which leads the communications in this operation. Since the onset of the floods, 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.

**Security**

There is no high risk of security for the operational staff and volunteers. Some families are not cooperating with the IRCS personnel and they refer to the warehouses to receive the food and household items. Mountainous areas and cold weather (-5 degree) made it difficult to have access to some households.

**Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)**

The IRCS PMER unit is currently embedded in the IRCS Emergency Operations Center (EOC). IRCS PMER will be responsible for day-to-day monitoring of the implementation of this emergency operation. The IRCS operation monitoring teams at branch level will conduct field monitoring visits regularly and when required. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe with a final report issued within three months after the end of the operation.

Technical PMER capacity and technical support will be provided through IFRC MENA Regional office PMER team. This will help identify and, where possible and necessary, resolve any issues. An end-of-operation lessons learned exercise will take place to capture relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the operation. It will also be used to measure qualitative outcome indicators.

**Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

Community feedback mechanism are set up by IRCS and will be enhanced through this operation with support from IFRC. The IRCS Audit and Investigation Department, is responsible for the outcomes of the PDMs as well as the complaints received through the complaint's mechanism (via hotline 112 and social media access). The CEA framework will help prevent and address misinformation and rumours especially in relation to the distribution of relief items and cash assistance through the development of appropriate feedback systems.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Shelter

People targeted: 5,450 (1,090 HHs)

Requirements (CHF): 150,420

**Needs analysis:** Immediately aftermath of earthquake, IRCS dispatched heaters, blankets, ground mats and tents to 121 villages in the affected areas. IRCS set up two camps to accommodate the affected households, but no families came to use those camps, rather preferred to stay at their houses yard. Hence IRCS distributed 3331 tents, 945 number of thermal Blankets, 214 number of heater and ground mats from its contingency stocks. This DREF is to replenish depleted stocks for tents.

**Risk analysis:** as depicted above replenishment need to be conducted as soon as possible. IRCS need to keep minimum Contingency stock in warehouses to cater forthcoming harsh winter or any other natural/man made catastrophe. Sanctions will hinder pace of replenishment by possible delays in financial disbursements and procurements.

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** the activities will seek to meet **Sphere standards**.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions	# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements ( <b>Target: 1,090 HHs</b> )															
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.	# households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance ( <b>Target: 1,090 HHs</b> )															
Activities planned Month		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps/ distribution of NFIS on rapid assessment basis																
AP005	Identification of caseloads and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups – inclusion factors integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response																
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders																
AP005	Analysis of the local market to identify availability/access to shelter and household items (can be two separate activities)																
AP005	Procurement of consumed items to refill depleted contingency stocks																



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 17,500 (3,500 HHs)

Requirements (CHF): 350,000

**Needs analysis:** Loss of property and livelihoods are disrupting people's lives. Imminent needs were met by the emergency response operations, yet the affected people still require many basic goods such as stocks, home appliances and working items, etc. Provision of unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash to the affected population will have multiple effects enabling them to cover existing basic and diverse needs on household level, have a positive effect on local economy, and contribute to re-establishing market dynamics.

**Population to be assisted:** 3,500 HHs (17,500 individuals) will receive one-off unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants in the amount of 100 CHF via bank transfer to meet their basic needs.

Beneficiaries will be selected upon the following criteria:

- The affected population of Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad province;
- People with severely or completely damaged houses;
- Households headed by women, i.e., widows, divorced or separated women without income;
- Households with person(s) living with disabilities and other socially excluded / marginalized groups;
- Households with insufficient coping mechanisms;
- Households from vulnerable occupational groups.

A preliminary list of beneficiaries will be developed in close coordination with local authorities and community. The beneficiary verification and validation process will be conducted in close coordination with the IRCS HQ. The number of criteria matches will set the vulnerability of a household.

**Risk analysis:** Households in the area are still exposed to aftershock that still occurring and may occur in the future. In addition, household are exposed to severe weather conditions especially in the present winter season.

**Population to be assisted:** IRCS will assist up to 3500 households that are affected.

#### Programme standards/benchmarks:

The Government is supporting 3,700 HHs. In total 7,400 USD will be strictly used for shelter repairs, out of which 5,200 USD is considered as a loan and 2,200USD as a grant. The transfer amount of 100 CHF has been set to top-up existing governmental social subsidies to the most vulnerable and poor families and met country household income and expenditure standards (HIES), thereby providing supplementary means to cover essential needs for one month.

P&B Output					# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants and able to cover their monthly basic needs ( <b>Target: 3,500 HHs</b> )															
P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs				# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants ( <b>Target: 3,500 HHs</b> )															
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
AP081	Rapid Market Assessment																			
AP081	Development of preliminary cash grants recipients lists on provincial level (close collaboration with governmental structures)																			
AP081	Unconditional / multipurpose cash distributions for 3,500 HHs in target province via bank transfer																			
AP081	Post Distribution Monitoring including market monitoring																			

### Strategies for Implementation Requirements (CHF): 7,000

P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured	IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources ( <b>Target: yes</b> ) Coordination tools and mechanisms are in use for the operation ( <b>Target: Yes</b> ) %/ ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies ( <b>Target: 100%</b> )															
	Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained	# of surge deployments in support of the operation ( <b>Target:1</b> )															
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4												
	Month																
AP046	IFRC surge support is on standby for any surge deployment																

P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.</b>	<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues. (Target: Yes)</i>			
	<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>	<i># of lessons learned workshop conducted (Target: 1)</i>			
	<b>Activities planned Month</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
AP055	Post-distribution monitoring				
AP055	Lessons Learned Workshop for DREF operation				

## Funding Requirements

*all amounts in  
Swiss Francs  
(CHF)*

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

### DREF OPERATION

MDRIR004 Iran Sisakht Earthquake

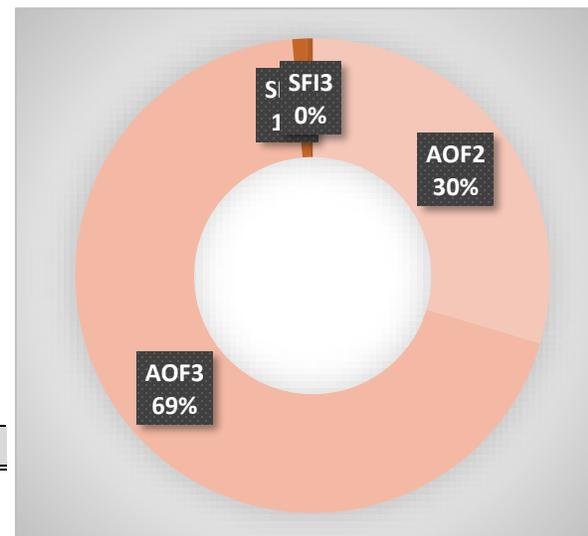
2/22/2021

#### Budget by Resource

<u>Budget Group</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Shelter – Relief	110,400
Cash Disbursement	350,000
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>460,400</b>
Travel	7,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>7,000</b>
DIRECT COSTS	467,400
INDIRECT COSTS	30,381
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>497,781</b>

#### Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	
AOF2	Shelter	117,576
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	372,750
AOF4	Health	
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SF11	Strengthen National Societies	
SF12	Effective International Disaster Management	5,325
SF13	Influence others as leading strategic partners	2,130
SF14	Ensure a strong IFRC	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>497,781</b>



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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.