

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Operation Update Report

IRAN/MENA: Sisakht Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n° MDRIR004	GLIDE n° EQ-2021-000018-IRN
Operation update n° 1; 01 July 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: February-June 2021
Operation start date: 17 February 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended for additional 2 months) ending 31 August 2021
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 497,781	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 497,781
N° of people being assisted: 17,500 (3,500 HHs)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Iran, Local NGOs, UN Agencies	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has completed direct support to the targeted people through the distribution of unconditional cash grants to 3,500 HHs. The remaining activity is to partially replenish the depleting supply of distributed family tents for emergency shelter (1,090 tents). The local procurement of the family tents has been put on hold while the IFRC attempts to transfer the remaining balance of 34,000 CHF into the country. This DREF operation is being extended for an additional two months, while efforts to transfer the remaining funds will continue.

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 epicenter 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).



Figure 1 Damages caused by the earthquake in Sisakht-Iran. Credit: IRCS

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

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 a 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 of disasters preparedness, including the provision of related educational activities.

On the first day of the earthquake, 147 villages were rapidly assessed by IRCS (121 villages in Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad, and 26 in Isfahan). Five emergency ambulances were 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 house's 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 seven people were transferred to the medical clinic by IRCS.

Since the immediate onset of the disaster and in line with responding to the urgent needs of the affected population, the IRCS reached 12,130 persons through the distribution of 3,331 relief tents, 945 blankets, 6,644 kgs of plastic sheets, 214 sets of heaters, 1,965 food parcels (for 72-hours) and 70 groundsheets. In addition, IRCS has reached a total of 3,500 HHs with unconditional cash grants through bank transfers.



Figure 2 IRCS response to the earthquake. Credit: IRCS

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 a 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 relief, rescue, and emergency shelter. 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, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. INGOs have a limited presence in-country, with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Relief International (RI) present in the country.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The IRCS has completed its intervention under this DREF in terms of direct support to the earthquake-affected population. An emergency shelter was provided immediately following the disaster in the form of family tents, while cash grants assisted affected families in populating some bounce-back ability to cater immediate support for repairs or livelihoods. The earthquake-affected area is currently in the COVID red zone, with slow progression. The livelihood aspects have been severely harmed not only by the Earthquake but also by COVID. On top of the high vulnerability, the dry rainy season is causing a slow progression of drought severity.

Targeting

Through cash assistance, the IRCS has selected the most vulnerable 3,500 households among the impacted populations in the afflicted districts within Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad province.

Districts	Number of Villages	Number of Affected Families	Number of Affected People
Sisakht & Pataveh cities	121	4,590	18,360

Operation Risk Assessment

Risk Area	Controls Management
Delays in transfer of remaining DREF amount in the extended timeframe.	The funds could not be transferred due to banking constraints imposed by the tightening of sanctions, delaying this intervention. The IFRC Legal Department is always advocating and discussing ways to secure a green-signaled banking channel for transferring funds. The transfer of funds is expected to take 6-8 months. As a result, the IFRC is looking into possible methods for transferring the remaining funds as soon as possible.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

The overall objective of this operation was to provide timely, effective, and efficient assistance to 3,500 households (17,500 people) in the province of Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad who were affected by the earthquake, by offering unconditional cash grants to help them meet their basic livelihood needs. At the same time, material readiness for the ongoing operation is bolstered by replenishing depleted shelter emergency stocks, particularly tents.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Operational support services:

All relevant operational expenditures and expenses, including logistics, human resources, and volunteer-related expenses, have been covered by the IRCS.

Human resources

About 290 volunteers and staff have been deployed by the IRCS to assist with the disaster response. These volunteers are covered by a national insurance scheme.

Administration and Finance

The IRCS covered operational costs such as volunteer housing, transportation, communication and coordination activities, and field monitoring. IRCS Headquarters provided financial and administrative support to the operation, with assistance from the IFRC MENA Regional Office administration and finance staff as needed.

Logistics and Supply chain

Bank transfers to affected households via national banks will be part of the logistics for the CVA component. The IRCS has in place the required financial transfer mechanisms, including signed pre-agreements with banks, to enable prompt cash transfers to targeted families. The MENA Regional Office will facilitate the financial transfer while also coordinating with the IRCS/IFRC country delegation to provide support as needed.

Local procurement of non-food items will be permitted, with the argument being fast refills. Strengthening the local market is also important.

Communication

The IRCS has a robust Public Relations Department that is in charge of the operation's communications. IRCS has been providing daily information for public awareness and information via their social media platforms since the onset of the floods (Twitter, Instagram, and the official website). The National Society owns a television studio and a newspaper, both of which are widely distributed across the country. The IFRC MENA regional head of communications will provide additional support throughout the operation if required.

Security

There is no high-security risk for operational staff or volunteers. Some families fail to cooperate with IRCS personnel and instead go to warehouses to receive food and household items. Access to some households was difficult due to mountainous terrain and cold weather (-5 degrees).

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 the 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 the relevance, efficiency, and effectiveness of the operation. It will also be used to measure qualitative outcome indicators.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Community feedback mechanisms 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.



Shelter

People reached: 1,090 HHs (5,450 individuals)

Male: 2,780

Female: 2,670

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people with safe and adequate shelter and settlements	5,450	100%

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance	1,090 HHs	100%

Progress towards outcomes

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the IRCS distributed heaters, blankets, ground mats, and tents to 121 villages in the affected areas. The IRCS set up two camps to house the affected households, but no families showed up, preferring to stay in their yards. As a result, IRCS distributed 3331 tents, 945 thermal blankets, and 214 heater and ground mats from its contingency stock. This DREF aims to replenish tent stocks that have been depleted (1,090).

Challenges: The IRCS has yet to receive the full amount of funds reserved for the procurement of family tents. The entire procurement process has been halted until the remaining funds have been received. Although IRCS has been granted a two-month extension, they are concerned that the extension will expire without any progress in the transfer process, despite their aim for thorough implementation.



Livelihoods and basic needs

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

Male: 8,925

Female: 8,575

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants and able to cover their monthly basic needs	3,500 HHs	100%

Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants	3,500 HHs	100%

Progress towards outcomes

- People's lives are being disrupted by the loss of their homes and livelihoods. The emergency response operations fulfilled immediate needs, however, the affected people still require numerous basic goods such as stocks, home appliances, and working equipment, among other things. Provision of unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash to the affected population will have many benefits, allowing them to meet existing basic and diverse demands on a household level, have a positive impact on the local economy, and contribute to re-establishing market dynamics.
- 3,500 HHs (17,500 individuals) received one-off unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants in the amount of 100 CHF via bank transfer to meet their basic needs.

challenges: Sanctions caused a delay in transferring funds, which had a direct impact on the operation. The operation was supposed to be completed by mid-March (cash grants), but funds arrived a month late. The plan was to complete cash transfers before the Norouz festive national holidays to give affected people a reason to celebrate, however, this was not possible due to the banking system being under sanctions, which necessitated numerous confirmations and assurances, causing funds to be delayed.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources	Yes	Yes
Coordination tools and mechanisms are in use for the operation	Yes	Yes
% ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies	100%	100%

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC surge support is on standby for any surge deployment	1	0

Progress towards outcomes

Until now, there has been no need for a surge deployment.

Effective, credible, and accountable IFRC

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.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues.	YES	YES

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization, and programming.

Indicators:		Target	Actual
# of lessons learned workshop conducted		1	0

Progress towards outcomes

- Lessons learned event is planned to take place in the coming months following the extension. The exercise aims to highlight the recurring challenges and look into the preparedness element to avoid the same operational delays.

D. Financial Report**DREF Operation**

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 01/Jul/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRIR004 - Iran - Sisakht Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 26 Feb 2021 to 30 Jun 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance		0
Funds & Other Income		497,781
	DREF Allocations	497,781
Expenditure		-452,625
Closing Balance		45,156

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter	117,576		117,576
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	372,750	452,625	-79,875
AOF4 - Health			0
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene			0
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	490,326	452,625	37,701
SF11 - Strengthen National Societies			0
SF12 - Effective international disaster management	5,325		5,325
SF13 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	2,130		2,130
SF14 - Ensure a strong IFRC			0
Strategy for implementation Total	7,455		7,455
Grand Total	497,781	452,625	45,156

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

	Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies		460,400		460,400
	Shelter - Relief	110,400		110,400
	Cash Disbursement	350,000		350,000
General Expenditure		7,000		7,000
	Travel	7,000		7,000
Operational Provisions			425,000	-425,000
	Operational Provisions		425,000	-425,000
Indirect Costs		30,381	27,625	2,756
	Programme & Services Support Recover	30,381	27,625	2,756
	Grand Total	497,781	452,625	45,156

Reference documents

Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

In the Iranian Red Crescent Society

Ms. Mansooreh Bagheri IRCS Under Secretary General, International Affairs & IHL, phone: +98-21 88662618; email: intdep@rcs.ir

Operational Coordinator: Hasan Esfandiar , phone: +98 21-88201082; email: intdep@rcs.ir

IFRC Country Delegation:

Atta Durrani, IFRC Iran Program Manager, email: atta.durrani@ifrc.org

IFRC Geneva:

Esther Matyeka, DREF Senior Officer; phone: +41 75 419 8604; e-mail eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org

In the IFRC regional office:

Hosam Faysal, Head of Disasters, Climate and Crises (Prevention, Response and Recovery); phone: +961 71 802219, email: Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org

Raja Assaf, Senior Response Officer; phone: +961 71 91089, email: raja.assaf@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

Anca Zaharia, MENA Regional Head of Partnership and Resource Development; phone: +961 813 11 918; email: anca.zaharia@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

Goran Boljanovic; Regional Head of Supply Chain- MENA; phone: +961 5 428 505; email: goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

IFRC MENA Regional Office, Beirut: Nadine Haddad, Regional PMER Manager; phone: +961 71 802 775; email: nadine.haddad@ifrc.org

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**.