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# Operation Update Report

## IRAN: Sisakht Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF Operation n° MDRIR004</b>	<b>GLIDE n° <a href="#">EQ-2021-000018-IRN</a></b>
<b>Operation update n° 3; 21 February 2022</b>	<b>Timeframe covered by this update: February 2021-January 2022</b>
<b>Operation start date: 17 February 2021</b>	<b>Operation timeframe: 11 months (extended for additional 3 months from October 2021) ending 31 January 2022</b>
<b>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 497,781</b>	<b>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 497,781</b>
<b>N° of people being assisted: 17,500 (3,500 households)</b>	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently 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	

### 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 households. The IRCS has also carried out a partial replenishment of total family tents mobilized for initial emergency shelters (795 tents out of 1,090 planned under this DREF) due to the inflation and fluctuation in the local market. This DREF operation is being extended for an additional three months from October 2021, ending on 31 January 2022.*

## A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

### Description of the disaster

On 17 February, 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. Six aftershocks have been reported so far, the largest of which is a magnitude of 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 Kohgilouye-Boyerahmad, 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. Thus, it was decided to distribute one emergency family tent per family for those households with urgent needs. 63 people were 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 people 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 households 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 are no participating 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 the 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:** 3,975 (795 HHs)

Male: 2,020

Female: 1,955

**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	3,975

### 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	795

### 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 3,331 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 DREF remaining amount allocated for the planned procurement for 1,090 family tents was received by IRCS on the first week of January 2022, to which this DREF operation was extended. Due to the local inflation and fluctuation of prices, IRCS completed the procurement of 795 family tents.



### 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	3,500

#### 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	3,500

#### 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.
- A total number of 3,500 HHs (17,500 people) received one-off unconditional and unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants 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 one 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

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

- Due to the overwhelming response of IRCS to multiple disasters/crises, the lessons learned workshop was not completed to document the findings. Nevertheless, the most compounding challenges that have impacted the timely response of the cash distributions were directly related to sanctions affecting international and national money transfers. IFRC at regional and secretariat levels are coordinating their efforts with monitoring and assessments to identify the most appropriate solutions available.

## D. Financial Report

The operating budget and response activities remain unchanged. The financial report will be included in the final report.

## Reference documents



Click here for:

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

**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.