



The "Water Donation" campaign of the Iranian Red Crescent Society aims to provide safe drinking water to remote areas and support communities in finding solutions for more sustainable water sources. © **Iranian Red Crescent Society**

Appeal No: MDRIR009	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 9 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: TBC	
Glide No: 2021-000089	People affected: 4.9 million people	People to be assisted: 800,000 people
	Appeal launched: 03/03/2022	Appeal ends: 30/09/2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Iran faces a range of environmental challenges from high temperatures, pollution, flooding, and vanishing lakes. In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an "unprecedented drought" and rainfall levels that were substantially below long-term averages. The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly (Figure 2¹) which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture (Figure 3). Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

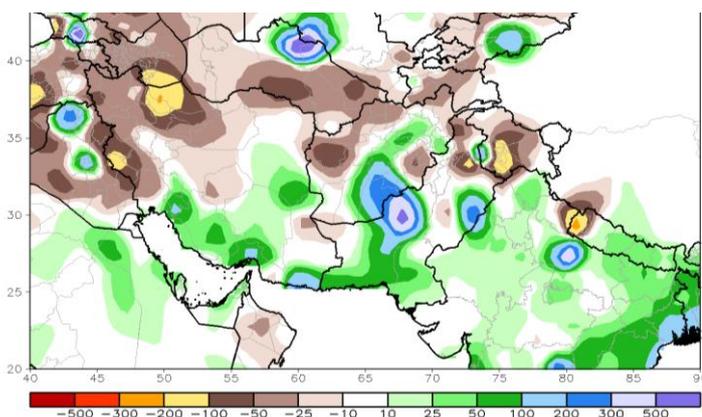


Figure 2. 90-day rainfall anomaly (27 November 2021 - 24 February 2022). Source: NOAA

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – **South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan Balochistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi** – have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

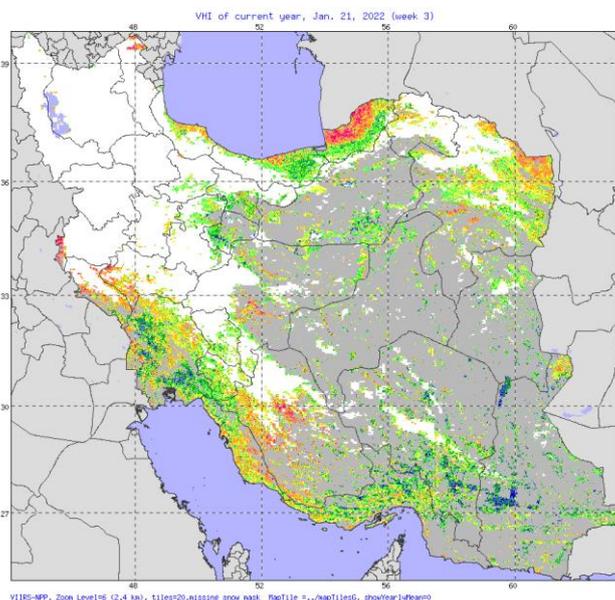
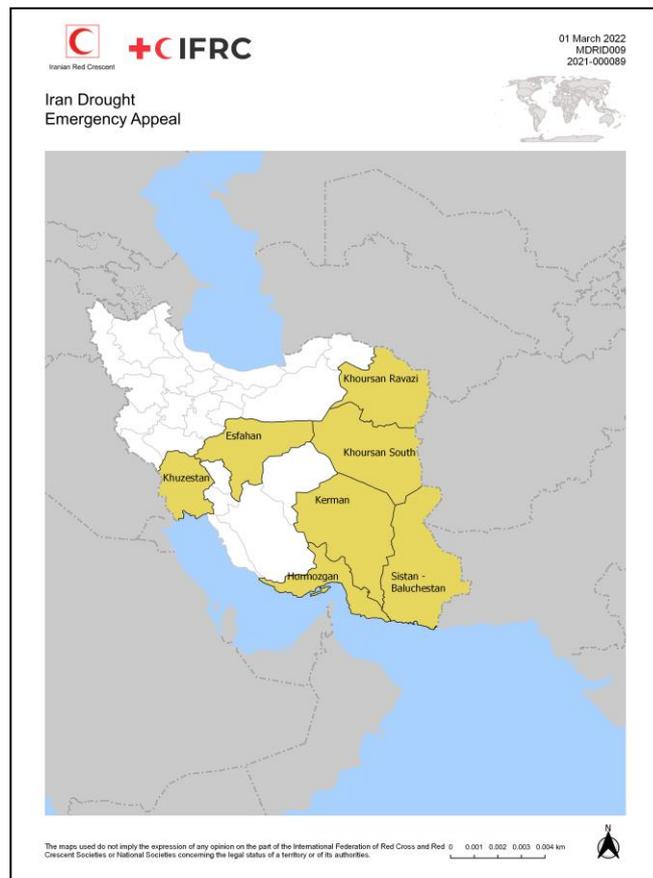


Figure 3. Vegetation health index as of 21 January 2022. Source: NOAA

¹ The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

The IRCS started its drought response in July 2021 through the support of the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) with CHF 750,000. This is to support the initial response efforts of IRCS in preventing a further deterioration of water insecurity and related health and livelihood issues for households and communities in four provinces until February 2022.

Severity of humanitarian conditions

The IRCS estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

The drought has brought widespread reliance on water trucking and bottled water for drinking. Many individuals or households have moved from rural to urban areas, resulting in the abandonment of villages in rural areas and the worsening of living conditions in urban areas. People are facing increasingly limited income-generating activities, rising staple food prices, and for those fortunate to have formal accommodation, higher land, and property rents.

The IRCS reports the drought has exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities and social marginalization of women. Drought places additional burdens on women in terms of their responsibilities around household care. Moreover, the migration of predominantly young men distorts the gender balance in the urban centres. There are accounts of this leading to gender-based violence as frustration and despair increase, as well as impacts on the prospects for marriage and natality.

Children are particularly vulnerable, with increased risks to their health, such as skin and eye diseases, cognitive development, in addition to respiratory problems associated with the drought. Mothers, predominantly living in remote villages, regularly tell IRCS volunteers of their children's ailments and what afflicts other family members, while the IRCS estimates that there has been a threefold increase in recent years in vulnerable children, directly attributable to the airborne dust and lack of access to water for hygiene purposes.

TARGETING

This Emergency Appeal will target 800,000 people in the seven most affected provinces, namely **South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan Balochistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi**, among which, three provinces share a border with Afghanistan. The IRCS is the only well-established stakeholder which has the system, structure, acceptance, and access to these.

Since IRCS is mandated as the lead convener for disaster response and rescue in the country, it is important to follow a sensitive approach with clear criteria in the selection of the targeted population. A set of criteria and a strong communications strategy will be chalked out to answer the justification to stakeholders about whom to select. The targeting criteria includes: the family information of villagers and deprived families (widows, women-headed households, people with disabilities, people with special needs, minors, etc.), which are collected and validated by the Imam Khomani Relief Committee and Welfare Organization, and the Ministry of Education.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the IRCS in the response to the drought, using an integrated programming

approach with a focused impact through clearly interlinked sectorial activities while ensuring IRCS capacity is enhanced and further developed.

In terms of livelihoods, assistance will be provided through emergency support in the form of unconditional cash, as well as programmes to provide training, materials, and expertise in adapting livelihoods and ensuring those who remain in agriculture and animal husbandry are more resilient to the prevailing climatic conditions.

With respect to health, alongside support through mobile medical teams that reach remote locations to treat and refer patients suffering from sand/dust-induced ailments, the IRCS will engage in psychosocial support to address the feelings of despair and abandonment that losing livelihoods and migration engender.

In WASH, the focus will be on identifying the most vulnerable and assisting in emergency provisions – a continuation and beefing up of the respected IRCS water donation programme – but also working with partners in the Ministry of Energy to roll out training and capacity to allow the population, agriculturalists and those engaged in animal husbandry to make more informed choices about their water usage.



- ☒ Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health)



- ☒ Integrated assistance
(Livelihoods and multi-purpose cash)



- ☒ Protection and Prevention
(Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) disaster risk reduction, environmental sustainability)

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:



- ☒ Coordination and partnerships



- ☒ Secretariat services



- ☒ National Society Strengthening

Throughout the operation, the focus will be given to ensure the IRCS maintains its fit-for-purpose capacity to respond with trained personnel, equipment, and stocks.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of the launch of this Emergency Appeal. Details of the operation will be updated throughout the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-Wide approach which includes the response activities of all the contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirements.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT PRESENCE IN-COUNTRY

Iranian Red Crescent Society



**Iranian
Red Crescent**

Core areas of operation










Number of staff:	8,500
Number of volunteers:	1,500,000
Number of branches	500

Established in 1922, the IRCS is one of the oldest, most established, and strongest Red Crescent National Societies in the world with its large volunteer base and existing resources. Through its branches, the IRCS is the only organization in Iran with a strong local base. The IRCS has always played an effective and active role across the country through various events based on the various skills and expertise of staff and volunteers.

The IRCS enjoys nationwide acceptance and accessibility and plays a pivotal role as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field. The organization is mandated under the law to lead emergency operations nationwide, to conduct search and rescue activities, relief services, and to provide emergency health and shelter services. In addition, the IRCS is responsible for raising public awareness on disasters and crises, including the provision of related educational activities.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC established a Country Delegation in Iran in 1991 and continues to play a key role in supporting the mandate of the IRCS as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The role of the Country Delegation includes supporting the Iranian Red Crescent to achieve milestones set against their five-year strategic plan (2018-2022); contributing to build the IRCS's capacity for sustaining their reach, access, and mission; building resilience of communities on the ground; joint planning and reporting beyond emergency situations; and improving visibility and position.

The IFRC Regional Delegation for the Middle East and North Africa, based in Lebanon, provides technical support for the Country Delegation in Iran. While there is no partner National Society present in the country, the IFRC Regional Delegation will ensure close membership communication and coordination through partner National Societies which have regional office functions in Lebanon.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Within the Movement, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are the only Red Cross Red Crescent entities present with country offices in Iran. The ICRC has a delegation based in Tehran with a various range of jointly coordinated humanitarian activities and remains on standby to support the IRCS operation (e.g., through health support to migrants, mine risk education, and restoring family links).

The IRCS, IFRC, and ICRC maintain a continuous dialogue to ensure that Movement relations are effective and based on mutual respect and that the Movement's footprint is reinforced in the country. The IRCS, IFRC, and ICRC meet on a monthly basis at the senior leadership level in Tehran, to discuss humanitarian issues, find harmonized positioning, and a synergized way forward to keep the IRCS mandate sustained through all actions. On a need's basis, this forum connects at technical levels and for contingency planning, communications, and planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. The IFRC also maintains coordination with the ICRC both at the country and regional levels.

External Coordination

Efforts by ministries, local authorities, national non-governmental organizations, and the IRCS are coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO). The IRCS delivers relief, rescue, and emergency shelter, while sectoral services are led and implemented by line ministries. Governmental bodies and institutions are engaged in ongoing operations.

UN agencies are present in-country, including WHO, FAO, UNOCHA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, and UNICEF. International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) have a limited presence in the country, with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Relief International (RI) present in the country. IRCS and IFRC Country Delegation have regular discussions with those organizations for exchanging information and coordination for improving the efficiency of the operation as well as avoiding any duplication of the activities.

Contact information

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

In the Iranian Red Crescent Society

- **Under Secretary General:** Mansooreh Bagheri; intdep@rcs.ir
- **Operational coordination:** Hasan Esfandiar; email: int_operations@rcs.ir

In the IFRC

- **IFRC Regional Delegation:** Hosam Faysal, Head of Disaster, Climate, and Crises (Prevention, Response, and Recovery); email: Hosam.faysal@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Country Delegation:** Atta Durrani, Program Coordination & Cooperation Manager; email: atta.durrani@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva:** Rena Igarashi, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: rena.igarashi@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilization and Pledges support:

- **IFRC Regional Delegation for MENA:** Michaela Pichler, Regional Head of Strategic Engagement and Partnership; email: michaele.pichler@ifrc.org

For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

- **IFRC Regional Delegation for MENA:** Goran Boljanovic, Regional Head of Supply Chain; email: goran.boljanovic@ifrc.org