



Water tank installed by the Iranian Red Crescent Society. Image courtesy of Iranian Red Crescent Society

Appeal No: MDRIR009	To be assisted: appx 900,000 people	Appeal launched: 03/03/2022
Glide No: 2021-000089	DREF allocated (Loan): 438,000 CHF	Date published: 08/04/2022

IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement: CHF 9 million
To assist: 900,000 people

IFRC SECRETARIAT FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Breakdown of secretariat plan

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Livelihoods	Health and Care	National Society Strengthening			
CHF 1.8 million 200,000 people	CHF 1.5 million 73,200 people					
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	Multi-purpose Cash	CHF 1 million 150,000 people	CHF 1 million			
		Secretariat Services	Coor...	CEA	Env. Su...	
CHF 1.6 million 320,000 people	CHF 1.2 million 44,000 people	CHF 300,000	CHF 200,000	CHF 200,000 40,000 people	CHF 100,000 72,000 people	
				PGI CHF 100,000		

TIMELINE

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May 2017: The IRCS launches a USD 6.85 million water donation project, reaching 503,000 people across four provinces with access to potable water, and water for hygiene, medical services, and livelihoods
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July 2021: Trigger date for the call for support, since the entire area received no meaningful precipitation between June and October 2020, with very little variation around this figure, and with an additional accumulated deficit up to May 2021.
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August 2021: A total amount of CHF 748,013 is allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund ([DREE](#)) to assist 83,200 people (20,300 households) for five months in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman and Hormozgan.
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November-December 2021: A surge Operations Manager was deployed for two months (one month physically) to support the IRCS in developing and conducting needs assessments.
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March 2022: The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for CHF 9 million for approximately 900,000 people.

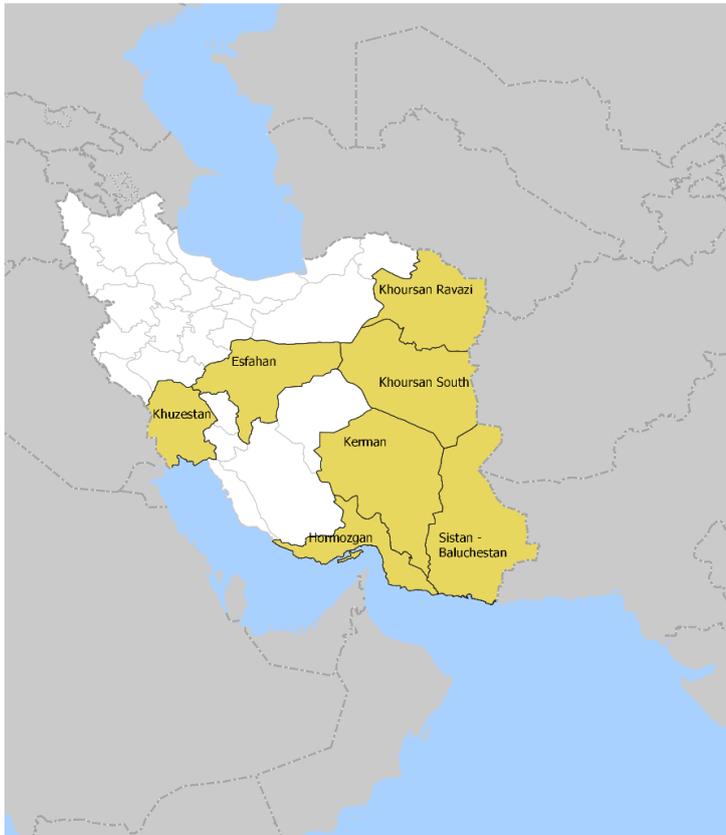
DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT



01 March 2022
IMDRID009
2021-000089



Iran Drought
Emergency Appeal



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.

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The most dramatic proof of the devastating and prolonged drying of the past thirty years is the disappearance of lakes and wetlands in parts of Iran. Excessive stress on water resources across the country, notably in the borderlands of the east and west, is becoming more pronounced and impossible to ignore. Safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene and health, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is under threat; while food insecurity and a breakdown in societal cohesion are highly likely to follow if increased strains on households and communities are not addressed.

Current drought conditions are primarily human-induced, both locally and as a symptom of global climate change; caused, or intensified, by unsustainable land and water management domestically and in neighbouring countries.

Vast expanses of central and western Asia, including the majority of Iran within its mountain ranges, have been affected by drought conditions with degrees of severity and local magnitude that have varied throughout history.

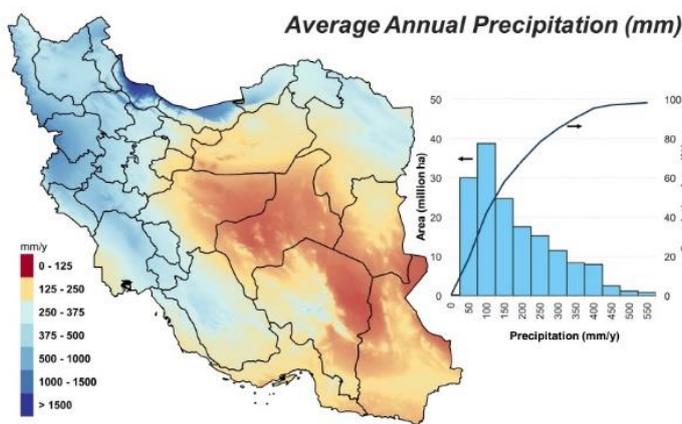


Figure 1: Average Annual Precipitation (source: Iranian Meteorological Agency)

What brings the current situation into sharp humanitarian focus is the confluence of declining precipitation over the last 30 years, inadequate infrastructure projects, and the economic-political hit to the country, and thus its National Society, given the impacts of the renewed sanctions on the country, where all the while, some 3.5 million refugees are being hosted from war-torn lands.

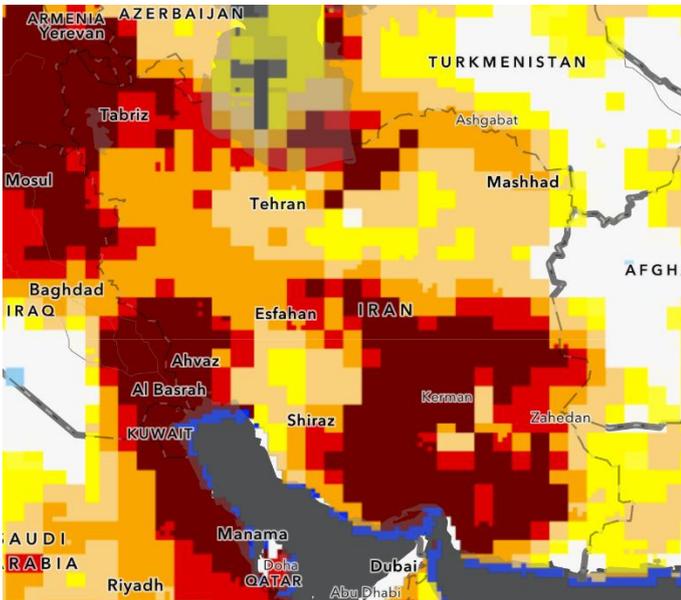


Figure 2: Evaporative Demand Drought Index

<https://psl.noaa.gov/eddi/>

EDDI is an experimental drought monitoring and early warning guidance tool. It examines how anomalous the atmospheric evaporative demand is for a given location and across a time period of interest.

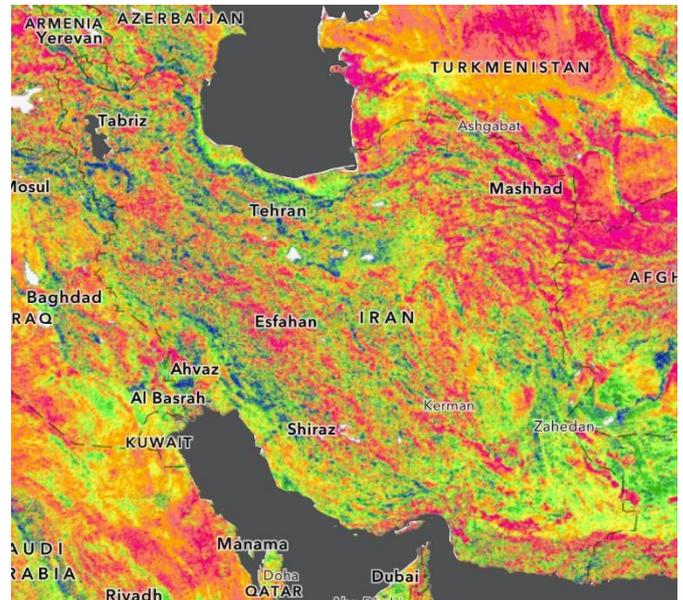
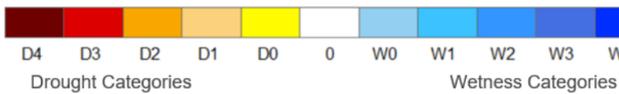
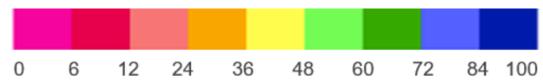


Figure 3: Vegetation Health Index

https://www.star.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/vci/VH/vh_1km.php

VHI is a proxy characterizing vegetation health or a combine estimation of moisture and thermal conditions. If the index is below 40, indicating different levels of vegetation stress, losses of crop and pasture production might be expected; if the index is above 60 (favorable condition), plentiful production might be expected.



Severity of humanitarian conditions

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) estimates that nearly five million people – 70 percent of the rural population of the worst drought-affected provinces – are at high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote rural areas of the provinces. Livelihoods are decimated and need rebuilding and refining to fit the new realities and mitigate the negative coping mechanisms that prevail; female-headed households and those with members that have underlying health issues are most affected.

The IRCS requested surge support from the IFRC to understand the drought, the accompanying multi-hazards, and the humanitarian impacts this was having. This preliminary assessment, which was conducted through field visits to remote communities and discussions with key provincial and capital informants, can be summarised as follows:

1. Impacts on accessibility, availability, quality, use and awareness of goods and services

- a. Lack of water for drinking and hygiene, causing health issues.
- b. Lack of water for agriculture and animal husbandry, by far the largest sectors providing livelihoods, and where mostly borderlands are affected.
- c. Outward migration caused by the lack of jobs also has a disrupting effect on the receiving urban localities, with an increasing deterioration of social services and protection. The loss of regular livelihoods has had a huge impact on the coping mechanism of communities.

- d. Markets in all of the provinces are functioning with food and essential items, including the availability of medicines. However, purchasing power remains weak due to the lack of jobs and significant unemployment rate.
- e. Deteriorating urban settlement/crisis with people on the move from rural settings.

2. Impacts on physical and mental well-being

- a. High mental health toll, with increased frustration, depression, anxiety, and anger expressed by communities.
- b. Physical effects include respiratory, eye, and skin diseases. Diarrhoea and stomach problems due to contaminated drinking water.
- c. The deterioration in living standards is affecting people's health.

3. Risks and vulnerabilities

- a. Increased vulnerability to other hazards, such as flooding and earthquakes, due to decreased soil moisture. As the topsoil and vegetation, including forests and wilderness wither, the rains that do come cause flood damage.
- b. Further migration to provincial urban centres, metropolitan mega-cities or even further afield.
- c. The influx of Afghan refugees/migrants has the potential to bring COVID-19 variants, hence the need for strong coordination and management with public authorities and relevant stakeholders.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

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.

The IRCS has been addressing the humanitarian impact of the drought over the last ten years. A national IRCS initiative, **Water Donation**, began four years ago to reach the most vulnerable people in remote areas. The IRCS has nationwide coverage through its 500 branches in all 31 provincial branches and a national network of over two million volunteers. The Red Crescent Houses initiative consists of posts located throughout the country that serve as community centres for a variety of relevant activities, while also providing response and relief when a crisis strikes, while the presence of staff and volunteers on the local level allows the IRCS to proactively engage with communities. IRCS volunteers provide guidance and support to people affected by the drought, such as free home visits by volunteer physicians, distribution of livelihood packages, cash and in-kind donations. Such unparalleled access to the affected area, combined with high levels of acceptance from the local communities, is the unique value that the IRCS brings to the drought operation.

1.2 Capacity and response at the national level

The Ministry of Energy has the primary responsibility for water supply for a full range of purposes ranging from drinking to hydroelectric power generation. Water supply sustainability, storage capacity expansion, demand management, urban water waste reduction, water purification, and facility resilience are among the actions taken by the government to control the drought. The government has implemented a plan to transport water from the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf to the southern provinces, including Yazd, Kerman, and Hormozgan.

The Welfare Organisation and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee provide a variety of services, including social health and better living conditions in communities. Efforts are also being made in commercial aspects to ensure that deprived rural areas can connect to markets via digitalization and extension services. UN agencies are further complementing economic diversification, attempting to reduce dependence on water-intensive activities, such as agriculture.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

IFRC Membership

The IFRC has had a presence in Iran since 1991, providing technical support in capacity-building initiatives and supporting the IRCS in disaster management, shelter, disaster law, youth development, and volunteering as well as in health. While the operation was remotely managed through the liaison office in Beirut from 2011, the IFRC reopened its office in Tehran in 2021, given the many challenges the country was facing and its strategic importance within the MENA region. With this came an increased presence with an experienced head of delegation charged with re-establishing a functioning, full complementing IFRC office equipped to support the IRCS. One of the core positions will be a humanitarian diplomacy officer and a Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) officer, both highly relevant in rolling out this operational strategy while supporting partners – and utilizing the technical expertise of the regional office in Beirut.

There are currently no Participating National Societies (PNS) in the country; however, the IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with the German Red Cross (focused currently on projects in search and rescue sniffer dog action, and peer-to-peer exchange), though several other PNS have expressed an interest in engaging in the drought situation.

ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran engaged in a number of humanitarian activities with the IRCS and cooperates on a range of disaster management initiatives and regional fora. In the border regions, there is the potential to support the IRCS drought operations, primarily through health support to migrants.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

Within the UN system, UNDP, UNICEF, and WFP – all of which are already key IRCS partners in emergency response, such as the 2019 floods – are engaged with the respective ministries and conduct tangible projects. Water is a top agenda item for the UN Sustainable Development Goals five-year cooperation effort, which is a good starting point that connects to the drought approach of the IRCS. UNDP is currently developing a nature-based solutions-green economy approach, in line with the government's 'resilient economy' policy, which emphasizes the soft interventions required to supplement infrastructure, resource management, such as water management, and then the socio-economic benefits.

The resident coordinator leads the UN country team with a more inclusive approach to addressing the systemic challenges and hazards facing the country, well exemplified by the water scarcity, which requires both humanitarian and sustainable actions.

Parts of the Emergency Appeal will focus on emergency relief while also collaborating with other organizations on more sustainable approaches to addressing the root cause of the problems.

Gaps in the affected areas

The immediate need is for water, which was identified during the needs assessment that resulted in the initial DREF allocation for the four provinces.¹ This remains a need and the IRCS will continue its four-year water donation project, which is mainly a response/early recovery project that provides safe drinking water to communities via bottled water, trucking, or small repairs of water supply networks. Every year, these activities – which mainly focus on the provision of water, are done using the own resources of the IRCS. Therefore, the IFRC is supporting this initiative through a more multi-sector approach that goes beyond only providing water. The IFRC's assistance through this Emergency Appeal is to address community-based workable actions and to better connect stakeholders at a sustainable level.

Another need is to address the vulnerabilities and coping mechanisms of people in various localities of the most affected provinces. According to initial assessments, women, children, and the elderly are the most negatively impacted by health-related issues, including mental health, caused by a lack of income in the household and increased dust in the air. People with underlying disabilities are especially vulnerable, and it is primarily men who are forced to migrate to urban centres in search of work that will sustain their families.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

The starkest constraint being faced are the sanctions that have been imposed on Iran for over 42 years. Getting funds for humanitarian action into the country is proving difficult. On a positive note, bank channels have been identified and are being tested to allow in tranches of funds; while other humanitarian actors sometimes manage to bring funds into the country.

Not only cash is affected; the maintenance of vehicles, notably spare parts that are unavailable as official channels are blocked, puts the IRCS at a difficult disadvantage given the exorbitantly expensive prices.

The Federation is, therefore, looking to match its support for the IRCS with its ambition, currently north of CHF 9 million, which is being appealed or committed through DREF and other mechanisms.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach**, based on the response priorities of the Operating National Society and in consultation with all Federation members expressing interest in the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities, including activities funded domestically, and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the Federation, to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for this emergency appeal comprises all support and funding to be channelled to the Operating National Society in the response to the emergency event. This includes the operating National Society's domestic fundraising ask and the fundraising ask of the IFRC secretariat. The operational strategy is designed to be informed by ongoing needs assessments crafted to be appropriate in this context and provide meaningful, nuanced data on how the communities are affected, recognizing that the fledgling IFRC presence in the country will be engaging with the PNS and humanitarian partners Iran as they step up their programmes addressing water scarcity.

The IFRC re-established its office in Tehran to provide membership services to the Operating National Society and support the coordination architecture to the PNS which joined the operational strategy articulated here. Cultivating relationships with prospective partners and donors is recognized as not being an overnight endeavour, taking time to bear fruit. Therefore, the IRCS and IFRC are putting thought into how a phased approach to the implementation of this Operational Strategy can keep pace with the funding that has started

¹ Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman and Hormozgan.

and will continue throughout this operation. This means the IRCS and its provincial directors will optimally utilize the resources that become available in a manner that addresses the urgent needs in all seven provinces, and also takes an area-based approach to the targeted regions of Sistan-Baluchestan and Kerman provinces (using clear, defined criteria for selection) to pilot a systemic programme with government ministries and partners, humanitarian and otherwise.

The ongoing engagement with the members of this forum will be key, and a bold demonstration of the humanitarian advocacy that the IRCS can achieve, supported by the IFRC. Visibility of the IRCS amongst international stakeholders will be keenly maintained, in recognition of the key, unique role it plays in access to affected communities and maintaining their, and the authorities' trust.

With the desired outcome of the PNS, providing their expertise and resources to this appeal, the current operational strategy will transition into a Federation-wide response plan based on the priorities identified by the Operating National Society, with Federation-wide coordinated reporting mechanisms.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

To address the **humanitarian needs** of the population affected by the drought, and accompanying hazards, by providing and promoting access to safe water and hygiene, providing health care, and enabling access to household needs through cash transfers. Equally, this Emergency Appeal will protect and support the recovery of livelihoods and reinforce the disaster response expertise of the IRCS and management of its country-wide network of volunteers.

The operational strategy is mindful of the challenges due to the sanctions placed on Iran and will ensure that prospective donors and partners are kept apprised of the situation as it affects the IFRC's capacity to bring resources into the country. Building trust with partners is a core element of this operational strategy with ongoing needs assessments to be conducted by the IRCS, supported by methodologies developed by the IFRC and Movement partners, ensuring an appropriate response to the protracted multi-hazard crises, including droughts.

The outcomes articulated by the Emergency Appeal and this operational strategy are closely linked to the national long-term operational plan of the IRCS, ensuring an approach and response that is systemic and consistent. The economic and geopolitical situation is highly unpredictable, while the outlook is largely negative given the sanctions hurting the economy – and affecting the functioning of the country and its Red Crescent Society. Therefore, the time-critical activities laid out in this operational strategy must be prioritized. Monitoring the context and outcomes of this plan is essential so that scenarios are properly analyzed, leading to the relevant implementation of activities with maximum positive impacts on the people affected.

Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in operations

A prolonged drought is not only a climate issue, but also connected to the other humanitarian challenges mentioned earlier. It initially occurs through a slow onset but quickly becomes high risk resulting in humanitarian emergencies – as continually seen in the affected localities. Moreover, water scarcity increases the risk of susceptibility to water and hygiene-borne diseases like cholera, acute watery diarrhoea, and scabies, among others.

Security

The border areas with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq are sensitive not only due to COVID but also given security concerns. Hence, IFRC Security rules and protocols are being updated. All field visits have a set prerequisite approval system in which the IRCS plays an important role. Field structures of the IRCS are well connected and accepted by all law enforcement agencies, and public authorities at bordering areas or zero border points. The

IFRC goes under the IRCS umbrella in joint missions in the field. Rules must be followed by all international humanitarian agencies in obtaining security clearances from national stakeholders. This is managed by the IRCS in facilitating IFRC visits.

There are set logistics protocols in terms of airlines, road travel, routes, and field communications when IFRC staff visits these areas. The IRCS has guesthouses near provincial headquarters in the field, for use mostly by IFRC staff, or approved hotels that are in close proximity to IRCS offices. IFRC staff are not allowed within a 40km radius of borders.

In four bordering targeted provinces (Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Khuzestan), the IRCS has a strong presence, with infrastructure, logistics, and community-based networked service delivery structures (Hilal Houses, relief bases, health service points, vaccination centres, COVID screening border points, youth/volunteer actions, provincial and field branches, EOCs). Hence, all these humanitarian service structures are the main leads in maintaining IRCS access and acceptance in these areas as the largest and only local humanitarian service providing actor in Iran.

The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout the operation. Area-specific security risk assessments will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC staff must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted:

This Emergency Appeal targets 916,200 people, the most vulnerable in the seven provinces² affected by the drought.

2. Considerations for protection, gender and inclusion, community engagement and accountability

The IRCS will be supported to ensure the integration of IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergencies within their response and Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for community engagement and accountability (CEA). IFRC technical teams will support the technical review and quality assurance of emergency operations of the IRCS, ensuring that their approach incorporates dignity, access, participation, and safety in all IFRC supported interventions and that the diverse insights of community members support the planning and adaptations of the operation, together with the inclusion and contributions of marginalized members and groups.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 Livelihoods	Female > 18: 35,868	Female < 18: 15,372	CHF 1.5 million
	Male > 18: 15,372	Male < 18: 6,588	Total target: 73,200 people (18,300 households)

² South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi

Objective:	Communities in the crisis-affected areas restore, reform and strengthen their livelihoods.
Priority Actions:	<p>Conduct food package distribution to households to support the affected communities in the targeted provinces.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform a Rapid Assessment and survey in the market to analyze the needs. 2. Disburse one month of food rations to 18,300 households over an initial six-month cycle. 3. Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring. <p>Strengthen livelihoods through preparedness and anticipatory actions as part of livelihood support activities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage women and men, girls and boys, and community leaders on the purpose, risks and mitigation strategies of cash assistance. 2. Train communities in crisis-affected areas to adopt climate risk-informed, environmentally responsible values and practices. 3. Promote partnerships with other actors to support the development capacities of communities in a variety of livelihoods so they become self-reliant and achieve sustainability. 4. Conduct, with the expertise of partners, training in entrepreneurial skills, financial literacy, and management.

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 21,560	Female < 18: 9,240	CHF 1.2 million
	Male > 18: 9,240	Male < 18: 3,960	Total target: 44,000 people (11,000 households)

Objective:	Households are provided with multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.
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Priority Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess, verify, register and orientate the most vulnerable households, as per the IRCS criteria based on the Welfare Organisation data. 2. Conduct market assessments in the localities of the seven provinces targeted or cash distributions. 3. Mobilise the financial service provider and disburse unconditional and or multipurpose cash to 11,000 households amounting to CHF 100 per household based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket. 4. Identify and train volunteers in the targeted regions of the provinces. 5. Conduct post distribution monitoring, including markets and reconciliation of cash grants coordinated with the regular payments. This will include resourcing IM/data management capacity (see the National Society development section).
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 Health & Care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 30,000	Female < 18: 50,000	CHF 1 million
	Male > 18: 20,000	Male < 18: 50,000	Total target: 150,000 people (37,500 households)

Objective:

The immediate risks to the health of the affected population are reduced and psychosocial impacts are lowered.

Priority Actions:**Mental health and psychosocial support**

1. Train male and female volunteers in psychosocial support (PSS) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities and community engagement so they can form teams to visit communities.
2. Identify, through the mobile health teams and community engagement, the priority populations within communities for PSS.
3. Deploy the Youth Organisation PSS teams (SAHAB and SAHAR teams) to the affected areas to provide PSS and MHPSS services in communities.

Community health

1. Train volunteers in conducting hygiene promotion activities and community engagement.
2. Conduct regular hygiene promotion sessions and health education through community communications.
3. Support the training and rollout of the community-based health surveillance activities.
4. The provincial branches of the IRCS update their database on the severest chronic patients, which are then referred to the Ministry of Health.
5. Distribute dignity kits to 50,000 women.

Medical Services

1. Deploy mobile health teams to provide vulnerable people with essential medical supplies for ailments aggravated by the dry, dust-carrying air.
2. The IRCS develops its emergency response capacity for the rapid prevention and control of outbreaks, through the enhancement of the IFRC's Emergency Response Unit (ERU).
3. Vaccinate refugees and migrants in the targeted provinces of Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Hormozgan which border Afghanistan. The IRCS is assigned a role by the Ministry of Health to do passenger COVID screening at all borders (land, air, sea), in addition to vaccinating refugees, migrants, and travellers.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18: 60.925	Female < 18: 40.617	CHF 1.8 million
Male > 18: 59.075	Male < 18: 39.383	

200,000 people (50,000 households)

Objective:

Sustainable reduction in water-related risks in the targeted communities.

Priority Actions:

1. Conduct a water management training for volunteers and staff, and refresher training on participatory hygiene.
2. Increase the vigilance on water quality and conduct purification where required.
3. Raise public awareness on the impacts of climate changes on people's lives and how to properly cope with water shortages.
4. Carry out health and hygiene promotion campaigns.
5. Procure and deliver tanks and jerry cans to households for safe, hygienic water storage.
6. Repair water resources such as quants, canals, water pipelines, among others.

7. Work with water experts from ministries and education establishments in Tehran and the provinces on systemic, sustainable water management approaches for drought-affected communities.
8. Support ministries and agencies in assessing and rehabilitating existing water sources and methods for their utilization.
9. Undertake water trucking activities to most affected districts together with water conservation campaigns.
10. Distribute hygiene kits to most-affected people in the targeted communities.

	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female > 18: 1,000	Female < 18: 2,000	CHF 100,000
		Male > 18: 1,000	Male < 18: 1,000	6,000 people (1,500 households)
Objective:		Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups.		
Priority Actions:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold awareness sessions on gender equality including women, girls, men and boys. 2. Follow the PGI minimum standards in all of the needs assessment tools and monitoring systems of the IRCS. 				

	Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery	Female > 18: 65,000	Female < 18: 95,000	CHF 1.6 million
		Male > 18: 65,000	Male < 18: 95,000	320,000 people (80,000 households)
Objective:		Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for, and able to respond to crises.		
Priority Actions:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify potential disaster risk reduction measures in the target communities based on the hazards they face. 2. Conduct awareness-raising sessions on preventable disaster risks in the target communities. 3. Train communities in addressing water scarcity so they improve their safe water management, resilience, conservation, and recycling. 4. Facilitate the training of community members, with experts in their fields, to develop water conservation techniques that support more relevant livelihoods, including efficient irrigation systems for households or community gardens. 5. IRCS Hilal Houses support communities in times of droughts, floods, EQ, and with income generation strategies and response tools. 6. Train community resilience members to strengthen early warning mechanisms to anticipate potential drought impacts so they are effective first responders. 				

	Environmental Sustainability	Female > 18: 18,000	Female < 18: 18,000	CHF 100,000
		Male > 18: 18,000	Male < 18: 18,000	72,000 people

Objective:	Decrease the vulnerability of communities by increasing environmental sustainability
Priority Actions:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Red Crescent Volunteers plant trees focusing on reducing the humanitarian consequences of environmental degradation and climate change. 2. Cooperate with other partners including the Iranian Environment Department by providing key examples from national government discussions for local community action. 3. Utilise toolkits to reduce vulnerability to climate change in communities. 4. Train local communities on climate smart DRR and early warning systems for drought resilience. 5. Organise training and orientation sessions for school students at local communities in close cooperation with the Iranian Ministry of Education. 6. Clean the environment with the help of volunteers and local communities. 7. Train the IRCS in the environmental screening of longer-term recoveries or camp-based projects using a specific tool (NEAT) as part of the multi-hazard needs assessment. 8. Conduct awareness-raising activities on positive environmental behaviours in communities to start initiatives to protect the environment. 	

Enabling approaches

	National Society Strengthening			CHF 1 million
Objective:		The IRCS has the culture and capacity to ensure the necessary legal, ethical, HR, and programme oversight with financial systems and competencies in place.		
Priority Actions:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the IRCS disaster preparedness stock at a level in each province that allows an effective and efficient response to hazards. 2. Simulation theme park in Tehran for all walks of life, especially youth and volunteers who can learn through practical scenarios of road accident, floods, EQ, cyclones, population movements, etc. These rides in the amusement park will also use Virtual Reality (VR) technology. 3. Engage with academic institutions and universities to involve innovative volunteer engineers from mainly engineering universities in Iran in the implementation process. 4. Visit to the simulation theme park as part of preparedness training for a more effective response. This theme park can host regional visitors wishing to come and learn. 5. Develop response and contingency plans relevant to the multi-hazard nature Iran faces beyond sudden onset, such as droughts. 6. Build a PMER culture and structure at headquarters, the provincial level, and selected branches, ensuring adequate systems for different types of needs assessments, data collection, monitoring and evaluation of the development of the programme. 7. Empower the established PMER department to set up a monitoring, evaluation, and reporting system that is inclusive of volunteers, provincial branch managing directors, and unit heads. 8. Improve financial management, primarily accountability, integrity, and transparency at headquarters and branches in the targeted provinces. 9. Approve an environmental responsibility policy that includes guidelines for appropriate means of travel for staff and volunteers, which will strengthen the credibility of the IRCS as an actor addressing climate change. 				

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female > 18: 12,150	Female < 18: 14,850	CHF 200,000
	Male > 18: 5,850	Male < 18: 7,150	40,000 people (10,000 households)
Objective:	Communities guide the drought-response programme through early, anticipatory engagement by the IRCS and act on their feedback so that safer, resilient practices are adopted.		
Priority Actions:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a tailor-made approach and tools for needs assessments that are relevant to a multi-hazard protracted crisis, based on the expertise and practice of the IRCS in sudden onset disasters and IFRC standards. 2. Adapt the IRCS approach and methodology for community engagement so that the accountability component is enhanced with robust feedback together with complaints mechanisms in place. 3. Engage good community practices through IRCS Hilal Houses acting as a liaison between the National Society and host communities. 			

 Coordination and Partnerships			CHF 200,000
Objective:	IRCS is a proactive, influential, principled partner at multi-level fora, respected for its evidence-based, community-engaged approach.		
Priority Actions:			
Engagement with external partners			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the relations and interactions of the IRCS with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and relevant inter-agency working group forums. 2. Help the IRCS assume a relevant advocacy role as an agency that provides first-hand community-based information to leverage its capacity to advocate for people in need. 3. Strengthen and improve data collection, storage, analysis and visualization. 4. Enhance partnerships with local and international NGOs to build capacities that properly respond to any probable disaster within a unified loop. 			
Movement Cooperation			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attract and grow the PNS interest in Iran, based on a clear understanding of the nature of the droughts. 2. Identify where the ICRC-IFRC mandates facilitate support for the IRCS and ensure complementarity. 3. Commit to supporting sister National Societies, primarily those in the region that share a linguistic heritage and face similar drought-caused challenges to their populations by sharing approaches, tailor-developed tools (in needs assessment), and lessons learned. 			

 IFRC Secretariat Services			CHF 300,000

Objective:

IFRC is supported in-country, in the region, and globally as a relevant, valued actor in the national drought response, facilitating and sharing the approaches being taken for the benefit of the Federation.

Priority Actions:

1. Recruit an experienced programme coordinator/DRM delegate + Finance Admin Delegate to manage the appeal and guide the delivery of the operational strategy in a phased manner. Given the complexity in the current context to bring in international staff for the long-term, a senior national position with some backup surge support will be the initial approach.
2. Facilitate contacts and relations between Federation centres of excellence, such as the Climate Change centre hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross.
3. Recruit a local PMER with the required experience in community engagement programmes and facilitation.
4. Ensure that IFRC staff are mobile and can access hard-to-reach locations.
5. Support the setup and operations of both the IFRC office and IRCS international department so they properly support IRCS operations.
6. Facilitate and support the mission deployment of IFRC regional office expertise and resources.
7. Support the IRCS on the development of relevant communications content for fundraising, awareness-raising as well as advocacy, and humanitarian diplomacy efforts.

Risk management

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating steps
1- IRCS/IFRC personnel contracting COVID-19 through community-based activities in the response.	4	3	The IRCS vaccinated all staff and relief workers involved in the operation to date. Ensure booster rollout is done. Strict adherence to IRCS COVID-19 awareness protocols. IRCS staff/volunteers maintain risk awareness using existing COVID-19 protections through audio/visual learning platforms.
2-Access to drought-affected locations is disrupted by weather conditions or security.	2	2	The IRCS has rigorous security protocols. Reliance upon local volunteers for the activities due to their acceptance by communities. Use of 4x4 vehicles. Mapping alternative routes and transportation.
3-Negative media coverage of the handling of the drought response operation.	2	3	Proactive PR from the IRCS and IFRC in-country and regional offices on the effective community engagement and reporting on achievements in the response.
4-Convolutd bureaucracy by the IRCS/MoFA deters and hampers the partner's willingness to engage.	2	2	As above

5 -Increased pressure on local markets due to availability or rising demand.	4	3	As above
6 -Insufficient dedicated expertise and support in running complex operations at the IRCS.	3	3	IFRC Regional Office for MENA steps up with active engagement, including regular missions at the leadership and technical levels.
7 -Flooding, seismic activity, or another disaster hits the drought-affected parts of the country.	4	4	Preparedness and crisis management efforts of the IRCS to be strengthened. Flood and earthquake simulation exercises are organized in drought-affected regions.

Quality and accountability

The IRCS, with the support of the IFRC country delegation and regional office, will lead the reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of this operation. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC's 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.

IFRC products, such as operations updates and information management products, like the [IFRC Go page for Iran Droughts 2022](#), will serve as general reports for donors and other audiences, whereas pledge-based reports will serve as specific donor reports. The Implementation Plan will guide IFRC M&E, with an emphasis on timely information to support decision-making and key indicators.

Contact information

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

In the Iranian Red Crescent Society

- **Under Secretary General:** Mansooreh Bagheri; email: intdep@rcs.ir
- **Operational coordination:** Hasan Esfandiari; 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 Mobilisation 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 Mobilisation Table Support:

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

For planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting inquiries

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

Reference



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