

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

IRAN: DOROUD EARTHQUAKE

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

In Brief

This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to achieve the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Summary

The search and rescue operation of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is more or less over and it is busy with distributing emergency relief items to the affected people. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) delegation in Tehran and the Middle East and North Africa department, supported by the Operations Support Department, are providing coordination of information. Basic needs of the affected people, such as tents, blankets, kitchen sets and food have been met by the pre-positioned disaster preparedness items of the IRCS. Nevertheless, it is short of group tents which can be used as IRCS offices or warehouses in the field. Moreover, the replenishment of distributed tents is urgent as many regions in the country are disaster-prone.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation



The earthquakes caused extensive damage. People preferred to stay outside or in tents, as they were afraid more shakes were coming.

Most people in the quake-affected cities and villages of Lorestan spent the night outside, staying in tents, parks, public places or inside their vehicles as they feared there would be more shakes to come. Naturally there is a high demand for tents as people with or without safe homes prefer to stay in tents. This creates some tension and confusion in the distribution effort.

Since the earthquakes occurred on Thursday and Friday, 71 aftershocks have been recorded throughout the Lorestan Province. At 12:01 on 1 April another quake measuring 4.3 Richter scale hit the Borujerd area.

According to the information provided by the Natural Disasters Headquarters of Lorestan Province and the IRCS, the earthquakes in Lorestan have left 70 people dead, 1,264 injured and 15,000 homeless. Brick houses were reduced to piles of rubble amid twisted steel. The total number of quake victims in various towns, townships and villages of the province is 250,000. A total of 330 villages were levelled, roughly between 30 to 100 percent, with 70 villages completely destroyed. Historical and ancient locations of the province have been considerably damaged.

The number of deaths and affected people is not as high compared with similar earthquakes that happened in the country. This is because most residents in the province were alarmed by a weaker earthquake a few hours before the main one and spent the night outdoors. The provincial governor's office dispatched messengers to villages to warn residents on loudspeakers not to spend the night inside their homes. The lesson was learned from the devastating earthquake in the southeastern city of Bam in 2003 that killed 31,000 people as they slept.

The Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Friday instructed the interior minister to mobilize all existing facilities and capabilities to rush aid to the quake-stricken civilians in Lorestan Province.

Immediate aid assistance has come from neighbouring provinces. Rescue teams along with helicopters, ambulances and sniffer dogs were sent to the region immediately. Heavy machinery was deployed to move the rubble in search of survivors. Many of the injured were taken to hospitals in neighboring provinces. According to the Ministry of Health, the medicare status and presence of doctors treating the injured quake victims is quite satisfactory in Lorestan Province. The medicare teams, comprised of doctors, physicians and specialists in various medical fields, particularly orthopaedists, have been dispatched to Lorestan Province from the assisting provinces.

The need for blood transfusion for injured people has been met with the support of neighbouring provinces. With the help of military forces and governmental organizations, removing debris started as of Saturday morning.

The current challenges are getting access to all affected areas and providing temporary shelter, drinking water, health services and environmental health. At present relief aid is given to 90 per cent of the affected areas while the remaining 10 per cent are still inaccessible because roads were severely damaged or blocked. Bottled drinking water is being distributed through various channels.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

With its national mandate for emergency relief, the IRCS has taken lead in the relief operation in Lorestan.

Immediately following the earthquakes, the IRCS dispatched 100 relief teams and eight rescue teams with 17 sniffer dogs to the affected areas. A total of 922 relief workers are working in the field with the support of three helicopters, 49 ambulances, 53 heavy vehicles, 68 light vehicles, one crane, three life detectors and 11 rescue sets. Three PSP teams have arrived in the field from neighbouring provinces and began providing psychological support to traumatized people.

By Saturday morning the search and rescue operation was more or less over and the IRCS is now focusing on emergency shelter provision to affected people. It has distributed key emergency relief items to the quake victims.

Table No. 1 List of relief items distributed so far by the IRCS

No	Description of items	Unit	Quantity
1	Lanterns	Piece	100
2	Family tents	Piece	11,359
3	Moquettes	Piece	2,767
4	Kitchen sets	Set	1,400
5	Blankets	Piece	17,265
6	Stoves	Piece	1,420
7	Mineral water	Bottle	31,600
8	Canned food	Can	63,000
9	Hygiene sets	Set	200

More relief items are on the way, including tents, moquettes, blankets, canned food, bottled water, heaters, lanterns, kitchen sets, hygiene sets, etc.

The IRCS says it can meet the basic needs of the affected people with its own disaster preparedness items pre-positioned in Tehran and other provinces and that it does not call for an international appeal. However, it welcomes voluntary contributions or donations which can help the National Society immediately send 400 groups tents to the affected areas. Group tents are larger than standard family tents so can used as IRCS offices or warehouses in the field. The IRCS would also accept contributions to replenish the family tents which have been distributed.

The Federation's Iran Delegation is closely monitoring the situation and is on standby to provide any assistance requested by the IRCS.



Iran: Earthquake



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.

Map data sources: ESRI