

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



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: EARTHQUAKE

29 December, 2003

**Preliminary Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update no. 2**

**Preliminary Appeal launched on 26 December 2003 for CHF 15,409,300 (USD 12,290,337 or EUR 9,886,505) for 6 months for 200,000 beneficiaries.**

**Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A**

**Period covered: 27 to 29 December, 2003**

*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 180 countries.*

*For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

**Appeal coverage:** donors have responded to this disaster with indications of generous and timely support; an updated list of contributions for this appeal is attached, and is also available on the Federation's website; please note that due to the holiday season staffing at the Geneva Secretariat is limited, and the list of contributions will be fully updated the first week of January.

**Outstanding needs:** given the scale of the needs, and size and scope of the operation, the Federation encourages donors to continue to pledge assistance to meet this preliminary appeal budget, and the revised appeal anticipated shortly (first week of January, 2004).

**Operational Summary:** while the search and rescue phase of the operation is winding down, two persons were found alive in the rubble in Bam today, and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) will continue the search activity for two more days in hopes of identifying and assisting any more survivors. The IRCS, together with the Government, continues to lead and manage the operation, and the Federation continues to emphasize the need to direct all assistance activities through, and coordinate with, the national society. The IRCS's tremendous work and initial response to this disaster has been vital – and commended by the UN. The IRCS has deployed over 9,000 staff, with some 7,000 relief workers (including medical) and over 2,000 volunteers.

The Federation's five-person Field Assessment Coordination Team, or FACT (consisting of a team leader/(head of the Norwegian Red Cross international department, an information delegate, a reporting delegate, a medium to long-term rehabilitation expert, and a disaster management coordinator) has arrived in the affected area with telecommunications equipment and is transmitting key operational information. The most needed items still include cash, and family tents; plastic sheets/tarpaulin; blankets; kitchen sets; water purification tablets; generators; heaters (kerosene); and kerosene. The Federation encourages donors to provide unearmarked contributions to allow an immediate, flexible and effective response to this earthquake, and the rehabilitation requirements to follow.

## **Background**

Efforts continue to more accurately assess the destruction caused by the major earthquake (registering 6.7 on the Richter Scale), which occurred on the morning of 26 December 2003 at 05:28 (local time) in Iran's Kerman Province. The earthquake was centered on Bam, an old historical city with low houses and buildings (one to two stories in height). The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) formally requested international assistance, and the Federation responded by launching a preliminary Appeal (no. 25/03) on 26 December 2003 to provide immediate relief and basic assistance to the intended 200,000 beneficiaries. Relief teams are now arriving on site to deliver and distribute assistance, and assess the situation to better specify the needs, including medium to longer-term rehabilitation requirements.

## **Operational developments**

Various sources (UN, IRCS, and Government) estimate the death toll from the quake at over 20,000 (though this might still increase), with over 30,000 injured, and over 70,000 homeless. Some 60-70% of the houses or buildings in Bam have been destroyed. The situation is still fluid, and it remains difficult to specify the exact total of dead, injured, and homeless. Reports of the situation in outlying areas indicate a much reduced level of destruction, and it now appears certain that Bam was the epicenter of the quake. Some water and electricity services have been restored in Bam.

The search and rescue phase of the operation is winding down, though the rescue of two survivors today (29 December) has re-energized efforts and the IRCS will apparently maintain search efforts for two more days. Meanwhile, reports from the field continue to indicate extreme hardship for the survivors, with cold temperatures particularly at night, and it is therefore vital to expedite the distribution of relief items now arriving at the Kerman and Bam airports. While relief flights are being given priority clearance by the Government, and the international airport in Kerman is being used for this purpose, reports indicate that over 500 internal flights (transporting the injured and relief items) have stretched the capacity of the two airports in the area. There is an urgent need to move relief items by truck, as well as for warehouses for relief item storage before distribution.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

### **Health**

The IRCS has deployed 6 mobile hospitals, supported by 32 doctors, 182 nurses, and 40 ambulances, and has treated and/or hospitalized some 1,200 injured persons. The German, Finish, and Norwegian field hospital is due to arrive imminently (possibly tomorrow, 30 December) and will be a vital source of medical care once the two day set-up is complete. This field hospital is accompanied by an Austrian Red Cross specialized water ERU which provides specially filtered water for hospitals and other medical uses.

### **Relief distributions: basic non-food and foots items**

#### **Objective: immediate distribution of relief items**

In response to the critical needs of survivors, the IRCS has mobilized, dispatched to the area, and/or is in the process of distributing the following (as of 29 December) to some 40,000 beneficiaries:

- 90,000 tents;
- 153,000 blankets;
- 56,000 pieces of clothing;
- 30,000 floor mats;
- over 7,000 bottles of mineral water;
- 103,000 boxes of washing detergent;
- 6,900 boxes of hygiene items.

**(for details or mobilization tables on these relief items please refer to the Federation's Disaster Management Information System – or DMIS).**

### **Federation Coordination; FACT, and ERU deployment**

The Federation's Iran earthquake task force is meeting on a daily basis in Geneva and is in constant contact with the field-based operation. A number of Federation staff have been recalled from leave to provide vital support to this operation. The Federation briefed and updated the donor community today (29 December) in Geneva on the

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situation and operational progress, and is liaising closely with UNDAC. Some 30 countries have provided search teams or assistance.

The following summarizes specific Red Cross and Red Crescent actions either taken or underway (non-exhaustive):

- Japanese Red Cross medical ERU: arrived and is being deployed.
- a number of national societies from the region have responded with generous support to Iran.
- the Turkish Red Crescent Society has also organized relief flights to Iran with key relief items, and is transporting (via 6 trucks) 400 tents, 7,500 blankets, 3,000 kitchen sets, 14 portable generators, 2,000 body bags, 2 communications vehicles (SAT phones and internet facilities), one MT of medical items, and 25 standard food rations for 800 families.
- Egypt: CHF 200,000 provided; 100, large tents, 4,000 blankets, 150 intravenous solution units transported;
- the Federation is allocating the following from its regional stock: 4,000 tents; 7,992 stoves; 7,992 heaters; 8,000 lamps; 37,160 blankets; 8,000 kitchen sets; 24,000 towels; 1 rubble hall.
- Saudi Arabia: in a continuous airlift operation, five C-130 aircraft reached Kerman airport with tents, blankets, mattresses, plastic sheeting, medical relief items, IV fluids, blood units, and a team of doctors and paramedics.
- Syria: blankets and clothing.
- Kuwait: 4 planeloads, 22 tons of 594 food parcels, blankets.
- Qatar: one info delegate, 8,000 kerosene heaters.
- United Arab Emirates: plane planned for 30 December, carrying 250 tents, 250 food kits, 2,000 blankets, 50 First aid kits, 3,300 IV solution units, 4,200 paediatric nutrition solutions.

**(for details or mobilization tables on these relief items please refer to the Federation's Disaster Management Information System – or DMIS).**

### **Logistics**

The joint British and Danish logistics ERU has arrived and will be set up at the Kerman international and Bam airports to assist the IRCS with managing the flow of humanitarian goods through the airports. A site has been identified for the joint Federation and IRCS compound which will serve as the operational base and housing facility for Federation and IRCS relief staff. Ericsson, in coordination with Turkcell and the Government of Turkey, is assisting the Federation and the IRCS with field-based communications in the form of emergency GSM phones/system. DHL has provided the Federation with free airlift capacity to the area.

### **Rehabilitation and reconstruction**

The Iranian authorities have begun the process of identifying locations for proposed rehabilitation activities. As agreement is reached on the various components of the reconstruction and rehabilitation plans, the Federation will formulate and issue its revised appeal -- anticipated during the first week of January, 2004. A specialist has been assigned to the FACT team for this purpose.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public Information**

The Federation has conducted hundreds of interviews with newspapers and journalists, and other media sources. The arrival of English-speaking media and information delegates is facilitating the process of disseminating key information and effectively capturing the scope of the relief and assistance effort, thereby raising the profile of the operation with donors and the external audience.

### **For further details please contact:**

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

# Iran - Earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 25/2003

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

29.12.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				15'409'300	TOTAL COVERAGE 17.1%	
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	99'500	27.12.03	
ECHO (01001)		622'129	EUR	963'367	28.12.03	
HELLENIC - RC		20'000	EUR	30'970	29.12.03	TO PURCHASE 5'900 BLANKETS
JAPANESE - RC		249'543	USD	324'031	27.12.03	
LIBYAN - RC				25'000	27.12.03	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	23'228	29.12.03	
SINGAPORE - RC				30'000	29.12.03	TO PURCHASE 100 TENTS
SLOVAK - RC		50'000	SKK	1'910	29.12.03	
DANISH RED CROSS		199'023	CHF	199'023	29.12.2003	
OPEC		750'000	USD	900'000	29.12.2003	
DANISH GOVT.		38'757	CHF	38'757	29.12.2003	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'635'786	CHF	17.1%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	