

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

1 JANUARY, 2004

Preliminary Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update no. 3

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: 29 to 31 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



In Brief

Appeal coverage: approximately 43.3%; See the attached contributions list for details (note: this list is provisional and will be checked/verified and confirmed in the course of next week).

Outstanding needs: CHF 8,733,428

Operational Summary: The earthquake measuring 6.3¹ on the Richter Scale (26 December 2003) destroyed the ancient Iranian city of Bam, and its surroundings. Five days after the event, search and rescue efforts have come to an end with almost no hope of finding survivors.

¹ The magnitude of the earthquake varies between 6.3 on the Richter scale as registered by the seismological observatories in France and in the USA and 6.7 registered by the institute in Tehran.

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) continues to effectively lead the operation, managing (along with the Government) an impressive relief effort with more than 1,700 relief workers currently deployed in the area. Along with the ongoing distributions of non-food supplies (primarily tents and blankets), the national society established 14 operational sub-bases in all 27 branches in the affected area and started (as of 31 December) to map needs, register beneficiaries, and issue distribution cards in order to implement a systematic distributions process.

The affected population is living and sleeping outdoors and exposure to harsh conditions and freezing temperatures is a major concern. The immediate distribution of basic relief items such as tents, blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets and kerosene stoves are therefore critical. Food is also needed as shortages are being increasingly reported through the assessments. Emergency Response Units (ERUs) for specialized and mass water supply, logistics, basic health care and a referral field hospital have joined the Federation's Field Assessment and Coordination Team –FACT. Equipment and more than 80 technical delegates from the national societies and the Federation have arrived in Bam to assist the affected people through the provision of health services and clean water, as well as to support the IRCS's relief operation. As of today (1 January, 2004), the International Federation team is assisting with the coordination of international health activities, in close cooperation with the IRCS, the Ministry of Health and WHO. Based on the ongoing assessments and operational developments, this preliminary Appeal is being revised.

The Federation appreciates the timely and generous donor response to this appeal, including ECHO who has made tremendous efforts in the early stages of the operation to approve funding contracts and transfer funds to enable assistance activities to begin. The Federation again encourages donors to continue to provide unearmarked contributions thus allowing an immediate, flexible and effective response to people affected by the earthquake, and the rehabilitation requirements to follow.

The Federation's Geneva-based task force continue to meet on a daily basis. Two donor tele-conferences have been organized, the last one with over 30 participants. The Federation is actively participating in UN coordination meetings, the last one an IASC meeting on 31 December 2003.

Background

A major earthquake measuring 6.3-6.7 on the Richter Scale hit Iran on the morning of 26 December 2003 at 05:28 (local time), centered on the city of Bam, Kerman Province in the southeast of the country. Some 97,000 inhabitants of the old historical city used to live in low houses and buildings (one to two stories in height) made of bricks and mud (UNDAC figures indicate there is a total estimated population of 240,000 in Bam and the surrounding area). Within 30 seconds, more than 85 percent of these buildings turned into rubble. Surrounding villages also suffered limited damage.

Iran is ranked as the fourth most disaster prone country in the world and the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) has the mandate to respond to the needs of some 700,000 people (or 10 percent of the Iran population).

Given the scale and scope of the disaster, 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, and to undertake assessment with a view to providing longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance.

Operational developments

General -- city of Bam (December, 31, 2003 Statistics)

Iran: Earthquake; Appeal no. 25/03; Operations Update no. 3

Population ²	97,000
Deaths (preliminary)	28,000
Injured/evacuated	13,000
Injured/treated locally	17,000
Homeless	80,000

Some 85 percent of housing and buildings have been destroyed and are beyond repair.

Surrounding villages

In 15 villages located in the areas around Bam (30 km northeast and southeast from Bam) the initial findings of the FACT team can be summarized as follows:

- shortage of food which is due mainly to the disruption of regular supply channels through the markets in Bam and to the fact that farming communities depend on the cash-crop economy (dates and oranges);
- schools in all visited villages are closed due to the absence of teachers many of them having perished in the earthquake;
- fear the aftershocks the villagers spend nights outdoors- in tents if available;
- an estimate of 10,000³ former residents of Bam sought refuge in the surrounding villages staying with their extended families;
- medium to minor damage (cracks) to the houses and/or infrastructural buildings;
- systematic distributions have not yet taken place;
- medical reports collected so far indicate respiratory infections mainly related to the cold weather.

According to the authorities, the search in 90 percent of all houses/building has been completed. According to the same source, three camps will be built at the outskirts of Bam in order to provide temporary shelter to an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 homeless people. The construction of the first camp is underway in cooperation with the Swiss Rescue Team. It is likely however that the authorities will ask the IRCS and the International Federation to assist with the provision of health services and water/ sanitation utilities.



Sectoral Assessments

Focus on: Water/Sanitation

The following findings of the water supply assessment are based on extensive discussions with water authorities in Bam, and visits to water plants in the city of Bam and its surroundings. Water and sanitation specialists from the Swiss Rescue Team and Technische Hilfe Werk have also contributed to the assessment.

The city of Bam is normally supplied with water from 11 boreholes, which are around 200 meters deep and located outside of the city. Nine of the 11 are still fully functional. The water is stored in four water tanks: three of them with a capacity of 10,000 m³, and one of 5,000 m³. It is likely that the earthquake has not damaged these underground tanks, located 2 km from the city. Two main lines conduct the water to the city through the distribution network. The first line, (700 mm diameter, cement) is still functioning, but the second one (600 mm diameter, ductile) is broken and out of order. The network depends on gravity flow. **Currently the network**

² Note: the population in Bam and the surrounding area is estimated to be 240,000.

³ This estimate figure refers to a higher number of villages, and not only to those visited by the FACT.

provides water to approximately 20% of the city. The other parts of the city are supplied through 80 water trucks at 60 distribution points.

The quality of the distributed water has not yet been evaluated. However it is most likely that the water is clean and potable thanks to its nature and chlorination by gas in the reservoirs. The fact that it is ground water causes some concerns. The water authorities laboratory was destroyed in the disaster, the Federation will provide a biological analysis of water quality in the next 48 hours.

Some 245 villages in the surroundings of Bam are considered directly affected by the earthquake. The usual water supply in these areas originates from some 95 wells, 50 to 200 meters deep and the local network. Twenty wells have been damaged and are out of use. Consequently, some 60 villages have to be supplied by 70 water trucks circulating among them. The lack of water tanks stationed in each village has been identified as one of the major problems. The provision of bladders tanks appears therefore to be a priority.

Area	No. of villages	No. of villages with water supply damaged	No. of pumps destroyed	No. of well structures or pipes network damaged
PUSHTROUD	2	2	0	2
WEST NARMASHIR	183	40	6	34
BAGHDASHT	0	0	0	0
KHAJIMASKA	60	17	5	12

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS continues its tremendous relief efforts. In the initial phase of the emergency the national society mobilized 8,500 relief workers to include search and rescue and medical teams, 725 vehicles, 2 helicopters and other technical equipment.

Some 1,700 relief workers are currently on the ground, mainly involved in registering the affected people, issuing distribution cards, and carrying monthly distributions. A small-scale search and rescue capacity is still maintained in the area.

Relief items distributed by the IRCS: Cumulative Distribution (December 26-29)

Non-food items	Quantity	Food items	Quantity
Tents	92,299 pcs	REM	411,241 cans
Blankets	198,429 pcs	Bread	115,891 pcs
Warm clothing	56,066 pcs	Sugar	519,910 (1/2 kg bag)
Hygiene sets	6,900 sets	Rice	99,704 (bags)
Kerosene heaters	51,474 pcs	Pulses	28,506 (bags)
Kitchen utensils	27,818 pcs	Biscuits	34,825 (boxes)
Lantern	48,038 pcs	Powdered milk	7,710 (boxes)
Shoes	4,794 (pair)	Tuna fish	10,032 (cans)
Filths	37,932 (pcs)	Dates	7,169 boxes
Jerry cans	5,879 (pcs)	Edible oil	1,359 (cans)
Washing powder	105,764 (bags)		
Soap	143,220 (pcs)		
Power generators	18		

Tracing activities

The central IRCS tracing service in Teheran started to register the missing with the support of the ICRC. An ICRC-IRCS team of 4 (ICRC tracing delegate, tracing field officer and 2 IRCS tracing officers) left on 30 December to Bam with 10 Thuraya satellite telephones. Organized in mobile tracing units, they are providing the victims of the earthquake with the means to inform their families in Iran and abroad with essential news of the effect of the earthquake on their family and property. The units can jointly provide up to 4,000 outgoing calls a

Iran: Earthquake; Appeal no. 25/03; Operations Update no. 3

day. If telephone contact cannot be established, earthquake victims will have the possibility to write a Red Cross message.

Furthermore, the Iranian Red Crescent is sending minors who have lost their immediate family members to facilities in Tehran. The ICRC will follow-up on these unaccompanied minors with the Iranian Red Crescent. The ICRC is also prepared to provide its expertise in identifying bodies or tracing missing persons if necessary. A psychosocial support team consisting of 40 trained staff members and volunteers from the headquarters and the branches is also providing psychological first aid.

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

While in the first days of the emergency all consignments of relief items mobilized both through the current appeal and bilaterally have been directly handed over to the IRCS for further distribution, the Federation logistics team is gradually building the capacity to handle all incoming relief goods. The Logistics ERU is gathering statistics that will be available in the next Operations Update (no. 4). USAID pledged to the Federation a donation of 750,000 ready to eat meals to be distributed to patients in the Red Cross and Red Crescent referral hospital and to special vulnerable groups to be identified by the IRCS.

Health

The Federation's health ERUs consist of a referral field hospital (200 beds) jointly deployed by the Norwegian and the Finnish Red Cross, a basic health unit of the German Red Cross, and the medical clinic with 20 beds from the Japanese Red Cross. These are a major source of health services to the affected population, and after the planned departure of the other field hospitals from Ukraine, France, Belgium and USA, some of the functions will be taken over by the Federation set-up. The referral hospital, which incorporates several outpatient service stations, will be operational by 2 January 2004.



Water and sanitation

The Federation has deployed water ERUs with the following main objectives:

- improving the capacity of water storage at the distribution points in the city and its surroundings, and to provide a clean water to the camps that will be constructed for the homeless (two ERUs for treatment and the supply module+ water and distribution testing teams – a contribution from the Swedish and French Red Cross Societies).
- providing safe water for the Federation referral hospital (specialized water and sanitation module team from the Austrian Red Cross) and for other field hospitals and outpatient service stations (specialized water and sanitation module team contribution from the Spanish Red Crescent). The mass water ERU has the capacity to provide 1,000,000 litres of water daily and the specialized water ERU 50,000 litres per day.

A lack of sanitation could become a major issue in the near term, and there is an urgent need to undertake an assessment (to be carried out by the Swedish Red Cross expert who is due to arrive in Bam on 1of January).

Iran: Earthquake; Appeal no. 25/03; Operations Update no. 3

A special arrangement has been made with OXFAM, which provides material and human resources support to the Federation operation.

Specialized agencies in water with whom the Federation is coordinating are German THW and MSF-France, Action Contre le Faim (ACF), and UNICEF.

Logistics

The joint British and Danish Red Cross logistics ERU is based in the newly established Red Cross compound in Bam. One member of the team is placed permanently at the Bam airport while a delegate from the Belgian Red Cross who was affiliated to the Logistics ERU is at the Kerman airport with the task of assisting in the coordination of the unloading of the aircrafts. The current priority is to erect all of the 8 rub hall tents for warehousing the relief items at the Red Cross compound. All 12 vehicles requested are due to arrive over the next 3 days. The DHL air transport rotation of relief items is underway, starting today (1 January) with two Antonov 12 flights and two more tomorrow (again 2 Antonov 12 rotations). **For details on the relief pipeline please refer to the mobilization table available on DMIS).**

Federation coordination

In addition to fulfilling its role of coordinating relief efforts of the partners within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the work of the ERUs, the Federation FACT team has been assigned with the task to coordinate, with the IRCS, all international health activities (as of 1 January). Team members are attending regular daily meetings (sectoral and general). Close coordination and cooperation has been established with the UNDAC/OCHA team. The Federation Operations Coordinator is being deployed to Teheran (departure today) to assume overall coordination (at the IRCS headquarters level) in support of the primary field-based coordination tasks and activities.

National Society Capacity Building

Along with the provision of direct services to the beneficiaries, the Federation will integrate a number of selected and especially profiled IRCS staff members and volunteers into the work of the emergency units. In order to enable the national society to proceed with the selection of candidates the Federation is currently drafting the job description for these positions.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The earthquake in Bam continues to attract huge media interest. Over the past two days, Federation FACT members have given more than 40 interviews to major international and national media. Interviews were given in seven languages. The Red Cross information pool in Bam consists currently of six media specialist and a photographer.

For further details please contact:

- In Iran: Mostafa Mohaghegh; National Society in Teheran; phone: 00 (98) 913 284 67 80; Duty Officer phone: 00 98 911 212 23 91; email intdep@ircs.org
- Martin Zak, Operations Manager; office phone: +41 22 730 4551; mobile: +41 79 203 4339; email: martin.zak@ifrc.org
- Evgeni Parfenov; Regional Officer, MENA; office phone: +41 22 730 4325; mobile: +41 79 333 3733; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org

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>

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

01.01.2004

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				15'409'300	TOTAL COVERAGE 43.3%	
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		600'000	USD	779'100	30.12.03	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID		147'059	GBP	327'721	30.12.03	
CANADIAN - RC		100'000	CAD	99'500	27.12.03	
CANADIAN - GOVT		742'500	CAD	738'787	29.12.03	
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA-IHA/RC		9'750	CAD	9'701	27.12.03	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
DANISH - RC				38'757	26.12.03	
DANISH - GOVT				199'023	26.12.03	
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
ICELANDIC - RC		2'000'000	ISK	35'200	28.12.03	
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	
OPEC FUND FOR INTERN. DEV.		750'000	USD	973'875	29.12.03	
SINGAPORE - RC				30'000	29.12.03	TO PURCHASE 100 TENTS
SLOVAK - RC		50'000	SKK	1'910	29.12.03	
SWEDISH - RC		1'000'000	SEK	172'000	29.12.03	
SWEDISH - RC		2'000'000	SEK	344'000	29.12.03	
SWISS - RC				13'167	30.12.03	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				5'129'337	CHF	33.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA-IHA/RC		150'000	CAD	149'250	29.12.03	RELIEF MATERIAL
EGYPTIAN - RC				210'000	29.12.03	100 TENTS, 4000 BLANKETS, 150'000 UNITS OF IV SOLUTIONS, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
GERMAN - GOVT/RC/ECHO		577'000	EUR	893'485	30.12.03	BILATERAL, WATER TTT & SUPPLY LINE, BASIC HEALTH CARE & PERSONNEL
ITALIAN - RC				4'400	30.12.03	RELIEF DELEGATE
SWISS - RC				289'400	30.12.03	6000 BLANKETS, 1000 TARPAULINS, 1000 KITCHEN- SETS, TRANSPORT & INSURANCE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1'546'535	CHF	10.0%