

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: EARTHQUAKE

26 December 2003

Information Bulletin N° 01

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: N/A

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

This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, and a request from the national society, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.

The Situation

A major earthquake registering 6.3 on the Richter Scale occurred this morning (26 December 2003) at 05:28 (local time) in Iran's Kermanshah Province (south of the capital Teheran). The area most affected is the city of Bam where preliminary reports initially indicate over one hundred deaths and 60% of the houses either badly damaged or destroyed. Bam is an old city with low houses and buildings (one to two stories in height), and while the damage has been widespread it is not considered of a cataclysmic nature. The Federation emphasizes however the preliminary nature of these estimates, and the fact that casualty and injured figures could rise dramatically as rescue efforts continue and are reinforced. Access to the area is limited, and with cuts to the electric and communications connections further reports on details and assessments are slowly emerging.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) has significant experience in managing and responding to natural disasters in Iran, in particular to earthquakes. The Federation is working in close partnership with the IRCS during this critical search and rescue phase. Coordination meetings are taking place, and the IRCS has immediately organized and assigned five relief teams from the affected area as well as from neighbouring provinces. The IRCS is providing tents and medical services, and is transporting the severely injured with two helicopters. Two field hospitals have also been deployed and will be in operation shortly.

The Federation's Regional Officer (Middle east and North Africa Region) and the Geneva-based Disaster Response Operations Manager have been in contact with the IRCS's Disaster Response Department, and at this time the national society has indicated that the size of this operation is within their capacity to respond. The Federation's regional disaster response delegate and its representative in Lebanon are ready to provide support to the operation as needed; the Federation's Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT) and Emergency Response Units (ERU's) are available and can be deployed at short notice. The Federation will be posting updates on its web site, the web-based Disaster Management Information System (DMIS), and on the recently launched FedNet. Contacts are being maintained with a number of PNS who contacted the Secretariat soon after the disaster.

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For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are 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 operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

