

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 جمعيات الصليب الأحمر والقمر الأحمر

IRAN: EARTHQUAKE

23 February 2005

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 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (No. 3) is being issued to provide an update of the earthquake in Zarand, southeast Iran. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has today continued to provide timely relief assistance to affected people.

At present, the IRCS does not plan to make any international appeal. However, to facilitate ongoing relief distributions and disaster preparedness stock replenishment, the national society welcomes voluntary contributions from donors. Cash contributions are preferred as all needed goods can be bought locally but appropriate in-kind help will also be considered. As an emergency appeal has not been launched, the Federation's secretariat cannot handle donations and interested partners are urged to contact the IRCS direct via its website [<click here for Iranian Red Crescent website>](#) or contact the national society by phone (see below).

For further information specifically related to this operation 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](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>



The Situation

A day after a powerful earthquake (6.4 on the Richter scale) struck Kerman Province, southeast Iran, the casualty list continues to climb. The ISNA news agency and a local newspaper Keyhan, reported that the quake killed more than 790 and injured 1,411, of whom 550 are in a critical condition. Five cities and 40 villages in Kerman Province were damaged to varying degrees. A total of 7,000 families, or 35,000-40,000 people, have been affected. The toll is expected to increase.

more as rescue teams reach isolated villages in the mountainous region. Twenty villages, populations ranging between 100 and 7,000, were razed to the ground. Two villages – Houdkan (1,700 residents) and Daghoiyeh (829 residents) – suffered particularly high death tolls. Many people are homeless after their houses were reduced to piles of rubble.

Major towns and cities appeared to have escaped heavy damage. The quake's depth was estimated at 26 miles (42km), making its impact at the surface less devastating than the six-mile (10km) deep Bam quake in December 2003, which killed and injured tens of thousands. Many people were also awake when the ground began to shake at 5:55am local time yesterday, enabling them to flee outside. Fortunately emergency services were also on alert that day because of heavy snow and rain in the area.

According to the seismological base of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute, there have been 67 after-shocks since the major quake. Many frightened people opted to spend the night outside. At dusk, temperatures fell and rain turned to snow in parts of the mountains. Survivors huddled around fires to keep warm, covering themselves in blankets and sipping hot soup provided by IRCS volunteers.

The relief operation continued through the night. Reports indicate, based on the Bam earthquake experience, assistance is being provided faster and in a more organized way. Early today (23 February), two young women were rescued from the debris 24 hours after the earthquake. Already 85% of affected families have been given refuge in Zarand or nearby villages that were less damaged. By early today, 95% of those injured had been taken to hospitals in Zarand, Kerman and Rafsanjan. Nine helicopters have been engaged in airlifting relief items and evacuating injured people. Local authorities, with the support of the central government, distributed tents, blankets, bread and fuel from their stocks. The Governor of Zarand said that the electrical and water supply has been restored in all villages.

Today, Mohamad javad Fadayee, Deputy Governor of Kerman Province who is heading the Zarand earthquake task force, officially requested NGOs based in Bam to "help ease the situation of those people in five cities and 40 villages of Kerman Province who have been affected by the miserable earthquake". He listed the following items that are urgently needed:

- Tents, plastic sheeting (for temporary shelter from rain), blankets and heaters for 7,000 families
- 7,000 water containers
- Temporary toilet facilities for 7,000 families

Rain, blocked roads and the mountainous terrain have made it difficult for heavy vehicles to get through and assist in the operation. As villages are scattered and the bad weather condition continues, the delivery of relief remains difficult.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

Despite the bad weather, IRCS relief and rescue teams worked throughout last night and today to rescue people. With the help of detectors and sniffer dogs, they have rescued several people.

The IRCS is engaged in a big operation to transport relief items in time. A train, loaded with IRCS relief items, including 3,000 tents, 10,000 blankets, 3,000 stoves and 3,000 moquettes, was due to arrive in Zarand railway station late this afternoon. Two planes, carrying 60 metric tonnes (MT) of IRCS relief items, were scheduled to leave Tehran today.

Yesterday (22 February), the IRCS distributed the following relief items :

- 15,000 tents
- 50,000 blankets

- 30 electric generators
- 40 MT of plastic sheeting
- Kerosene heaters
- Food & water

The IRCS is in the process of registering affected people and distributing ration cards to them. Each ration card holder will receive an IRCS food basket, which contains 3 kg of rice, 1 kg of vegetable oil, 1 kg of cereal, 1 kg of sugar, 200 g of tea and 14 cans of food (7 cans of beans and 7 cans of tuna fish).

An IRCS mobile clinic was deployed with one medical doctor, three nurses and one midwife. Four psychosocial teams are providing support to traumatized people. RC tents have been set up in various areas of Zarand.

The IRCS provincial branch of Kerman is coordinating the IRCS relief operation, with its trained and equipped teams. They are supported by relief and rescue teams from Tehran and neighbouring provinces. Dr. Noorbala, president of the IRCS, cut short a trip to Africa and returned to Tehran last night to direct the operation overall.

At present, the IRCS does not plan to make any international or national appeal but welcomes voluntary donations both in cash and in kind from donors. This will facilitate relief distribution and help the national society replenish its disaster preparedness stocks. This operation, on top of the Bam earthquake and other recent relief operations, including the on-going snow operation in Gilan Province, have depleted national society stocks and may affect its capacity to respond to future disasters. The IRCS has identified the following items for replenishment:

- Tents (size 4m x 4m or 3m x 4m)
- Blankets (coloured and for winter use)
- Kerosene stoves (for heating and cooking)
- Kerosene lanterns
- Cooking sets
- Rice
- High-energy biscuits
- Cereals (beans, pulses)

The Federation's head of delegation in Iran and its programme coordinator are now in Kerman, working closely with the IRCS relief and rescue coordination team from Tehran. They are also visiting some affected areas as a wider assessment of the disaster continues.