

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

22 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. 2) is being issued to provide initial details of the earthquake today in Zarand, southeast Iran. At this stage, the Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time and advises no outside teams or personnel are required. Any updates in the situation and the nature of any Federation support required will be communicated in future bulletins.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Iran: National Society Mehrdad Eshragi, International Department; phone 0098 21 866 2652
- In Iran: Delegation contact Mohammed Mukhier, HoD, Tehran - ifrcir05@ifrc.org, phone 0098 21 889 0567, fax 0098 21 889 5346
- In Geneva: MENA Department, Martin Fisher – martin.fisher@ifrc.org, phone 0041 22 730 4440, fax 0041 22 733 0395

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



Latest figures (17.00GMT) indicate that more than 500 people were killed and over 1,000 injured after this morning's earthquake (6.4 on the Richter scale) in Kerman Province, south-east Iran. Reports say casualty figures are set to rise.

The epicentre of the quake was on the outskirts of Zarand town, 70km east of Kerman city and about 740km southeast of Tehran. The earthquake was about 200km from Bam, where a 6.6-magnitude quake on December 26, 2003, caused tens of thousands of deaths and injuries. Geologists said that the quake was caused by the

Kouhbanan fault line, which is 46km underground and connected with the Bam fault line. Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and local authorities report that six villages (Daghoiyeh, Islamabad, Houdkan, Dadkouh, Beheshtvahdat, and Dehahmed) were completely destroyed. An additional 40 villages were up to 90% destroyed and a further 25 were more than 50% destroyed. It was also reported that 15 villages near the town of Ravar were partially destroyed (25-45%). More than 30,000 villagers are believed to have been directly affected.

The quake also shook the cities of Yazd, Meybod and Behabad. The main tremor was followed by 20 aftershocks.

Landslides blocked several roads to and from Zarand town, population 15,000. The town and several villages suffered a loss of power and water supplies. Panicked residents in Zarand and neighbouring villages rushed to the streets.

Relief efforts are now under way. Local authorities have divided the affected area into six zones to facilitate response. A government plane carrying 795 tents, 800 blankets, 100 stretchers and 600 packages of bread was due to leave Tehran. Water trucks from Zarand were getting supplies through to many people.

IRCS helicopters, as well as some military helicopters, were sent to evacuate injured people. Zarand hospital's 200 beds were soon full and other injured people were taken to hospitals in Kerman.

Exact damage assessments are not yet available as many of the affected areas are not accessible. However, local authorities and the IRCS are assessing needs as best they can. Local authorities said there is an immediate need for tents, blankets, medical staff, medical supplies, heating equipment and food.

Relief efforts are being hampered by ongoing rain, which started on Monday, 21 February and is expected to continue until Thursday, 24 February.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS immediately dispatched 50 relief and rescue teams (1,500 fully-equipped relief and rescue workers), from Kerman, Yazd, Esfahan and neighboring provincial branches, to the affected areas. Some mountain rescuers and three psychotherapy teams are also on hand offering assistance.

IRCS relief and rescue teams and volunteers are engaged in rescue and relief operations, distributing items sent from IRCS provincial branches in Tehran, Kerman, Yazd, Sistan-Baluchestan, Chaharmahal, Gome, Markazi, Khorasan and Lorestan.

The IRCS teams are recovering bodies and transferring those injured to hospitals. In addition to IRCS helicopters, the government has provided three planes to carry IRCS relief items to the affected region. The Kerman provincial branch is mobilizing local support for food and blankets. Red Crescent tents have been set up to provide temporary shelter. The head of the IRCS relief and rescue organization flew to Zarand to direct the operation.

The relief effort is in close cooperation with the government, and the IRCS is participating actively in a provincial task force directing the overall humanitarian effort. The IRCS has much experience in earthquake operations, particularly through the recent Bam earthquake operation.

The Federation delegation in Iran is in regular contact with the IRCS, both in Tehran and at field level to monitor the situation. Three Federation delegates in the country are on standby for immediate action if the national society requests support. The Federation's programme coordinator is on hand in Kerman. In conjunction with the IRCS, the Federation will issue regular Information Bulletins on the latest developments.

As of 17.00GMT, the rescue and relief operation is proceeding well and no external teams or personnel are required. An evaluation of other possible needs is underway and will be provided soon in a later bulletin.