

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 والقمر الأحمر

IRAN: EARTHQUAKE

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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. 6) is being issued to provide an update on the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) response to the earthquake in Zarand, southeast Iran. Since 25 February, the IRCS has continued to provide timely relief assistance to affected people. The IRCS at the moment is not planning to make any international or national 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 IRCS website>](#) or contact the national society by phone (see below). Further bulletins will only be issued to report on exceptional developments.

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

The office of the Governor General of Kerman Province issued on 27 February the following figures regarding the Zarand earthquake:

- 612 people killed
- 1,411 people injured
- 103 villages affected
- 93,355 people (23,790 families) in total affected through damage to homes and infrastructure
- 120 schools damaged between 20-100%

UNHCR says that a considerable number of Afghan refugees living in the region were among the dead.

The weather still remains cold and thousands of people are living in temporary shelter. They have received tents, blankets, cooking sets, clothes, shoes, food and water from the IRCS and other sources. The IRCS is distributing a one-month individual food ration to beneficiaries. Trucks are bringing more relief from the Government, local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

Health authority experts have started disinfecting areas affected by corpses to prevent the spread of disease. Teams from the Ministry of Health are making home visits, providing necessary medical treatment to affected people. Some latrines and field showers have been set up.

By 25 February the emergency phase of the relief operation was completed. Efforts are now moving towards recovery. Excavators and bulldozers are clearing roads blocked by mud and stones. Local authorities are repairing damaged water supply and telecommunication systems. Affected people, the authorities and non-governmental organizations have begun thinking about how to rebuild their damaged towns and villages.

On 26 February the Iranian President Mohammad Khatami paid a seven-hour visit to Kerman as part of his inspection of the quake-stricken town of Zarand and surrounding areas. He toured some of the most damaged areas, including the village of Dahuyeh, and was briefed on rescue and housing operations. He met a number of injured people at the Imam Ali Hospital, Zarand. The president also attended a reconstruction task force meeting.

The experience of the Bam and Zarand earthquakes highlighted the need to set up a separate government agency to deal with disaster situations. After visiting Zarand the president told reporters that the government was going to form a High Crisis Management Council. The council, under the supervision of the First Vice-president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, is to be tasked to coordinate and conduct timely emergency operations.

UN agencies have supported the relief efforts for quake-stricken areas and are discussing future cooperation in Zarand and surrounding villages.

UNHCR has donated around 100 tents and 1,500 blankets. UNICEF dispatched 528 emergency latrine slabs, 273 plastic sheets, 500 blankets and three tents to earthquake stricken villages. UNICEF also plans to provide six containers for early child care centres, which will be run by the Social Welfare Organization, in the most affected villages.

WHO and UNICEF have received a list of needed health-related equipment from officials in Kerman and are categorizing the list on the basis of urgency and availability. WHO will coordinate distribution of the list among probable donors and relevant agencies. The list covers hospital equipment for Zarand and Kerman. WHO has also extended its technical and logistic support to the local government to address emergency health.

WHO is also helping to develop a plan of action in terms of mental health counselling and training of a disease surveillance team. WHO is expected to provide the financial and technical support to 10 training courses, each of six days, for 300 primary health care workers on operational disease surveillance. This training is expected to start next Saturday. WHO's country office has engaged an epidemiologist from outside Iran to provide technical assistance to operate a disease surveillance system in Zarand.

UNDP sent tents, beds, heaters and blankets for immediate use in the affected areas. UNDP HQ has also approved an emergency allocation of USD 100,000 towards humanitarian assistance for immediate release. The funds are to be used, among other priorities to: strengthen the UNDP/Bam field coordination programme to expand its support to Zarand; develop foundations for recovery programmes in Zarand in

close consultation with the national and local authorities; and support government efforts in coordination and rehabilitation and recovery. The UNDP shelter project in Bam is being reviewed so that activities and methodologies can be replicated in Zarand during the recovery phase.

In a press release issued on 26 February, the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran said the UN agencies in Iran are dispatching an inter-agency assessment mission to the quake-stricken areas around Zarand. The step has been taken in consultation with the Ministry of Interior's Natural Disaster Taskforce and the provincial Governor General's Office in Kerman. The team will seek to assess the immediate and medium term needs of the people.

140 aftershocks have reportedly hit the quake-hit town of Zarand since the major earthquake on February 22. Five aftershocks were registered on Sunday alone. Besides, several earthquakes struck other towns in Iran. On Friday night two earthquakes measuring 4.1 and 3.7 on the Richter scale hit, respectively, the city of Ravar in Kerman Province and the city of Anarak in Isfahan Province. On Saturday night, houses in villages around the Behabad district in Yazd Province were damaged 20-40 % by an earthquake measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale. On 27 February there were two earthquakes in Lali city of Khuzestan Province, measuring 4.2 and 4.4 on the Richter scale.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The IRCS is continuing its relief assistance to affected people, with a focus on distribution of relief items and psychosocial support.

At a special task force meeting on 26 February at the Zarand Reconstruction Headquarters in the presence of the President Mohammad Khatami, the IRCS committed itself to supporting 7,000 affected families (35,000 persons) with food baskets, which also contain hygiene kits. Based on ration cards given to registered beneficiaries, the IRCS has begun to distribute the food baskets. Each contains a one-month food ration for one person (see Information Bulletin No. 3). The IRCS has provided shelter to 12,487 people in gymnasium halls and schools in Zarand. The distribution of relief items is also ongoing. By 27 February the following items have been distributed:

No	Relief items	Unit	Quantity
1	Tent	Piece	26,795
2	Blanket	“	47,549
3	Plastic sheeting	Kg	37,515
4	Kerosene heater	Piece	9,916
5	Lantern	Piece	2,856
6	Canned beans	Can	180,944
7	Tuna	Can	97,232
8	Bread	Kg	9,939
9	Cooking set	Set	3,574
10	Water container	Piece	2000
11	Moquette 2 x 3 metres	M ²	3,914
12	Rice	Kg	90,188
13	Sugar	Kg	15,120
14	Cereals	Kg	19,865
15	Tea	Kg	2,000
16	Hygiene kit	Set	9,600
17	Cooking oil	Kg	17,310

Psychosocial support (PSP) activities are continuing as well. A total of five psychosocial support teams have been deployed in the affected region. They are providing traumatized people with counselling services and are organizing psychosocial support activities. Every day the psychosocial support centres are crowded by people, particularly children. The children are divided into two groups: under seven years old and seven-twelve years old. IRCS staff organize different activities suited to their profiles. As a result, children are excited to come to the centres and are active in various exercises, painting and playing.

The disaster response by the IRCS has so far been timely and effective. It has deployed the following teams and equipment:

- 4 task forces comprising 20 sub-units to direct the operation
- 50 relief and rescue teams
- 8 search and rescue teams with detectors and sniffer dogs
- 3 telecommunications teams
- 5 medical teams and one mobile clinic
- 5 PSP teams
- 3 cargo planes and 1 helicopter
- 17 ambulances

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 so that it can respond to future disasters. The IRCS has identified the following items for immediate replenishment:

- Tents (size 4m x 4m or 3m x 4m)
- Ground sheets for tents
- 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 Delegation in Iran is discussing with the IRCS ways in which the national society's relief operation and replenishment can be best supported by interested parties concerned.