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Information bulletin Iran: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Red Crescent Society of Islamic Republic of Iran and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required at this moment, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from RC/RC movement and donors at this time.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)

Summary:

Two Earthquakes with the magnitude of 6.2 and 6.3 on the Richter scale rocked north-western Iran, East Azerbaijan province on 11 August 2012. As per Tehran University's Seismological Centre 227 persons lost their lives and around 2006 reported to be injured.

Iranian Red Crescent teams were deployed to the scene providing search and rescue, first aid, emergency health and relief services.



Iranian Red Crescent deployed its emergency response team providing vital life saving activities, Photo: Hamed Nazari/ Mehr news agency

The situation

Two Earthquakes with the magnitude of 6.2 and 6.3 on the Richter scale rocked north-western Iran, East Azerbaijan province on 11 August 2012. As per Tehran University's Seismological Centre, the first earthquake hit at 4:53PM local time with an epicentre around 60 KM from Tabriz and the second one took place at 5:04 PM in the vicinity of Varzaghan. The towns of Ahar, Varzaghan and Heris and their surrounding rural areas are the main earthquake stricken places.

The majority of the deaths and injuries have occurred in rural areas. At least 100 villages have been affected, six of which have been completely flattened. The towns of Haris and Varzaqan, believed to be the epicentre, in East Azerbaijan province, were among those that suffered the most severe casualties. Many people have sustained crush injuries, fractures and broken bones are being transported to local hospitals.

As per latest from the field, 227 people are dead and 2006 persons were injured. Relief workers of the IRCS were at the scene of disaster at first instants and swung into action following preliminary assessments. Relief and rescue workers saved the affected people trapped under the rubbles and transferred the injured people to the close clinical centers and hospitals.

Iran sits astride several major fault lines and is prone to frequent earthquakes, some of which have been devastating. The deadliest was a 6.6-magnitude quake which struck the south-eastern city of Bam in December 2003, killing 31,000 people -- about a quarter of the population -- and destroying the city's ancient mud-built citadel.

Emergency workers have been mobilized from 14 provinces around Iran for assistance, benefitting from services and resources built up through the ICRC's long experience in dealing with seismic instability.



The Earthquake affected Hundreds of houses forcing people to look for temporary shelters Photo: ISNA Iran news agency

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), Dr. Faghih, the Head of Relief and Rescue Organization in IRCS, Dr. Mozaffar swiftly arrived at the scene of disaster.

92 IRCS operational teams, from 14 provincial branches, arrived at the disastrous areas. 863 relief workers were deployed to assist the needy people in East Azerbaijan. Furthermore, 3 helicopters and 71 sets of ambulances and 40 relief vehicles, equipped with sniffer dogs and rescue tools arrived to the affected areas to back up the operation.

IFRC MENA Zone Disaster Management Unit is in close contact with Iranian Red Crescent since the very first hours of the Earthquake. Several national societies contacted IFRC expressing the readiness for immediate support, however, and as mentioned above the IRCS expressed no need for any external assistance for the moment, since they are very well prepared to respond to such emergencies. IRCS thanks the spirit of solidarity so far shown.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
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