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Information bulletin

Iran: Flash Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 22 July 2015	
Date of disaster : 19 July 2015	Point of contact: Ms.Khaleghi, Director General, International communication and Protocol.
Host National Society: Iranian Red Crescent Society	
Number of people affected: 14,000	Number of people to be assisted: All affected

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

The situation

On Sunday July 19, 2015, a severe thunderstorm brought strong winds, heavy rainfall and flash floods to northern Iran. Based on initial assessment reports from the relief and rescue organisation; the Iranian Red Crescent, at least 11 people have been killed, 30 injured and 12 people listed as missing in unseasonable flash floods in ten provinces of Iran during the last two days.

The flooding, triggered by torrential rains, affected several counties in ten provinces including two counties in Alborz, two in Tehran, ten in Mazandaran, three in Qazvin, one in Khorasane-Shomali, three in Kurdistan, one in Kerman, two in Semnan, one in Zanzan and one in Azerbaijane-Gharbi so far.

The flooding has caused widespread damage and destroyed infrastructure in at least 37 villages including three in Alborz, three in Tehran, 15 in Mazandaran, six in Qazvin, four in Khorasane-Shomali and six in Kerman. Reportedly, some villages are inundated with water and most of access routes are cut off. About 90 houses including 73 in Mazandaran, five in Qazvin, six in Kurdistan, one in Zanzan and five in Azerbaijane-Gharbi provinces have been reported as damaged.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Iranian Red Crescent, as the biggest humanitarian organisation in the country, is assisting in the disaster response. 365 relief workers and rescuers formed into 94 teams equipped with relief and rescue equipment including rescue sets, water pumps, sniffing dogs plus 92 light and heavy vehicles as well as ambulances are responding.

Red Crescent relief efforts are still focused on search & rescue, with priority and Relief Operation in all provinces where the floods



Volunteers of the Iranian Red Crescent Society on a search and rescue mission/Iranian Red Crescent

struck. So far 800 people have been sheltered and 13,000 people in 43 towns and 64 villages received the relief and rescue services. The following items have been distributed: 600 blankets, 7,000 water bottles, 15,000 canned food and bread.

The National Society is working closely with the local authorities in supporting the affected people in Search & Rescue and Relief operations, providing supplies and establishing the restoring family links services.

An unexpected summer storm and heavy rain struck the Iranian capital and its suburbs Sunday afternoon as well. Combined with heavy rains and lightening, the strong winds battered the northern, north western and western parts of the capital yesterday. No casualties however have been reported in Tehran so far.

Planned activities by the Iran Red Crescent:

The IRCS will continue its search and rescue and relief operations during the next weeks.

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.