

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

24 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. 4) is being issued to provide an update on the earthquake in Zarand, southeast Iran, on Day 3 of this emergency. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has continued to provide timely relief assistance to affected people. At present, the IRCS does not plan 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 Iranian Red Crescent website>](#) or contact the national society by phone (see below).

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
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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

Thousands of Iranians, still frightened of aftershocks after Tuesday's major earthquake, spent last night shivering from the cold in tents and temporary shelters. The exact number of the dead and injured remains unclear. Local authorities today estimated that 490 people were killed and 930 injured. Other sources, such as the news agency ISNA and a local paper Keyhan, say 790 people are dead and 1,411 people are injured. In a small village of Khanouk, close to Zarand, 100 men, women and children abandoned their

shattered homes to sleep rough on the floor of the village's main mosque, which escaped major damage. Elsewhere in the village, deluged by cold and driving rain, people took refuge where they could. In other villages people huddled around camp fires or erected tents in front of the rubble of their destroyed homes. Children were so scared that they did not even want to go inside the tents. Virtually no building was left standing and those that were had been deserted for fear they could come crashing down at any moment. Black banners, draped on the remaining walls, announced the names of the dead.

Yesterday (23 February) local authorities said that a total of 59 villages were affected by the earthquake. Two villages were completely destroyed Twenty were damaged between 80-100% and the remaining villages were damaged between 20-80 %. 8,000 houses and buildings were destroyed. Hardest hit were about a dozen villages to the north of Zarand, where fragile one-storey houses collapsed into piles of mud and broken tiles.

The head of the provincial coroner's office announced Wednesday that suffocation had been the main cause of death. Some 57 percent of the victims were women and 37 percent of those killed were under 14 years of age.

Early estimates say the quake has caused over IRR 700 billion (USD 79.5 million) of damage to rural areas and infrastructure.

Hundreds of IRCS rescue workers and soldiers continued searching through the rubble with their bare hands. Blocked roads made it impossible for heavy earthmoving equipment to reach some villages. Red Crescent and other relief workers were also busy helping affected people get shelter in safer places. The Governor of the Kerman Province said almost all the affected villages had received tents, blankets and food. 18,000 IRCS tents have been distributed. The most affected families received up to three tents. The families whose houses were not damaged also received tents as they were traumatized by the earthquake and afraid of sleeping inside their homes.

Even though the search and rescue operation was slow due to the poor weather and difficult terrain, rescuers managed to unearth dozens more corpses on Wednesday. The bodies of 290 people have been handed over to their family members, while 23 unidentified corpses remain in the provincial coroner's office.

Water, electricity and telephone services have been resumed in all 59 villages. A field hospital has been set up by the police.

Local authorities have prioritized providing affected people with temporary shelter, as well as opening temporary schools for children to attend classes. All schools in the affected areas are closed due to the structural damage and possible after-shocks.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

More than 1,000 IRCS volunteers and 170 permanent staff from Tehran, Kerman and other neighbouring provinces are still working in the affected areas. Last night, in darkness and under snowfall, IRCS search and rescue teams and volunteers worked to assist victims and unload relief items from trucks arriving in mountainous villages.

Psychosocial support teams began to work in different areas. These teams consist of 20 psychologists, 1 psychiatrist, 2 general practitioners and nurses. The teams, which were divided into five groups, started building links with the communities on 22 February, presenting their activities in order to be accepted by the population. From today the teams are receiving families, individuals and children at temporary tents to provide counselling services and show sympathy and empathy. With the help of the teams, children

are playing with toys, balls, etc. In addition, painting sessions are being organized and relaxation methods are being introduced to affected people. The psychosocial support programme (PSP) will continue for several months.

A truck loaded with medical supplies left Kerman for Zarand. Two medical teams left Bam with 20 boxes of medicines. These teams will support medical services being provided by the mobile clinic, which has been deployed in Houdkan.

By the morning of 24 February, the IRCS has distributed the following items to affected people:

No	Items	Unit	Quantity
1	Tents	Piece	18,000
2	Blankets	Piece	100,000
3	Plastic sheeting	Metric tonne (MT)	60
4	Canned bears	Can	80,246
5	Canned tuna fish	Can	50,847
6	Bread	Kg	18,000
7	Moquette	Piece	2,750
8	Heaters	Piece	3,460

In the pipeline are also lanterns, kerosene heaters, stretchers, spades, kitchen sets, cooling boxes, moquettes, hygiene kits, canned food and pulses.

A mobile unit with satellite, HF and VHF communication equipment has been deployed to ensure effective communication between the teams in operation.

The IRCS is also packing food baskets to be distributed to 35,000 affected people (please see Information Bulletin No. 3 for details). [<click here>](#)

To facilitate the relief operation, the IRCS has divided the quake-stricken region into the following five areas and assigned a provincial branch which will be responsible for relief assistance to it:

No	Name of areas	Name of provincial branch in charge
1	Zarand	Esfahan
2	Daghoiyeh	Hormozan
3	Mahadbad	Yazd
4	Houdkan	Sistan-Baluchestan
5	Islamabad	Sirjan

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. The IRCS has identified the following items for 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 closely cooperating with the IRCS both in Tehran and in the field. The Federation's head of delegation and its programme coordinator are visiting affected areas for further assessment. The programme coordinator will return to Bam tomorrow (Friday), and two other disaster preparedness/response delegates are on standby, in Tehran, for possible deployment if necessary.

The delegation, on request from the world health organization (WHO), approached the IRCS to provide 45 tents to set up emergency health facilities in the affected villages. The IRCS agreed to provide the tents, and the emergency clinics will be run by the Ministry of Health. These emergency facilities are expected to start operation by Saturday 26 February, in selected highly-populated villages.