

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

21 March 2003

IRAN: EARTHQUAKE IN QAZVIN, HAMADAN AND ZANJAN REGIONS

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No. 17/02

Launched on 25 June 2002 for CHF 3,044,000 for 4 months for 25,000 beneficiaries. The appeal was extended for 5 months, until 31 March 2003 and hereby further extended until 31 July 2003

Operations Update No. 03; Period covered: 01 November 2002 - 28 February 2003 ;

Last Update: Operations update number 02, issued 06 November 2002;

Next Update: 04 expected in June 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 77%

Outstanding needs: CHF 811,895

The emergency phase of the operation has been completed within the first month, with the Government and Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) carrying out search and rescue, and the National Society distributing food and non-food items to 25,000 affected people. During that period, IRCS also organized temporary shelter for 5,000 families. In the second phase of the operation, while the relief assistance to people still living in temporary accommodation continues, rehabilitation plans have been elaborated and original objectives refined. Recent priority has been given to provision of basic medical and relief supplies in the affected region, replenishing the IRCS stocks and enhanced their disaster preparedness (DP) capacity in the region.

The appeal is hereby being extended until 31 July 2003, in order to allow sufficient time for quality completion of the capacity building projects, which have been slowed by the winter and a careful evaluation of the implementation priorities related to the support from various donors.

Operational Developments w

On 22 June, the regions of Qazvin, Hamadan and Zanjan, west and north-west of the capital Tehran, were struck by a powerful earthquake, measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale. This was followed by a series of aftershocks. The disaster left approximately 25,000 people homeless (5,000 families), over 200 villages damaged, 2,000 hectares of agricultural land destroyed, electricity and water supply systems broken down.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), in close cooperation with the government, immediately responded to the disaster. It organized search and rescue, provided temporary shelter to the 5,000 homeless families and distributed over 100 tons of food, as well as nonfood items such as blankets, tents, plastic sheeting, kitchen utensils, hygiene products and clothing.

The emergency phase was completed within the first months of the operation, and the focus shifted from relief to rehabilitation. In recent months, the authorities have been engaged in repair and reconstruction of housing and infrastructure, in order to secure permanent housing for the remaining homeless families. IRCS and the Federation have elaborated plans for the rehabilitation phase, focusing on water and sanitation, health and disaster response capacity building of the provincial branches. The emergency appeal will be extended until the end of July 2003, due to the climate and in order for the projects to be completed with a high degree of quality.

Coordination w

The IRCS has a long-standing cooperation with the government, as well as a mandate to provide emergency relief and shelter assistance to one percent of the population of Iran. In this operation, all activities have been closely co-ordinated with the relevant governmental agencies. In addition, IRCS worked in close collaboration with WFP in provision of food to the people living in temporary accommodation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

In the second phase of the operation, IRCS and the Federation gave priority to rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems, construction of local health posts, and provision of basic medical supplies and relief items in the operational area. In view of the changed focus of the operation, original objectives of the preliminary emergency appeal have been slightly modified to reflect a change in needs and priorities in this second phase. In recent months, during the transition from relief to rehabilitation, IRCS relief workers and volunteers have continued providing shelter and relief support to the affected population, however to a lesser degree than in the first 4 weeks following the earthquake. Activities are being coordinated through provincial IRCS branches with support from the Tehran headquarters.

Objectives, activities and results w

Health and care w

Objective 1: *To provide immediate assistance to injured people and prevent the outbreak of diseases*

among the affected population, through provision of medicines and supplies to support and assist the medical infrastructure.

Following the initial provision of emergency health assistance through IRCS mobile clinics in the first month of the operation, most of the primary health care services have been taken over by the Ministry of Health through local health posts. In Hamadan, however, IRCS branch has provided ambulance service and basic medicines to the population.

The National Society's psychological support teams have provided ongoing assistance to the vulnerable, especially focusing on children. The teams are composed of professionals and trained volunteers.

With support from DFID through the British Red Cross, IRCS carried out procurement of basic medicines and medical supplies that have been distributed to the local branches in the affected area. In addition, an Australian Government donation of CHF 420,000 is used to strengthen the capacity within relief and rescue, including medical supply for the local branches in the three provinces. Support from OPEC has been used to provide relief items to allow an increased disaster preparedness capacity.

Objective 2: *To improve people's access to water and sanitation in the affected area.*

Following the emergency phase of the operation, IRCS handed over the responsibility for drinking water distribution to local authorities, which are currently reconstructing permanent water supply systems in affected villages.

With support from ECHO, the Federation and IRCS have been implementing a project aimed to set up 50 mobile shower units and construction of 10 fixed public baths in the affected villages, covering approximately the population of 30,000. The preparation for the construction work was done, and service contracts with suppliers and manufacturers were concluded as early as in October 2002. The project was expected to be completed by the end of 2002. However, due to the climate and severe weather conditions during the winter months the progress was limited. Completion of the project is expected in April 2003.

Disaster response and preparedness w

Objective 1: *To assist the affected population with immediate relief needs.*

Since the disaster, IRCS has organized temporary accommodation for 25,000 homeless people (5,000 families) in tents, and provided them with basic relief items, such as family food rations, plastic sheeting, blankets, kitchen utensils and other essential items. Maintenance of camp sites and relief assistance, to include distribution of winter kits, will continue until permanent housing of the remaining homeless population is completed. The authorities planned to finalize the remaining construction works by early December, however these plans were hampered by severe weather.

Objective 2: *To increase the disaster response capacity of IRCS branches in operational areas.*

In response to the disaster, IRCS mobilized most of its capacity in the region, including volunteers, mobile health clinics, its fleet, as well as food and nonfood relief stocks. In view of high susceptibility of those regions to natural disasters, especially earthquakes, the operational capacity of IRCS branches in Qazvin, Zanjan and Hamadan needs to be restored and enhanced further. As an indicator of the vulnerability of the region, between 25 and 27 October five earthquakes struck various provinces of

Iran, of which one affected Qazvin, with a magnitude of 3.5 on the Richter scale. Earthquakes occur frequently throughout the country, and National Society branches ought to have high level of preparedness at any time. In support to those efforts, the donations of USAID and OPEC are being used to procure basic relief items and equipment for the three provincial branches, in order to replenish their depleted disaster preparedness stock.

National Society Capacity Building w

The IRCS is well known for its strong disaster response capacity and a clear mandate given by the Government. The National Society's relief centers, disaster preparedness stocks and well trained volunteers base have been put in action in this relief operation. In order to assist IRCS in maintaining and enhancing their response capacity, the activities, as part of this appeal, have been reviewed to combine response to emergency needs of the population with a longer-term view to disaster response in the region. In that respect, and in addition to the above-mentioned activities, permanent health relief posts will be built to ensure long-term support to the population.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation has been providing the National Society with technical support in the form of a water and sanitation consultant and a relief delegate, who are responsible for sharing technical expertise in the project implementation and support in the monitoring process. In addition, a reporting delegate has been recruited to train the National Society on the Federation and donor specific reporting requirements, as well as project planning and monitoring tools.

Advocacy/Public Information w

Since the disaster struck, IRCS and the Federation have been sharing regular information on the impact of the earthquake, efforts of the National Society to assist the affected population and needs for external support. This has been done through news stories posted on IRCS and Federation's web sites, operations updates such as this one, as well as direct contacts with partner National Societies and potential donors. Those efforts have resulted in a positive response to the emergency appeal and its high level of coverage. Additional activities aimed at raising the visibility of the IRCS and Federation's operation will continue, giving special credit to partners who contributed to its successful implementation.

Outstanding needs w

The appeal is being extended to allow sufficient time for the completion of the rehabilitation activities. All additional support should be focused on enhancing IRCS disaster response capacity.

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct
and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in*

Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

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Dr Ali Said Ali
Head
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Iran - Earthquake						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 17/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			17.03.2003	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3'044'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 77.0%
AMERICAN - GOVT/USAID		50'000	USD	74'500	09.07.2002	BLANKETS
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR		200	USD	311	17.07.2002	
AMERICAN - PRIVATE DONOR NY OFFICE		25	USD	39	31.07.02	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT		500'000	AUD	420'750	26.06.2002	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE & SHELTERS
BRITISH - GOVT/DIFD		122'550	GBP	281'387	15.08.2002	HEALTH.MEDICAL SUPPLIES
BRITISH RC		1'500	GBP	3'462	12.12.2002	
ECHO (01001)		500'000	EUR	734'000	25.09.2002	
FINNISH - RC		30'000	EUR	44'289	27.06.2002	
HELLENIC - RC		10'000	EUR	14'660	31.10.2002	
JAPANESE - RC		354'295	JPY	4'436	02.07.2002	
KOREAN, REP. - RC				30'000	08.07.2002	
LIBYAN - RC				7'000	02.07.2002	
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	22'088	22.06.2002	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		4'184	NZD	3'177	26.06.2002	
NEW ZEALAND - RC		50'000	NZD	36'010	09.08.2002	
OPEC FUND		200'000	USD	298'000	01.07.2002	ESSENTIAL RELIEF ITEMS
PRIVATE DONORS				42'673	01.08.2002	
SINGAPORE - RC		62'709	SGD	53'198	10.08.2002	RELIEF WORK
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	161'100	27.06.2002	
SWISS - RC				1'025	05.07.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				2'232'105	CHF	73.3%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
JAPANESE - RC		7'306'068	JPY	91'472	02.07.2002	7 PACK, DOCTORS OFFICE MODULE, 1 PACK SURGICAL INSTRUMENT MODULE, 6 PACK MOTHER/CHILD MATERNITY MODULE
SWISS - RC				20'500	05.07.2002	5 MULTIPURPOSE TENTS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				111'972	CHF	3.7%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
TURKISH - RC		11'126	USD	17'308	25.06.2002	5MT FOOD, 1.946 MT BABY BISCUITS, 2900 KG MEDICINE, 298 KG MEDICAL SUPPLY
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				17'308	CHF	