

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

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, further extended to 31 July 2003, and hereby finally extended until 31 October 2003. Beneficiaries: 25,000

Operations Update No. 04; Period covered: 01 March - 15 July 2003; Last Update: Operations update No. 03, issued 10 March 2003; Next Update: Final report October 2003.

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 77.5%; See the attached Contributions List or the Federation's website : http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?02/1-2-3%20-%20ap1702.pdf

Outstanding needs: CHF 684,234

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: MENA: regional programmes (Appeal 01.93/2003)

Operational Summary: The sudden onset of winter slowed down the completion of the IRCS and Federation water and sanitation and capacity building projects for which reason the appeal was extended until 31 July 2003.

At the time of reporting all projects but one have been completed. The emergency appeal will be extended by three months to 31 October 2003, in order for the remaining project to be completed with a high degree of quality.

Operational Developments

On 22 June 2002, a powerful earthquake, measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale, struck the regions of Qazvin, Hamadan and Zanjan, west and north-west of the capital Tehran. 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, and the electricity and water supply systems broken down.

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

The emergency phase was completed within the first month of the operation, and the focus shifted from relief to rehabilitation. IRCS and the Federation developed a rehabilitation plan, focusing on water and sanitation, health, and disaster response capacity building of the provincial branches. Original objectives were later refined with priority given to water and sanitation and provision of basic medical and relief supplies, replenishing the IRCS stocks and enhancing their disaster preparedness (DP) capacity in the region.

Provincial authorities initiated repair and reconstruction of housing and infrastructure, but had to abandon all activities for nearly four months, due to extremely harsh weather conditions, which set in during December. According to official information, provincial authorities will need another 10- 12 months to complete reconstruction in most of the villages hit by the earthquake more than a year ago.

The sudden onset of winter similarly slowed down the completion of the IRCS and Federation water and sanitation, and capacity building projects for which reason the appeal was extended until 31 July 2003.

At the time of reporting all projects but one have been completed. The emergency appeal will be extended by three months to 31 October 2003, in order for the remaining project 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 has worked in close collaboration with WFP in provision of food to the people living in temporary accommodations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

In the second phase of the operation, IRCS and the Federation have given priority to rehabilitating water and sanitation systems, and the 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.

IRCS relief workers and volunteers continued providing shelter and relief support to the affected population, however to a lesser degree than in the first four weeks following the earthquake. In recent months the IRCS has focused on completing the water and sanitation activities and replenishing branch warehouses with relief and medical items. All activities are being implemented by and coordinated through provincial IRCS branches with support from the IRCS headquarters in Tehran.

Objectives, activities and results

Health and care

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, the IRCS branch has provided ambulance service and basic medicines to the population.

IRCS psychological support teams 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 procured medical equipment and materials for ICRC provincial health centers requiring these materials in the affected region. According to the original plan, the DFID contribution was to be used for the construction of health posts. However, due to time constraints, it was agreed to use the funds for the procurement of medical equipment and material. The centres used the newly acquired medical supplies for replenishing depleted stocks and continuing their services without interruption.

Similarly, a donation from the Australian Government, originally planned to be used for the construction of health posts was used for activities to strengthen the IRCS's capacity for relief and rescue, including purchasing medical supplies for the local branches in the three provinces.

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 will assist 23,000 people by setting up 50 mobile shower units (MSUs) and constructing ten fixed public bath houses in 55 villages which were most affected by the earthquake. The project was expected to be completed by the end of March 2003, but due to the climate and harsh weather conditions in the field that made the remote villages inaccessible, the project was extended until the end of May 2003 when the project was completed with a high degree of quality with bath houses and MSUs connected to hot and cold water systems. Furthermore, each bathhouse and MSU received a substantial amount of hygiene and cleaning items to begin operating.

The mobile shower units and public bathhouses have contributed to maintaining good health and sanitary conditions for the most vulnerable population, who since for 10 months had no access to proper hygiene facilities. The installation of the facilities prevented health and hygiene conditions from deteriorating, which - if not addressed - could have become a health risk.

The traditional bathhouses, also called “hamams,” are an important part of community life in Iran, and contribute to the community’s emotional well-being. By establishing public bathhouses, the project has also contributed to restoring the social fabric.

An added value is the potential to use the mobile shower units, after the local authorities have concluded the rehabilitation of the disaster area and the mobile shower units have been replaced by permanent structures, as a disaster preparedness measure in this earthquake prone area or wherever a disaster may strike throughout the country.

Disaster response and preparedness

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

Since the disaster, IRCS 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 needed items. Distribution of winter kits continued until March 2003.

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 the high susceptibility of those regions to natural disasters, especially earthquakes, the operational capacity of IRCS branches in Qazvin, Zanjan and Hamadan needed to be restored and enhanced further.

Iran ranks number four among the most disaster prone countries in the world with floods, droughts and earthquakes being the most frequent natural disasters. 95% of the country is prone to earthquakes, which occur frequently throughout the country. For this reason National Society branches ought to have high level of preparedness at any time. In support to those efforts, donations of the Australian Government and OPEC were used to procure basic relief items and equipment for the three provincial branches, in order to replenish their depleted stocks, leading to an increased disaster preparedness and buildup capacity.

Unearmarked funds will make possible the provision of specialized rescue equipment and clothing thus providing relief workers and volunteers with protective and durable clothing under all weather conditions. Having completed the bid analysis, IRCS placed orders for 15 search and rescue kits, 1,100 heavy rain ponchos and 100 relief jackets. The equipment is expected to be delivered and distributed to provincial branches by mid-October.

For technical reasons an announced USAID contribution aimed to procure basic relief items and equipment was canceled.

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 line with those efforts, the capacity of the three provincial IRCS branches and

provincial health centers to continue providing quality humanitarian assistance to the population in this disaster-prone region.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation provided the National Society with technical support in the form of a water and sanitation consultant and a relief delegate, who have been responsible for sharing technical expertise in the project implementation and support in the monitoring process. In addition, a reporting delegate was 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. The Federation's news magazine - in Arabic and English - for the Middle East and North Africa "Al Ittihad" published articles on the earthquake operation. Representatives from the Iranian Republic News Agency were present during the inauguration of the bathhouses in the province of Qazvin. Local and national media broadcasted information from the inauguration in the province of Hamedan. The IRCS posted an article on its web site after the completion of the project.

Those efforts have resulted in a positive response to the emergency appeal and its high level of coverage.

Outstanding needs w

The appeal is being extended until 31 October 2003 to allow sufficient time for the completion of one outstanding rehabilitation activity.

For further details please contact: Ole Guldahl, Head of Delegation Iran . Phone: 00989112264015, Fax:0098218849079, email:ifrcir05@ ifrc. org..

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>.

Iran - Earthquake

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 17/2002

PLEDGES RECEIVED

22.07.2003

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	3'044'000	TOTAL COVERAGE 77.5%			
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	
NEW ZEALAND - RC	1'200	NZD	905	30.04.03	
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			2'233'010	CHF	73.4%

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
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			14'784		
SWISS - RC				20'500	05.07.2002	5 MULTIPURPOSE TENTS
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				126'756	CHF	4.2%

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
HUNGARIAN - RC		466'420	HUF	2'803	29.10.02	MEDICINE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				20'111	CHF	