

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: BAM EARTHQUAKE (FOCUS ON RECONSTRUCTION) APRIL – JUNE 2006

Appeal No. 25/03
30 June 2006

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

Operations Update No. 26; Period covered: 1 April to 30 June 2006; Appeal target: CHF 53,288,000 (USD 42,833,285 or EUR 34,078,905); Appeal coverage: 97 %

Outstanding needs (revised according to plan): CHF 1,651,928 (USD 1,327,700 or EUR 1,056,610) – Please note that the Federation is not seeking new cash contributions. All planned projects implemented through multilateral support and included in the revised plan of action have received sufficient support. The balance shown above represents the budget provision for the project which was planned to be implemented through bilateral cooperation, but later cancelled. ([please click here to go directly to the Contributions List available on the website](#)).

Appeal history:

- Preliminary Appeal launched on 26 December 2003 for CHF 15,409,300 (USD 12,290,337 or EUR 9,886,505) for 6 months for 200,000 beneficiaries.
- Revised Appeal launched on 8 January 2004 for CHF 51,913,000 (USD 42,006,534 or EUR 33,119,207) for 6 – 8 months for 210,000 beneficiaries.
- Revised Plan of Action presented on 29 September 2004, to reflect on-going programming into 2005, under the overall Emergency Appeal. A revised appeal budget for the period from December 2003 to December 2005 reflects the revised Plan of Action, and totaling to CHF 53,288,000 (USD 45,231,315 or EURO 34,324,335).
- The Final Report for the Emergency Operation Phase of the Bam Appeal, covering the period from 26 December 2003 to 31 August 2004, was issued on 8 December 2004 with Operations Update No.19.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A

Operational Summary:

Reconstruction projects are being implemented to meet the clearly identified priority needs of the affected population in Bam. The construction of educational and health facilities in Bam and the implementation of projects for enhanced services of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) are going on in line with the objectives outlined in the International Federation's revised Emergency Appeal (no.25/03). The urban health centre has been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Health. Progress is being made in the construction of schools.

Projects for psycho-social support (PSP), disaster management (DM) and community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) are being implemented to enhance the IRCS' DM capacity at all levels.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to [the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The IRCS maintains a website (www.rcs.ir) both in English and Farsi which also provides the latest information, operational updates, reports, interviews and news on the Bam operation to the public.

Background

On the morning of 26 December 2003, at 05:28 (local time), a major earthquake measuring 6.51 on the Richter scale struck the city of Bam, Kerman Province, south-eastern Iran. According to seismologists, the earthquake was one of the shallowest ever recorded, with a focal depth of only 10-12 kilometres and the epicentre directly underneath the Bam city. Bam is located on a main earthquake fault line. In Iran, which is ranked as the fourth most disaster prone country in the world, this was the worst earthquake to hit the country in more than a decade. According to the latest estimates, more than 26,000 people were killed, approximately 30,000 injured (of which some 10,000 were evacuated out of the area).

In Bam, more than 85 percent of the buildings were completely destroyed. For more information and details of the human loss, financial and material consequences of the disaster, please refer to Operations Update No. 21 at http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/250321.pdf.

Objectives, activities and results

1. Bam Reconstruction Programme

Overall Objective:

In close cooperation with the Iranian Authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the education, health and social infrastructure of Bam.

1.1 School Construction

The Federation and the contractor exerted joint efforts to minimize the impact caused by the loss of the former Managing Director of the Sanati Fajr Company. Maintaining close coordination with all parties concerned, the Federation team, the architectural consultant and the contractor have been working together to ensure the progress and quality of the buildings and solve the problems in the way. They also closely cooperate with each other in the selection of finishing materials and fine-tuning the exterior and interior designs.

The school construction programme has entered an advanced stage. School buildings begin to show their final features and workers are busy with finishing works. The dynamics of the programme continues to be influenced by the shortage of basic construction materials such as cement and ready-made mixed concrete, and by the interruption of electricity and water supply. The frequent cut of electricity from the city's power grid causes temporary halts to welding on steel structures. With the arrival of hot summer, the demand of water is spiralling, creating a big water shortage in the city. Even households are suffering from the lack of water for days. Although the Federation team and the contractor tried to resolve the water problem with the help of the local authorities and the Ministry of Education, it did not work out. As a result, the contractor made its own arrangement to get adequate amount of water to the construction sites from private water-sellers.

The construction of the nine schools have been closely monitored by the supervisor engineers from the consulting company and various technical departments of the local government. Besides, the Federation's programme management team provides overall guidance and control in terms of programme implementation. *The furniture and equipment for the nine schools have been already procured and stored in warehouses of the supplier companies in Tehran and will be delivered to Bam as soon as the schools get ready to receive them.*

The tentative date of formal handover of the nine schools is set for 24 September 2006. Donor National Societies and other interested partners will be invited to the ceremony in due course.

Security has become a serious concern in Bam. In recent months several cases of armed attacks, kidnapping and murder have been reported and Bam has been threatened with more attacks. Although the local authorities have taken tougher security measures, the security situation has not improved so far. In recent weeks there were three cases of attacks in the Federation construction sites. The attackers tried to threaten workers and steel money and valuables. The local authorities were immediately informed of the events and officially requested to strengthen the security of the project staff.

1.1.1 Standard School Construction Programme



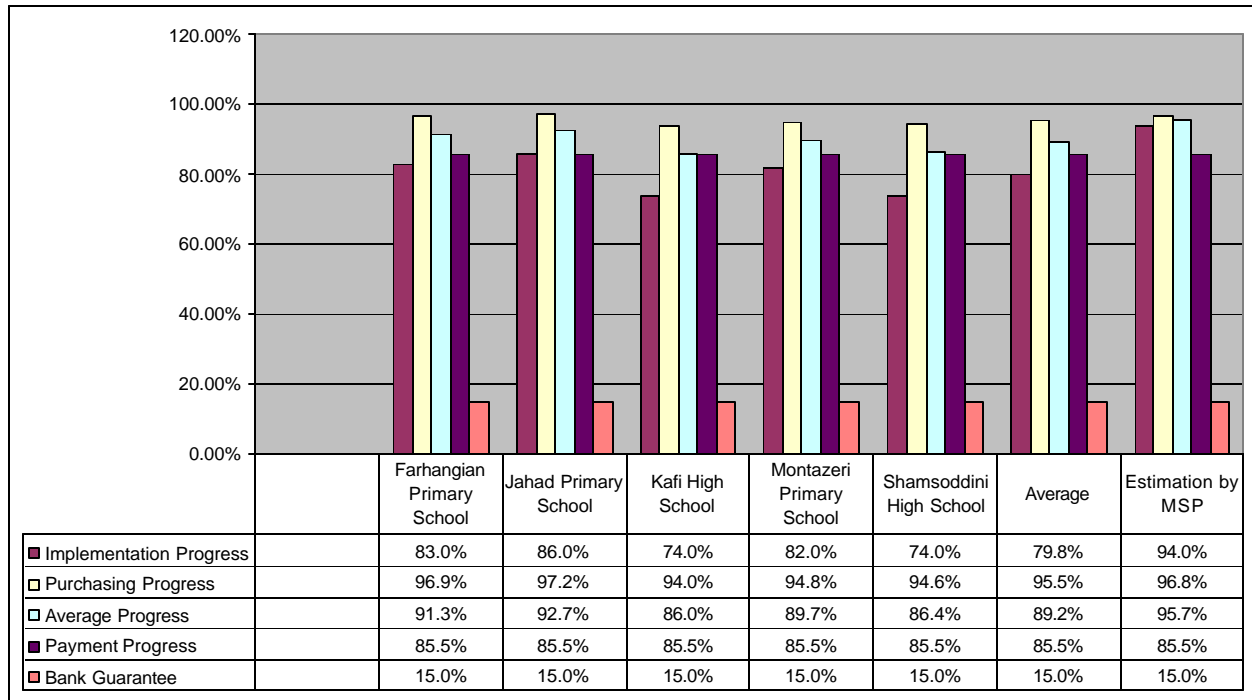
Montazeri is one of the standard schools which has entered a final stage of implementation, alike the other four school sites

The construction of the standard schools has entered a final stage of implementation, with all five school sites reaching the same level of completion. Most of the works have been completed, which include superstructure, masonry walls, internal partitions, plastering, stone works, wall surfaces, mechanical and electrical works, air-conditioning, channelling, insulations, etc. Paint colours have been chosen for corridors and classrooms and the painting of interiors commenced in some sites.

The Federation team and the engineers from the consulting company hold regular coordination meetings with the contractor and site managers to notify them of work processes and faults discovered during the monitoring. This process has enabled the contractor and site managers to accelerate the construction and guarantee the quality of construction by correcting the faults in time.

By 18 June 2006, the average implementation progress of the standard schools stands at 79.8%. From the end of June, landscaping will start in all construction sites. The contractor is planning to complete the construction of all standard schools by 31 July 2006.

Graphic No. 1 Details of progress in each school site



1.1.2 Special School Construction Programme



A substantial progress has been made in the construction of the special schools for disabled children, like Maharathaye, which will allow the construction programme to be completed in September

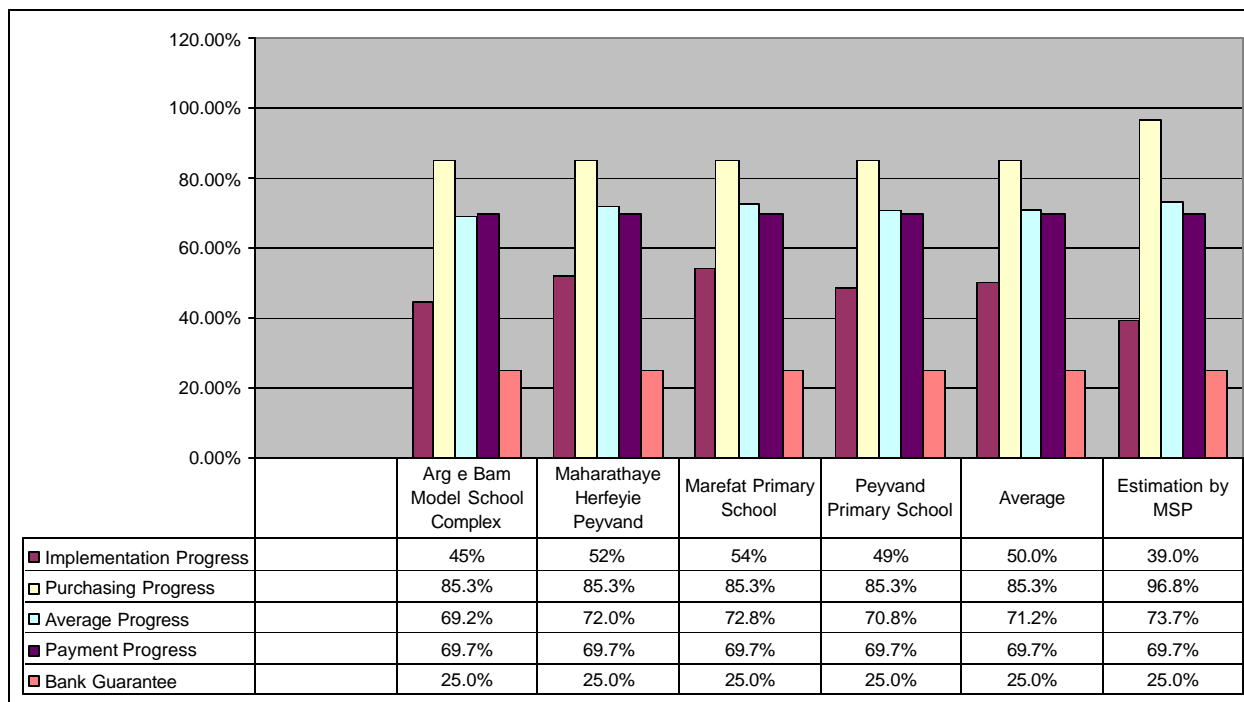
A substantial progress has been made in the construction of special schools for disabled children. In all construction sites, the structure has been completed and most of the walls erected. Workers are busy with the stone works, which will be followed by plastering and painting of walls.

The construction of the Arg-e-Bam model school complex continues to be affected by the lack of space at site and the shortage of water and building materials. In spite of the fact that all the projects have been implemented by the private construction company, the progress of works has been still affected by the rationing policy introduced by the authorities on the major construction materials, power supply, water.

To accelerate the construction progress, the contractor has reinforced its labour force and sub-contracted staff. The site has been divided into three sectors, where parallel activities are undertaken with two shifts. Welding is progressing with some corrections on the structure. In sector “A” walls are being erected and fencing of the site is going on with relative progress. In sector “B” the structure has been completed and partitions erected at the basement level. In sector “C” a pavilion structure is in progress.

By 18 June 2006, the average implementation progress of the standard schools stands at 50%. The special school construction programme is expected to be completed in September.

Graphic No. 2 Details of progress in each school site



1.2 Urban Health Centre (UHC)



Despite the delay, by the beginning of June 2006, the construction of the UHC was completed

The long holiday period in Iran at the end of March and the beginning of April 2006 had a negative impact on accelerating the construction of the UHC. Workers did not return to work in time and the final works of the UHC were delayed by the lack of finishing materials. Besides, the construction was affected by the frequent cut of water and electricity. All this caused some further delay in completing the construction.

While the construction was going on, the Federation had a series of discussion with the Ministry of Health and WHO regarding the supply of furniture and equipment to the UHC. It also contracted a company to do landscaping of the UHC.

By the beginning of June 2006, the construction of the UHC was completed and it was furnished by the MoH and WHO as per their guidelines. The UHC has been named the “Zia” Urban Health Centre after the name of Mrs. Zia, who donated the land for the UHC construction. The UHC which is located in the central part of the Bam city will serve a population of 10,000 people living in the area. It consists of two separate buildings. The front two-story building is surrounded by a yard with palm trees, flowers and fencing around. Here the centre will provide medical services such as general medical check-up, emergency care, dentistry, vaccination, family and environmental health. At the back of the front building, there is a residential apartment to accommodate nurses and doctors.



The handing over ceremony of the the Zia Urban Health Centre to the Ministry of Health on the 11th of June was attended by representatives of different parties involved

On 11 June 2006, the International Federation and the IRCS held a ceremony of handing over the Zia Urban Health Centre to the Ministry of Health in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Health, WHO, IRCS, as well as the Governor of Bam, Head of the Task Force. Speakers highly appreciated the International Federation’s contribution to normalizing health services in Bam and mentioned that the Zia UHC was the best among eleven UHCs built in Bam in terms of the size and quality of construction. A formal hand-over certificate was signed by the Federation, IRCS and MoH.

1.3 Road Rescue Base

Progress is being made in the construction of the main administrative building and two warehouses, which form an integral part of a major disaster preparedness complex comprising warehouses, administrative buildings, parking areas, helipad and other facilities. These components of the project have been funded by the Hong Kong Red Cross and directly implemented by the IRCS. The construction has been completed up to 95% with the remaining 5% to be completed as soon as the current problem of a budget deficit is sorted out. Having reviewed the budget deficit, the Federation has agreed to pay it from its reserve.

Table No 1: Level of completion of the Road Rescue Base

Tasks / Activities	Current Situation, Project Readiness	Outstanding task to complete
Tiles/Ceramic of Walls & Floors	90%	10%
Electrical Installation	95%	5%
Purchasing & Installation of Sanitary Equipment (Sinks, Faucets, Hoses, etc.)	0%	0%
Total Project Progress	95%	5%

1.4 Projects in response to the revised joint IRCS/Federation's plan of action, implemented through bilateral cooperation



The construction of the IRCS branch office in Bam is one of the projects implemented with the German RC support

The German Red Cross funded projects have been implemented by the IRCS' Construction Department. These projects include the establishment of an Orthopaedic Centre, IRCS branch office in Bam, the construction of the IRCS storage facilities and the rehabilitation of the IRCS Bam branch community centre. They are in different stages of construction and are expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

2. Health

Objective: Gaps in the health system between the emergency and the long-term solutions are bridged through the IRCS referral hospital.

Activities:

With the support of the Federation, the Treatment and Rehabilitation Department of the IRCS has made preparations to conduct the following HIV/AIDS training workshops for 120 trainers of IRCS:

- Training of trainers workshop in Shiraz (covering Khuzestan, Fars, Kerman, Hormozgan, Busheher, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Kohghiluy-Buyerahmad Provinces) in July 2006
- Training of trainers workshop in Isfahan (covering Yazd, Isfahan, Chaharmahal-e-Bakhtiari, Lorestan, Tehran, Markazi, Qom, and Qazvin Provinces) in August 2006
- Training of trainers workshop in Mashad (covering three Khorasan Provinces, Mazandaran, Golestan, Semnan, and Gilan Provinces) in August-September 2006
- Training of trainers workshop in Tabriz (covering Kordestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Zanjan, and Hamedan Provinces) in September 2006

These HIV/AIDS workshops are designed to promote the awareness, knowledge and skills of trainers in prevention and education about AIDS for youth. Facilitators of these workshops have been identified and all training materials prepared in advance.

The IRCS branch in Bam has made preparations to give the following classes to a total of 640 people in Bam for 8 months as part of the psycho-social support programme:

- Computer classes for 160 men
- Computer classes for 160 women
- Embroidery classes for 160 women
- Sewing classes for 160 women

In mid-May 2006, the IRCS branch in Bam selected the participants in the above classes and registered them. The first course of embroidery and sewing classes for women began on 22 May 2006 and that of computer classes for both men and women on 6 June 2006. Each course consisting of 20 people will last for a month, with a total of 8 courses in 8 months.

3. Disaster Preparedness

Objective: The IRCS capacity in disaster management has been strengthened at all levels.

Activities:

The Federation Delegation and the IRCS continue to work on the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) project in Kerman. On 28 May 2006, the Federation's CBDP Coordinator and the Kerman Provincial Branch of the IRCS held a meeting with representatives of the local authorities to review the CBDP project and discuss the future plan of action. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the CBDP training of trainers (ToT) workshops and CBDP workshops held so far in Kerman and agreed to move on to the next phase of the project. It was agreed at the meeting that the CBDP project for 2006 would concentrate on:

- Conducting three contingency planning (CP) workshops for 105 IRCS staff and officials of the provincial government,
- Organizing four CBDP experience sharing workshops,
- Implementing the CBDP project in selected communities.

In consultation with the IRCS branch and the local authorities, the Federation Delegation has finalized the programme of the above CP and CBDP workshops and prepared the presentations and training materials for them in Farsi.

Efforts are being made to improve cooperation and coordination with other agencies concerned in the field of DM.

In May-June 2006, the Federation Delegation held several meetings with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Tehran to improve coordination between the Federation/IRCS and UN agencies during emergencies in Iran. At the end of these meetings the two sides have agreed to form a working group to identify the concrete areas for mutual cooperation and come up with recommendations for practical steps.



The DM training workshop conducted by the Federation Delegation for 35 journalists of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) covered many topics ranging from Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement to DM related issues

Considering the role played by the media in covering and supporting the Red Cross/Red Crescent relief operations and having discussed the modality of mutual cooperation, the Federation Delegation conducted a DM training workshop for 35 journalists of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Iranian national news agency, in Tehran on 25 May 2006. The topics of the workshop included the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, the Federation's disaster response system and DM-related issues (terminologies, cycles, SPHERE, etc). IRNA journalists appreciated the workshop and expressed the hope that it would be followed by more practical training and concrete cooperation. As per the agreement with the IRNA, the IRCS' Relief and Rescue Organization will organize a separate training workshop on practical life-saving skills (first aid and rescue) for IRNA journalists.

Together with Iranian authorities and UN agencies, the Federation has become one of the sponsors of the lessons learned workshop of the Lorestan earthquake, which was held in Borujerd on 27-28 June 2006. This earthquake which had occurred on 31 March 2006 left 63 people dead, 1,418 injured and 15,000 families homeless. The subsequent relief operation raised many issues to be addressed by the Iranian authorities and aid agencies for better disaster response in the future. The workshop was attended by representatives of different ministries of the Iranian Government, the Lorestan Governor General's office, UN agencies, aid organizations, embassies, IRCS,

etc. The Federation Delegation made a presentation on international standby arrangement and, together with representatives of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNOCHA, facilitated the discussion on this topic at the workshop. Meanwhile, the IRCS made a presentation on its response to the quake disaster. This workshop was very helpful to the participants in learning the lessons from the Lorestan earthquake and improving the cooperation and coordination between the parties concerned in future disaster response operations in Iran.

4. Coordination

The IRCS and the Federation Delegation have maintained close consultation and coordination in implementing the programmes. Regular meetings and consultations between the two sides ensure proper information sharing and effective coordination of programme-related issues, and help address the problems arising in programme implementation.

The Iran Delegation now consists of two Delegates and thirteen locally employed staff based in Tehran, Bam and Zahedan. The Delegates are Chang Hun Choe (Acting Head of Delegation) and Gyula Kadar (Programme Coordinator in Bam).

It is significant to note that the Iran Delegation organised a photo exhibition on the Bam reconstruction programme during the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Regional Conference held in Marakesh, Morocco, on 15-18 May 2006. The photos showing the current status of construction of schools, an urban health centre and a road relief base drew the attention of participants in the conference.

In addition, during the reporting period, the Iran Delegation has submitted the following reports to the respective donors:

- Interim pledge-based narrative reports on UHC to Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies of Belgium (Flanders), Malaysia, Norway and Qatar
- Interim pledge-based narrative report to Canadian Red Cross (PMN 0504087).

[Please click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)