

# 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

16 January  
2006

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2005 ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR 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

**Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update No. 24; Period covered: 1 January to 31 December 2006**

##### Appeal history:

- Revised Emergency Appeal was launched on 8 January 2004 for CHF 51,913,000 (USD 40,628,980 or EUR 33,581,465) for 6–8 months for 210,000 beneficiaries.
- Revised Plan of Action was presented on 1 September 2004 to reflect on-going programming into 2005. A revised appeal budget totaled to CHF 53,288,000 (USD 41,709,760 or EUR 34,484,690).
- Final Report for Emergency Operation Phase of the Bam Appeal, covering the period from 26 December 2003 to 31 August 2004 issued on 8 December 2004.
- The present operations update highlights the achievements in 2005 and outlines the activities required to finalise the emergency assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction programme following the Bam Earthquake of 26 December 2003. The new Plan of Action and operational budget cover a period from January to December 2006.

**Appeal coverage: 96,9 %**

**Outstanding needs (revised according to plan): CHF 1,651,928** – 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 the bilateral cooperation, but later cancelled.

##### Operational Summary:

The emergency relief operation was rounded by the end of March 2004 when the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) and Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) turned their attention to longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction needs.

The balance of funds received in response to the Emergency Appeal (25/03) was channeled in support of the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme outlined in the revised plan of action of 1 September 2004. All additional funds raised as part of the Appeal were allocated to the relevant reconstruction, disaster preparedness and stock replenishment projects.

## **Iran: Bam Earthquake; Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update No.24**

Due to certain obstacles, which caused delays in implementation of projects, objectives of some of them, especially for reconstruction and disaster preparedness have not been achieved by the end of 2005 as it was initially envisaged.

This update serves as a notice that the Bam Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction programme will remain active and that its time frame will be extended to 2006. It will continue to focus mainly on reconstruction and strengthening the IRCS' disaster management (DM) capacity. The update presents an overview of the Plan of Action for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2006. It will also provide highlights for major achievements during 2005.

A Final Report for the Emergency phase of Bam Operation was issued on 8 December 2004. It covered the initial period of the Emergency Appeal, from 26 December 2003 to the end of August 2004.

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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 IRCS maintains a website ([www.rcs.ir](http://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**

A major earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the city of Bam, Kerman Province in south-eastern Iran, at 05:28 (local time) on 26 December 2003. Within a few seconds the whole city was gone. According to the authorities' estimates, more than 26,000 people were killed, 30,000 injured and up to 75,600 left homeless. About 85 percent of housing and infrastructure was destroyed. The United Nations (UN) estimated that the number of people affected by the loss of economic activity and damage to property and infrastructure was as high as 200,000.

Two months after a massive search, rescue and emergency response, the IRCS with support from the Federation met the basic emergency humanitarian needs of an estimated 155,000 earthquake victims. Five months after the disaster, through the combined efforts of the Iranian authorities, national and international organizations the population of Bam was provided with reasonable temporary shelter, adequate food and non-food supplies, as well as essential medical services. The situation in Bam began to improve as from the end of April 2004, with more and more people moving into temporary housing provided by the government, either erected on their own property or in the camps.

The distribution of relief items was replaced by cash coupon distribution through May and June 2004. All Emergency Response Units (ERUs), which were deployed through the Federation soon after the earthquake, including the Finnish/Norwegian ERU Field Hospital, were handed over to the IRCS. By early July 2004, the Federation operation in Bam had been scaled down to focus primarily on the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

## Operational Developments

Following the revised Plan of Action launched on 1 September 2004, the Federation and the IRCS focused their efforts in Bam on reconstructing educational and health facilities and enhancing the IRCS' disaster management (DM) capacity.

### Health and care

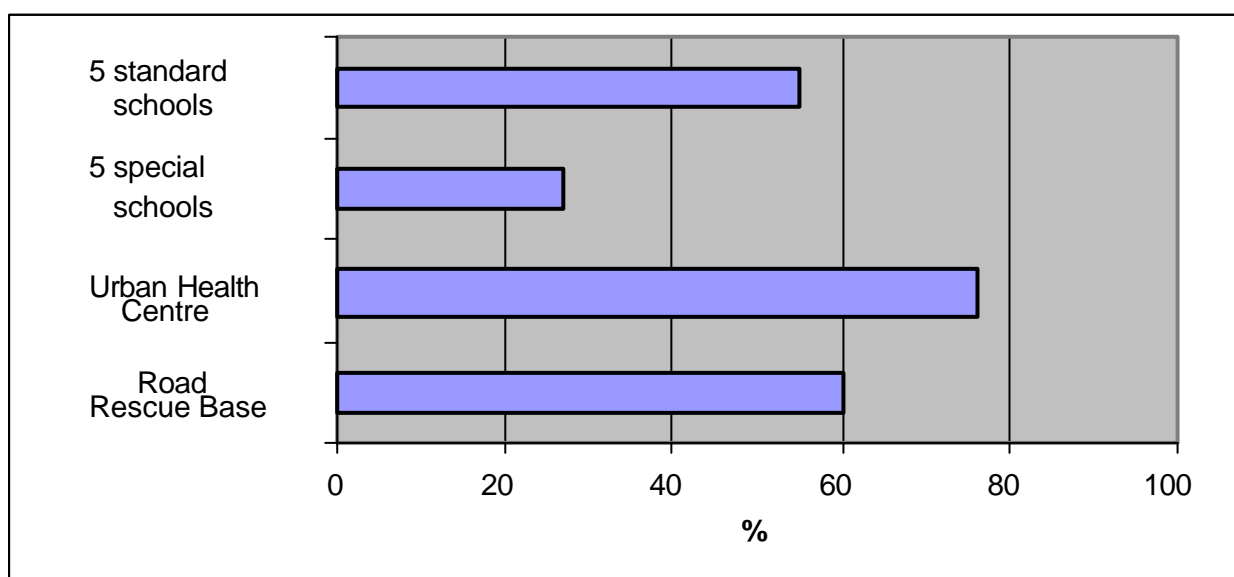
The ERU field hospital moved into temporary containerized facilities at the end of August 2004. It was handed over to the IRCS for the operational management at the beginning of September 2004. With the support of the Federation, the IRCS ran the hospital till the end of March 2005. It offered Bam residents a variety of services including emergency medical care, in and out-patient treatment, specialized services (surgical, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynaecology, orthopaedic, pediatric wards, intensive care, operating theatre). Maternity and delivery unit, laboratory, X-ray and ambulance transfer service were operational on 24 hours basis.

The Bam earthquake operation also provided the IRCS with an opportunity to develop its psychosocial support programme (PSP) capacity, with the technical support of a number of national societies. Although the bilaterally supported PSP projects ended in March 2005, the IRCS has continued its psychosocial support to traumatized people in Bam through 2005. With the support of the Federation, PSP has been integrated into the IRCS' DM programme.

### Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

By October 2004, the funding situation for reconstruction projects became more or less clear and the Federation committed itself to constructing 10 schools (5 primary, 3 secondary and 2 high schools), an urban health centre and a road rescue base. A series of discussion was held between all parties concerned to determine the modality of implementation of reconstruction projects. All cooperation agreements were duly signed between the Federation, IRCS, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. Through a comparative bidding process, the Federation and the IRCS chose the architect and construction companies and signed relevant contracts with them.

Despite some initial delays in signing agreements/contracts, getting land allocation formalized and clearing the sites, the construction in general has progressed well in 2005. By mid-December 2005, the progress in implementation of the reconstruction projects in Bam was as follows:



## **Disaster Management**

Following the plan of action jointly worked out for the replenishment of the IRCS DP stocks depleted during and after the Bam earthquake, the Federation provided the national society with essential DP items such as canvas for making tents, plastic sheeting, kerosene lanterns, rescue sets and kitchen sets.

A number of DM and first aid training workshops to train IRCS staff and volunteers was held. Training on PSP and HIV/AIDS has been integrated into the IRCS' overall DM programme. A community based disaster preparedness (CBDP) project began with local authorities in Kerman Province with various training workshops for trainers, community members and government officials. The IRCS gave timely and effective logistics support to the earthquake operation in Pakistan, providing the Federation with an opportunity to use the IRCS' resources and capacity in regional and international relief operations.

Despite the progress made in the course of 2005 to achieve the objectives of the revised September 2004 Plan of Action, some of the planned activities have not been completed due to the complexity of reconstruction projects and various delaying factors which were beyond the control of the Federation.

The new, adjusted Plan of Action has been drawn up in line with the objectives of the Emergency Appeal and the September 2004 revised Plan of Action. Its aim is to complete all initially identified tasks before the end of 2006. The operational budget has been adjusted to ensure implementation of the Plan of Action from 1 January to 31 December 2006 without mobilizing additional resources.

The Federation will keep the minimum human resource structure in Iran till June 2006 – with a Bam-based Programme Coordinator, working closely with a Tehran-based Head of Delegation, a Disaster Preparedness/Disaster Response Coordinator, a Finance/Administration Delegate and the rest of the Delegation and IRCS teams. As of the beginning of July 2006, the Federation presence in Iran is planned to be limited to one representative (expatriate delegate). Only one Federation Representative will remain in Iran and the other three delegates will finish their mission.

## **Coordination**

The Federation will maintain its role of coordination, monitoring, accountability on behalf of the donor community and technical support to the IRCS, while the National Society remains the leading implementing organization.

The two sides will continue regular coordination meetings at Tehran and Bam levels in order to complete the on-going projects in time and achieve maximum impact. In Bam, the Federation will continue to attend both general and sectoral coordination meetings organized by UN agencies and local authorities. At Tehran level, the Federation will continue coordination with key partners: Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Health (MoH), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), etc.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact**

### **Rehabilitation and Reconstruction**

**Overall objective: In close cooperation with the IRCS and the Iranian authorities, the Federation has contributed to the reconstruction of the educational, health and social infrastructure in Bam.**

Public buildings and houses are slowly rising up in Bam and its surrounding villages as the local authorities and aid agencies are bustling about various reconstruction projects. However, reconstruction is still in the very early stage and much remains to be done to complete the planned projects.

## **Iran: Bam Earthquake; Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update No.24**

With the accumulated funds from various national societies and governments, the Federation and the IRCS have been working on the construction of 10 schools, one urban health center (polyclinic) and one road rescue base of the IRCS. The Federation's contribution to the educational sector has been the biggest among international agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Bam. The Federation's utmost aim is to finish the reconstruction programme in Bam by the middle of 2006. A number of reconstruction projects implemented through the bilateral cooperation, but still within the appeal frame, are expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

**Specific Objective: Construction of 10 schools, one urban health centre and an IRCS Road Rescue Base in Kerman is completed by the end of June 2006.**

### **Activities planned to achieve this objective:**

On 23 December 2005, the Federation Secretariat produced an Operations Update No. 23 - "Iran: Bam Earthquake, Focus on Reconstruction, 2005 Achievements, and the 2006 Action Plan". It contains detailed information on all aspects of the Federation coordinated reconstruction programme in Bam with the special emphasis on challenges and achievements in 2005.

The Operations Update No. 23 can be obtained from the Federation's website at:

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?03/250323.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/250323.pdf)

### **Expected results:**

- 10 schools have been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Education by the end of June 2006.
- The Urban Health Centre has been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Health by the end of February 2006.
- The Federation funded administrative part and two warehouses of the IRCS Road Rescue Base have been completed by March 2006.

## **Disaster Preparedness and Capacity Building**

**Overall objective: The IRCS capacity in disaster management has been strengthened at the national, regional and community levels.**

In the course of implementing the revised Plan of Action launched in September 2004, the Federation has been able to achieve some important objectives, specifically for replenishment of IRCS disaster preparedness (DP) stocks, standardizing first aid (FA) and disaster management (DM) training for IRCS staff at various levels. However, there are some areas that still need the Federation's support. This 2006 Plan of Action will focus on providing support to these DM areas.

### **Specific Objectives**

**a) IRCS capacity in disaster management has been strengthened at all levels.**

#### **Activities planned to achieve this objective:**

- Provide DM training to all directors of IRCS branches at district and city levels through organizing four training workshops.
- Assist the IRCS to acquire the ERU capacity by organizing training workshops for hospital ERU and water/sanitation ERU in Iran and sending two persons to a hospital ERU training organized by one of the national societies.
- Improve the IRCS' search and rescue (SAR) capacity by organizing a relevant training workshop in Iran.
- Organize CBFA training workshops at various levels by involving IRCS first aid trainers who were trained in 2005 and using new CBFA training manuals and materials.

## **Iran: Bam Earthquake; Appeal No. 25/03; Operations Update No.24**

- Develop a pool of experts in disaster response and logistics by training IRCS staff in Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and the Federation's logistics procedures.

### **Expected results:**

- 200 directors of IRCS branches at district and city levels have become familiar with the standard operating procedures of the national society and the Federation.
- The disaster response capacity of the IRCS has been strengthened through SAR and FACT training.
- Hospital and water/sanitation Emergency Response Units have been established in the IRCS and ready to be deployed in case of emergencies.
- The IRCS has provided effective First Aid services to people by applying CBFA.
- IRCS staff have become familiar with the Federation's logistics procedures.

### **b) The Kerman Provincial Government has improved its disaster preparedness and disaster response capacity by applying the community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) approaches at high-risk communities with the support of the Federation and IRCS.**

#### **Activities planned to achieve this objective:**

- Develop a pool of CBDP practitioners through conducting four CBDP training of trainers workshops and five CBDP workshops for community members and government officials.
- Develop CBDP practices by implementing a pilot CBDP project in four selected communities and sharing good examples and experience with each other.
- Involve communities in developing their contingency plans and improve them through simulation exercises.
- Increase the involvement of community people in CBDP through relevant public awareness campaigns.

#### **Expected results:**

- 240 CBDP trainers and 210 CBDP practitioners have been trained and involved in implementation of CBDP projects.
- CBDP models have been created in target communities and their experience shared with other communities.
- Communities have worked out contingency plans and tested them through simulation exercises.
- Community people have had better knowledge and practice about what to do before, during and after a disaster, with the help of public awareness campaigns.

#### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The implementation of the 2006 Plan of Action will be regularly monitored by the Federation Delegation. The reconstruction projects in Bam will be jointly monitored by the Federation, IRCS, MoE and MoH. Monitoring will also be done through regular reporting and daily work of the Federation delegates and their counterparts. Operational activities will be reflected in standard Federation operation updates and a final narrative and financial report will be submitted at the end of the revised operational period.

The experience of the rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bam will continue to be evaluated and used in improving the Federation's performance in other big operations.

The Bam earthquake operation has been a large-scale, complex one which has gone through a full disaster management cycle – emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and disaster preparedness. The completion of all planned activities in the given timeframe through the combined efforts of the Federation and IRCS will give not only a big relief to the people in Bam but also great encouragement to the on-going operations in tsunami-affected countries and Pakistan.

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