

Appeal 2001-2002



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Islamic Republic of Iran (Appeal 01.65/2001)

Click on programme title or figures to go to the text or budget

	<i>In CHF</i>
1. Disaster Preparedness	750,000
2. Coordination & Management	170,000
Total	920,000



Introduction

National Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran has an area of 1,648,000 sq. km. and a population of some 62 million. The annual population growth rate is 1.2 %, the life expectancy at birth 68.5 years, the adult literacy rate 69% (1995) and the infant mortality rate is 11 per 1,000 live births. The government spends some 5% of the GDP on health.

The international image of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to improve through reciprocal official contacts with the European Union, the Far East and neighbouring countries. Further progress in this vein is expected gradually to re-open ties with Iran and lower barriers to commercial contacts. The recent increases of prices on the international oil market should give a boost to the economy, but the country is still under pressure to meet its external debt obligations and struggles with rising domestic prices and unemployment estimated at 16% with rates increasing.

Iran is located in a highly disaster prone area with a pattern of frequent earthquakes, floods and landslides. During the last decade, major disasters in Gilan, Zanzjan, Khorasan and Shiraz have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of lives, injured many more and caused serious damage to the infrastructure of the affected areas.

The country hosts the largest refugee population in the world, spontaneously scattered in major cities and provinces throughout the national territory. After a massive influx from neighbouring countries during the past two decades, there are currently some 2.1 million refugees, most of them from Afghanistan (1.4 million) and Iraq (580,000), receiving assistance from various governmental and non-governmental organisations.

National Society Priorities

It is of fundamental importance to strengthen the relief management capacity of the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS). The IRCS, as auxiliary to the authorities, has been designated the main national relief organisation to attend to victims during the first six weeks following a disaster. Nevertheless, Red Crescent assistance is normally extended far beyond this initial period.

The IRCS, the Federation Secretariat and other partners have for some time been aware of the importance of enhancing the disaster response capacities of the national society. Moreover, the IRCS seeks an increasing level of participation in the work of the Movement. With this vision, co-operation between the IRCS and the Federation was reinforced in late 1998 through the allocation of a staff-on-loan from the IRCS international department at the MENA Department of the Secretariat. Co-operation between the IRCS and the Federation is based on a memorandum of understanding, signed in 1995.

Priority Programmes for Federation Assistance

The IRCS does not have a national development plan or a similar planning document that lists the capacity building priorities of the national society. The Federation therefore aims to provide technical, material and financial means to support the organisation in creating a realistic framework for its future development in accordance with relevant Federation policies and regulations. The Federation also wishes to encourage and guide the IRCS in sharing its resources and experience, especially in disaster preparedness, with neighbouring countries and elsewhere.

The Federation will, in the coming years, assist to build the capacity of the IRCS in four priority areas: disaster response, disaster preparedness, health and the promotion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.

Based on workshops and assessments, the Federation will, together with the IRCS, prioritise areas of co-operation, including training programmes, technical advice and equipment. The national society, after a substantial period of withdrawal from active external involvement, needs to build up its profile and relations with other organisations, both nationally and internationally, to facilitate access to more diversified and substantial support sources.

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1. Disaster Preparedness

Background and progress to date

The Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRCS) has significant experience in responding to natural disasters, particularly in the management of earthquake disasters which could be shared with other Societies in the region. In addition, over the past 20 years, the Society has been involved in caring for Afghan refugees. The Red Crescent Society has a realistic view of its own capacities and needs to develop these further in order to respond more effectively to emergencies and to provide appropriate assistance to refugees.

Recent assessments conducted by the IRCS and Federation consultants have indicated needs which, if met, would make a significant impact in improving the lives of the most vulnerable. The main areas identified include disaster preparedness training to enable the Society to deal more effectively with disaster response based on lessons of experience. It is also essential to set up effective communications systems to ensure timely communication during disasters.

The large Afghan population in Iran around the Zahedan and Zabul areas has created an enormous strain and serious drought and health related problems have been the subject of an emergency appeal issued in August 2000.

Goal The programme seeks to enable the IRCS to contribute more effectively to the improvement of the situation of the most vulnerable through an effective disaster preparedness programme.

Objectives and Activities Planned

Objective 1 To strengthen IRCS management of and community preparedness for and involvement in disaster prevention, mitigation, response and recovery.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Conduct a mountain rescue training course in association with the Swiss Disaster Relief Agency.
- Assist the IRCS to design and implement a practical learning programme for community responders aimed at training of trainers with a focus on earthquake preparedness coupled with first aid. This will include both urban communities and refugee population in the camps.
- Facilitate workshops in disaster management and logistics for disaster response managers with a focus on the management of urban earthquake emergencies.
- Include in the disaster management workshops a component focused on project management, evaluation and Federation reporting.

Objective 2 To improve communication infrastructure including installation of equipment and training of staff to improve communications during disasters.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Establish a country wide communications system in order to enhance field communications, particularly in the context of disaster response operations. 15 repeaters will be set up to cover key areas in Iran and 200 base stations will be installed country wide. 206 mobile radios will be installed in Red Crescent vehicles and 400 handsets will be provided to Iranian Red Crescent relief teams.
- Assist in the training required in relation to the maintenance and effective use of the communication facilities.
- Facilitate the process through which the IRCS can establish web site facilities to ensure the availability and exchange of relevant information in times of disaster.

Expected results

- Earthquake search and rescue operations will be more effectively carried out by IRCS volunteers through enhanced IRCS capacity.

- Volunteers from branches in the high risk areas will have received community based training in disaster preparedness. These trainers will be conducting similar courses in selected communities based on identified needs.
- IRCS staff will have improved disaster management skills and will have improved understanding of project management and evaluation as well as Federation reporting requirements.
- Communications and information flow will have improved, ensuring a more effective response to disasters on the part of the IRCS.
- An IRCS web page will have been launched and promoted.

Indicators

- IRCS staff and volunteers will have been trained in mountain rescue and will be disseminating relevant skills to people in high risk areas.
- A workshop on urban earthquake emergencies will have taken place for a group of emergency response managers and contents disseminated to appropriate volunteers and staff in high risk areas.
- Community based responder groups will have been set up to prepare the community to respond to earthquakes in urban Tehran.
- Disaster management training of trainers' workshops will have been carried out for emergency response managers and contents disseminated at high risk branches around the country.
- Workshops held will include components on logistics and project management.
- Communication equipment will have been installed and operated by competently trained IRCS staff in all 28 branches.

Critical assumptions

- The IRCS provides a full-time co-ordinator for the disaster preparedness programme.
- Resources and funding are acquired to support the programmes.
- Specialist course facilitators can be secured for workshops on disaster management.
- Appropriately qualified/experienced field staff can be secured for the programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation arrangements

- Curriculum content and lists of course participants will be available. All courses will be evaluated, both in terms of participants' satisfaction and impact.
- Evaluation exercises will take place to ensure that staff and volunteers undertaking disaster management, logistics and urban earthquake emergency training apply their expertise to ensure efficiency and effectiveness during a disaster.
- Installation of a communications system and staff training will be monitored by a telecom delegate.
- Quarterly reports generated by the national society will indicate progress according to a work plan, identify shortcomings and plans to rectify these.
- Programme evaluation will take place at the end of 2001 by the IRCS, the regional disaster preparedness delegate and representatives of donor societies.

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2. Coordination and Management

Background and progress to date

The Federation representative office will be reopened in January 2001. This renewed presence will allow the Federation to provide continuous support to IRCS, in its activities in Iran and also with a view to strengthening ties with the region and the donor community.

Due to the capacity of the National Society, its strong human resources and volunteer staff, the office will be staffed by one representative, whose mission will be to promote the advocacy role of the Federation and to support the National Society through technical assistance, liaison with the with Secretariat and reporting on programme progress.

The Federation representative will also supervise all Federation supported programmes, whether included in this appeal (disaster preparedness, telecommunication upgrading) or not (assistance to Afghan refugees). In this regard, the reporting delegate assigned in the context of the programme for drought assistance to refugees and other staff who may be recruited in the event of an expansion of the programme, will report to the representative.

Other regional / Federation activities, as the third MENA Conference, to be held in Tehran in May, will also be organised in close cooperation with this office.

Goal To supervise the Federation supported programmes and other IRCS activities through technical support, liaison with the international community and to assist in upgrading disaster preparedness capacities.

Objective 1 To support the National Society in capacity building.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Provision of guidance as regards institutional development and familiarization with Federation guidelines and tools in this field.

Objective 2 Establish/strengthen links between IRCS and international community and RC/RC partners.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Participate in regular information/coordination meetings with IRCS governance and management, and with partners.
- Liaise with the regional delegation and the Federation Secretariat.
- Contribute to updating the country assistance strategy.
- Assist with preparation of third MENA annual meeting to be held in Tehran.

Objective 3 Support programmes towards upgrading disaster preparedness and telecommunication capacities.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Organise meetings with IRCS counterparts in Tehran and representatives in the region in order to provide technical assistance and to ensure follow-up.
- Monitor use of resources for the implementation of programmes.
- Provide timely and accurate reports on programme implementation.

Objective 4 Supervise all Federation supported projects in Iran.

The activities to achieve this objective are:

- Carry out field visits in order to assess the progress of the programme, and maintain close relations with IRCS counterparts throughout the country.
- Follow-up on reports prepared by delegates.
- In co-ordination with regional delegation and the MENA Department, provide timely and accurate information for the donors.

Expected results

- DP capacities of IRCS are strengthened.
- Coordination of Federation programmes in Iran is effective.
- Effective programmes are in line with Federation guidelines and standards.
- Well functioning structures and branches.

Indicators

- Programmes are implemented according to plans.
- Strengthening of IRCS disaster preparedness capacities.
- Revised and updated inclusive country assistance strategy is available.
- Reporting is accurate and timely.

Critical assumptions

- Human and financial resources needed are made available, as required.
- IRCS continues giving support to the process.
- The regional delegation provides support to the country delegation.

Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

- Regular field visits and discussions with participants and beneficiaries.
- Regular feedback on progress and development.
- Meetings with IRCS interlocutors.
- Analysis of operational context and overall progress in quarterly management reports.

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PROGRAMME	DP	Coord. & mgt	TOTAL
Shelter & construction	0	0	0
Clothing & textiles	0	0	0
Food & seeds	0	0	0
Water	0	0	0
Medical & first aid	0	0	0
Teaching materials	0	0	0
Utensils & tools	0	0	0
Other relief supplies	0	0	0
Sub total supplies	0	0	0
Land & Buildings	0	0	0
Vehicles	0	0	0
Computers & telecom	424,795	0	424,795
Medical equipment	0	0	0
Other capital expenses	0	0	0
Sub total capital	424,795	0	424,795
Programme management	50,573	11,463	62,036
Technical services	15,139	3,431	18,570
Professional services	16,789	3,805	20,594
Sub total programme support	82,500	18,700	101,200
Transport & storage	19,880	19,180	39,060
Personnel (delegates & expatriates)	4,350	107,100	111,450
Personnel (local staff)	15,000	0	15,000
Sub total personnel	19,350	107,100	126,450
Travel & related expenses	9,600	9,500	19,100
Information expenses	0	960	960
Expert fees	0	0	0
Admin. - general expenses	13,875	9,560	23,435
Training workshops / seminars	180,000	5,000	185,000
Sub total travel, training, general exp.	203,475	25,020	228,495
Total budget	750,000	170,000	920,000