

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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/ MAZANDARAN AND OTHER NORTHERN PROVINCES EARTHQUAKE

29, May, 2004

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

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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 Situation

A strong earthquake measuring 6.2¹ on the Richter scale struck Iran in the afternoon of 28 May 2004 at 5:08 (local time). The epicenter was reportedly in the village of Baladeh in the Northern Province of Mazandaran. The

¹ The Seismological Center of Tehran University's Geophysics Institute announced that the quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale and that its epicenter was in the village of Baladeh, 69 kilometers northeast of Tehran, near the Caspian Sea. The center said also there were 12 aftershocks, of which one of 4.4 on the Richter scale.

USGS reported that the magnitude was 6.2 on the Richter scale. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) the quake was centered about 72 kilometers north of Tehran. According to USGS the depth of Friday's quake was estimated between 16

earthquake was felt also in the neighboring provinces of Tehran, Gilan, Semnan, Golestan, Isfahan, Markazi, Qom and Qazvin. Several after-shocks and tremors followed.



Damage

According to the latest available information from the authorities and media, 25 people at least were killed; some of them buried by landslides on the mountain roads. Over 200 others were injured. More than 80 villages are seriously damaged, the local media reported. Eight provinces in central and northern Iran were affected at different degrees by the tremor, with worst damages recorded so far near Alamout, about 120 kilometers west from Tehran. The quake unleashed landslides that killed 16 people and injured 70 others by burying them in their cars along the mountainous Theran-Chalous road, the state television reported. Five people were killed in Mazandaran province and two others in Qazvin province, Tehran Radio said.

The quake damaged telephone lines and buildings in the region. In Teheran, the quake broke windows in some parts of the city, causing panic among residents who rushed outdoors.

Iran is located on seismic fault lines and is prone to earthquakes.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) reacted immediately by dispatching teams, rescue equipment and basic food and non food items to the affected area.

The Qazvin provincial branch of the IRCS supports the operation with:

- 1 rescue team and 4 snuffer dog units
- 1 telecommunication team with equipment (HF, VHF etc.)
- 4 medical teams (doctors, nurses, technicians etc.)
- 7 ambulances, 6 pickups, 4 trucks
- 34 relief workers
- Non food relief items including tents, blankets and light rescue equipment
- Food items water, bread, canned food.

and 25.6 kilometers (10 and 16 miles), which makes it fairly shallow but still deeper than the Bam quake. The USGS said it bases its magnitude calculation by looking at measurements of a number of seismographs around the world. This figure can sometimes differ from a measurement recorded closer to the epicenter.

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The Mazandaran provincial branch deployed and dispatched following teams and relief items:

- 3 mountain rescue teams
- 1 telecommunication team with equipment (HF, VHF etc.)
- 3 medical teams (doctors, nurses, technicians etc.)
- 16 ambulances, 10 pickups, 1 truck
- 200 relief workers
- Non food relief items including tents, blankets and light rescue equipment
- Food items water, bread, canned food

The Tehran provincial branch contributed by:

- Putting all its relief workers and staff on standby to be deployed to the affected area if and when needed;
- Sending 10 ambulances with relief workers and light rescue equipment to Chalous road and Talegan regions;
- Dispatching food and non food items to Chalous, Qazvin, Noor and Talegan.

IRCS headquarters: Relief Organization, Tehran

- Staff and volunteers of the Relief organization are on stand by ready to be deployed to the affected area if and when needed;
- Mr. Daftari, Head of IRCS Relief organization is in charge of coordinating the operation.

Additionally, 5 IRCS rescue teams were deployed from Quom, Gilan, Ghulestan branches and the Relief organization to the affected areas in Mazandaran and Ghazwin

The Federation

From the very beginning of the earthquake response operation the Federation team based in the delegation in Tehran and led by Head of delegation is liaising with the National Society, the Secretariat in Geneva and other relevant actors. DM delegate and Information delegate are on standby and if requested by will join IRCS assessment teams.

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.

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For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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