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Operation Update #02

Iran: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRIR002

Glide n°: FL-2019-000022-IRN
Date: 15 April 2019

30,000 households (150,000 people) to be assisted

499,751 Swiss francs DREF allocated

5.1 million Swiss francs funding requirement

Appeal launched: 07 April 2019

DREF issued: 29 March 2019

Appeal ends: December 2019

This Operation Update is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

As heavy rains continue to hit Iran since mid-March, floods remain a threat for many provinces, cities, villages, and infrastructure. People are being evacuated and moved to safe areas and emergency shelters as the Iranian Red Crescent scale up its operations and resources to meet the imminent basic needs of the affected populations.

Extreme flooding and heavy rainfall which at times equaled more than half of the annual average within 24 hours; Golestan Province, for example, received 70% of its annual rainfall in just one day. This is unprecedented for the past 300 years.

Since 16 of March, almost all 31 provinces in Iran have been hit by flooding, damaging houses and infrastructure, affecting over 10,000,000 people. Most severely affected provinces are Gilan, Mazandaran, Golestan, Lorestan, Khuzestan and Khorasan Razavi. As of April 11, at 08:00 UTC, 78 people are reported dead, 1,136 injured and 2 million are in need.

A forecasted potent storm and shower rains over the upcoming weekend will scale up the floods impact and disrupt the efforts of the humanitarian response. Southern and eastern parts of the country will be at greatest risk. Several cities and villages in Khuzestan Province have been already evacuated while 5 districts in Ahvaz City are under evacuation order.

 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

Islamic Republic of Iran, Flash Floods
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

29 March 2019



Map of the affected provinces by Floods. Source: IFRC

The IRCS has been mandated by the Government to respond to the emergency needs of the affected populations in providing rescue and relief support. While IRCS teams and branches are responding to the whole affected areas since day one, the focus has been on the most five pretentious provinces starting with Mazandaran, Golestan, Ilam, Lorestan, and now Khuzestan mobilizing neighboring provinces for support, as it contains two major dams: Dez and Karkheh that might overflow if the current rains lead to more floods. In the meantime, the water outflow has increased from Karkheh dam to keep it safe. People in threatened areas have been evacuated to safe areas and emergency shelters.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Till date, a total of 94 Emergency Camps are established and managed by IRCS (67 Khuzestan, 15 Golestan, 4 Lorestan, and 8 Ilam). IRCS has mobilised a total of 28,000 volunteers and staff, 4,300 operational teams, 23 relief and rescue helicopters (out of which 17 is active on the ground), 24 mobile clinics, 41 boats, and more than 2,000 light and heavy relief vehicles. These resources have allowed the IRCS to undertake large operations through air, road and land in order to reach 457,000 people through relief distributions and other services as follows:

Relief Services:

- 244,000 people were provided by emergency shelters
- 8,340 people transferred to safe areas
- 4,809 vehicles towed from water or snow
- 15,853 houses drained from water

Basic Health Care Services:

- 2,890 outpatient cases referrals
- 2,171 paramedical cases
- 629 mother and child cases
- 229 malnutrition cases (children under 5 years)
- 638 first aid psychosocial support
- 725 environmental health cases

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|
| Shelter NFIs | Tents | 65,223 |
| | Carpets | 66,332 |
| | Plastic Sheets | 63,150 Kg |
| | Blankets | 154,304 |
| | Kitchen Sets | 2,020 |
| | Heaters | 5,142 |
| Food Items | Food Parcels | 148,832 |
| | Bottled Water | 466,693 |
| | Canned Food | 255,646 |
| | Bread Loaf | 854,314 |
| | Dates | 6,227 Kg |
| | Rice | 77,790 Kg |
| | Edible Oil | 19,535 Kg |
| | Sugar | 22,338 Kg |
| Water & Sanitation | Beans | 20,660 Kg |
| | Hygiene Kits | 51,843 |



Relief and Rescue Organization's Staff and Volunteers in Khuzestan

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has a presence in Iran since 1991 and has been providing technical support in capacity building initiatives and disaster management, shelter, disaster law, youth and health. There are no partner National Societies in the country, however IRCS has a memorandum of understanding with a number of partners Red Cross Red Crescent NSs. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a delegation based in Tehran with various number of humanitarian activities in cooperation with the IRCS, however, is not operationally involved in this current response. Regular coordination meetings are held between the three Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and updates are shared on the response to date.

The German Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and Kuwait Red Crescent have already sent in-kind assistance to the flood-affected people, and the items are being distributed by the Iranian Red Crescent in Golestan and Khuzestan provinces.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Almost everyone is on alert and is trying to engage and provide some sort of humanitarian aid to the affected people. Local communities are gathering to provide ad-hoc support as the need requires. The Imam Khomeini relief organization, whose mandate is to support the underprivileged, alleviate poverty and improve the self-sufficiency of the needy people has been also working on the ground as mandated.

Governments of Swiss, Pakistan, Japan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia, France, and Oman have provided in-kind donations.

The Iranian army, police, NGOs and governmental bodies and institutions are also engaged in the relief operation, providing assistance in flood-hit areas while the National Disaster Management Organization, under ministry of interior is coordinating the work with the active civil society on the ground.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.