



IRAN

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 201.7M**

Appeal number **MAAIR002**

In support of the Iranian Red Crescent Society



532

National Society branches



10,000

National Society staff



2M

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



500,000

Ongoing emergency operations



200,000

Climate and environment



700,000

Disasters and crises



500,000

Health and wellbeing



50,000

Migration and displacement

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- drought

Longer term needs

- disaster preparedness • health
- water, sanitation and hygiene
- population movement • climate change

Capacity development

- positioning and resource mobilization
- results-based management

Key country data

Population

85M

INFORM severity rating

high

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank

60

Human Development Index rank

76

Population below poverty level

30%

Hazards



Drought



Floods



Earthquakes



Extreme heat



Climate change



Population movement

Funding requirements

Total 201.7M CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **12.5M CHF**

Through Participating National Societies

→ **150,000 CHF**

Host National Society

189M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

9M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

250,000 CHF

Climate and environment

875,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

625,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

950,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

72,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

760,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Ongoing emergencies

MDRIR009

Iran – Drought
Drought

Participating National Societies

British Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Red Cross of Monaco*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

Swedish Red Cross*



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

Established in 1922, **the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iranian Red Crescent)** derives its strength from a large volunteer base and resources. It is the only local organization in Iran with nationwide community reach and access, and is well respected. It plays a pivotal role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian response.

According to its statutes, the objectives of the Iranian Red Crescent are to promote human dignity, establish sustainable friendship, peace and mutual understanding among nations, strive to alleviate human suffering, and support the life and well-being of humans without discrimination. Its Organizational Strategy 2016–2024 outlined a 10-year vision for “safe, resilient, prepared communities in disasters that care for protecting human dignity and promoting peace, friendship and voluntary services both in Iran and around the globe”. Its five-year Strategic Plan 2017–2022 defines its four priorities as:

- Promoting peace, friendship and understanding through humanitarian diplomacy
- Assisting with creating a resilient society, reducing risks and responding effectively to disasters
- Assisting with safe and immune livelihoods, and preserving the environment
- Promoting social participation in humanitarian activities, through strengthening the role of youth and volunteers

The National Society is mandated by Iranian law to lead national emergency operations, conduct search and rescue activities and relief services, and provide emergency health and shelter services. It is also responsible for raising public awareness around disasters and crises, and providing related educational activities.

The Iranian Red Crescent has its national headquarters in Tehran, 31 provincial branches, 500 local branches, 650 relief rescue bases and 6,500 community-owned Red Crescent houses.

It has emergency operation centres in all 32 provinces that operate 24 hours a day. It has sniffer dogs and professional teams who specialize in the fields of search and rescue in rubble and mountains, sea airlifting, road accident relief, telecommunications (VHF, HF and satellite systems), first aid and rapid deployment. It also has its own textile production company, Helal Iran Textile

Company, which manufactures non-food, shelter and relief items such as tents and blankets.

The National Society also plays a vital role in contingency planning at national and local levels in cooperation with the authorities and other stakeholders. It has considerable experience in responding and operating in urban settings, and high technical expertise in urban disaster risk reduction.

Through its mandate as an auxiliary to the Government, the Iranian Red Crescent supports the Ministry of Health with the ongoing provision of emergency health care and disease prevention. The National Society has 31 health centres, 20 rapid deployment hospitals and four other hospitals. It provides physical rehabilitation through its 16 physiotherapy centres, 35 vocational therapy centres, 10 audiometry centres and 34 speech therapy centres. Services include hydrotherapy, clinical nutrition, neurology and clinical hypnosis. The National Society also provides road relief, basic emergency health care units during national and international disasters, rapid response field hospitals, medical equipment and supplies, procurement, and the production of medicines and specialized medicines. In the area of preventative health care, the National Society provides assistance with reproductive health, vaccination campaigns, HIV awareness-raising, and pilgrimage season health awareness-raising.

In support of Iran’s Ministry of Health, the National Society has a fundamental role in the COVID-19 response, leading risk awareness and education. It is the only local organization mandated to procure COVID-19 vaccines in Iran. It will be responsible for vaccinating more than 2.5 million refugees, migrants and patients living with chronic diseases, subject to vaccine availability. It has also been mandated to conduct health screenings at all land, sea and air border entry and exit points. Previously, the National Society provided services through emergency medical units and in-patient health structures. Youth and other volunteers also played a key role in risk awareness, communication, screening and diagnostics.

The National Society also provides medical and health services internationally. It also coordinates with neighbouring National Societies when humanitarian assistance is required in response to crises affecting the region.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

With a population of 85 million people, Iran's economy is known for its hydrocarbon, agriculture and services sectors, as well as its state presence in manufacturing and financial services. Globally, Iran ranks second in natural gas reserves and fourth in proven crude oil reserves. It is the 18th-largest country by purchasing power parity.

Iran continues to be one of the countries worst affected by COVID-19 in terms of active cases and the number of associated deaths. Globally, it is included in the top 20 countries with the highest cumulative number of cases. COVID-19-related challenges, combined with increasing US sanctions imposed in mid-2018, have increased unemployment and inflation rates, weakened the banking system and decreased income generation. The country's recovery is projected to be slow and gradual. Limited fiscal space and high inflation will exacerbate economic pressures on low income households.

Iran faces a range of hazards and environmental challenges. It is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, crossed by several major faults that

cover at least 90 per cent of the country. It ranks as high risk in the INFORM Risk Index. According to the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the highest category hazards include river, urban and coastal flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, water scarcity, extreme heatwaves and wildfires. Medium-category hazards are tsunamis and cyclones. The disaster-related risk to people's lives is extremely high and has catastrophic consequences for livelihoods and the economy.

Sanctions on Iran cause significant challenges to humanitarian action. The Iranian Red Crescent struggles to keep up with the operational pace dictated by humanitarian needs, especially in life-saving activities. It has been restricted from procuring the tools required to continue running such activities – for example, spare parts for ambulances, air sorties and search and rescue helicopters, batteries for search and rescue life detectors, and medical equipment and consumables that cannot be imported. Another example of the impact of sanctions is the lengthy process necessary to channel financial resources to the National Society through the international banking systems.

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Iran](#)

- MDRIR009: Iran Drought
- Launched date: 03 March 2022
- End date: 30 September 2023
- People affected: 4,900,000
- People to be assisted: 926,000

In April 2021, the Iranian Meteorological Organization warned of an "unprecedented drought" and rainfall levels that were significantly below the long-term average. The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins between September 2020 and July 2021 was indeed substantially lower than the previous year. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme environmental conditions as a result of climate change. According to assessments in the spring of 2022, parts of the country faced a rainfall anomaly

that affected vegetation and agriculture, including in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

In support of the Iranian Red Crescent response, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal of CHF 9 million for a period of 18 months. As of end of September 2022, the Appeal remained severely underfunded, with only 4% coverage.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

To address the humanitarian needs of people affected by the drought, the Iranian Red Crescent uses an integrated programming approach by providing and promoting access to safe water, hygiene and health care. It also enables access to household needs through cash transfers. The operation comprises training communities to become more resilient to environmental challenges, reinforcing the National Society's disaster response expertise, and managing its countrywide network of volunteers.

In terms of livelihoods, the National Society provides unconditional cash for emergency support, as well as training, materials and expertise in adapting livelihoods and ensuring that those who remain in agriculture and animal husbandry are more resilient to prevailing climatic conditions. In the area of health, the National Society provides medical teams that reach remote locations to treat and refer patients suffering from sand- or dust-induced ailments. It also engages in psychosocial support to address the feelings of despair and abandonment that come with losing livelihoods and migration.

The IFRC and the National Society focus on identifying and supporting the most vulnerable people with water, sanitation and hygiene, and assisting with emergency provisions. This is a continuation and expansion of the National Society's water donation programme, and also involves working with partners in the Ministry of Energy to roll out training. This enables the population,

agriculturalists and those engaged in animal husbandry to make more informed choices about their water usage.

Mindful of challenges caused by the sanctions placed on Iran, the IFRC ensures that prospective donors and partners are kept informed about how the situation affects its capacity to bring resources into the country. The economic and geopolitical situation is highly unpredictable, and the outlook is bleak. Sanctions are hurting the economy and affecting the functioning of the country and its National Society.

Needs assessments conducted by the National Society are supported by methodologies developed by the IFRC and Movement partners; ensuring an appropriate response to the crisis, and building trust with partners is a core element of its operational strategy. Needs remaining at the end of the operation in September 2023 will be covered as part of longer-term work under this plan.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Iran is in a mostly arid and semi-arid region with a very continental climate. Its proximity to the coastline means there is climate variation across the country and its high mountain ranges affect temperature and rainfall. The variable climate year-on-year is influenced by El Niño Southern Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation. Warm El Niño events are sometimes associated with wetter rainfall seasons, and the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation is sometimes associated with higher rainfall in parts of Iran.¹

There is a range of hydrometeorological and geophysical environmental hazards that Iran is exposed to due to its diverse and varied geography. These include flooding, flash floods, landslides, droughts, tropical cyclones and associated hazards, all of which are exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. Iran is also affected by earthquakes which, while not related to climate change, can produce the combined risks of flooding and landslides. Ranked 52 out of 191 countries on the 2022 INFORM Risk Index, Iran is categorized as a medium risk country.

Droughts have historically been the most expensive and impactful climate-related hazard in the country,

with cumulative estimated response costs of US\$14 billion since 1920. This is reportedly equivalent to more than 90 per cent of all allocated government response funds. Iran has seen rapidly increasing desertification linked to meteorological drought, or below-average rainfall, as well as anthropogenic factors such as population growth, soil salinization, and poor management of relatively scarce resources.

The most frequent type of climate-related hazards in Iran is flooding, mostly triggered by heavy and episodic rainfall events. The [World Bank](#) counts 79 occurrences between 1980 and 2020. One of Iran's most severe floods in recorded history occurred in March 2019, affecting an estimated 10 million people in more than 2,000 cities.

Heat waves have been linked to excess mortality, particularly for women and people over 65 years old. Projected temperature increases due to climate change and the resulting heat stress will have severe health implications across the region. Heat waves and extreme heat are of growing concern, worsened by increased urbanization and population growth.

Other hazards exacerbated by rising temperatures and droughts include increased dust and sandstorms,

¹ Analysis in this section supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>



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which cause air pollution and bring respiratory health risks. Air pollution is a significant issue in Iran, responsible for more than 13,000 deaths every year, and Tehran is one of the world's most polluted cities. Air pollution reduces life expectancy by 0.43 to 1.87 years and results in economic losses of more than US\$5.8 billion annually.

In 2019, the Iranian Red Crescent embedded a network of 6,000 Khaney-e Helal (Red Crescent Houses) across the country to provide services and essential activities that increase the resilience of local communities. The Red Crescent Houses can help to mitigate and reduce the severe impacts of climate change. Within this initiative, high-quality locally provided humanitarian services are offered to target groups using minimal resources. One notable achievement has been delivering the National Society's public awareness programmes to even the most distant villages and settlements, increasing their preparedness for and resilience to disasters.

The National Society has since increased the number of Red Crescent Houses to 7,500 and equipped them with essential training and equipment. The cultural, social, ethnic and religious compatibility of the Red Crescent Houses within their local rural and urban communities helps the National Society to implement projects more successfully across the country and reach the most vulnerable people. The National Society empowers the Red Crescent Houses to scale up the quality and quantity of local voluntary activities, and establishes effective communication links between them for the exchange of ideas and suggestions.

Main actions and areas of support

The Iranian Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to provide an unprecedented increase in locally led climate-smart

disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. This programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. It has a holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consisting of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness, (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change, (3) addressing climate displacement, and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Key activities include:

- Developing community-level climate adaptation plans through the entrepreneurship initiatives of volunteers and Red Crescent Houses
- Mobilizing health caravans to reduce the effects of climate change
- Developing or improving existing action plans and early warning early action against heat waves, droughts and flash floods
- Integrating climate-related and environmental considerations across programmes and operations through the provision of practical guidance and 'do no harm' approaches
- Mobilizing youth as agents of behavioural change
- Developing sessions to raise awareness of the effects of climate change among targeted local communities, National Society staff and volunteers, with a focus on densely populated urban areas
- Developing culturally appropriate climate change information, education and communication materials

- Providing staff with the required knowledge, tools and skills to integrate climate change adaptation and climate-smart programming and operations
- Developing targets against the commitments of the [Climate and Environment Charter](#)
- Reducing the National Society's carbon footprint

Disasters and crises

Among the 40 different types of natural hazards worldwide, 31 have been identified in Iran. Some of the country's most large-scale and frequent disasters have been earthquakes, floods and droughts. Many hazards are interrelated and produce compound risks to the same areas and communities. The combination of hazard risks, exposure and vulnerabilities can place certain communities, individuals and sectors in peril.

Iran is part of the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt, the youngest and last orogenic region of the world, and it suffers severe economic and social damage from continuous seismic activities. It is reported that Iran experiences about one earthquake each day. Several regions are vulnerable to destructive earthquakes that cause a significant loss of life, injuries, damaged infrastructure and economic impacts.

The Iranian Red Crescent, with its strong national mandate in disaster response and its wide reach in local communities, is very well placed to respond to disasters. It can effectively support communities to mitigate the impacts through building preparedness and community resilience.

The National Society has a two-pronged approach to preparedness. It prepares at community-level through its established Red Crescent Houses, and at National Society response system level through large projects. The network of Red Crescent Houses established throughout the country will be integrally connected to the National Society's Emergency Operation Centres system. A mega city earthquake contingency planning project by the National Society focuses on preparedness for urban response in the event of a major disaster in big cities like Tehran.

The National Society has acquired land in Zabol, Sistan Balochistan, for a large relief base to address the basic humanitarian needs of internally displaced people and migrants from Afghanistan. The Zabol centre will also assist people who have been forced to move because of droughts, and winterization needs are taken into account.

Main actions and areas of support

- Conducting awareness sessions for targeted communities to develop their knowledge of disaster risk reduction, health promotion, disaster preparedness and response – including forecast-based action protocols training, first aid and community-based emergency response teams
- Improving the National Society's capacity to respond appropriately to needs, through developing cash voucher assistance programming and other activities
- Establishing 26 micro-business community empowerment initiatives in vulnerable villages
- Developing urban contingency planning in mega cities with a focus on earthquakes, and conducting a pilot in Tehran
- Developing a standard operating procedure and system in Tehran to keep a CHF300,000 revolving emergency fund for tackling bank transfer issues associated with sanctions
- Supporting the National Society's rescue and relief organization to establish community emergency response teams – part of the Red Crescent Houses initiative
- Increasing the National Society's early warning early action capacities, through training and links with forecast-based financing and the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund for imminent crises
- Supporting the National Society with procurement of search and rescue specialized equipment
- Developing the National Society's surge capacity through the integration of technical human resources in the IFRC Rapid Response register
- Increasing participation in government and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to improve the National Society's positioning

Health and wellbeing

Ongoing emergencies and disasters in Iran, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the growing gap in health provision for the long-term health needs of the population. The COVID-19 pandemic has further limited access to specialized equipment, which was already scarce due to economic sanctions.

The projected increase in mean temperatures and prolonged heat waves in the region pose significant health risks. They can lead to heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, rash, cramps, heat stroke, heat

exhaustion, cardiovascular diseases and death. There is a high risk of heat stress in urban areas, due to the urban heat island effect. People with underlying health conditions and the elderly are likely to be most affected. For children, droughts increase the risks of skin and eye diseases and respiratory problems, and affect cognitive development.

The risks of vector-borne diseases, especially malaria and leishmaniasis, are likely to increase because of climate change. Malaria is widespread and a significant burden in Iran. The Government has pledged to eliminate the disease by 2025, but temperature rises could further increase incidences of the disease. Depreciation of the quantity and quality of water will probably lead to an increase in water-borne diseases such as cholera, while high temperatures and low rainfall will provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

Malnutrition and food-related illnesses are increasing as droughts, storms and floods brought about by climate change disrupt agriculture and food systems. This is expected to increase displacement, injuries and deaths. Crises and disasters also increase the risks of mental health and psychosocial disorders. The most recent data from 2019 showed that Iran's health expenditure was 6.71 per cent of GDP – the increased risks of morbidity, mortality and ill-health caused by climate change will put even more pressure on the country's health care system, infrastructure and overall spending.

The National Society was a key national actor in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It focused on raising awareness of risks and communication activities, as well as supporting the public authorities with COVID-19 screening, referrals and in-patient monitoring. In addition, the National Society has an important role in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout, facilitating the procurement of more than 20 million vaccines in the country, subject to availability. It has also been mandated to perform a large-scale vaccination campaign targeting more than 2.5 million refugees, migrants and patients living with chronic diseases, and prioritizing National Society frontline responders.

Main actions and areas of support

In 2023, the health programming priority for the Iranian Red Crescent is to develop pandemic preparedness. Its next priority is to enhance its intersectoral capacity to deliver community-based health activities, integrated with needs linked to the ongoing climate crises. This will involve expanding its community-based engagement through empowering the Red Crescent Houses

to deliver services that can reach vulnerable urban and remote rural groups, as well as connect culturally with the recipients of the services. The National Society will also develop its mental health and psychosocial support programming for communities as well as for its responders.

The IFRC will support the National Society with epidemic and pandemic preparedness, including COVID-19:

- Adopting existing National Society curative, preventive and promoting systems to include the most valuable pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response
- Supporting efforts to achieve and sustain national immunization targets, and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines

The IFRC will support the National Society with identifying and reducing health risks in communities, through community engagement, accountability and behaviour change approaches that ensure locally led solutions to address unmet needs:

- Conducting risk communication and community engagement and community-based health and first aid training for National Society staff and volunteers
- Revising and adapting the existing social listening and community feedback mechanism
- Revising existing health-related messages corresponding to the needs of community members
- Adapting global and regional information, education and communication and behaviour change communication materials and tools into Iran-specific contexts
- Engaging community-based stakeholders such as religious leaders, teachers and influencers to develop a supportive environment for health promotion activities at community level
- Supporting the National Society's health staff to implement and monitor health programmes
- Conducting intersectoral training on mental health and psychosocial support, psychological first aid, health and hygiene promotion

The National Society in Iran, with the IFRC's support, will meet the mental health and psychosocial support needs of communities, as well as volunteers and staff:

- Providing community psychosocial support activities and sessions during emergencies

- Creating technical capacities for mental health and psychosocial support services in emergencies
- Strengthening the capacities of staff and volunteers to provide psychological first aid, including in National Society branches
- Establishing a mapping of referral services linking community members to specialized services
- Training staff and volunteers on the Caring for Staff and Volunteers programme and providing technical support to enhance the establishment of the system
- Adopting and piloting available evidence-based scalable mental health and psychosocial support interventions
- Enhancing knowledge and conducting sensitization workshops on protecting the mental well-being of staff and volunteers
- Becoming a member of the IFRC Middle East and North Africa mental health and psychosocial support network

Migration and displacement

Iran is a major host for refugees, primarily due to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. It hosts 800,000 refugees and at least 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Heavy flooding in 2019 also triggered significant internal displacement, contributing to the nearly one million Iranians who have been internally displaced due to disasters since 2010.

Refugees in Iran are concentrated in urban areas, with more than 96 per cent in cities or peri-urban settlements. They are often not part of formal humanitarian assistance systems. Challenges of migration and urbanization in the country include poverty, pollution in large cities, informal settlements, and a lack of assistance to migrants in destination cities.

A rise in temperature and reduced rainfall has been a significant factor for inter-province migration in Iran, suggesting internal migration will carry on as these climate trends continue. Most internal migration in Iran has been urban-to-urban since the mid-2000s, with rural-to-urban migration decreasing over the decades. However, climate shocks like droughts cause people to leave their homes in search of economic and social opportunities, contributing to more rural-to-urban migration alongside general labour migration.

The influx of migrants from Afghanistan has become a long-term challenge. A year after the upheaval there triggered large-scale population movement, access to Iran's territory remains limited to Afghan passport holders with valid visas. However, Iranian authorities report that half a million Afghans have crossed into Iran since 2021, with unofficial figures indicating that there are up to eight million Afghan nationals in Iran. An increase in security measures at unofficial border crossing points has led to a decrease in people reporting upon arrival – especially people who have entered irregularly and have used smugglers to enter. The transitional shelter sites prepared by stakeholders are no longer needed to host displaced populations from Afghanistan.

Main actions and areas of support

The IFRC launched a [regional Emergency Appeal](#) in mid-August 2021 to support National Societies in the region bordering Afghanistan. They initiated preparedness and readiness actions and, where relevant, response activities to support the population movement. Based on the National Societies' mandates and roles in their countries, the IFRC network developed contingency plans and established coordination mechanisms with national authorities.

The Iranian Red Crescent has a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to people on the move from Afghanistan, and it continues to do so. The National Society is in contact with the central authorities in Tehran, humanitarian actors and local stakeholders to coordinate operations and manage the delivery of dignified basic assistance. This includes providing emergency shelter, food and household items for basic needs, alongside health, water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The Emergency Appeal ended in December 2022, but the interventions it supported are expected to continue with an approximate budget of CHF450,000.

Both the IFRC and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) country teams have worked with the Iranian Red Crescent to develop a Movement contingency plan, which contributes to the National Society's main operational response and preparedness. This plan has served as a foundation for building and mobilizing support for the National Society's main response plan. At a technical level, the IFRC, the ICRC and the National Society coordinate closely and identify potential areas of support for the National Society's response,

as well as conducting joint assessments and visits as the operational response progresses.

The Iranian Red Crescent plays an important role for registered and unregistered migrant populations for the delivery of vaccinations, restoring family links, education in mine risks, basic assistance, basic health care, mental health and psychosocial support, and physical rehabilitation. The IFRC, the ICRC and the German Red Cross are collectively supporting this action and the National Society uses its own resources too.

As part of the National Society's Preparedness for Effective Response activities, it has developed a simulation programme to improve the awareness and preparedness of individuals and communities. The themes – affecting young people, volunteers and migrants – include different crises and disasters such as floods, cyclones, road accidents, droughts and first aid. The National Society will provide simulations through games and virtual reality software.

Values, power and inclusion

Before the COVID-19 crisis, 40 per cent of the national budget was allocated to social protection schemes, including universal basic income. However, the national social protection system cannot effectively target and support specific vulnerable populations, because the scheme and supplementary measures do not currently follow the principles of inclusiveness, adequacy of coverage and comprehensiveness.

More than 20 per cent of school-aged children, including 500,000 refugees and 170,000 children living with disabilities, cannot access online learning opportunities. This has exposed adolescents to a number of social harms. The number of out-of-school children is likely to increase in low-income households, especially in less-developed provinces and on the margins of major urban centres.

The Iranian Red Crescent intends to enhance its institutional and operational capacity in protection, gender and inclusion. It will also emphasize its commitment to institutional diversity, and engagement and accountability, to the communities it serves. This will improve its operational reach, as well as the appropriateness and quality of the services it provides. It will also enhance its capacity to respond and mitigate risks of violence, discrimination and exclusion towards specifically affected groups.

In addition, a specialized, fully fledged separate division called Herasat, which means safeguarding, addresses all aspects of safeguarding, including corruption, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and child safeguarding.

Main actions and areas of support

To mainstream protection, gender and inclusion, and with the support of the IFRC, the Iranian Red Crescent will:

- Improve understanding of protection, gender and inclusion issues by collecting and analyzing sex, age and disability disaggregated data in all assessments, programmes and operations
- Adopt minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies and pilot their application
- Develop and roll out a briefing and training package on diversity management
- Roll out basic-level protection, gender and inclusion training to National Society staff and volunteers
- Conduct a protection, gender and inclusion self-assessment and develop a corresponding action plan
- Develop and roll out standard operating procedures and training in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Roll out a child safeguarding policy and support tools, and ensure a child safeguarding risk analysis is in place across operations

To mainstream mechanisms for communication, participation, feedback and complaints within programmes and operations, and with the support of the IFRC, the National Society will:

- Establish and strengthen community-based social listening and feedback mechanisms to address community concerns, develop practical standard operational procedures and assign community engagement and accountability focal points
- Institutionalize community engagement and accountability by developing and integrating related policies and standard operating procedures
- Conduct community engagement and accountability orientation and training sessions across the organization

Enabling local actors

The Iranian Red Crescent is committed to its institutional strengthening and has carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2015. The self-assessment part of this process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

The National Society is well respected and strongly engaged within its national response system. The IFRC aims to support it in strengthening its engagement with international partners, including the UN Humanitarian Country Team, which will leverage the National Society's position as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. It also includes the National Society's role as a member of the National Disaster Management Organization, which is recognized through the [Law on the statute of the National Disaster Management Organization](#).

Building on the National Society's experience and priorities, the IFRC will also support wider peer sharing and networking with participating National Societies in the region and beyond, expanding good practices and learning. The IFRC also aims to complement the Iranian National Society's existing technical capacities in protection, gender and inclusion, external communications, information management and finance management, to increase the quality of the National Society's activities.

Engaged

- Facilitate peer-to-peer connections between the National Society and other Middle East and North Africa National Societies, including through participation in regional networks such as on disaster management
- Design a funding strategy and resource mobilization plan and facilitate in seeking Office of Foreign Assets Control licences
- Support the National Society to adopt and use efficiently the iRaiser digital fundraising platform, with support from the Swiss Red Cross
- Balance and maximize partnerships with UN agencies, leveraging the International Organization status of the IFRC
- Expand the National Society's partnerships with multilaterals and international financial institutions, bridging global and regional opportunities
- Develop fundraising tools and channels for enhancing the manufacturing and quality of the National Society's Helal Textile tents
- Extend technical support from the IFRC's shelter expertise to ensure that National Society's relief tents are manufactured according to internationally accepted standards, and are accredited for regional and global supply
- Provide the National Society with the skills, tools and technical knowledge to increase the quality and production of prefabricated shelters
- Provide support services to the National Society to procure ambulances, search and rescue equipment, specialized medical equipment and operational fleet vehicles
- Train National Society staff and volunteers on the communication strategy and production of materials, and produce humanitarian assistance communication products for international audience
- Develop advocacy communication tools to showcase the rationale and intended functions of the Red Crescent Houses for national-level organizations involved in disaster management – such as the Passive Defence Organization, the Tehran Disaster Mitigation and Management Organization, and the National Disaster Management Organization
- Enhance media coverage of the Red Crescent Houses programme expansion and other National Society-owned digital tools and websites showcasing the initiative
- Produce humanitarian diplomacy documents and common narratives together with the National Society
- Profile and participate actively in humanitarian coordination
- Engage in dialogue with humanitarian actors and provide support to participating National Societies to amplify the voice of the Iranian Red Crescent with their respective governments
- Provide the National Society with digital transformation and information management knowledge and skills
- Invest in innovative entrepreneurship approaches and ideas developed by National Society youth and volunteers

Accountable

- Support the National Society in constitutional amendments
- Strengthen the National Society's results-based monitoring and evaluation, and better demonstrate their impact on communities
- Design a monitoring and evaluation plan to track and report progress against all ongoing emergencies
- Conduct technical training for the National Society on data collection, analysis and management
- Design a data management system for data security which meets data protection guidelines
- Complete the IFRC project partner financial management capacity review, and provide recommendations
- Conduct finance-related training sessions to enhance the knowledge and skills in project financial management

- Continue working closely with the National Society and other stakeholders to speed up the transfer of financial resources through the international banking system

Trusted

- Prioritize volunteering development and youth action by including local volunteers in the activities and response mechanisms of the Red Crescent Houses
- Conduct training on first aid and provide inductions for new recruits, involving young people and volunteers in the establishment of Red Crescent Houses
- Include young people and volunteers as beneficiaries and leaders through education and empowerment
- Set up improved coordination mechanisms in all situations where several Movement components are present
- Strengthen Movement dialogue on policy issues to consolidate its influence in the humanitarian sector

THE IFRC NETWORK



The IFRC

The IFRC re-established a country delegation in Iran in 2021 to increase support for the National Society in its mandate as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. This delegation coordinates and facilitates IFRC membership support in Iran to fully harness the combined potential of the membership. In recent years IFRC supported the National Society through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeals operations in relation to earthquakes, droughts, floods and population movement.

The IFRC supports the National Society in Iran to achieve the following main objectives:

- Reach milestones set out in its Strategic Plan
- Build the National Society's capacity to sustain its reach, access and mission
- Increase the resilience of communities on the ground
- Support long-term joint planning and reporting beyond emergency response
- Improve the National Society's visibility and positioning
- Increase information-sharing on IFRC global digital platforms
- Use aggregated Federation-wide data to position the Red Cross Red Crescent brand

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
German Red Cross	CHF 0.05M								
Italian Red Cross	CHF 0.10M								

Total

0.15M

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC Secretariat's coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. It also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The German Red Cross works with the Iranian Red Crescent bilaterally, concentrating on relief, volunteering and providing services to people in need. This

includes engagement in the collective response to the influx of people displaced from Afghanistan. The German Red Cross has one field officer based in Iran, and additional technical guidance and support is provided by its headquarters in Berlin.

Other member National Societies support the Iranian Red Crescent remotely due to difficulties in establishing a presence in Iran. As such, the IFRC's membership coordination efforts focus on efficiently mobilizing support from the IFRC network remotely rather than operationally. The National Society is depleting its own resources faster than they can be replenished. Additionally, waves of the COVID-19 virus continue to sweep the country and disasters are recurring with more frequency and magnitude, so demand for public humanitarian services is increasing.

Movement coordination

The IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are the only International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement actors present with country offices in Iran. The Iranian Red Crescent, the IFRC and ICRC maintain continuous dialogue to ensure that Movement relations are effective and based on mutual respect. Together they seek the increased engagement, impact and visibility of the Movement's action in Iran.

The ICRC promotes international humanitarian law by working closely with the authorities in Iran. The IFRC

and ICRC join their efforts to support the National Society's humanitarian diplomacy efforts and enhance principled humanitarian action and support.

Together with the Movement's family links network, the ICRC continues to address the needs of dispersed families in Afghanistan and elsewhere, to restore contact by offering family-links services and coordinating with other humanitarian actors for unaccompanied and separated children

Coordination with other actors

Iran's National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) coordinates disaster response efforts by the Iranian Red Crescent, ministries, local authorities and NGOs. Line ministries, supported by UN agencies in Iran, lead and implement sectorial services. The Iranian Red Crescent has a permanent liaison representative within the NDMO.

The Iranian Red Crescent is mandated by the Iranian Government as the local partner for all humanitarian agencies operating in the country. As such, it has established partnerships and is working closely with UNICEF, WFP, WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, UNOCHA, MSF

(France/Swiss), the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Relief International. There is positive and consistent coordination and cooperation among local agencies and authorities.

Since its re-establishment in Iran, the IFRC engages with the other humanitarian organizations active in the country, and it also started engaging with the World Bank in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response. It aims to leverage its International Organization status, and maximize support for the Iranian Red Crescent.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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