The devastating November 2017 Kermanshah demanded expanded cooperation within the Federation. At magnitude 7.3, the earthquake was the strongest in Iran in 20 years. Government did not request an international appeal, but directed voluntary contributions to the Iran Red Crescent Society (IRCS) as a leading agency in responding to the needs of the vulnerable. The resulting 2018 operational plan was used to document the overall national society response, as well as serve as a vehicle for international contributions. The current plan continues in this vein, continuing support to earthquake-affected populations in their ongoing recovery needs, as well as supporting related IRCS capacities.

With over 80 million people, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the second most populous and economically powerful country in MENA, with the 18th largest economy globally. With major faults covering at least 90% of the country, Iran is one of the most seismically active countries in the world. Minor tremors occur daily and major earthquakes are frequent and destructive, with an average population of more than 160,000 annually exposed to earthquakes above magnitude 6—highest in the region and 8th highest in the world (INFORM 2017 database). The 6.6 magnitude 2003 Bam earthquake killed upwards of 40,000 people, injured another 30,000 and displaced as many as 75,000. With two coastlines, seismic activity runs an attendant risk of tsunami. In addition to these seismic hazards, agriculture and related livelihoods are particularly affected by cycles of flood and drought. Almost 1.2M people are affected by drought annually—the highest in the region.

In response to natural disasters, the IRCS is mandated to carry out search and rescue, provide relief, shelter, food, non-food items and administer emergency health. As part of the Government National Disaster Management apparatus, other Government entities assume their respective responsibilities, including Housing Foundation, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Health.
**Statistics**

- **20%** of the country’s population live below the poverty line.
- **12%** increase in unemployment in 2018.

**Needs Assessment Headline**

Iran is ranked as the fourth most disaster prone country in the world. The country is exposed to a range of natural hazards including earthquakes, floods, and droughts and is very prone to seismic risks, particularly with regards to the two major seismic belts in the south and north. The IFRC has a significant role in supporting Iranian RC to be a stronger National Society in line with the future strategic directions. It is obvious that Iranian RC has developed its own resources to meet the needs of the most vulnerable people in the country based on its auxiliary role to the local authorities.

**Area of Focus**

**Disaster Risk Reduction**

- **Budget 70,000**
- To ensure appropriate community level planning and distribution of relief.
- The Tehran earthquake coordination contingency plan will be designed and elaborated with IRCS Relief & Rescue Organization and IRCS International Department with technical support of IFRC at MENA and Geneva levels.
- Community based DRR training will continue working at HQ level, to 31 provincial focal points.
- National Society actions in this area contribute to national progress toward sustainable development goal target 11.5, on reducing death and damages caused by disaster.

**Shelter**

- **Budget 75,000**
- IRCS provided 92,000 tents in line with its mandate for emergency shelter provision.
- The IFRC-SRU service proposal is based on an incremental approach comprising 1) Desk evaluation; 2) Shelter construction at IFRC-SRU; 3) Field testing; 4) Laboratory tests to evaluate the level of performance to wind, rain and UV.
- A nominal 200 households (1,000 people) are assumed for field testing.

**Livelihoods and Basic Needs**

- **Budget 800,000**
- 12,500 of people to be supported with in-kind assets or cash or vouchers for recovering or starting economic activities.
- 500 of people to be reached by public awareness and education on sustainable livelihoods.

**Health**

- **Budget 150,000**
- For 2019, the plan is to maintain the functioning of the physical rehabilitation centre in Sarpol-e Zahab, to continue providing support to the affected people, as well as through mobile outreach services.
- Continued provision of PSP will be carried out in facilities and through outreach, but at half the level of what was planned for 2018.
- 3000 people to be reached by NS health programmes and services.
- 3000 people to provide with clinical health care services during emergencies.

**Strategy for Implementation**

**Strengthen National Society Capacities**

- **Budget 125,000**
- Cash activities require relevant capacity development in IRCS, building on existing capacities in handling public cash donations and in training.
- Capacity self-assessment workshop is envisaged, with a plan of action output that aims to define the processes, systems and trainings, including cash awareness workshops, cash level 2 trainings and related market trainings.

**Ensure a Strong IFRC**

- **Budget 40,000**
- For 2019, it is proposed to have a three-person team resident in IRCS charged with managing the 2019 planned activities and linked to IFRC MENA line management structures.
- A programme coordinator will have overall responsibility, assisted by a Programme Officer/Administrative Assistant as well as Finance Officer, the latter which will be cost-shared with IFRC.
- The other positions are expected to be seconded by IRCS. Actions under this plan will also draw on technical capacity in MENA regional office and technical support in IFRC Geneva.

**Contacts**

For more information on the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Country, please contact:

Davood Pourkhanali
Head of Country name
+9821 886724257 (Telephone)
+9821 88672428 (Fax)

Head of Country email:
davood.pourkhanali@ifrc.org

Delegation address
No. 1362, Vali-e-Asr Street
P.O code 1517813511
Tehran, Iran