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Information bulletin

Iraq: earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: November 12, 2017

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Host National Society: Iraqi Red Crescent Society

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details that are currently available.

The situation

On 12 November 2017 at 21:18 local time the northeast areas in Iraq were shaken by an earthquake in the magnitude of 7.2 – 7.5, according to European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC). The epicentre of this earthquake is located 32 km south from the city of Halabja (UTC 34.886°N 45.941°E).

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has announced the increase in the numbers of the earthquake victims that hit the cities of Iraq to 10 dead and more than 500 injured people. Most of them are from Sulaymaniyah governorate areas, and Kalar, Darbandikhan, Khanaqin and Halabja. More casualties are expected due to aftershocks that occurred on the night of 13 November 2017.



Assessment visit in Darbandikhan. All photos IRCS

IRCS relief teams have recorded massive damages to private and public property in affected cities, especially in Sulaymaniyah governorate.

Potential Threats

The Darbandikhan Dam, a multi-purpose embankment on the Diyala river, is being assessed for damage today by the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), as local sources report that the dam was impacted by the landslides that pushed heavy rocks and rubble onto the dam's spillway. Residents downstream of the dam were advised by authorities to be vigilant and ready for evacuation, should an emergency alert be issued.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The IRCS Emergency Response Team was the first humanitarian organisation to respond immediately after the earthquake and coordinate with local public authorities and communities to provide the needed aid to the affected communities.

The IRCS volunteers in northern Iraq are working around the clock in the affected areas and are providing urgent search and rescue, first aid and relief items to victims of the devastating earthquake.

IRCS teams are currently assessing the situation and will communicate further needs. The table below details actions to date.



Sector	Response Action
External Coordination	<p>IRCS continues to coordinate its response with Sulaymaniyah Governor's Office.</p> <p>Contact has also been established with the UN team in Country</p>
Movement Coordination	<p>IRCS Sent first update to all movement partners on November 13, 2017 10:34 AM</p> <p>IFRC in touch with PNS and ICRC in the MENA Region</p>
Rapid Assessment	<p>An emergency committee has been set by IRCS to evaluate the situation as well as the damages, the committee had a field visit to affected areas in Kalar and Darbandikhan.</p> <p>The main needs in the stage of preparedness are blankets and tents.</p>
Search and Rescue	<p>75 staff and volunteers were deployed from Sulaymaniyah and Diyala Branches to all the affected areas to provide ambulance services, first aid, search and rescue operation.</p>



Sector	Response Action
Health	<p>60 first aid bags were distributed for use by volunteers</p> <p>IRCS teams support affected people by providing first aid and transport injures to hospital in Sulaymaniyah.</p> <p>The IRCS was the first responder to the event.</p> <p>IRCS provided dressing materials and medical items to Sulaymaniyah Hospital- emergency department.</p> <p>IRCS set up seven tents in the compound of Darbandikhan hospital.</p>
Evacuation	<p>The NS has transported 256 injured/ patients to hospitals in nearby areas (due to the collapse of the local hospital in the Earthquake affected areas).</p>
Shelter	<p>Displaced people remain in the affected area and most are seeking shelter at their relatives/acquaintances/etc.</p> <p>IRCS also supported the evacuation of students from university dormitories in Halbaja.</p>
Water and Sanitation	<p>The NS provided displaced persons with clean water (water bottles).</p>
Communication	<p>The IRCS President had media interviews with CNN, BBC and other local media houses</p>
Donations	<p>Turkish Red Crescent has dispatched a plane with relief supplies to Sulaymaniyah</p>



Initial needs identified include shelter/winterization items (including blankets, tents, kerosene heaters) and food parcels. Specific requests from IRCS are forthcoming based on assessments now being carried out.

Contact information

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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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