ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
Flash Update
As of 12 May 2020

Highlights

• **COVID-19**: More than 107,000 cases have been confirmed; 6,640 people have died.
• **Floods**: Flooding in the last week affected 18 of 31 provinces; two people have died.
• **Desert locust**: Desert locust has been detected in eight of 31 provinces; control operations are underway.
• **Earthquake**: On 8 May, an earthquake of magnitude 5.1 hit Tehran; two people have died and 38 people have been injured. Aftershocks are expected in the coming days.

Coronavirus COVID-19

**Situation overview:**
Between 5 and 10 May, 8,956 new COVID-19 cases including 363 deaths were confirmed in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This brings the cumulative to 107,603 cases detected with 6,640 deaths. Overall, 86,143 patients have recovered.

After 2 May, which marked the lowest daily count since 10 March, the daily count of confirmed cases has increased daily. The Ministry of Health and Medical Education is concerned that the increase is due to people making unnecessary travel inside and outside cities, thus spreading the disease. The Iranian Government reopened intercity highways and major shopping centres as of 20 April to stimulate the economy.

**Humanitarian impact/needs:**
Reportedly, 700 pregnant women have been infected with the COVID-19 since the onset of the outbreak, 500 of whom were hospitalized. Additionally, it was reported that 20 babies have been born with the virus. Some 240 midwives have been infected since the outbreak, up to 50 of them have been hospitalized, and two have died.

The price of food items has increased due to the decreased production capacity and restrictions on the supply chains after the COVID-19 outbreak. For instance, the price of bread, which is the staple food for low income households, has increased up to 50 per cent in some parts of Iran. According to the telephone survey conducted by the Iranian Students Polling Agency between 5-8 April, 64.4 per cent of 1,028 respondents replied that they need government aid to make ends meet. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has implemented a livelihood project to help the most vulnerable people. So far, 500,000 people in 15 provinces, who have no income and support, have received food parcels under the project. To meet the increasing demands, the IRCS is looking for resources to implement further livelihood projects.

**Humanitarian response and coordination:**
WHO has delivered a second shipment of medicines for COVID-19 to the Solidarity Clinical Trial, an international study designed to discover the most effective treatments for COVID-19. The study will be conducted at 29 hospitals in 16 provinces. The WHO shipment also includes 100,000 laboratory tests.

On 6 May, an arrival of a shipment of medical supplies from France was announced. The shipment is the seventh medical shipment delivered to Iran through the Sarisso border with Turkey.

On 7 May, Iran received 1.8 metric tons of medical items through UNHCR Iran. The medical items contain life-saving personal protective equipment (PPE) which will assist health workers and humanitarian service providers in assisting refugees and the host community. This complements the first shipment with some 4.4 metric tons of PPE and essential medicines that arrived on 23 March.

With the financial support of the Government of Japan, Iran has also received fifth shipment of PPE from UNICEF. Around 36 metric tons of the PPE will be distributed to protect the health personnel in the frontline of COVID-19 response across the country. In all, the UNICEF has so far provided Iran with 63 metric tons of PPE. The air freight costs of this shipment have been waived by Qatar Airways.

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Disclaimer: This document is subject to availability of data by the time of circulation and does not claim to be exhaustive or fully verified.
The next Flash Update on the humanitarian impact will be issued as soon as more information is available.

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Floods

**Situation overview:**
Floods continue to affect 18 of 31 provinces in the country. Local officials in affected provinces have warned people of potential floods along rivers and agricultural lands, which could damage infrastructure and farmlands.

**Humanitarian impact/needs:**
In the past week, two people have lost their lives in Razavi Khorasan Province due to the increased water levels of the rivers in the area. Heavy rains, hail and frost have damaged 1,167 hectares of agricultural lands and city's infrastructure, including canals, agricultural water wells and irrigation canals, in the city of Mashhad. The estimated damages to the agricultural lands and infrastructures are more than $7.6 million and around $238,000 respectively.

In Lorestan Province, rainfall and floods have damaged the agricultural sector and some infrastructural facilities in Khorramabad city. The damage is estimated at $428,500.

In Alborz Province, heavy rains and storms have mowed down trees, caused a power cut-off, and damaged houses and cars, nonetheless the immediate casualties have not been reported. The heavy rains and hail with cold temperatures have affected 13 of 23 orchards in the province, which is about 2,663 hectares in total.

**Humanitarian response and coordination:**
In many provinces including East Azerbaijan and Khuzestan, dredging operations has been continuously carried out to remove debris and ease access to affected areas. In Khuzestan Province, $4.7 million has been allocated for the dredging operations and 2,000 food packages have been distributed to people affected by the floods. In East Azerbaijan, the IRCS has set up a 100-bed hospital and provided an advanced ambulance in order to provide faster service to those affected by the floods and other disasters.

Desert Locusts

The number of provinces that are affected by the desert locust has increased from seven to eight as a result of the recent detection of desert locust in Tehran Province:

- **Bushehr Province:** 30,200 hectares of agriculture land have been cleared of the desert locust as of 10 May. Some 25 combat groups, with 30 tracker groups, a sprayer aircraft, nine sprayers and 100 gourd sprayers, continue to operate to halt the spread of locust in the province.
- **Kerman Province:** About 6,000 hectares of land have been sprayed in the southern areas of the province.
- **Qom Province:** About 30,000 hectares of pastures have been severely infected.
- **Sistan and Baluchistan Province:** Some 71,856 hectares have been affected. More than 1,350,000 hectares have been monitored for the further invasion. The province continues to spray 1,380 hectares of pastures daily.
- **South Khorasan Province:** More spraying equipment are needed to deal with the influx of the desert locust.
- **Tehran Province:** About 500 hectares of pastures around the cities of Robat Karim and Parand, and Imam Khomeini Airport have been sprayed so far.
Earthquake

On 8 May, a series of earthquakes hit Tehran. The biggest earthquake recorded on the day was magnitude 5.1, which could be felt in seven neighbouring regions.

As a result of the earthquake, two people have died, and 38 other people have injured in Tehran. After the biggest earthquake that happened in the midnight, a number of people have left their homes out of fear of possible aftershocks and spent overnight on the street amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

By 10 May, 100 of aftershocks had been recorded in Tehran, and more aftershocks are expected in the next few days. The IRCS has dispatched rescue teams for the immediate response and will keep the teams on alert till the situation gets stabilized, particularly in the provinces of Tehran, Alborz, Mazandaran, Qom and Semnan.