



# IRAN

2024-2025 IFRC network country plan

9 April 2024

Multi-Year Funding Requirement **CHF 631.5M**

In support of the Iranian Red Crescent Society



Iranian  
Red Crescent



**532**

National Society branches



**7,651**

National Society staff



**1,666,480**

National Society volunteers

## People to be reached



**200,000**

Climate and  
environment



**700,000**

Disasters  
and crises



**500,000**

Health and  
wellbeing



**500,000**

Migration and  
displacement



**150,000**

Values, power  
and inclusion

## IFRC network multi-year focus

### 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** **88.6M**

**INFORM Severity rating** **High**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Medium**

**Human Development Index rank** **76**

IFRC Head of Delegation Iran, Tehran

# Funding requirements

2024

2025\*

Total **630M** CHF

Total **1.5M** CHF

Through the IFRC

→ **358,000** CHF

Through Participating National Societies

→ **1.5M** CHF

Through Host National Society

**628.1M** CHF

## IFRC Breakdown

### Longer term needs

**358,000** CHF

Health and wellbeing

Through Participating National Societies

**1.5M** CHF

*\*Projected funding requirements*

## Participating National Societies

British Red Cross\*

Italian Red Cross\*

Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran\*

Japanese Red Cross Society

Red Cross of Monaco\*

The Netherlands Red Cross\*

*\*National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAAIR002**

## Hazards



Drought



Floods



Earthquakes



Extreme heat



Climate Change



Population movement

# 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. The National Society was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1929. It is the only local organization in Iran with nationwide community reach and access, and is well respected. The National Society plays a pivotal role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in humanitarian response.

The Iranian Red Crescent's national headquarter is based in Tehran. The National Society has a total of 31 provincial branches, over 500 local branches, 584 relief rescue bases and 7,368 Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses). It has 35 emergency operation centres across the country operating all hours throughout the week. The National Society also provides relief, basic emergency health care units during national and international disasters, rapid response field hospitals, medical equipment and supplies, procurement, and the production of both specialized and non-specialized medicines. In the area of preventive health care, the National Society provides assistance with reproductive health, vaccination campaigns, HIV awareness-raising, and pilgrimage season health awareness-raising.

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.

As per its most recent five-year Strategic Plan 2017-2022, the Iranian Red Crescent's four priorities are:

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

The Iranian Red Crescent is mandated by Iranian law to lead national emergency operations, conduct search-and-rescue activities, relief services, and provide emergency health and shelter services. It is also responsible for raising public awareness around disasters and crises, and organizing related educational activities. The National Society 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 has high technical expertise in urban disaster risk reduction.

In 2022, the Iranian Red Crescent reached 725,150 people with disaster response and early recovery support, and 1,000 people by long-term services and development programmes.



*In 2022, the Iranian Red Crescent reached 725,150 people with disaster response and early recovery support. (Photo: Iranian Red Crescent)*

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

With a population of more than 88.6 million people, Iran's economy is largely characterized by its hydrocarbon, agriculture, and services sectors as well as its noticeable presence in manufacturing and financial services. Globally, Iran ranks third in natural gas reserves and third in proven crude oil reserves. The country is ranked the eighteenth largest country in the world in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). The challenges that Iran faces is multifaceted, involving the country's sensitive environment and its socio-economic condition. Iran continues to reel under the pressure of the devastating impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The challenges issuing from the pandemic, coupled with increasing US sanctions imposed in mid-2018, have led to the deterioration of Iran's economy. Unemployment and inflation rates have increased, weakening the banking system and decreasing income generation in the country. With limited fiscal space and high inflation, economic pressures on poor

households are expected to continue. The country's recovery is projected to be slow and gradual. The repeated sanctions on Iran have led to a wide range of negative economic outcomes for Iran, which include the rapid devaluation of the Iranian currency, severe trade and fiscal deficits, inflation, and a rise in the poverty rates in the country.

In 2023, rescue and relief operations in the country were mainly focused on earthquake damages, floods, heatwaves, and road accidents. The disaster-related risks to people's lives is extremely high and has catastrophic consequences for livelihoods and the economy.

Humanitarian action in Iran is also hindered partly as a consequence of the sanctions on the country. The National Society struggles to keep up with the operational pace dictated by humanitarian needs, especially in life-saving activities. Difficulty in procurement of relief and rescue materials is one component of the challenges faced by the National Society in carrying out its mandate. Another example of the impact of sanctions is the lengthy process involved in channelling financial resources to the National Society through the international banking systems.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Iran is severely impacted by climatic changes and environmental crises namely in the form of land degradation, drought, heatwave, air pollution, and biodiversity losses. The country has often struggled from the impacts of desertification, extreme weather events, and water scarcity, among others. Man-made pollution is also one of the rising environmental concerns in Iran.

The country's proximity to the coastline means that there is climatic variation and that its high mountain ranges affect the temperature and the rainfall across the region. The country receives an average annual rainfall of 240 mm, less than a third of the world's average precipitation. However, annual precipitation in the inland dry deserts of the country can be as low as only 10 mm. As a result, most rivers are seasonal and their flows depend heavily upon the amount of rainfall.

The climatic variability year-on-year is influenced by El Niño Southern Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation. Warm El Niño events are oftentimes associated with wetter rainfall seasons, and the negative phase of the North Atlantic oscillation is associated with higher rainfall in parts of Iran.

Out of Iran's total land area of 164.8 million hectares (ha), 86 million ha (52.4%) are rangelands; 14.2 million ha (8.6%) forests and 32 million ha (19.5%) deserts including bare salty lands. Approximately only 18.5 million ha (11%) are under cultivation, of which 8.5 million ha are irrigated and 10 million ha are rain fed.

Droughts in Iran 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. 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.

The most frequent type of climate-related hazards in Iran is flooding, mostly triggered by heavy and episodic rainfall events. Between 1980 and 2020, a total of 79 flash floods have occurred in the country. The March 2019 floods were particularly severe in the country's recorded history, which affected more than 10 million people living in more than 2,000 cities.

Heat waves have been linked to excess mortality, particularly for women and people over the age of 65. 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, 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. 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.

### **Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society**

The Iranian Red Crescent is part of the IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Programme which aims to increase 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.

The Iranian Red Crescent has embedded a network of 7,368 Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent Houses) across the country to provide services and essential activities that increase the resilience of local communities. The Helal Houses help to mitigate and reduce the severe impacts of climate change. In the coming years, the National Society aims to build the capacity of its staff and volunteers in communication and community engagement skills to effectively engage the youth in communities to address climate change.

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### **Planned activities in 2024**

- Mobilize youths and volunteers, using the youth as agents of behavioural change (YABC) approach
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions on climate change for targeted local communities
- Develop a community-level climate adaptation plan of action ensuring community engagement
- Develop culturally appropriate information, education, and communication materials to promote messages and behaviour on climate change
- Mobilize health caravans with the approach of reducing the effects of climate change
- Promote awareness to National Society staff and volunteers on climate change in cities and urban settings, particularly in high density areas
- Develop targets against the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter

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### **Longer-term support from the IFRC network**

**The IFRC** will continue to support the Iranian Red Crescent in develop and implement climate-smart programming in both its long and short-term activities and to develop an integrated approach that incorporates risk reduction, early warning and early action that is linked with forecast-based financing, and reduces the environmental footprint of interventions. The IFRC support also consists of working with the National Society to capacitate its staff with the required knowledge, tools and skills to integrate climate change adaptation and climate-smart programming and operations, developing the National Society's targets against the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter, and ultimately reducing the National Society's carbon footprint.





## Disasters and crises

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

Due to its geographical location, the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country prone to disasters. Among the 40 different types of natural hazards worldwide, 31 of them have been identified in Iran. Major disasters in Iran include frequent earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, desertification, deforestation, and storms, among others. The country is part of the Alp-Himalaya orogenic belt and is known as part of the youngest and last orogenic regions of the world. Due to continuous seismic activities, the country suffers heavy economic and social damages. It is reported that on an average, Iran experiences about one earthquake each day. Several regions in Iran are vulnerable to destructive earthquakes that cause a significant loss of life, fatal injuries, and damages infrastructure. According to the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction ([UNDRR](#)), it is feared that a major earthquake in Tehran, a megalopolis of more than 10 million inhabitants, could well lead to considerable loss of life and substantial financial damages if appropriate mitigation measures are not adopted.

In 2021, 29 of the 31 provinces in Iran, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan Balochistan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Khorasan Razavi – were severely impacted by drought. The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins were substantially lower compared with the year earlier, leading to a lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power in the affected regions. An estimated 4.8 million people were impacted, causing the movement of individuals or households from rural to urban areas, resulting in the abandonment of villages in rural areas and the worsening of living conditions in urban areas.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In order to ensure disaster preparedness in the coming years, the National Society has a two-pronged approach: preparedness at the 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 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 Iranian Red Crescent will continue to conduct awareness sessions for targeted communities, focusing on community empowerment initiatives in vulnerable villages and continue developing urban contingency planning in mega cities to prepare for natural hazards. As part of its Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) activities, the National Society has developed a simulation programme to improve the awareness and preparedness of individuals and communities for different crises and disasters such as floods, cyclones and road accidents.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Implement cash and voucher preparedness through delivery of CVA training for programme
- Adapt CVA guidelines and monitoring tools to the context of the National Society
- Conduct awareness sessions for the communities in targeted areas to promote their knowledge on disaster preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction
- Support the Relief and Rescue Organization (RARO) in establishing, training and equipping community emergency response teams under Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses)
- Provision of basic assistance
- Mine risk education

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**IFRC** emergency response mechanisms such as the Emergency Appeal and the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) will continue to be drawn on in support of the National Society, when needed. As part of the Helal Houses initiative, IFRC will provide support to the National Society's rescue and relief organization to establish community emergency response teams. It will work to increase the National Society's participation in government and inter-agency coordination mechanisms to improve and enhance the National Society's positioning. IFRC will continue to support the National Society in enhancing its capacity to respond to needs by developing cash voucher assistance programming and other activities. IFRC technical support in shelter will also be extended to ensure that National Society's relief tents are manufactured according to internationally accepted standards and are accredited for regional and global supply.



Iran faces increasing health-related challenges due to the projected rise in mean temperatures and prolonged heat waves in the region. These rapid climatic changes can lead to heat-related illnesses such as dehydration, rash, cramps, heat stroke, heat exhaustion, and long-term cardiovascular diseases. Especially in urban areas, there is a higher risk of heat stress due to the urban heat island effect. Elderly people and people with underlying health conditions are likely to be most affected by the rise in temperatures. For children, prolonged droughts can pose risks of skin and eye diseases and respiratory problems which affect their cognitive development.

Instances of malnutrition and food-related illnesses are increasing as droughts, storms, and floods disrupt agriculture and food practices. This change in agricultural and food habits will lead to a rise in displacement, injuries, and deaths. Large-scale crises and disasters also increase the risks of mental health and psychosocial disorders.

Vector-borne diseases, especially malaria and leishmaniasis, are expected to increase in the country as a result of climate change. The Iranian government has committed to eliminate the disease by 2025. However, the widespread nature of the disease coupled with temperature rise could further increase the cases of malarial disease in the country. Depreciation of the quantity and quality of water will likely lead to an increase in water-borne diseases such as cholera, while high temperatures and low rainfall will provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

The most recent data from 2020 showed that Iran's health expenditure was 5.34 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. It ranked 90th out of 195 countries in the 2021 Global Health Security Index. The increased risks of morbidity, mortality, and illnesses caused by climate change will put greater strain on the country's healthcare system, infrastructure, and overall spending.

The global COVID-19 pandemic also exacerbated the growing gap in health provision for the long-term health needs of the Iranian population. The pandemic caused limitation of access to specialized equipment which was already scarce as a result of repeated economic sanctions on the country.

In terms of healthcare achievements, Iran has made remarkable progress, notably in reducing under-five mortality rates. In 2021, 98% of children received two doses of the measles vaccine and 98% received three doses of the DTP vaccine.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In the coming years, the focus of the Iranian Red Crescent will be on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), community-based health and first Aid (CBHFA), community engagement and accountability (CEA) mechanism for health services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and psychosocial first Aid (PFA). The National Society will continue to execute its service delivery role in vaccinations and basic healthcare.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Conduct health promotion sessions for the communities in targeted areas
- Conduct risk communication and community engagement and community-based health and first aid training for the National Society staff and volunteers
- Adapt the global and regional information, education and communication (IEC) and behaviour change communication (BCC) materials and tools into Iran-specific contexts
- Strengthen the staff and volunteer's capacities in providing psychological first aid (PFA) for communities through training of trainers on PFA in addition to the establishment of a service mapping linking community members to specialized services
- Conduct sensitization workshops on protecting mental health wellbeing for staff and volunteers of the National Society

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will continue to support the National Society in identifying and reducing health risks in communities through community engagement, accountability and behaviour change approaches that ensure locally led solutions to address unmet needs. These will include supporting the National Society's health staff to implement and monitor health programmes. The IFRC will support the National Society in meeting the mental health and psychosocial support needs of the communities as well as volunteers and staff. During period of emergencies, the IFRC will support the National Society in providing community psychosocial support activities and sessions.



Due to conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Iran has become a major host for primarily Afghan refugees. As of 2022, Iran has 3,425,091 refugees, which is a 329.02% increase from 2021. The country's refugees include 780,000 Afghans and 20,000 Iraqis, as well as 2.6 million undocumented Afghans and 600,000 Afghan passport holders. Climatic hazards such as heavy floods in 2019 have also triggered significant internal displacement, contributing to the nearly 1 million Iranians who have been internally displaced due to disasters since 2010. While the Iranian government has started voluntary screening, it has become a challenge to track the density of the population as the influx is scattered in different provinces.

A rise in temperature and reduced rainfall has also been a significant factor for inter-province migration in Iran, suggesting that internal migration will carry on as these climate trends continue. Most internal migration in Iran has remained 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 opportunities, contributing to more rural-to-urban migration alongside general labour migration.

Following the announcement of the full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in 2021, territorial control rapidly shifted, leading to a rise in the number of displaced people, with many seeking refuge in larger cities and in foreign country. In 2022, the Government of Iran undertook a headcount of all undocumented Afghan nationals in Iran, including those who newly arrived in Iran following events in Afghanistan in 2021. 2.6 million Afghans were registered through this process. According to Iran, 500,000 undocumented Afghans did not participate in the headcount. It is estimated that since August 2021, a total of 1,000,000 Afghans have fled to Iran. Largely, the refugees in Iran are concentrated in urban areas, with more than 96 per cent living in cities or peri-urban settlements. Challenges related to migration and urbanization in the country include poverty, pollution in larger cities, informal settlements, and a lack of assistance to migrants in destination cities.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iranian Red Crescent has gained a prominent role in the country for addressing the needs of the migrants and the refugees, and plays a key role in supporting registered and unregistered populations. In this connection, 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 provide assistance to those people who have been forced to move because of prolonged droughts.

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### Planned activities in 2024

- Make basic assistance readily available on border entry points for influx as well as transit settings close to borders
- Develop joint movement training for National Society branches about migration
- Provide search and rescue equipment for Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses) to tackle local response for migrant population scattered in vicinities
- Update Red Pillar (Movement) coordination planning for upcoming population influx
- Raise funds to continue population influx response in scenarios such as camp settlements as well as zero border transition settings
- Increase coordination with central authorities in Tehran, humanitarian actors, and local stakeholders to coordinate operations and manage the delivery of basic services

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** provided support to the National Society in 2021 by launching a regional Emergency Appeal for regions bordering Afghanistan. National Societies including the Iranian Red Crescent initiated preparedness and readiness actions, and where relevant, response activities to support the population movement. The IFRC will continue to provide financial and technical support to the National Society to scale up its interventions in migration and help the National Society identify potential areas for operational response on migration.

The **German Red Cross** works with the Iranian Red Crescent, concentrating on relief, volunteering and providing services as part of the collective response to the influx of people displaced from Afghanistan.

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.





## Values, power and inclusion

Before the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, Iran dedicated a significant portion of its national budget, around 40%, towards social protection schemes, including the implementation of a universal basic income. However, despite these efforts, the current framework lacks inclusiveness, adequacy of coverage, and comprehensiveness, rendering it ineffective in targeting and supporting specific vulnerable populations within the country.

In terms of education, Iran has also witnessed positive developments, with 96% of children completing primary school. However, challenges persist, as evidenced by the fact that 70% of children fail to complete upper secondary school. Moreover, more than 20% of school-aged children, including 500,000 refugees and 170,000 children living with disabilities, lack access to online learning opportunities, a gap that's particularly pronounced in low-income households and less-developed provinces.

Social protection efforts have reached only a fraction of the population, with only 28% receiving at least one benefit in 2020. Iranian women and girls have made significant strides in various domains, including education, research, science, entrepreneurship, employment, and sanitation.

However, challenges persist for women in Iran, as indicated by the underrepresentation of women in political spheres, with only 5.6% of parliamentary seats held by women as of February 2021. Furthermore, issues such as gender-based violence remain prevalent, with 17.6% of women aged 15-49 reporting experiences of physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in the previous year.

Moreover, there is gender disparity in unpaid care and domestic work, with women spending a significantly larger proportion of their time on such tasks compared to men. Additionally, concerning trends such as child marriage and adolescent birth rates highlight the need for targeted interventions to address gender inequalities and protect the rights of women and girls in Iran.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Iranian Red Crescent intends to enhance its institutional and operational capacity in protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI). This will be done in alignment with the work of its Audit, Inspection and Complaints division which safeguards all aspects of prevention of fraud and corruption, prevention

and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection among others. The National Society will also emphasize its commitment to institutional diversity and engagement and accountability to the communities it serves. In the coming years, it will work to enhance its capacity to respond and mitigate risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion towards specifically affected groups.

### Planned activities in 2024

- Roll out a child safeguarding policy and support tools and ensure a child safeguarding risk analysis is in place across operations
- Develop and roll out standing operating procedures and training in protection from sexual exploitation and abuse
- Conduct PGI self-assessment and develop a corresponding PGI action plan
- Adopt minimum standards for PGI in emergencies and pilot their application
- Strengthen existing community based social listening and feedback mechanisms to address community concerns on a timely basis
- Establish a community engagement and accountability system
- Conduct risk communication and community engagement training for the National Society staff and volunteers
- Include more young people and volunteers as beneficiaries and leaders through education and empowerment

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society in its efforts to undertake the groundwork for inculcating a culture of social inclusion in its programming and within the organization. In this connection, IFRC will support the strengthening and establishment of community-based social listening and feedback mechanisms to address community concerns – this will include the development of practical standard operating procedures and appointing community engagement and accountability focal points. The IFRC will also work collaboratively with the National Society to mainstream PGI and improve community understanding of PGI issues in the long run.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

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



### Strategic and operational coordination

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase 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
- Balance and maximize partnerships with UN agencies, leveraging the international organization status of the IFRC
- Expand the National Society's partnerships with multilateral and international financial institutions, bridging global and regional opportunities
- Invest in innovative entrepreneurship approaches and ideas developed by National Society youth and volunteers

in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. In 2024, an orientation is planned for the Iranian Red Crescent on the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER), with the aim of enabling the National Society to select the appropriate PER modality. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** aims to support the Iranian Red Crescent in strengthening its engagement with international partners, including the UN humanitarian country team. This engagement will leverage the National Society's position as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC will continue to provide technical support for coordination and networking with Movement partners. This support will extend to joint planning and reporting beyond emergency situations. The IFRC will also support the National Society in setting up an improved coordination mechanism in all situations in which several Movement components are present.



### National Society development

#### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Undertake constitutional amendments
- The Iranian Red Crescent will integrate community outreach training and volunteers' capacity building under Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses which serve as the first connection with communities). The National Society will empower the heads of the Helal Houses, encourage the members to increase the quantity and quality of voluntary activities, establish effective communication, provide context for the expression and exchange of ideas and suggestions, and most notably increase the network of Helal Houses to 10,000 over the next few years

- Focus on the development of volunteers and youth action by including local volunteers in the activities and response mechanisms of the Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses)
- Conduct training on first aid and provide inductions for new recruits, involving young people and volunteers in the establishment of Helal Houses

#### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will support the National Society in undertaking constitutional amendments. It will also prioritize volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Train staff and volunteers on the National Society's communications strategy and produce communication products for international audiences
- Enhance media coverage of the Helal Houses (community-owned Red Crescent houses) programme expansion and other National Society-owned digital tools and websites showcasing the initiative
- Develop advocacy communication tools to showcase the rationale and intended functions of the Helal 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

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will produce humanitarian diplomacy documents and common narratives together with the National Society. It will also support the National Society by strengthening Movement dialogue on policy issues to consolidate its influence in the humanitarian sector.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to facilitate its Audit, Inspection and Complaints division which safeguards all aspects of prevention of fraud and corruption, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and child protection among others
- Strengthen its results-based monitoring and evaluation, and better demonstrate its impact on communities
- Conduct finance-related training sessions to enhance knowledge and skills in project financial management

- Design a data management system for data security which meets data protection guidelines

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

**The IFRC** will continue working closely with the National Society and other stakeholders to speed up the transfer of financial resources through the international banking system. Technical training will be conducted for the National Society on data collection, analysis and management. Efforts will continue in reference to the completion of the IFRC project partner financial management capacity review, with recommendations.

## THE IFRC NETWORK

### The IFRC

**The IFRC** re-established a country delegation in Iran in 2021, to increase its support towards the National Society in undertaking its mandate as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. The IFRC continues to facilitate increased membership support in Iran. In recent years, the

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.

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly 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. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance, and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The **German Red Cross** supports the Iranian Red Crescent bilaterally, concentrating on relief, volunteering and the provision of 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 participating National Societies support the Iranian Red Crescent remotely due to difficulties in establishing a presence in Iran.

### Participating National Society Support

National Society name	Funding Requirement	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling local actors
Japanese Red Cross Society	1.5M						

Total Funding requirement

1.5M



The National Society's earthquake contingency planning project is focusing on preparedness for urban response in big cities like Tehran. (Photo: Iranian Red Crescent)



## Movement coordination

The Iranian Red Crescent ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, to align support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#). The IFRC and ICRC also jointly support the National Society's humanitarian diplomacy efforts and the enhancement of principled humanitarian action and support.

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In Iran, the **ICRC** promotes international humanitarian law and works with the authorities in Iran and Iraq to address the consequences of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, particularly the issue of missing persons. It supports local initiatives to mitigate risks related to people's health and their exposure to mines and explosive remnants of war, and support access to health care for Afghan migrants. The ICRC works in partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent and other Iranian organizations and bodies in the fields of tracing, physical rehabilitation and international relief efforts.

## Coordination with other actors

The Iranian Red Crescent, with support from the IFRC, will maintain its crucial engagements with local authorities, ensuring continued collaboration and reinforcing its roles as an auxiliary to the Iranian public authorities in the humanitarian domain. The National Society is well respected and strongly engaged within its national response system. In this connection, it is a member of the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) – a role which is recognized through legislation on the NDMO. The NDMO coordinates the disaster response efforts of the Iranian Red Crescent, ministries, local authorities and NGOs. Line ministries, supported by UN agencies in Iran, lead and implement sectorial services.

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The Iranian Red Crescent is also mandated by the Iranian Government to serve 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.

Since its re-establishment in Iran, the IFRC has engaged with the other humanitarian organizations which are active in the country, and this includes engagement with the World Bank in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The IFRC aims to leverage its International Organization status and maximize support for the Iranian Red Crescent.





## **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 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.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support for 2024 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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