



# IRAN

## National Programme for Disaster Prevention

### Disaster Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the sixth-most disaster-prone country in the world. An average of 4,000 people were killed and 55,000 affected annually by natural disasters in the last decade. Iran is located in one of the most seismically active areas of the world. Losses due to hydro-meteorological hazards such as drought, floods, and landslides are also severe. Three consecutive years of drought have reduced agricultural land, rangeland, and forests, and have resulted in a shortage of drinking water in many urban and rural areas. Uncontrolled urbanization has also increased vulnerability to disasters.

Iran has a lot of experience in dealing with natural disasters, and international observers have been impressed by the efficiency of natural-disaster responses by government authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (RCS). However, further emphasis is needed on preventive and risk-management approaches.

In addition to the projects mentioned below, UNDP Iran is engaged in mine action activities, supporting flood and drought management initiatives, and executing a Preparatory Assistance for a sub-regional disaster risk management initiative.

### Project Titles

- Assistance to the Government in Formulating a National Preparedness and Mitigation Plan for Natural Disasters (IRA/95/003/A/13/99)
- Capacity Development for National Disaster Response and Coordination (IRA/00/032)

### Sectors

- Capacity-building
- Disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response

### Funding

- IRA/95/003/A/13/99: \$250,000 from UNDP Special Programming Resources

- IRA/00/032: \$150,000 from UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 funds

### Partners

- IRA/95/003/A/13/99: Ministry of Interior, Bureau for Research and Coordination of Safety and Rehabilitation Activities
- IRA/00/032: RCS and the Ministry of Interior

### Programme Activities

Project IRA/95/003/A/13/99 involved:

- Organisational coordination mechanisms
- A sustainable development outlook in development planning and disaster management
- Disaster management communication and information systems
- Early warning systems for floods
- Enhancing public awareness of earthquakes in urban areas

Separately, IRA/00/032 focused on improving the ability of the RCS in crisis management, coordination of emergency measures, responding at the onset of an early warning and/or actual impact and upgrading of the organisation's search-and-rescue capacity. The programme also achieved:

- Drafting of a strategic plan for the RCS Relief and Rescue Department
- Creation of an integrated computer system within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of RCS with Internet links to other organisations
- Training of 370 RCS officials in strategic planning and management of the EOC, as well as in crisis management and search and rescue
- Improved coordination among the Ministry of Interior, RCS, and UNDP
- Production of training modules and materials on search and rescue in English and Farsi