



Golestan Province

Flood in Iran

The devastating flood in various areas of the I.R. of Iran shocked the humanitarian, development and social workers all over the country. UNFPA Iran Country office, in line with its emergency plan and programmes responded to the request for assistance of the government. Together with other UN agencies, UNFPA discussed the highlights of its programme of assistance with the government high officials and joined the UN team for provision of emergency items of the affected people.

UNFPA Iran, provided to Dignity Kits and RH Kits to assist 500,000 women of reproductive age, 28,500 women are currently pregnant, 9,501 women who will give birth in the next three months and 1,425 women who will experience obstetric complications in the next three months and need access to a functioning health center for delivery.



Dr. Leila Joudane,
UNFPA Representative

UNFPA in Emergencies

During conflicts, natural disasters and other emergencies, sexual and reproductive health needs can be overlooked – with staggering consequences. Pregnant women risk life-threatening complications without access to reproductive health services. Women and girls may lose access to family planning, exposing them to unwanted pregnancies in perilous conditions. Women and young people also become more vulnerable to sexual violence, exploitation and HIV infection. And the hygiene needs of women and girls are often neglected.

A brief background report about the flood

From mid-March to April 2019, widespread flash flooding affected large parts of Iran, most severely in Golestan, Fars, Khuzestan, Lorestan, and other provinces. Iran has been hit by three major waves of rain and flooding over the course of two weeks that led to flooding in at least 26 of Iran's 31 provinces and at least 70 people died nationwide as of 6 April, according to the officials. The first wave of rain began on 17 March, leading to flooding in two northern provinces, Golestan and Mazandaran with the former province receiving as much as 70 percent of its average annual rainfall in single day. Several large dams have been overflowed, particularly in Khuzestan and Golestan, therefore many villages and several cities have been evacuated. Severe floods have damaged about 1,900 cities and villages across country as well as water and agriculture infrastructure. 78 roads were blocked and the reliability of 84 bridges was questioned.

According to an Iranian official, due to record rainfalls, more than 140 rivers have burst their banks and about 409 landslides have happened in the country. Khuzestan province was in highest status of alert due to breakage of major dams and uprising of the Karkheh and Karoun rivers.

Upon the request of the government of Iran, Dr. Leila Joudane, UNFPA Representative in Iran joined the UN's disaster management team to review, discuss and identify the scope of the intervention and assistance for the population affected by the flood.

On 10 and 11 April, the United Nations teams, supported by the National governmental officials visited the three major flooded provinces, Golestan, Lorestan and Ilam, to further assess the situation and discuss the highlights of the assistance needed from UN. The UN representatives met the provincial and district authorities as well as the affected communities. UNFPA Assistant Representative who was on mission to Golestan province reported that the areas next to the rivers such as farms are still under water. Most people's livelihood, houses, belongings, their livestock as well as agriculture has been damaged. Since three weeks from flooding, the emer-

gency phase is very much over and the short-term assistance is for the government to support the clean up. Up to now, there has not been any outbreak of diseases but, for future the concern of UN agencies including WHO will be on monitoring of this issue.

Deliveries have been done in hospitals, the list of all pregnant women are available through the health system and they have been visited by health workers making sure that all is well. The first cargos with life saving items landed this week in Tehran and UN agencies (UNHCR and WHO) are delivering the Kits to the flooded areas in coordination with Ministry of Health and BAFIA.

UNFPA in coordination with APRO and HQ, has mobilized resources to directly target an estimated 16,434 women of reproductive age, 4,500 girls, and 3,000 men from the overall figure of 500,000 most severely affected population in the three worst affected provinces of Golestan, Khuzestan and Lorestan. UNFPA will pay particular attention to the 170,000 people residing in emergency shelters.

In this regards, UNFPA will reduce avoidable maternal and neonatal health mortality and morbidity from the floods in the worst affected areas through the provision of essential sexual and reproductive health services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care. UNFPA procured necessary reproductive health and dignity kits which will be distributed in the most affected areas in coordination with MoHME and Iranian Red Crescent Society.

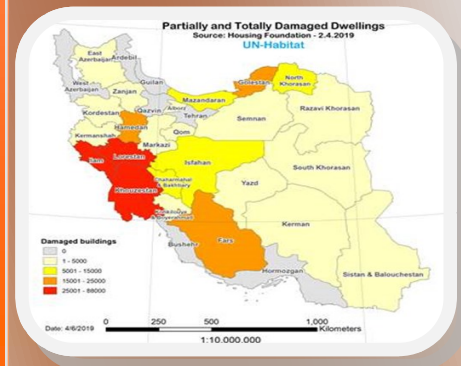
The first UNFPA supply items arrived in Tehran last night and was delivered to the health authorities to be distributed among identified health facilities.



Some observations of the mission to Golestan Province

It is really sad to see the houses that are seriously damaged. Living in them is basically impossible. It is a big mess. It is difficult to imagine how these people will deal with such a big mess. We could see, kilometers after kilometers of damaged crops/the wheat which has turned yellow and therefore the crop is totally destroyed.

Going toward Gomishan, part of the road was still under water, and the crops are both sides of road were under water. Most of us had not seen such sites. It was difficult to believe



and imagine how long it will take for this water to go down. People of Gomishan seem isolated, if not poor. But considering that their livelihood, crops and animals have been destroyed, one wonders what is going through their mind for future.



Clothes, mattresses, sheets.... everything was hanging from somewhere for it to be dried! Muddy and stinky. One could smell the sewage in some of the houses.

It could have been great if they could take their houses to the shower and get it all cleaned at once!!!

Most people looked like they have a cold!