



MEHR

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 **MEHR NEWS AGENCY**

Highlights

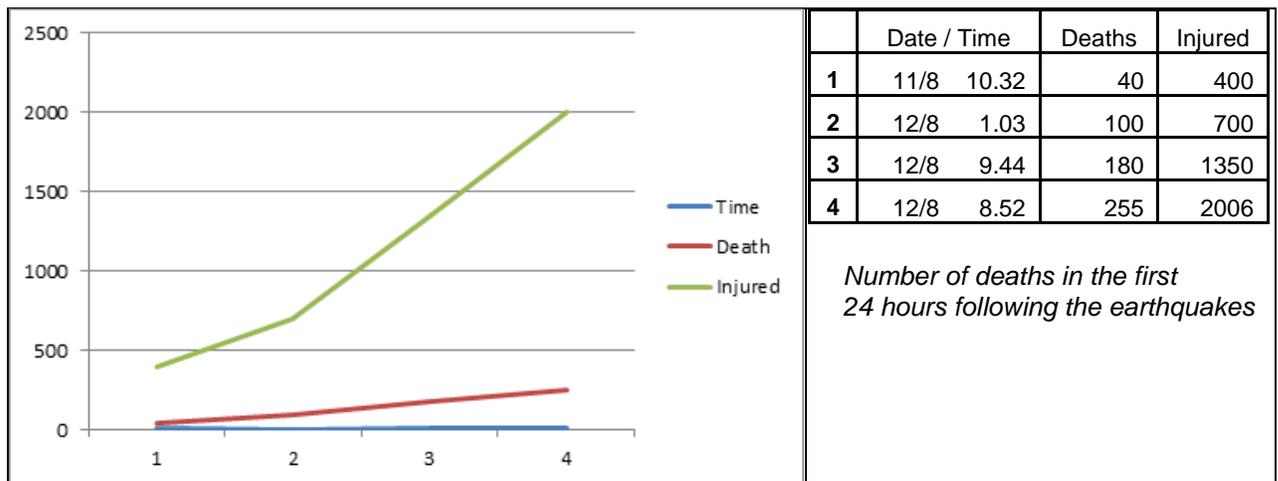
- 2 earthquakes and more than 60 aftershocks in the Islamic Republic of Iran have left 255 dead, 2006 injured and more than 16,000 homeless.
- The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not declared an emergency situation so far, nor requested UN assistance.
- WHO's office in the Islamic Republic of Iran is in close contact with UN partners and the head of the Emergency Operations Center of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to monitor the situation.

IRAN: Earthquakes



Overview

- On 11 August 2012 at 16:53 and 17:04 local time, two earthquakes were reported in East Azarbaijan, 20 km west of Ahar. The US Geological Survey ranked them at 6.4 and 6.3 on the moment magnitude scale, respectively. The most affected districts were Ahar and Varzaghan. More than 60 aftershocks occurred in the 24 hours after the earthquakes struck.
- The interior ministry official in charge of disaster management, Hossein Ghadami, said 110 of the region's 500 villages were damaged. Almost half a dozen closest to the quakes' epicentres were entirely wiped off the map.
- The latest statistics from the WHO Iran office on Sunday 12 August at 10.30 am are:
 - Total dead: 300
 - Total injured: 2006
 - Total homeless: more than 16,000
 - Damaged villages (50-80% of total): 133
 - Total devastated villages: 12



Health situation

- 18 people who were transferred to hospitals in Tabriz died as a result of their injuries.
- There is increase in the number of snake and scorpion bites among those left homeless and seeking shelter in open areas.
- On Sunday 12 August, Hassan Ghadami, Iran's deputy interior minister, said that all those trapped under debris had been rescued and that all affected persons were being provided with basic needs.

Coordination

- WHO's office in the Islamic Republic of Iran is in close contact with UN partners and the head of the Emergency Operations Center of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to monitor the situation.

- The government of the Islamic republic of Iran has not declared an emergency situation so far, nor requested UN assistance.

Response

- 15 search and rescue teams, as well as 92 relief teams were deployed to assist in the response efforts, in addition to 260 health workers and emergency technicians.
- To date the following has been provided by MOHME and the Iranian Red Crescent:
 - Ambulances: 100
 - Bus ambulances: 3
 - Helicopters: 3
 - Operational cars: 40
 - Life detectors: 12
 - Blankets: 11,000
 - Tents: 5,636 family and group tents
 - Bed sheet: 7,585
 - Kitchen sets: 2830
 - Water containers: 104
 - Jerry cans: 5,000
 - Heaters: 2520
 - Lighters: 4,500
 - Washing powder: 20,000 packs
 - Soap: 22,852
 - Bags for dead bodies: 700
 - Tuna fish cans: 12828
 - Dried food: 5400
- An assessment team at the national level was dispatched by MOHME to the field for a health assessment.
- A mental health team and disease control team were deployed by MOHME, with plans to also send a reproductive health team as soon as possible
- Two field hospitals were set up by MOHME in the affected areas to provide emergency care.
- The Iranian Red Crescent has taken over as sports stadium to shelter the 16,000 people left homeless or too afraid to go back indoors. It has also provided 6,000 tents, blankets and 18,000 cans of food.
- On 12 August 2012, government officials reported that search and rescue operations had been halted and that all survivors had been located and saved. They also reported that the focus will now be on providing relief assistance to affected populations and initiating early recovery.

For more information, contact:

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