

EMERGENCY SETTLEMENT EXPERIENCES IN IRAN: LESSONS TOWARD MORE EFFICIENCY IN POST-QUAKE

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This paper is based on a study about emergency settlement challenges in devastating earthquakes in Iran during last 20 years. Considering the length of reconstruction programs in Iran and the importance of population settlement in post event, planning for emergency settlement is a priority in risk management. Usually disaster-affected population prefers to stay next to their demolished houses; therefore, decisions and policies in emergency phase could affect further phases in post event. The goal of the study is proposing some guidelines to improve the emergency settlement process in the country. The objectives of the study are:

- Recognition of emergency settlement challenges in Iran based on earthquake experiences;
- Developing guidelines toward optimum planning for emergency settlement.

The paper includes four sections:

First, an overview of components and details of emergency settlement plan. All components and details of emergency phase such as rescue, relief, emergency shelter, community participation, decision making considering up-down and bottom-up approaches in emergency settlement plan etc. are studied (OCHA, 2008). Some examples of emergency settlement plans in other countries such as Turkey and Pakistan are presented. This section is based on current literature on emergency settlement and disaster response (GFDRR, 2011).

Second, studying about Iran's experiences on emergency settlement based on previous earthquakes. In this section the emergency settlement experiences in devastating earthquakes during last twenty years including Manjil earthquake (1990), Avaj earthquake (2002), Bam earthquake (2003), Silakhor earthquake (2006) and Varzaghan earthquake (2012) are considered (Housing Foundation, 2006 and BHRC, 2002). The emergency settlement process, details, adopted policies and implemented actions are discussed and evaluated (Figures 1 and 2). This section is based on published reports, documents, field studies and expert's opinion.



Figure 1. Emergency shelter in Avaj experience



Figure 2. Emergency shelters in Varzaghan experience

Third, concluding on emergency settlement experiences in Iran since 1990. In this section main matters in emergency settlement plans in Iran are highlighted and presented. Also based on first section's information on other countries experiences, comparisons are made, similarities, and differences between Iran, and other countries are presented.

Fourth, developing guidelines and proposals based on Iran's experiences. The proposals will be helpful for authorities, planners, and managers at national and local level. The results are focused on four topics:

- Evaluating the emergency settlement trend in Iran;
- Emergency settlement impact on temporary settlement and reconstruction;
- Emergency settlement impact on disaster recovery;
- Emergency settlement and risk management.

The results and findings of this paper could be useful in similar situations and in pre event planning.

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