



# Disasters; The Opportunity of Reconstruction and Development: The Successful Experience of the 2017 Kermanshah Earthquake

Davoud Pirani<sup>1</sup>, Kosar Yousefi<sup>2</sup> and Ali Sahebi<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Health in Disasters and Emergencies, School of Public Health and Safety, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

<sup>2</sup>Department of Nursing, Student Research Committee, Ilam University of Medical Sciences, Ilam, Iran

\*Corresponding author: Department of Health in Disasters and Emergencies, School of Public Health and Safety, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran. Email: ali.sahebi@sbm.ac.ir

Received 2019 February 03; Accepted 2019 February 05.

**Keywords:** Development, Disasters, Donors, Public Participations, Reconstruction

## Dear Editor,

An earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter struck Ezgeleh in Kermanshah province on November 12, 2017, at 21:48 local time. In this devastating event, around 4,700,000 individuals were involved, 650 cases of death and around 8000 injuries were reported, as well as 70,000 individuals were made homeless. Furthermore, 12000 buildings were damaged (1). Humanitarian aids in disasters have serious challenges and the management of financial aids are one of the essential aspects of humanitarian operations. Immediately in the aftermath of the 2017 Kermanshah earthquake, humanitarian aids were sent from most parts of Iran by governmental- and non-governmental agencies to the earthquake-affected areas (2). Although disasters lead to the destruction of the resources and cause widespread disruption to economic, social, and cultural activities, they provide opportunities for the development and improvement of the community infrastructures in the recovery process. In disasters, donors and public participations are increased, providing conditions for major changes to the safety of new infrastructures and quality improvement. Disaster managers should take advantage of the public institutions and donors' capacity in the reconstruction dwellings and facilities of the earthquake-affected communities (3). Social Deputy is one of the Deputies of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education of Iran that related commission attracts public participations. Since the establishment, this Deputy has been planning for organization, identification, and attract non-governmental resources and donors in the construction, providing financial resources, and essential health facilities. The commission of social Deputy is very important in organizing public participations during disasters

and it should manage public participations through correct needs assessment and coordination with units of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and other organizations. The donor- and NGO organizations participated in the construction and reconstruction of 68 health care centers in Kermanshah province exhibited a successful experience in the management of public participations by the social deputy that is an opportunity for improvement and development health infrastructures in the earthquake-affected area. Therefore, the management and coordination of effective participation of public institutions and donors along with the role of government can increase the development of the opportunities in the response and reconstruction phases of disasters.

## Footnotes

**Conflict of Interests:** None declared.

**Funding/Support:** None declared.

## References

1. Yousefi K, Pirani D, Sahebi A. Lessons learned from the 2017 Kermanshah earthquake response. *Iran Red Crescent Med J.* 2018;**20**(12). e87109. doi: 10.5812/ircmj.87109.
2. Safarpour H. Donors management in disasters: Kermanshah earthquake experience. *Iran Red Crescent Med J.* 2018;**20**(11). e84942. doi: 10.5812/ircmj.84942.
3. Hajinezhad A, Asgari A, Rafeian M, Mohammadi S. [Recognition of development opportunities resulting from earthquake with emphasis on physical aspects of city case study (Bam CITY)]. *Geography Dev.* 2010;**8**(19):71-82. Persian.