Ministry of Health & Medical Education Response to Bam Earthquake Disaster
Citadel of Bam surviving more than 2000 years before the Earthquake
Citadel after the earthquake
The Bam Earthquake, one of the most devastating natural disasters in the world.
Disaster and Population affected

- Disaster Struck on Friday, December 25, 2003, at 05:27 O Clock A.M With the strength of 6.8 on the Richter scale

- Population of affected areas:
  - Total: 240,000
  - Urban: 97,000
  - Rural: 143,000
HEALTH FACILITIES

- Health Houses  95
- Health Centers  23 (10 Urban & 13 Rural)
- Hospitals  3 (250 beds total)
Damages caused in the health sector

- 50% of health personnel dead
- All health facilities destroyed
Causalities

- **Dead** 27000
- **Injured** 22000
  - Hospitalized 7400
  - Outpatient care 9600
  - Home care 5000
Coordination of national and local Disaster organizations

National Disaster Coordinating Commission (MOI)

MOH

Kerman

Bam

MOI

Kerman

Bam
Rescue and relief

- Recovery of injured and dead
- Air lifting of injured
- Overall operation coordination.
- National, provincial and district response committees.
- International teams.
Medical care for injured

- More than 10,000 injured air lifted to other cities,
- Urgent care in affected areas
- Severely injured treated in medical universities hospitals.
- Active tent to tent search for injured and traumatized
Disease surveillance

- Active case finding for communicable and non-communicable diseases tent by tent
- Registration
- Follow up
Environmental Health

- Water supply
- Sanitation
- Bathing facilities
- Food safety
- Solid wastes
- Environmental disinfection/decontamination
Reactivation and management of health services

- Reactivation of the health network
- Dividing the affected areas into 14 health zones
- Subdividing each health zone into 7-9 blocks.
- Each health zone is managed by medical university of the supporting provinces.
Documentation and Evaluation

- Preparedness, Mobilization and Coordination
- Timeliness and efficacy of assessment and response
- Evacuation and caring of injured
- Reactivation/rehabilitation of health services
- Skills and training of staff
- Information/communication, Media and public relation
- Supplies and logistic support
- Need for guidelines for all stages and aspects
Lessons Learnt

- Strong health system and experienced national staff invaluable
- In spite of experience early shock and rush of volunteers and people created problems.
- Army proved a critical resource
- People play crucial role.
- International support coordination improvement.
- Many donors pledged but did not deliver
- WHO support judged extremely effective.