

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

IRAQ: RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS (STATUS & CHALLENGES)

*Appeal No. MDRIQ002
18 June 2007*

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update No.2; Period covered: 1 April to 31 May, 2007; Appeal target: CHF 10,346,868 (USD 8,338,196 or EUR 6,420,644); Appeal coverage: 43%; Outstanding needs: CHF 5,856,262 (USD 4,722,815 or EUR 3,524,575)¹

(Please click [here](#) to go directly to the attached interim financial report).

Appeal history:

- **Launched on 12 February 2007 for CHF 10,346,868 (USD 8,338,196 or EUR 6,420,644) for 12 months to assist 50,000 families (300,000 beneficiaries) with relief items and 150,000 beneficiaries in the health sector.**
- **Final Report is due by the end of April 2008.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A.**
- **Some of the activities from the 05EA026 appeal were re-scheduled to be implemented in 2007, i.e. warehouse construction in IRCS Baghdad Branch.**

Operational Summary:

Based on the cooperation & project agreements formalized with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the International Federation is focusing on the core areas and made progress in programme implementation during the reporting period.

The first phase of the school first aid programme has been completed with satisfactory results. The continuation of the programme is secured from the funding point of view.

Preparation for procurement of 13,000 family kits and 8,500 first aid kits are in progress. Tender for Baghdad regional warehouse has been announced, company bids received and the committee on tender has met in Baghdad.

Planning and preparatory arrangements for the information and branch development seminar/workshop, and volunteer induction training of trainers have been taking place.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

¹ The appeal coverage and outstanding needs were calculated based on the expected income reallocation from the previous Iraq appeal no. 05EA026 in the amount of approximately CHF 858,000.

Global Agenda Goals:

- **Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.**
- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Introduction

Four years after the beginning of the crisis in Iraq, Iraqi people are still living in a high tense conflict situation. Conflict in Iraq takes multiple forms, including extreme and massive acts of violence recorded literally daily in parts of the country, mainly in the high tension areas of the Central and Southern Governorates. Despite the daily grim reporting from the country, many instances of assassination, kidnapping and torture remain undocumented.

International efforts are made to bring parties to the negotiation table in order to promote tendencies for stabilization of the situation in Iraq. One of the major events in this respect was the attempt to bring Iraq's neighbours to reach consensus in Sharm El-Sheik. Due to the diverse nature of approaches and complexity of the conflict, resolution still remains in process and through means of cooperation and dialogue. Since this process is time consuming, people are becoming more vulnerable every passing day. According to the latest statistics, every third citizen of Iraq belongs to the category of socially vulnerable.

Despite efforts aimed to regulate and stabilize the situation, daily reports demonstrate the remaining high level of violence. Statistics of May 2007 indicate that 1,500 people were killed and the number of unidentified bodies compared to the previous month doubled (321). Intensified attacks against the Capital's bridges make the accessibility more difficult. In addition, bombing of markets and heavily populated areas remain a daily phenomenon. Although the majority of the attacks are targeting troops, military and government facilities, they result in extremely high civilian casualties and victims of clashes, road bombs, suicide bomber attacks, etc. Fight in Baghdad continues, as well as in Nasiriya, Basra, Diyala, and is extended to the North.

The mortality rate of children under-five years old is in the middle range when compared to other developing countries, but has worsened faster than in any other of them. Observers state that the main reason for this is the continuing violence and lack of funds for the health sector. "In Iraq, children are dying from the easiest curable diseases worldwide like diarrhoea and pneumonia. With the deteriorated health situation in the country, the increase in the number of malnourished children and thousands of displaced living in poverty conditions, the possibility of reducing this high figure is remote...", says a senior official and paediatrician from the Iraqi Ministry of Health. According to the State of the World's Mothers report released on 8 May 2007, 50 Iraqi children died, per 1,000 live births in 1990. Today, the rate is 125 per 1,000 births, which means more than double. Some 122,000 Iraqi children died in 2005 before reaching their fifth birthday. More than half of these

Iraq: Response to Humanitarian Crisis; Emergency Appeal no.MDRIQ002; Operations Update no. 2

deaths were among newborn babies in the first month of their lives. According to a study conducted by Iraqi psychiatrists and supported by the World Health Organisation (WHO), one of every eight Iraqi children dies before the age of five years old. 30% of the children included in the poll suffer from mental disorders, and 47% of the ones who live in Baghdad are going through a severe psychological trauma. In addition, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) statistics indicate that one-fifth of Iraqi children are suffering of malnutrition.

The health system in Iraq is facing significant problems. Different fighting factions are attacking clinics and hospitals or targeting health professionals and thereby delaying the whole process, as most of the professionals abandon their work or flee the country to survive, leaving a serious gap countrywide.

Recent statistics of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation indicated that one-third of the Iraqi people suffer deprivation and poverty. The CSO survey also shows that there are nearly nine million Iraqis living below the poverty line and suffering from the lack of public services. The Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs states that more than one million people in Baghdad are unemployed. The unemployment rate of the total population of the country is 50%.

Current situation on Appeal response

The "Iraq: Response to Humanitarian Crisis" Emergency Appeal (no.MDRIQ002) was launched on 12 February 2007. Despite the obvious needs, the appeal response can be considered as of low-medium intensity. The recent analyses of the funding situation of the current appeal shows positive signs and enables the Federation to launch operations in different directions according to the action plan.

The generous contributions received from the Australian Government and Australian, Swedish, Japanese, Malaysian, Finnish, American and Monaco National Societies opened new implementation opportunities. The recently communicated Australian Government and Australian Red Cross' contribution substantially stabilized the funding situation and widened the ground for relief and health programmes. The appeal target of CHF 10,346,868 is considered to be covered up to 43%.

Operations

Federation and Iraqi Red Crescent Activities

Disaster Management

Overall programme goal: The suffering of families left vulnerable by the economic decline and collapse of the social security systems in the country and by natural and human-made disasters is alleviated.

The disaster management programme of the appeal comprises three major components as follows: disaster relief; disaster preparedness and capacity building of physical structure (construction). Each programme has its specific objective.

Disaster Relief

Objective: The suffering of 50,000 socially vulnerable families and victims of natural disasters such as floods is alleviated by delivering non-food items.

The appealed amount for disaster relief (non-food distribution) was CHF 6,631,016. The current appeal response shows 29% coverage under this activity plan, which enables the International Federation to announce standard tender for purchase of 13,000 family kits to be distributed to socially vulnerable people. The decision of the IRCS/International Federation to provide and distribute these family kits was based on a needs assessment conducted by the IRCS.

Tender documentation and supplier selection process is undertaken by the operating joint IRCS-Federation team. Taking into consideration the wide range of factors affecting the operation, the purchasing stage of the operation is expected to be completed by the middle/end of July 2007. Later on, the non-food contingency stocks and items for relief distribution will be delivered to the destinations for further action. Procurement of relief items will be done by the members of the joint logistics committee, and will be closely monitored by the remote programme coordination team. Distribution will be monitored by IRCS and the International Federation Baghdad office staff, which will be reflected in the following operations updates, information bulletins, pledge based narrative reports and/or specific articles.

A substantial preparedness level has been achieved in order to handle the further income under disaster relief and to go for further major relief operation as per the additional funds made available. An additional amount of CHF 4,731,023 is needed to cover the appeal plan for disaster relief.

Capacity Building of Physical Structure

Objective: Two regional warehouses in Basra (main port) and Baghdad are constructed to increase the IRCS warehouse storage capacity.

The Baghdad warehouse construction programme was originally planned under the Emergency Appeal no: 05EA026. Nevertheless, the programme had to be rescheduled for 2007 due to reasons such as late appeal response as well as kidnapping of IRCS staff and volunteers in December 2006.

The plan for 2007 was to construct two regional warehouses; one in Baghdad and the other in Basra. IRCS, after thoroughly evaluating the future strategic need in its warehousing capacity, formally asked to change the location of the second warehouse from Basra to Erbil.

The recently obtained tender results demonstrated much higher prices than it had been anticipated for this project. The internal turmoil and well known situation in Iraq (specifically in Baghdad) had economical impact on the life, the accessibility of services and prices of material fuel. In addition, security costs in Baghdad. The variance between the prices estimated in the project proposal in June 2006 and later updated in early April 2007, exceeds CHF 200,000.

This project, which is considered as one of the main priorities of the IRCS, will have a very important role in the disaster management and relief structure of the National Society in the central region of the country. The International Federation is processing standard procedures to be able to start the physical operation as well as seeking to find a way to bridge the gap caused by the market fluctuation and the existing variance.

The funding of the Erbil Regional Warehouse planned under the appeal has not been covered yet, which requires an estimated additional CHF 706,600.

Health and Care

Overall programme goal: Reduce the prevalence of common health problems in the 18 governorates of Iraq by providing training and mobilising the IRCS volunteers and community organizations.

Community Based First Aid Programme (CBFA)

Objective: The CBFA programme is expanded to 18 governorates and localities by increasing the participation of its volunteers in the national health intervention programmes, including HIV/AIDS and immunization campaigns.

Currently, funds are available to provide a good planning ground for the implementation of this programme. The operational plan of action has been developed by the joint working group of the IRCS and the International Federation. Programme planning documents have also been developed and formalized alongside with the project

agreement. Purchasing of training materials and first aid kits are in process. The International Federation is seeking in kind donation for the 80 mannequins (20 infant, 20 female and 40 male) needed as training materials.

Outstanding funding needed for this programme stands at CHF 560,478.

School First Aid

Objective: The school first aid programme has been strengthened and consolidated in selected governorates extremely exposed to ongoing armed conflicts and arbitrary killings.

The school first aid programme for primary, intermediary and secondary schools can be considered as one of the most important programmes implemented by the IRCS and supported by the International Federation within the reporting period. The continuation of the programme is linked to the process of first aid knowledge dissemination, which has been implemented since 1997.

The IRCS and International Federation were able to formalize, start and complete the first phase of the school first aid programme in April and May 2007 based on the funding made available in early April. The available funds created a positive picture by almost fully covering the programme needs for 2007.

The programme is coordinated with the Ministry of Education and Directorate of Primary and Secondary Education in the identified nine governorates. Series of programme planning meetings were held in early April with the IRCS branch, health department, and with the participation of health promotion officers and Ministry of Education staff.

The programme is focusing on the following governorates: Baghdad, Anbar, Taamem, Diyala, Ninevah, Salah al-Din, Babil, Najaf and Kerbala. The total number of school first aid courses implemented amounted to 922, with 290 in Baghdad and 79 in each remaining governorate.



The school first aid trainings, in total 922, were carried out in nine governorates and covered approximately 20,000 students from primary, intermediary and secondary schools

Trainings were organized by experienced trainers supported by health programme coordinators. In the end of these two-day trainings conducted in April and May 2007, 100 trainers were trained, and 922 school first aid courses were completed for 18,440 primary, intermediary and secondary school students.

The trainings included the following topics: (first day) – the Movement, basic principles of first aid, bleeding and shock, fractures and practical exercise, injuries and practical exercise; (second day) – suffocation, artificial breathing, cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR part 1 & 2), type and forms of burns and their treatment, practical exercise.

Monitoring and interim evaluation of the programme was held on a planned and ad hoc basis by the head of health department, programme coordinator and programme officers via routine visits to the schools. Visits and monitoring of the first aid trainings were

also organized by the Ministry of Education. The interim evaluation of the first phase of the school first aid programme was carried out by the input received from the community, beneficiaries and trainers.

Revisions and obstacles during programme implementation:

- The original plan had to be revised due to security reasons. Instead of Basra governorate IRCS decided to run the programme in Babil governorate.
- While travelling to the training location, IRCS staff was exposed to security threats of different nature.

Organizational Development

Programme Goal: The IRCS capacity to provide effective and efficient services to the vulnerable groups is strengthened in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent and its own constitution.

Objective: The IRCS has enhanced its organizational and operational capacity at all levels.

Information, planning & reporting seminar/workshop was organized for programme and reporting officers in March 2007. The workshop was planned to last for five days in order to provide guidance on project/programme planning and reporting. The workshop achieved its goals and the participants completed relevant plans of actions for 2007 in all the core areas of IRCS activities under appeal no MDRIQ002.

The International Federation is planning to run a seminar specially tailored to IRCS branch directors and headquarters programme managers on planning, reporting and branch development. The seminar is planned for July 2007 to be held in Amman. Substantial planning of the training and preparation of thematic, organizational and logistics matters have taken place.

Youth and volunteer induction course of trainers is intensively planned for mid July 2007. This induction training of trainers (ToT) is part of the extensive training sessions to be held at branch governorates by the qualified youth and volunteers trainers.

Currently, the International Federation is planning the activities as stated above. The planned budget for organisational development activities is CHF 310,160. The outstanding need to fully cover these plans is CHF 159,960.

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRIQ002 - IRAQ - RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/02-2007/05
Budget Timeframe	2007/02-2008/01
Appeal	MDRIQ002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	1,711,230	8,325,479		310,160		10,346,869
B. Opening Balance	0	0		0		0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	62,679					62,679
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	162,000					162,000
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	227,896	61,000				288,896
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>				49,200		49,200
<i>New York Office</i>		3,202				3,202
<i>On Line donations</i>		13,830				13,830
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	88,650	620,550				709,200
C1. Cash contributions	541,225	698,582		49,200		1,289,007
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Australian Red Cross</i>	252,500	1,161,500		101,000		1,515,000
<i>Malaysian Red Crescent Society</i>		651,900				651,900
<i>Swedish Red Cross</i>	22,088	154,613				176,700
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	274,588	1,968,013		101,000		2,343,600
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	815,813	2,666,594		150,200		3,632,607
D. Total Funding = B + C	815,813	2,666,594		150,200		3,632,607

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0		0		0
C. Income	815,813	2,666,594		150,200		3,632,607
E. Expenditure	-17,456	-301,771		-51,866		-371,093
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	798,357	2,364,823		98,334		3,261,514

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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		1,711,230	8,325,479		310,160		10,346,869	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	1,162,000							1,162,000
Clothing & textiles	3,020,000							3,020,000
Medical & First Aid	340,000							340,000
Teaching Materials	220,000							220,000
Utensils & Tools	2,000,000							2,000,000
Total Supplies	6,742,000							6,742,000
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	10,000							10,000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	10,000							10,000
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	144,960	5,469	18,520		19		24,008	120,952
Total Transport & Storage	144,960	5,469	18,520		19		24,008	120,952
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	228,000		40,484				40,484	187,516
Delegate Benefits	60,000	9,622	30,561				40,183	19,817
Regionally Deployed Staff	45,000							45,000
National Staff	746,000		117,708		4,382		122,090	623,910
National Society Staff	218,600							218,600
Total Personnel Expenditures	1,297,600	9,622	188,753		4,382		202,758	1,094,842
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	775,475		899		24,782		25,681	749,794
Total Workshops & Training	775,475		899		24,782		25,681	749,794
General Expenditure								
Travel	139,000	1,200	20,882		11,625		33,707	105,293
Information & Public Relation	237,115	30	2,368				2,398	234,717
Office Costs	255,323		20,793				20,793	234,531
Communications	60,849		13,045		7,686		20,731	40,118
Financial Charges	12,000		4,524				4,524	7,476
Other General Expenses			10,599				10,599	-10,599
Total General Expenditure	704,287	1,230	72,211		19,311		92,752	611,535
Depreciation								
Depreciation			1,780				1,780	-1,780
Total Depreciation			1,780				1,780	-1,780
Program Support								
Program Support	672,546	1,135	19,609		3,371		24,115	648,432
Total Program Support	672,546	1,135	19,609		3,371		24,115	648,432
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	10,346,869	17,456	301,771		51,866		371,093	9,975,776
VARIANCE (C - D)		1,693,774	8,023,708		258,294		9,975,776	