

# PROGRAMME 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

08/08/01

*This Programme Update is intended for reporting on Annual Appeals.*

*Appeal No. 01.66/01*

*Appeal Target CHF 11,550,287*

*Programme Update No. 1*

*Period covered: January 1 - June 30 2001*

### "At a Glance"

*Appeal coverage: 12.3%*

*Related Appeals: 01.64/01 MENA regional programmes*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 10,124,728*

*Summary: The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has been active in several areas but programmes have been considerably constrained by the poor response to the appeal. This is the major current and future challenge. Significantly, the Federation now has a Memorandum of Understanding with the government giving it legal basis to operate in Iraq. Several strong partnerships within the country have also been established and work among vulnerable people - such as the polio eradication campaign - continues.*

### **Operational Developments:**

The Iraqi regime faces few and diminishing external threats. The relations of the country with its neighbours and the Arab world are expected to improve steadily. The UN Security Council remains divided over how to deal with Iraqi non-observance of its resolutions. The sanctions are expected to remain in place, but will soften. Economic policy and foreign trade will continue to be bound by the implications of the UN sanctions and the oil-for-food programme, although burgeoning oil-smuggling revenue gives the government some room for manoeuvre. The regional position of the country is far stronger than a year ago, with improvements in relations with Egypt, Syria, Turkey, UAE, Jordan and even Iran in the past quarter. The trickle of business delegations to the Iraqi capital has turned into a flood. Of the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) member states, only two, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, lack diplomatic representation in Baghdad. The international airport has opened and

some flights arrive on a weekly basis. A similar situation exists in regard to train links between Baghdad and Ankara.

Due to discussions within the UN Security Council regarding the so called “smart sanctions” which would allow an unlimited flow of goods into Iraq, while tightening an arms embargo, the Iraqi government decided to suspend oil export June 6. They were resumed on July 5. Facing a Russian veto on the Security Council Britain abandoned the proposal for now and the world body instead extended the existing oil-for-food programme. Iraq began pumping crude to terminals for export to the Turkish port Ceyhan on the Mediterranean coast and the Iraqi port of Basra on the Gulf.

On 12 July, 122 mm-Katyusha rockets hit Baghdad. The SCIRI, an Iraqi Shi'ite opposition group whose leader lives in Iran, took responsibility for the attacks. After almost 13 years of ceasefire of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), ties have not normalised notably due to support for each other's opposition groups and POWs.

Cease-fire violations have occurred during June between Iran and Iraq on the one hand, and between Saudi Arabia and Iraq on the other.

Iraq has protested against the cancellation by the UN Security Council of a visit to Baghdad by a delegation of WHO supposed to arrive to examine Iraqi regions where uranium weapons have been used during the Gulf war.

This Programme Update highlights the progress of the Country Delegation work done in support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in relation to the objectives set in the Appeal for 2001-2002 under Programme No. 01.66/2001.

- The continuously positive development between the IRCS and the Federation led to achieving one of the main objectives set in the Appeal 2001-2002: a legal base for the Federation in Iraq. With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the end of June, the Federation improved its working conditions and received a respectful feedback from the Iraqi authorities and the IRCS regarding its work in Iraq. The MoU provides the Federation with a legal base similar to a real Status Agreement, except diplomatic immunity.
- The co-operation between the IRCS and the Federation builds on trust and a common understanding of what is needed to make the IRCS a well functioning National Society. The initial capacity building took place from October 2000 and has been successfully followed up from both partners with a focused strategy aiming at developing the IRCS plan for the next 3-5 years and in relation to the second generation of the Federation Country Assistance Strategy (CAS).
- The reestablishment of a “consortium” during the MENA Conference in Tehran shows increased interest and understanding of both the needs in Iraq and the Federation work in Iraq. Several members of the consortium visited Iraq during the last six months. Fortunately, these visits led to funding of some activities mentioned in the Appeal 2001-2002 hence a possibility for the delegation to meet some of the objectives in the Appeal.

The “Consortium” members are: Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross, German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, American Red Cross, United Arab Emirates Red Crescent, Iranian Red Crescent and ECHO. Most of the consortium members are new in the group but have committed themselves to follow up on the activities in the region and in Iraq. A co-ordination role from Geneva or Amman is expected by the delegation.

- Co-operation with other partners in the country has been satisfactory. The co-operation with the UN agencies is very good as is the co-operation with other organisations such as CARE. The co-operation with the ICRC is also smooth.

## ***Disaster Response***

During the period January until June the delegation completed its joint IRCS-Federation implementation within rehabilitation of primary health care (PHC) centres and the I-V-Fluid Factory in Mosul. The IRCS-Federation

partnership in this field is the most successful in Iraq. Within less than two years the IRCS-Federation completed 34 PHC centre rehabilitations. Also the quality of joint efforts has been noticed by the Minister of Health who more than once visited the opening ceremony together with the president of IRCS and the Federation's Head of Delegation.

### **PHC rehabilitation**

Two separate projects, aiming at the rehabilitation of 10 PHC centres in one case, and 12 in the other, are funded by the Netherlands Red Cross, with support from Netherlands Government and ECHO.

#### ***Physical rehabilitation***

Major work has been undertaken in this area, such as the building of rooms for activities such as maternal and oral rehydration, fixing windows and doors, plastering and painting.

#### ***Furniture delivery***

New furniture includes: examination beds, stair for beds, metal cabinets, desks, benches, heaters and coolers.

### **Rehabilitation of I-V-Fluid Factory in Mosul**

For the time being, the IV fluid factory in Mosul is the only functioning factory of its kind in Iraq. The plant has a designed capacity, to cover 60 % of the needs in the country of various types of intravenous fluids.

Also supported by ECHO and the Netherlands Red Cross through the Federation, the rehabilitation of the I-V fluid factory in Mosul is a unique relief programme in Iraq. The total annual production figure shows an increase in production about 30 % (954 000 bags of 500 ml per year) as a result of the rehabilitation.

### **I-V-Fluid production:**

<b><i>Bags</i></b>	<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
1,756,067	1997	Before assistance
2,201,041	1998	After the first shipment October 98
3,154,957	1999	Continuous increase after the first shipment October 98
2,788,963	2000	Decreasing due to lack of spare parts from 98 delivery stock
3,154,957*	2001	Increase in the production more or less equivalent to the 1999 level is expected.

\*estimated

### **Winter assistance to refugees, IDPs and returnees in Northern Iraq.**

The Iran-Iraq war, followed by the Gulf war and the current economic embargo have had a significant impact on the population, especially in public health and medical care. Due to conflicts in the region over the last decade, a large number of refugees (from Iran and Turkey), IDPs and returnees have settled in the northern governorates and face difficult living conditions. Families live in abandoned complexes, tents, schools or other unoccupied buildings. Their main needs are blankets, heaters, plastic sheeting, kerosene lamps, tents, cooking sets, Jerry cans and water tanks. The basic preparatory work was completed in 2000.

The programme was agreed upon between the IRCS and the Federation in the beginning of 2000. A donation of CHF 161,000 from the Norwegian Red Cross was received at the end of December 2000.

The implementation includes:

- Procurement and distribution of relief items which will be obtained in the region
- The northern branches, with the support of the headquarters and the assistance of the Federation personnel, will be responsible for the implementing the operation.
- The IRCS staff and volunteers will prepare presentation materials and conduct dissemination activities in the region.

A number of assessments have taken place from the IRCS, the Federation, ECHO, UN and others. The most vulnerable might not necessarily be the above mentioned category. The situation is far more complex hence co-ordination between IRCS-Federation, ICRC and the UN agencies is needed. Finally, future relief activities will most probably include the poorest areas in the south as well. The IRCS-Federation delegation are prepared to start implementation.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

The DP programme was agreed upon between the IRCS and the Federation at the beginning of 2000. A donation from the Norwegian Red Cross was received at the end of December 2000. The Norwegian Red Cross decided to contribute again in May 2001 after visiting the IRCS and the Federation.

In agreement with the Iraqi DP Committee, a DP programme has been developed. The Programme aims at preparing for the following potential disaster prone areas; oil pollution (Basrah and Baghdad), drought (Basrah, Nineva and Baghdad), earthquake (Erbil and Nineva), continuous sanctions (Basrah, Nineva, Erbil and Baghdad) and war (Basrah, Nineva, Erbil and Baghdad) the last area (war) together with the ICRC.

The strategic warehouse of relief materials, managed by the IRCS, is currently almost empty, reducing its capacity to respond to disasters. Replenishing the warehouses is an important component of the Programme, aiming at an initial response stock for 1,000 families.

Supported by Norwegian Red Cross, the Programme will make volunteers capable of responding to disasters and improve the ability of the population in general to face disasters. Next to this, a major effort will be directed towards improvement of the DP and DR infrastructure, and towards creating a small DP emergency stock.

According to the plan of action, the DPP programme for 2000-2001 should have started in October 2000. Since funds were not received until the end of December it was postponed until February 2001. After discussions the programme was further revised to cover the country from four regional centres; Basrah, Baghdad, Mosul and Erbil, and herewith more takes the shape as a "pilot project".

### ***Health and care in the community***

The IRCS plays a complementary role and focuses on community based health and well being, with its unique countrywide network covering all 18 branches.

### **Community Based First Aid, Health and National Immunisation Day and Branch Development Programme**

CBFA, H&NID and Branch development programme, supported by Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies, have been implemented in a joint IRCS-Federation programme since 1997. This is continuing from June this year again, with the support from the Swedish and the Norwegian Red Cross. An important component of this programme is the "micro-projects" which will be continued this year. The programme has been revised, after discussions with both the Swedish and the Norwegian Red Cross delegations, to incorporate it into the overall IRCS-Federation programme with OD as a co-ordinating component.

### **Land-mine Victims Income Generating Activities**

A programme to rehabilitate land mine victims was agreed upon between the IRCS and the Federation in May 2000. The project, supported by the German and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, aims at rehabilitating victims and aiming to encourage them to become IRCS volunteers. Training centres have been prepared for construction and, so far, one out of five branches has been approached from the IRCS. The Basrah branch in the south has been selected as the first "pilot-project" for this social activity.

### **Polio Eradication Campaign in Iraq**

Polio was again discovered in January 2000 in Iraq. In November 2000 the Ministry of Health (MoH) requested the IRCS to be responsible for the monitoring process including evaluation of the Polio Eradication Campaign. In

the first round of the previous campaign (November 2000) IRCS performed monitoring in Baghdad. In the second round (January 2001), the monitoring was expanded to cover four governorates: Baghdad, Basrah, Mosul and Suleimaniya (see Final Report 21.01.01). In the last campaign (April - June) IRCS monitored all governorates in Iraq.

In addition to WHO as the principal partner, the IRCS-Federation have co-operated with the MoH and UNICEF at government level during the planning period as well as during the campaign. Experience learned from the previous campaign has been taken into consideration and minor adjustments carried out. A more comprehensive internal evaluation was made after the first round (April) of this campaign. The results have been followed up in the second round.

Through leaflets distributed and TV-spots - shown several times the nights before and during the campaign - the IRCS and the Federation have become visible in a positive way. For the second round a Kurdish version of the leaflets and the TV-spots was distributed in the three autonomous governorates. In total 1,352 IRCS volunteers took part in the first round of this campaign.

### ***Humanitarian values***

The International Federation is in a unique position to promote the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement through its mandate, and through the esteem in which the organisation and its emblems are held. Action in this area has been closely co-ordinated with the ICRC.

The purpose of this core area is to ensure that people - staff or volunteers, public or private authorities, or the community in general - know about these principles and values, as well as to influence their behaviour.

The IRCS capacity within this area has not been developed until recently. During the capacity development project of the IRCS - which took place in 2000 with several workshops and weekly meetings between the IRCS and the Federation - more awareness and emphasis has been put into understanding the Fundamental Principles, as well as understanding the need to disseminate these principles. Within every programme resources are allocated for dissemination. More resources were spent on visibility and dissemination through courses and meetings. By the use of leaflets, posters, reports and a more focused use of the media, the IRCS and the Federation reached more people than before. A good example is the use of TV spots during the polio eradication campaign which was completed in June.

### ***Institutional and Resource Development***

The main objectives to prepare for a more focused programme in 2001 were to discuss with the newly elected IRCS Board, the role of the Movement, mandates and future co-operation. During several meetings, issues of relevance to the IRCS were discussed and it was agreed that the following should be the main elements in the ID/RD (now OD) project 2001:

- To increase the governance, leadership and management capacity of the National Society, according to the criteria of a well functioning National Society, by the mid of 2002.
- To develop a financial resource system at IRCS, improving its own financial base and reducing dependency on outside sources by mid 2002.
- To develop a human resource department at the HQ and branches according to the criteria of a well functioning National Society
- To increase the number of qualified people and volunteers from all the sections of the community five-fold by mid 2002.
- To further develop the IRCS capacity of effective assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities at HQ and branch level three-fold by mid 2002.
- To rehabilitate and build IRCS buildings by the end of 2001.
- To focus on the National Society headquarters level during 2001 with this programme

The Norwegian Red Cross decided to contribute to this key programme after visiting the delegation in April. A hard pledge was forwarded to Geneva in May.

The target groups are IRCS governance and management teams, financial resources department, human resources department, development department, volunteers and branches. The last category already receives support through, primarily, the CBFA, H&NID and Branch development programme.

Valuable discussions with the Norwegian delegation took place and have been taken into consideration in the revised programme. It was, for instance, decided to focus on the IRCS headquarters during the implementation of this programme in year 2001.

The first capacity building workshop took place in Baghdad in May, initiated by the Regional Delegation in Amman and facilitated in a joint Regional and Country Delegation venture. The IRCS headquarters invited all its branch directors, the board and senior administrative employees plus a representative from the ICRC in a joint agreement with the Federation. The workshop, which focused on internal and external environment analysis as a basis for establishing the Societies' strategic plan, was well attended. At the end of the workshop a "follow up committee" was established drawn from the HQ and the branches. The Federation delegation is following up on this first workshop with another two in late September and November this year.

Weekly meetings have taken place between the president of the IRCS and the OD department of the Federation delegation represented by the HoD and the OD supervisor. These meetings have established the planning of the OD programme until the end of the year.

### ***Regional Cooperation***

The IRCS has shown continued interest in participation on a sub regional as well as regional level during 2001. The Society facilitated two important events in April.

### ***Youth and AIDS***

The Regional "Action with Youth, HIV/AIDS" follow-up meeting facilitated by the Regional Delegation Amman took place in Baghdad on 25 April. The meeting was attended by six National Societies with representation from the three sub-regions. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives from the medical college in Baghdad, the Ministry of Health in Syria, a Senior Officer from the Federation's Secretariat in Geneva, and the Director of the Federation Resource Centre for Psychological Support from Denmark.

The meeting achieved its objectives and produced the final draft of the edited Arabic version of the "Action with Youth, HIV/AIDS" training manual for young people.

The meeting also approved the proposed plan of action and terms of reference for a Regional MENA HIV/AIDS Network which includes piloting of a regional training of trainers.

### ***Psychological support***

The first Regional Conference of Psychological Support was held in Baghdad, 26-29 April. Nine National Societies were represented from all three sub regions. The objectives of the meeting were to: exchange experience and deliberate on future directions regarding psychological support; have a presentation from the reference centre of the Federation; give participants the opportunity to pledge their contributions for further regional work in the field of psychological support; and to establish a MENA regional resource group.

The attending National Societies demonstrated interest and awareness in this topic. They also presented papers on psychological support activities carried out by their National Society. The Conference concluded with a set of recommendations, which include the need to establish a MENA regional resource centre on Psychological Support to support National Societies on programme development. The centre was agreed to be established in Baghdad. One of the immediate tasks is be a workshop for training of trainers before the end of 2001.

### ***Coordination and Management***

The overall management and co-ordination of the delegation has been busy indeed during the first six months of the year:

- Representative from Geneva, RD-Amman, ECHO Amman and several PNSs paid visited
- Regional meetings and conferences in Baghdad
- A high level of activity within Disaster Response, Health and OD, in particular
- Meetings between IRCS and the Federation leading to a legal basis of operation
- Reorganisation of the delegation with its own staff and clear responsibilities for everybody.

### **Legal base for the Federation (MoU)**

The main achievement within the last years has been the MoU between the IRCS and the Federation, approved by the Iraqi government. After one and half a year of negotiations with the Iraqi Red Crescent and the Iraqi authorities the MoU materialised at the end of June 2001.

The Federation has been without any legal basis since becoming a country delegation some years ago. The MoU gives the Federation certain privileges such as:

- Communication means (e-mail, Internet and satellite telephone.)
- Own staff
- Housing and satellite TV for delegates
- Possibility for a new Federation headquarters with more space
- Agreement to fly the Federation flag on the roof of Federation headquarters

The MoU gives the Federation almost everything normally included in a Status Agreement, except diplomatic immunity. The MoU gives the Federation working conditions which can be comparable to the ICRC.

### **Management and Co-ordination**

The Norwegian Red Cross decided to support the Federation delegation also within management and co-ordination (for CHF 45,000). The support ensures acceptable working conditions for the delegation this year. The HoD costs have been funded by the Danish Red Cross, the Health delegate's partly by the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross, the FAD's partly by ECHO and the Swedish Red Cross, Programme Co-ordinator's primarily by the Norwegian Red Cross until the beginning of 2002

### ***Outstanding needs***

The main constrains are related to the following, a lack of:

- necessary follow-up from the MENA department at the Federation's secretariat until recently
- funds
- budget approvals for funds made available (hard pledges)
- promptness in budget approvals but also HR and business in general
- clarity regarding who is doing what, why and when
- support for MENA activities in general

### **Co-operation with others**

Useful co-operation with the Regional delegation has been the "lifeline" for the delegation. Besides this co-operation the following organisations have been important:

- Visiting PNSs such as the Norwegian Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the German Red Cross and ECHO.
- UN agencies such as; UNOCHI, UNICEF
- WHO
- Iraqi MoFA
- Iraqi MoH
- CARE International
- The Spanish Embassy and the Jordanian Embassy
- The ICRC

### **Main Areas of Focus During the Next Half Year**

*External:*

- Contribute to the constructive development of the MENA department and the Regional Delegation
- Keep donor relations intact

*Internal:*

- Depends to a large extent on the external but includes:
- Consolidating co-operation with the IRCS
- Implementing the newly-signed MoU
- Once budgets have been approved, programmes are implemented, specifically within Organisational Development
- Completing the Appeal 2002-2003 (draft has been sent to Geneva and Amman)
- Completing the IRCS development plan (in our consultancy role)
- Creating the second generation of CAS
- Producing Country Delegation “Newsletter” which will raise visibility inside Iraq as well as outside (coordinated with RD-Amman)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

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<b>Iraq</b>						ANNEX 1
<b>APPEAL No. 01.66/2001</b>		<b>PLEDGES RECEIVED</b>				07.08.2001
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>11'550'287</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 12.3%</b>
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				207'853		
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		5'000'000	NOK	956'520	23.05.2001	DP, HEALTH & CARE, ID & MGT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	163'700	07.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE, COORDINATION & MGT
PRIVATE DONOR ONLINE		1'000	USD	1'628	13.02.01	
UN, DPT HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS		7'500	USD	12'849	09.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
TUNISIAN - RC		1'977	USD	3'338	19.04.2001	REGIONAL OFFICE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'345'888	CHF	11.7%
<b>KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)</b>						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Denmark	Delegate(s)			59'959		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			19'712		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				79'671	CHF	0.7%