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

28 December 2001

Appeal No. 01.66/2001

Appeal Target CHF 11,550,287

Programme Update No. 2 Period covered: 01.01 - 15.12.2001

Last Programme Update issued 01.07.2001

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 15.7%
Related Appeals: Middle East and North Africa regional programmes 01.64/01
Outstanding needs: CHF 9,741,534
Update: Funding remains a significant obstacle preventing implementation of programmes but the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, with Federation support, has managed to make progress in several areas, particularly in terms of health and care of vulnerable people.

Operational Developments:

There were no in-country developments during this year that directly affected the humanitarian situation of the targeted beneficiaries. The situation has been tense after the 11 September attacks in the United States. With sanctions still in place, the humanitarian situation deteriorating, as basic medicines, medical equipment and infrastructure have not been maintained for more than a decade.

The continued development of relations between the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Federation led to the first draft strategic five-year plan of the IRCS. The plan was presented by the IRCS in Damascus in November with feedback from donor National Societies (NS), the Federation and the ICRC. The five-year strategic plan is expected to be finalised in the beginning of year 2002.

The organisational development of the IRCS is on track but needs time. The IRCS sees the organisational development as the key to improving its effectiveness and the Federation aims at increasing the support within this field in year 2002. A new organisational set-up has been discussed as well as necessary changes in the IRCS statutes. Again the IRCS and the Federation expect this to take place in the beginning of 2002, at the same time as the second generation of cooperation agreement strategies (CAS) will be completed.

Despite insufficient donor support, the IRCS and the Federation managed to begin implementation of all expected programmes but with fewer resources than expected.

Disaster Response

The main objectives within disaster response (DR) in 2001 were to respond to the emergency needs within relief, rehabilitation of primary health care centres (PHC), the IV Fluid factory in Mosul and water and sanitation, as well as to link DR with Disaster Preparedness (DP). The IRCS and the Federation have implemented PHC rehabilitation, relief distribution in the North and are prepared to implement water and sanitation in co-operation with the German Red Cross from December this year.

The link to Disaster Preparedness has been established and will be developed in the beginning of the next year.

1. Rehabilitation of Primary Health Care Centres (PHC)

22 PHCs have been rehabilitated from February until July with follow up rehabilitation work from the IRCS and the Federation. The work comprises: repairs to roofing and parapets; new floor tiles, treatment of structural failures; upgrading a lab according to Ministry of Health standards; extending the portable water network and providing water tanks; laying new sewerage network with septic tanks; installing efficient electrical system to stand the new load of medical devices and air conditioning units; expanding the total PHC area by building rooms for new activities (e.g. maternal and oral rehydration); and fixing windows and doors, cement, gypsum plastering and paint.

Furniture delivered includes examination beds, bed stairs, metal cabinets, desks, benches, heaters and coolers. The programme has been fully implemented and final reports submitted to donors. Preparation for another 10 PHCs took place from the beginning of December. This programme has been funded by ECHO and the Netherlands government through the Netherlands RC.

2. Provide material assistance to the IV 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, if it is fully running, to cover 60% of the need in the country of various types of intravenous fluids. The rehabilitation of the IV fluid factory in Mosul is a unique relief programme in Iraq and a huge number of beneficiaries are benefiting from the programme. The total annual production figure shows an increase in production of about 30 % (954 000 bags of 500 ml per year) due to the rehabilitation by the IRCS and the Federation.

The total average beneficiaries based on the average annual production (3,000,000 bags) and the average number of IV fluid bags applied per patient (4 bags per person), is 750,000 persons, most of them are children and women.

IV Fluid production:

Bags/Year	***Year***	***Notes***
1,756,067	1997	Before the 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	Expected increase in the production more or less equivalent to 1999 level

The programme has been fully implemented and the final reports have been submitted to the donors.

3. Provide winter assistance to 1000 Internally Displaced families (IDPs) 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 the areas of 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 governerates and are living in difficult 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.

Relief items were purchased locally and distributed to 1,000 beneficiaries in Erbil and Sulimanyha in November. Each parcel contained: 3 blankets; 10 m2 plastic sheeting; 1 kerosene heater; 1 kerosene stove; 1 kerosene lamp; 1 jerry can; 1 towel; 1 bar of soap; 2 tea pots; 2 cooking pots; 8 dishes; 4 spoons; 1 kitchen knife; and 1 bucket.

Disaster Preparedness

The main objective of the disaster preparedness programme was to train volunteers to respond to disasters and to improve the ability of the population to cope with a disaster situation. It seeks to prepare for and to respond to disaster through the provision of disaster preparedness stocks and the training of 120 disaster preparedness volunteers.

The government-established “high committee to assist victims of disasters” is in charge of disaster preparedness and response throughout Iraq. The government has appointed IRCS as lead agency and coordinator of this committee.

Members of the committee, besides the IRCS, are the: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Social Affairs; Directorate of Electricity; Water & Sewerage Authority; Ministry of Trade; and Civil Defence.

The committee, through the IRCS, has daily contact with NGOs and the UN system throughout the country. All institutions bring their own knowledge, experience and capacities to the committee and to the field, under the leadership of IRCS. In agreement with the committee a DP programme has been developed. IRCS and the Federation have already started a DP programme in 4 Governorates. The funding came from the Norwegian Red Cross. The programme aims to prepare for the following potential disaster areas; oil pollution (Basrah and Baghdad), drought (Basrah, Nineva and Baghdad), earthquake (Erbil and Nineva), ongoing sanctions (Basrah, Nineva, Erbil and Baghdad) ad hoc disaster situations and war (Basrah, Nineva, Erbil and Baghdad in cooperation with the ICRC).

The 4 strategic warehouses of relief materials, managed by IRCS, are for the time being almost empty, reducing their capacity to respond to disasters. Accordingly the IRCS is aiming at an initial response stock for 1,000 beneficiaries. The purchase of relief items is in process and will be finalised in December and January.

The programme increased the number of volunteers as well as their disaster response abilities and skills. Training courses for trainers and volunteers have been held in 4 Governerates.

Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) was started in November with the first VCA workshop in Baghdad for the Task Force. The VCA was arranged in cooperation with the disaster preparedness delegate in the regional delegation in Amman. The task force will be responsible for carrying out the VCA in the field. The VCA will be completed by the end April 2002.

Humanitarian Values

The International Federation is in a unique position to promote the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values through its mandate, and through the esteem in which the organisation and its emblems are held. Action in this area has been closely coordinated with the ICRC.

The purpose of this core area is not simply to ensure that people - staff and volunteers, public and private authorities, and the community in general - know about these principles and values, but that their behaviour is influenced.

The IRCS capacity within this area has not been developed until recently. During the capacity development of the IRCS, which took place in 2000 and 2001 with several workshops and weekly meetings with the Federation, more awareness and emphasis has been put into understanding the Movement's Fundamental Principles, and understanding the need of disseminating these principles. Within every programme there are resources allocated to disseminate the Federation's mandate and the principles. Far more resources have been put in to 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. A good example of this promotion was the use of TV spots during the polio eradication campaigns, which were carried out in April/May and November.

Health and Care

The main objective of health and care in the community is to improve the health status in general and to develop the capacity of the IRCS.

1. Community Based First Aid (CBFA)/ Health & Nutrition Information Dissemination (H&NID)

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

The programme has been revised after fruitful discussions with both the Swedish and the Norwegian Red Cross delegations so as to incorporate the programme into the overall IRCS-Federation programme with organisational development (OD) a coordinating component.

CBFA, H&NID and Branch development has been implemented in a joint IRCS-Federation programme since 1997. This programme continued from June this year again with the support from the Swedish and the Norwegian Red Cross. Each branch will conduct two CBFA courses with 20 participants per course, Two out of three courses have been completed. By the end of this year's programme each branch will have 150 CBFA trained volunteers. 25 of the volunteers in each branch will receive additional training as trainers.

The H&NID programme has expanded. The number of additional trained volunteers has been increased to 15 in per branch. Each conducts two health lectures monthly, leading to a monthly total of 540 dissemination lectures in PHCs, schools, mosques and villages all over Iraq.

An important component of this programme is the "micro projects". Within the criteria the project should have a positive impact on health in the community or develop activities the branches themselves decide to project. The objective of the micro projects is capacity building of the branches regarding planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

2. Income generating activities for land mine victims

A programme to rehabilitate land mine victims was agreed upon between the IRCS and the Federation in May 2000. The programme targets five branches in total with Basrah in the South and Suleimaniya in the North (Kurdistan) as the two to be covered in 2001. The 2001 programme is extended to 31 May 2002.

The project has three components:

- To build a training centre in sewing and computer skills for land mine victims and try to resocialise victims into the community
- To train volunteers including land mine victims in CBFA with a special focus on mine awareness

The aims are not only to activate and re-socialise the victims but also to give them professional skills for employment or income activities, and to include land mine victims as a positive addition to IRCS volunteers. So far two training centres have been prepared for construction and one CBFA course has been conducted in Basrah.

3. Polio Eradication Campaigns

The last case of polio in Iraq was in January 2000.

In November 2000 WHO with approval of Ministry of Health (MoH) requested the IRCS as an independent organisation 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 the 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 first 2001 campaign (April - May) as well as the first round of the second campaign (November) IRCS monitored all governorates in Iraq. IRCS will also conduct the monitoring of the second round (end of December). In addition IRCS provides volunteers for the MoH vaccination teams. In total approximately 670 IRCS volunteers take part in the monitoring. The number of volunteers participating in the vaccination teams are according to the MoH request.

IRCS/Federation cooperate with WHO, the MoH and UNICEF in Baghdad and in the governorates during the planning period as well as during the campaign. Lessons learned have been discussed in evaluation meetings. IRCS/Federation recommendations have been taken into consideration. Comprehensive internal evaluations have been made after the three 2001 campaigns and adjustments have been carried out. Through leaflets distributed and TV-spots shown several times the days before and during the campaigns the IRCS and the Federation have become visible to the people of Iraq 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.

Institutional and Resource Development

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

- To increase the governance, leadership and management capacity of the IRCS according to the characteristics 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 reduce dependency on outside sources by the mid of 2002.
- To develop a human resource department at the HQ and branches according to characteristics of a well functioning National Society. This will include a five-fold increase in the number of properly qualified people and recruited volunteers from all the sections of the community by mid-2002.
- To achieve a three-fold increase in the IRCS capacity for effective assessment, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities at HQ and branch level by the mid of 2002.
- To rehabilitate and build IRCS buildings by the end of 2001.
- To focus on the National Society HQ level during 2001 with this programme.

The Norwegian Red Cross decided to contribute to this key programme after visiting the delegation in April.

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

The first capacity building workshop took place in Baghdad between 14-16 May and was initiated by the Regional Delegation in Amman and facilitated in a joint Regional and Country Delegation venture. The IRCS HQ 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 to follow up and finalise the preparation of the plan.

The IRCS managed to develop their first draft five-year strategic plan, which was presented by the IRCS at a joint strategic meeting involving the Syrian Red Crescent, the Yemen Red Crescent, the IRCS, the Federation regional delegation and country delegation in Iraq as well as donor national societies from Norway, Sweden and Germany and finally the ICRC in Baghdad and Damascus. The meeting took place in Damascus between 31 Oct-1 Nov 2001. The feedback from the IRCS partners has been taken ad notam and the IRCS expects to complete the five-year plan at the beginning of 2002.

A new organisational set-up has been agreed by the IRCS board. This organisational set-up will to a larger extent make it possible to hand over programme responsibility to the IRCS. Training of IRCS staff within finance, HR, planning, language and computer skills took place from November 2001.

Regional Co-operation

The IRCS has participated in an increasing number of conferences and has established partnerships, which should help make programming more effective. Among the meetings attended were:

- Partnership meeting in Damascus in November
- Fund-raising conference in the Hague, Netherlands
- The Federation's General Assembly in Geneva in November
- HIV/AIDS conference in Thailand in December
- HIV/AIDS training of trainers in Damascus in December

The IRCS expects a visit from the British Red Cross in March 2002 to discuss partnership in a follow up to the General Assembly in Geneva November.

Coordination and Management

The delegation currently consists of four delegates. Since having the core delegates in place from the beginning of September 2001 capacity building has improved. The outlook for year 2002 is good.

Outstanding needs

Funding has been the main problem during 2001. With the establishment of the new consortium this problem should be solved in 2002.

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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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ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.66/2001 **PLEDGES RECEIVED** 21.12.2001

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ---------->				**11'550'287**		**15.7%**
CASH CARRIED FORWARD				207'853		
GERMAN - RC				280'899	21.09.2001	INCOME GENERATION FOR LANDMINES VICTIMS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		5'000'000	NOK	933'930	23.05.2001	DP, HEALTH & CARE, ID & MGT
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		200'000	NOK	36'728	13.12.2001	DISSTER PREPAREDNESS
PRIVATE DONOR ONLINE		1'000	USD	1'628	13.02.01	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	163'700	07.05.2001	HEALTH & CARE, COORDINATION & MGT
SWEDISH - RC		300'000	SEK	49'290	31.08.2001	HEALTH AND CARE
SWISS - PRIVATE				428	17.08.2001	
TUNISIAN - RC		1'977	USD	3'338	19.04.2001	REGIONAL OFFICE
UN, DPT HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS		7'500	USD	12'849	09.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'690'643	CHF	14.6%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Denmark	Delegate(s)			59'959		
Norway	Delegate(s)			38'439		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			19'712		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				118'110	CHF	1.0%