



JORDAN & SYRIA: DISPLACED FROM IRAQ

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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

CHF 40,000 (USD 32,965 or EUR 24,770) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for the Technical Assessment Mission to Jordan and Syria. The purpose of the mission is to define the scope and scale of the humanitarian imperative resulting from the sharp growth of the displaced Iraqi population mainly in Jordan and Syria. This mission will be implemented over one month. A Final Report will be made available by mid-April.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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".

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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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>

Background and current situation

Escalation of violence and continuously deteriorating economic situation in the neighbouring Iraq has led to dramatic increase in the numbers of Iraqis who have been crossing the borders into Syria and Jordan in search of refuge. While the governments of both countries have been expressing a remarkable hospitality in receiving

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hundreds of thousands of guests from the neighbouring country, the sharp growth of the Iraqi population in these two countries is becoming a subject of the substantial concern both for the authorities and the two national societies, especially in terms of the humanitarian imperative.

The hospitality of countries like Syrian Arab Republic (over 1 million), Jordan (over 700,000), Egypt (over 100,000) , the Islamic Republic of Iran (over 50,000) and Lebanon (20,000 – 40,000) , which have been bearing the burden of receiving massive numbers of Iraqi externally displaced, is becoming more and more strained. Security and socio-economic considerations related to the continuous flow of Iraqis from their country are also contributing to a growing concern.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), humanitarian needs (notably in health, nutrition and education, and the requirements of women-headed households and other groups with specific needs) are increasing rapidly and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Various reports from the United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and governmental sources and national Red Cross/Red Crescent societies already underscore the appalling living conditions of the high percentage of displaced. Large numbers are poor and reside in low income areas, stretching available services. There is also a likelihood that onward movements outside the immediate region will increase. As the flight – internally and externally – continues, the coping mechanisms of the Iraqis as well as those of the communities hosting them may reach their limits.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Recognising that there is a potential humanitarian crisis, especially in Jordan and Syria, the national societies of these two countries and the International Federation have agreed to intensify cooperation in defining the scope and scale of the problem and establishing their respective roles and plans in relation to the humanitarian needs of the externally displaced Iraqis.

To assist the two national societies in the process of preparing themselves to respond to the emerging humanitarian crisis, the International Federation assigned a Team of technical experts which arrived in the region on 20 March 2007. The team includes the representative of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Within the next 2-3 weeks the team will be working in close cooperation with the management, staff and volunteers of the host national societies to explore areas, especially in health, social and other relevant sectors, where the involvement of the host national societies and support of the International Federation will be potentially expected and required.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has started a wide-scale assessment of needs among the most vulnerable Iraqi population in Syria. This timely effort will be most essential in the further process of defining where an external assistance through the International Federation will be required and welcome. The International Federation is especially concerned of and will pay all required attention to the needs of coordinated approach in case if the wide-scale external assistance is required. Experience from last year's Middle East humanitarian crisis operation clearly demonstrated that duplication of efforts, at least within the Movement, can be avoided through professional identification of the priority needs and target groups, as well as drawing concrete plans of action.

The mission of the team of experts will be backed by the visit to Syria and Jordan on 24-30 March 2007 of Mr. Christer Zettergren, the Secretary General of the Swedish Red Cross, who was requested by the Secretary General of the International Federation to act as special envoy in this emerging crisis situation. Mr. Zettergren's visit should help the International Federation to better understand the position of the authorities and national societies of Syria and Jordan in relation to the Iraqis residing in these two countries due to the ongoing conflict.

Budget

Please see the summary below.

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Budget Summary - MDR81002

Item	Total Costs (CHF)
Transport	500
Fuel and car rental	500
Personnel	30,500
National Staff and Consultants for the assessment	30,500
Travel & Administration	6,400
Travel and accommodation	6,400
Program Management Support (6.5%)	2,600
Total CHF	40,000