

ANNUAL REPORT



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

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 178 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Appeal No.01.55/2002; Appeal target: 6,739,884; Appeal coverage: 47%

Overall analysis of the programme w

The year of 2002 was one of the most challenging ones for the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the International Federation: the first half of it can be characterized as status quo with the continued socio-economic and humanitarian crises related to 20 years of wars and sanctions. Health services in particular were severely compromised. Despite the constantly increasing needs for humanitarian assistance which continued to be the focus of the IRCS/Federation and priority activities, special efforts were also made to strengthen the capacity of the National Society - especially within the two core activities - health and care and disaster management.

The second half of the year was dominated by the international political developments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and globally with Iraq in the focus. Consequently, the IRCS was more under the spotlight as it continued its daily humanitarian work in support of vulnerable people. The Federation's delegation in Iraq was also facing more challenges as it searched to provide continued support for the work of the IRCS.

Unfortunately, delays in the implementation of the different projects were unavoidable.

The overall focus was on acceleration of the implementation of the long-term disaster preparedness programme which was aimed at strengthening the IRCS capacity to respond to any future emergency. This programme was given a special priority by the IRCS/Federation. Extra security measures for the delegation were also introduced.

On 23 December 2002, it was decided that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) would assume the role of lead agency in Iraq.

Disaster Management w

The plan for the disaster management (DM) programme for 2002 consisted of three major projects:

- basic humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable in Iraq;
- rehabilitation of primary health care (PHC) centres; and
- disaster preparedness.

Humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable in Iraq

The Iran-Iraq and the Gulf wars followed by 12 years of sanctions had a very negative impact on the population in general and on the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in particular. Those vulnerable people were in need of very basic humanitarian assistance: blankets, heaters, kerosene lamps, cooking sets and Jerry cans.

To meet these critical humanitarian needs the Federation's delegation in Baghdad prepared a project proposal for winter assistance to 8,000 families with the following main objective: to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable population in the three northern and in the southern governorates. The total number of beneficiaries included more than 8,000 families living in the governorates of Dohouk, Erbil, Sulaimanyah, Basrah, Amara and Nasirya. The distribution will include the most needed items such as blankets and kerosene heaters.

A project proposal was submitted to European Commission's Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and was accepted in November 2002. Distribution of the supplies has to be completed before the end of April 2003. The initial intention was to purchase the required humanitarian supplies locally. Unfortunately, this was not possible because of the time consuming procedures in Iraq. Implementation of the project is now ongoing.

Rehabilitation of PHCs

Financial support for the maintenance of Iraq's health services infrastructure under the UN Oil for Food Programme related to Security Council Resolution 986 was not sufficient to reinstate an acceptable level of health care for the Iraqi people. There are about 936 primary health care (PHC) centres in Iraq located in urban and remote areas. These health structures receive between 300 and 1,000 patients daily. The number of people who used to benefit from these facilities varies from 10,000 to more than 100,000 people in each community where the PHC centres are located. The two main elements of the PHC programme are physical rehabilitation and provision of basic medical furniture and equipment.

Since 1999 and through mid-2002, the Federation and the IRCS, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (MoH), rehabilitated 34 PHC centres. In addition, basic furniture and medical equipment was supplied for a total of 72 centres.

The IRCS and Federation are the major organizations which were dealing with the rehabilitation of these health facilities in Iraq. The physical rehabilitation of the PHC centres is linked with additional long term Red Crescent health activities such as health education, polio and measles eradication campaigns, training of local staff in cleaning and maintenance of the rehabilitated centres. The programme aims at improving the general health situation in the country.

By the end of 2002, 11 PHC centres were in different stages of an ongoing rehabilitation process (ten centres were funded by the Netherlands Red Cross and one by the American Red Cross). All 11 are planned to be completed before the end of March 2003. Another 12-18 PHCs are being planned for rehabilitation during 2003.

The PHC rehabilitation project has had a positive impact on the development of the IRCS at the local level because it plays an important role in the organization and management of health education and vaccination campaigns through the country wide network of primary health care centres. Through this project it was possible for the IRCS to strengthen its capacity at the grassroots level.

Disaster preparedness w

The IRCS has developed a disaster preparedness plan that covers all 18 governorates with skilled management and well-trained volunteers. The plan has a clear emergency profile and is aimed at

building a rapid response capacity during the first weeks after a disaster and followed by a long-term action based primarily on cross border relief assistance. The emergency disaster preparedness stock quantities were based on a target figure of 100,000 persons and were to be available in six regional warehouses located in strategic parts of the country.

In general, the IRCS/Federation long term disaster preparedness (DP) programme aims at preparing for the following potential disasters: oil pollution (Basra, Nineva and Baghdad), earthquakes (Erbil and Nineva), consequences of the continuous sanctions (Basrah, Nineva, Erbil and Baghdad regions), adhoc disasters and war.

In 2001, the Norwegian Red Cross funded two disaster preparedness projects in four governorates: Baghdad, Ninawah, Erbil and Basrah. The staff and volunteers of the IRCS were trained in DP, the logistical capacity was strengthened, four warehouses of the IRCS were rehabilitated and relief materials were provided for 2,000 families. In 2002, part of the relief stock in Baghdad and Erbil was used for floods in Nasiriyah and Kut area and in the north.

Training programmes supported by the regional delegation (RD) in Amman were carried out to improve the disaster preparedness capacity of the IRCS. The first workshop in June 2002 was devoted to the setup of emergency planning and was attended by heads of departments at the headquarters level and by all directors from the branches as well as by a representative from ICRC. The staff and volunteers of the IRCS were also trained on basic techniques of conducting vulnerability capacity assessments.

Considering the increased risk for a military campaign against Iraq the implementation of the DP programme was given highest priority by the IRCS. In a combined DP/community-based first aid (CBFA) workshop, with the directors and four additional participants from all the 18 governorates a special plan of action was agreed upon. The participants expressed unanimously that the priority needs were practical training and positioning of DP stock.

The following achievements took place during the second half of 2002:

- In late September a focused project proposal, aiming at accelerating the implementation of the general DP programme, was prepared, seeking assistance for training of volunteers and procurement of relief stocks for some 15,000 families. This proposal was shared with potential donors - embassies in Baghdad as well as participating National Societies (NSs) in a special fundraising campaign. The response until the end of 2002 was positive with coverage of more than 65 per cent - and additional funds were pledged. Support was received from the Swiss Government, and the Swedish, Norwegian, and Japanese Red Cross Societies both in cash and in kind. The UAE RC provided bilateral contributions and discussions are ongoing with the Iranian Red Cross.
- One of the early actions was a DP camp exercise held the first week of November 2002 and funded through a donation provided by the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID). A total of 120 volunteers from all 18 branches completed a realistic five-day DP exercise, with strong support by the regional delegation in Amman. Some 30 tents were erected as well as water tanks and distribution points, latrines, showers and a first aid station. On the job training was conducted in search and rescue, first aid, psychological support, evacuation of victims and set up of sanitation and telecommunication systems.
- On 10-11 December, a workshop was organized in cooperation with the ICRC for 25 participants (one from each branch) on safety and stress, covering topics on rights and duties, first aid in conflict situations and psychological support (helping the helpers).

- From 13 until 23 December, 2002, the Federation's disaster preparedness manager, the disaster response manager and the information officer together with the vice president of the IRCS in his capacity as disaster manager, supervisor and the newly appointed relief manager in the IRCS headquarters attended a regional disaster management workshop held in Iran. The workshop was facilitated by a disaster management (DM) team from the Secretariat in Geneva with support from the regional delegation in Amman.

Regarding procurement of the DP stock the initial intention was to purchase the supplies locally in Iraq. Simultaneously, steps were taken to prepare for procurement through the logistics department in Geneva to make sure that time would not be lost if local procurement was not possible. This arrangement turned out to be crucial. For a number of reasons, mainly the fact that local procurement would take more than three months; it was deemed necessary to give up on the idea of local procurement and to go for the second option.

Achievement versus expected results

Expected results	Achievement
Establishment of a DP department in IRCS HQ	Building of office Staff nominated Training on going
Required DP skills in nine branches	Basic level achieved More training needed
45 well trained volunteers 1,140 recruited volunteers 850 lecturers	Achieved but more practical training needed
Basic stocks to support 5,000 families	Achieved (total need is 15,000 families)
Trained warehouse staff	Achieved
Rehabilitation of DP warehouses	Partly achieved (lack of funding)
Improved preparation capacity	Not achieved (lack of funding)
Good cooperation between DP and Health departments	Achieved, joint workshops, training of volunteers

The DP programme is planned to be continued during 2003-04, with support by the Federation. Key issues are recruitment and hiring of volunteers, DP stock procurement, transportation and communications.

Health and Care W

The IRCS plays an important auxiliary role to the national Health and Care structures, with a clear focus on the community level. With its unique, in the countrywide network covering all 18 governorates, the IRCS was proving its significant importance in the delivery of the primary health care services to the population.

Community-Based First Aid (CBFA)

CBFA, health education (HE), previously called health and nutrition information dissemination (H and NID) and branch development projects have been implemented in a joint IRCS/Federation programme since 1997. This programme continued into the year 2002 (supported mainly by the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies).

In late November 2002, the IRCS and the Federation signed an agreement concerning the handing over and implementation of this long-term programme. Also, the Swedish and Norwegian Red Cross

made funds available for this last phase. It is expected that in 2003 the programme will be fully managed by the IRCS.

A health department was established within the IRCS headquarters and recently moved into a new office, construction of which was funded through the Federation.

The CBFA training of volunteers (720 in total) and the HE lectures were completed by the end of March 2002. A budget surplus made a three-month mini-programme possible. In the period July-September each branch conducted additional HE lectures and the 18 branch trainers and the volunteers received refresher first aid training.

In the period 1 July to 31 December:

- 18 branch trainers and 900 volunteers received refresher first aid training (mini-programme), and
- each branch conducted 90 HE lectures in PHC centres, schools, mosques, etc. (mini-programme)

In September the branch directors, trainers and coordinators participated in a two-day workshop as a follow up of the comprehensive evaluation of the CBFA programme carried out in May 2002. The training programme was revised according to the recommendation given in the evaluation supported by the workshop's conclusions.

Negotiations between the IRCS and the Federation on an agreement as well as new travel procedures delayed the implementation of the 2002 programme until January 2003. The two donor societies, Norwegian and Swedish RC, agreed to an extension of the programme until the end of May 2003.

War remnant programme

A project for social rehabilitation of land mine victims was agreed upon between the IRCS and the Federation in May 2000. The project mainly aims at activating and re-socializing war victims through training in income generating activities, but also at recruiting and training victims to be IRCS volunteers.

Two centres were planned to be established in Suleimaniyya and Basrah. The Bills of Quantities were prepared but due to long lasting and still ongoing discussions with the IRCS regarding the project agreement it is not clear yet when the actual implementation of the project can start. Repeated efforts by the Federation will hopefully break the present stalemate in the beginning of year 2003. If not, the future of the project has to be reconsidered.

The German Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross were informed about the difficulties related to the lack of progress and have expressed willingness to extend the time frame for the implementation of the project.

Polio Eradication Campaign

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF, the IRCS, supported by the Federation, took active part in the national polio and measles vaccination campaigns. The role of the IRCS, through its network of volunteers, is to monitor the campaign, targeting high-risk areas to search for unvaccinated children. This action by the IRCS has considerably improved the vaccination coverage.

The visibility of the IRCS and the Federation has increased through the leaflets and TV-spots distributed during the campaigns.

During the campaigns, 700 volunteers participated:

- 550 as monitors, and

- 150 as vaccinators in Baghdad.

The project was funded by the American RC, Qatar RC and UNICEF. Discussions are ongoing with UNICEF regarding funding for 2003. The project is planned to continue until 2004.

HIV/AIDS prevention

In close cooperation with MoH and as part of the Federation's regional programme, the IRCS, supported by the Federation, decided to initiate an HIV/ AIDS awareness project within the CBFA/ HE structure.

In October 2002, the IRCS staged the country's first training workshop on HIV/AIDS awareness raising in Baghdad. Some 36 volunteers of the Red Cross were trained to become trainers in their respective branches covering communication methods, leadership and training skills. A team of four trainers from the Lebanese Red Cross Society facilitated the five-day workshop together with the regional health delegate based in Amman.

In 2003, the IRCS awareness campaign will primarily target students in high school and colleges.

Promotion of Humanitarian Values w

Promotion of humanitarian values was an ongoing project through out the year. The following activities illustrate achievements in this area:

- regular contacts with some 15 embassies in Baghdad;
- information through TV spots during vaccination campaigns; and
- distribution of the *Al-Itihad* magazine, produced by the regional delegation to embassies, governmental structures and international organizations.

In order to strengthen the reporting/information functions the newly appointed head of the IRCS information department and the information office in the Federation's delegation were sent to the RD in Amman for a six-week on the job training, with a clear focus on the reporting and information functions.

In December, a communication workshop was organized by IRCS in cooperation with the Federation's RD and the ICRC. Some 24 participants received lectures about news, communication, dealing with media and the use of the Internet.

The overall growing political tension related to Iraq resulted in a considerable increase of media interest during the reporting period. Consequently the Federation's delegation was involved in a large number of international media contacts - both directly in Iraq and more long distance. A number of field trips for media teams and representatives of diplomatic missions were arranged by the delegation as well.

Organizational Development w

It is important to note that all the Federation/IRCS programmes include a strong component of capacity building and organizational development.

One of the objectives in the Federation's appeal for 2002 was to *"increase the governance, leadership and management capacities of the IRCS including the establishment of an organizational platform, followed by the establishment of core group departments and hand over between the Federation and the IRCS."*

In terms of progress the second half of 2002 was very much dominated by political events. Consequently, the focus was on implementation of the DP programme and related activities. In addition the IRCS was increasingly preoccupied with the different coordination roles - national emergency committee and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - that were given to it by the Government of Iraq.

Key factors in this regard were important changes in the leadership of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society which took place during the second half of 2002. Understandably, the more long term OD process - self assessment, five-year plan development, second generation cooperation assistance strategy (CAS) preparation - in the IRCS came to a halt. Taking these factors into consideration it is not likely that a more structured OD process can be resumed within the foreseeable future.

The process of establishing the health and DM departments in the IRCS continued during the reporting period. The two new departments are now established in a newly constructed office extension to the IRCS, funded by the Federation. In line with this process discussions are ongoing regarding hand over of programme responsibilities from the Federation to the IRCS. It is estimated that this process will be completed for the health programmes at the end of March 2003.

One serious short coming in the Federation's delegation work was that the approval of the new delegates - followed by the visa process - takes an increasingly long time. Several months were lost in such a process for the DP and the wat/san delegates - so far with no progress.

Regional cooperation w

During 2002 the cooperation between the regional delegation in Amman and the country delegation in Baghdad expanded considerably with the RD providing active support in all areas of Federation/IRCS field activities in Iraq. This very positive development is planned to further increase during 2003. From the beginning of 2003 the finance delegate terminated his contract (for a more well paid position with UN in Iraq). The intention is to manage without a finance delegate and to cover the gap through internal arrangements and a closer cooperation with the finance unit in the RD.

The IRCS is visited by an increasing number of delegations, RC and non-RC, both from the region and other parts of the world. In some cases bilateral cooperation agreements were signed, most recently with the UAE RC.

Coordination and Management w

Federation's delegation was operating in line with the objectives outlined in the Strategy 2010: The Federation delegation's main objective has been to initiate, develop and support the capacity building of the IRCS, through a variety of activities reflecting Strategy 2010 which meets the need for support to the most vulnerable people, and to promote the participation of support from partners within and outside the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, coordination with the ICRC, national and international NGOs.

The increased pressure on the IRCS from the concerned authorities and from visiting delegations resulted in less time for coordination meetings within the Movement. Weekly follow up and planning meetings between the IRCS and the Federation delegation lately become bi-weekly - and changes of the time for the meetings are more regular than an exception. In the early part of the period tripartite meetings between the IRCS, ICRC and the Federation were arranged on a monthly basis, but later on it was impossible to find the time for such meetings.

As of October 2002, new rules were introduced by the Iraqi Red Crescent Society for the daily work between the Federation's delegation and the counterparts in the IRCS. The new arrangement was that

the international department staff of the IRCS had to be present at all working meetings and in all field trips - a factor that of course made the daily work more complicated. At the same time, more new rules for travel permit - not only for foreign delegates but also for national staff - were introduced, requiring more detailed planning and more time in advance.

Altogether this meant of course that the Federation's work in Iraq was becoming more complicated and time consuming. To meet the time limits of the different projects was already a bit problematic in the past - now, this is expected to become an increasing problem.

By the end of 2002 a number of PNSs were visiting Iraq: Sweden, Norway, Netherlands and UAE (twice). Visa procedures were initiated for Danish and British RC. In addition, visits by the European Community Humanitarian Office were facilitated twice.

An increasingly important issue was the security of the Federation's delegation - in relation to overall political developments. Firstly, all general security regulations for the delegation were revised in order to be more in line with the ICRC rules - thus facilitating a harmonization of the Federation and the ICRC security procedures. Secondly, in November, special security regulations were prepared in the light of the increased risk for a military campaign - again in line with new regulations of the ICRC.

Conclusions

Considering the increasing constraints and complexities for the Federation's delegation working in Iraq, the planning for 2002 was clearly overambitious. In general, planning for and implementation of projects takes much longer than estimated. Considerable steps were taken in the Appeal 2003-04 in order to achieve a better balance between planning and reality.

The political development during the last part of year 2002 and the early part of 2003 might make the Federation's working conditions even more complicated - such signs are already becoming more visible.

Two planned projects - war remnant social rehabilitation (see above) and community-based psychological first aid (CBPFA) - did not make any progress at all during 2002. The CBPFA was included into a regional project and as such psychological support was included in a couple of workshops planned for the second half of 2003.

An important negative factor in our operation in Iraq is the increasingly restrictive attitude from the authorities regarding the number of delegates. Formally, the limit is five delegates - but in reality not more than three are approved.

The organizational development programme slowed down considerably during the second half of 2002 - due to the political events. The internal change process in the IRCS headquarters - with the international department taking a much stronger position - is further slowing down the capacity building process.

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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>.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

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Annual report	X
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Appeal No & title: 01.55/2002 Iraq

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PIQ000, 005, 006, 164, 300, 400, 403, 406, 407, 512, 513, 514,

Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget	6,739,886				
less					
Cash brought forward	43,278				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	6,696,608				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
American Red Cross (DNUS)	95,111				95,111
Danish Govt.via Danish Red Cross (DGNDK)	3,273				3,273
DFID 3- British Government (DFID03)	48,408				48,408
ECHO-Distribution of non-food items (DEIQ02)	600,351				600,351
German Red Cross (DNDE)	184,250				184,250
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	114,984				114,984
Monaco Red Cross (DNMC)	5,350				5,350
Netherlands Govt.via Netherlands RC (DGNL)	394,815				394,815
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (DGNNO)	287,293				287,293
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	106,527				106,527
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	161				161
Qatar Red Crescent (DNQA)	25,000				25,000
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	351,965				351,965
Swedish Red Cross (DNSE)	14,650				14,650
Swiss Government (DGCH)	225,000				225,000
Unilever/Domestos (DPS007)	40,000				40,000
DENMARK				44,846	44,846
FINLAND				37,454	37,454
NETHERLANDS				22,505	22,505
NORWAY				40,082	40,082
SWEDEN				27,926	27,926
TOTAL	2,497,137			172,813	2,669,950

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	43,278
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	2,497,137
CASH EXPENDITURE	-954,214

CASH BALANCE	1,586,201

Appeal No & title: 01.55/2002 Iraq

Period: year 2002

Project(s): PIQ000, 005, 006, 164, 300, 400, 403, 406, 407, 512, 513, 514,

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	1,666,000	329,426			329,426	1,336,574
Clothing & Textiles	318,200	5,907			5,907	312,293
Food & Seeds						
Water & sanitation		862			862	-862
Medical & First Aid	77,000	16,243			16,243	60,757
Teaching materials	332,460	23,586			23,586	308,874
Utensils & Tools	480,000					480,000
Other relief supplies	44,000					44,000
Sub-Total	2,917,660	376,024			376,024	2,541,636
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings	374,110					374,110
Vehicles	48,030					48,030
Computers & Telecom equip.	65,000	10,769			10,769	54,231
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures	51,450	16,654			16,654	34,796
Sub-Total	538,590	27,423			27,423	511,167
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>						
	166,630	43,229			43,229	123,401
Sub-Total	166,630	43,229			43,229	123,401
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	403,680	151,276		172,813	324,089	79,591
Personnel (national staff)	925,819	184,072			184,072	741,747
Sub-Total	1,329,499	335,348		172,813	508,161	821,338
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts	12,000	16,618			16,618	-4,618
Travel & related expenses	79,940	28,850			28,850	51,090
Information expenses	178,309	50,229			50,229	128,080
Admin./general expenses	155,001	-35,977			-35,977	190,978
External workshops & Seminars	620,870	2,873			2,873	617,997
Sub-Total	1,046,120	62,593			62,593	983,527
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>						
Programme management	454,471	67,174			67,174	387,296
Technical services	136,045	20,112			20,112	115,933
Professional services	150,872	22,311			22,311	128,562
Sub-Total	741,387	109,597			109,597	631,791
Operational provisions						
Transfers to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	6,739,886	954,214		172,813	1,127,027	5,612,859