

# Annual report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Iraq

MAAIQ002

30 April 2009

This report covers the period 01 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.



The school based first aid programme was a joint engagement of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the International Federation in 2009 in order to deliver first aid trainings to the schools countrywide. **International Federation.**

## In brief

**Programme outcome:** The purpose of the programmes is to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people in Iraq.

**Programmes summary:** Taking into consideration the obstacles linked to the highly instable nature of Iraq as well as the lack of funding in 2009, the International Federation was able to implement two major projects. The first project was the construction of the Baghdad regional warehouse and cold store in the Iraqi Red Crescent (Iraqi RC) headquarters' complex in order to build the physical capacity of the National Society for disaster preparedness. The second focus was on the implementation of the recognised school based first aid programme in all 18 governorates.

The National Society was also supported in the implementation of some organisational development and capacity building activities. The International Federation's support to the Transitional Committee was provided through the institutionalised organisational development committee established by the parties. The Transitional Committee and relevant departments received orientation briefing and presentation on the International Federation's disaster risk reduction (DRR) policy and measures to be taken to enhance the National Societies' disaster preparedness and response capacities with main focus on DRR. Iraqi RC staff was also involved extensively in various training events organised by the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) zone such as the field training and exercise in Libya; the DRR ToT in Morocco; the psycho-social support training; and the community based health and first aid masters' training.

**Financial situation:** The total 2009 budget is CHF 2,774,149 (USD 2,559,430 or EUR 1,820,951), of which CHF 1,382,093 (50 per cent) covered during the reporting period (including opening

balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was CHF 1,323,787 (48 per cent) of the budget.

Under the Iraq Plan for 2009, funding was secured and earmarked only for the implementation of the regional warehouse and cold store project and school based first aid programme. During the year, the International Federation's Iraq representation experienced difficulties in managing the limited funds. The representation substantially reduced its expenses by not extending the contracts of some of the office staff in Baghdad (cutting from 21 to four national staff) and discontinuing contracting one expatriate.

The financial situation hampered the implementation of many of the planned projects/programmes and activities in support of the Iraqi RC, and the instable context of the country affected the implementation rate of the funded programmes.

[Click here to go directly to the financial report.](#)

**No. of people we have reached:** Beneficiaries of the health and care programmes were students and teachers of primary, intermediary and secondary schools and volunteers of the National Society. The target groups of the organisational development programme were the directors of branches, heads of departments and programme coordinators as well as youth and volunteers of the Iraqi RC. During 2009, some 72,680 school teachers and students benefited from the school first aid programme.

**Our partners:** In the reporting period, the International Federation's Iraq representation maintained good cooperation and collaboration with the Iraq delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The information and network of ICRC related to the security in Iraq provided great support to the International Federation's representation in terms of access, travel and stay in Baghdad.

The representation also maintained cooperation and collaboration with United Nations Agencies including Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) as an observer to the forum on Iraq. Cooperation and information sharing with partner National Societies (PNSs) during the reporting period was regularly maintained as well.

Swedish government and Swedish Red Cross, Malaysian government and Malaysian Red Crescent, Booz and Company, and Japanese Red Cross have been the main contributors to the Plan in 2009.

## Context<sup>1</sup>

Based on the estimation of the regional governments, the high levels of violence in Iraq since 2006 have contributed to some 1.55 million Iraqis being displaced within the country, in addition to approximately 1.7 million Iraqi refugees abroad (of these, just under 300,000 are registered with UNHCR). The current humanitarian situation in many parts of the country is shaped not by new emergencies and displacement but rather by a legacy of sanctions, conflict, and underdevelopment. In 2009, Iraq has become a more secure and stable country when compared to the peak of sectarian violence and counter-insurgency operations in August 2007 (levels of violence have dropped by more than 85% compared to 2006-2007). Despite these visible improvements, Iraq is still a country affected by significant levels of violence, with a considerable impact on the lives of civilians. The security gains made during the second half of 2008 have not continued at the same pace during 2009, with the number of security incidents hovering around the same level of 27 incidents per day since November 2008.

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<sup>1</sup> Compiled from Iraq Humanitarian Action Plan and Crisis Management Group Reports.

Violent incidents continued to occur in Baghdad and Ninewah, which witnessed several mass casualty attacks during 2009. Low-level violence by criminal gangs and armed groups continued. Of particular concern was the situation in Kirkuk, Mosul and other areas along the disputed southern boundary of the Kurdistan region, where low-level violence between various ethnic groups persisted and was exacerbated by non-state armed groups and insurgent groups.

The effects of the war on Iraq's population is also severe. The seven years of violence have visibly affected the fabric of Iraqi society. Casualties amongst civilians have had a direct and long-term effect on families through loss of livelihoods, particularly in conservative parts of the country where women's participation in the workforce may be low in some areas. Loss of parents and family members has had a devastating effect on the lives of thousands of children and the subsiding conflicts continue to harm the mental health of the population in conflict-affected areas. Almost half (48%) of the population has experienced a war-related trauma. Of particular concern was the well-being of Iraqi children, women and young girls, whose lives were severely affected by the past conflict and internal displacement. In many areas, violence, internal displacement and poverty have driven many children out of schools (school attendance of the 6 to 14 years old school children was 71%, but in some districts this figure was as low as 50%). Interruption of schooling between 2003 and 2008, poor quality of education due to shortage of trained teachers, the destruction or damage to facilities and the effect of the conflict and displacement on children's well-being and mental health have resulted in Iraq's new generation facing relatively more problems in entering adult life than their predecessors.

The resurgence in deadly bombings in Baghdad as well as disputed territories over the last six months has highlighted the fragility of security. This violence, coupled with a political situation that remains highly dysfunctional, leaves a lot of uncertainty as to Iraq's viability following parliamentary elections in March 2010 and especially after the U.S. combat troop withdrawal, which is to be completed by August 2010.

In the meantime, the holding of a General Assembly and as part of this the election of the leadership is taking longer than expected. Despite the low level of funding allocated for activities and long lasting administrative procedures for any activity to be initiated, some of the branches keep a certain level of functionality. Operations and activities are modest in terms of quantity and quality.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

#### Outcomes

- The ability to predict and plan for disasters to mitigate their impact on vulnerable communities, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences is increased (disaster management planning).
- The Iraqi RC has improved its capacity in skilled human resources, and financial and material capacity for effective disaster management (organisational preparedness).
- Vulnerabilities and capacities of the Iraqi community are assessed, which will enable effective response (organisational preparedness).
- Relief assistance is provided to the disabled population by the distribution of 5,000 wheelchairs each year (disaster response).

#### Achievements

##### Disaster management planning

During the reporting period, this outcome has not been able to be focused on due to the lack of funding.

##### Organisational preparedness

The construction of the regional warehouse and cold store was not originally included in the Iraq Plan for 2009-2010, as it was targeted under the Expanding Response to Humanitarian Crisis Emergency

Appeal (MDRIQ003) launched in 2008. Due to the complexity of the security situation, this project had to be postponed several times and was launched in December 2008. It was transferred to the country Plan 2009-2010 by the official revision of the plan through the programme update issued on 5 September 2009.

The construction of the warehouse and cold store was based on the request of the Iraqi RC to support its disaster preparedness capacity to respond to the growing needs of the civilian Iraqi population. The International Federation put its engineering expertise in collaboration with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (Malaysian RC) whom allocated funds to the project. The newly built regional warehouse and cold store, in addition to the warehouse built in Salahdeen in 2006, is an integral part of the disaster management and warehousing system maintained by the Iraqi RC countrywide.

The Iraqi RC allocated a suitable location for the project within the boundaries of the headquarters' compound. The regional warehouse was designed to store food, non-food items and medicines, and a hired consultant firm developed the project plans and design. Following the adaptation process and acceptance procedures with the necessary approval obtained, the International Federation started the physical implementation of the project by mid December 2008 by signing an implementation contract with a locally identified construction company. The project consists of a total of 735 m<sup>2</sup>, where the main warehouse is 510m<sup>2</sup>; cold store is 200m<sup>2</sup> and the facilities for supervisor is 25m<sup>2</sup>.

The management set a number of rules for the project to secure and minimise risks related to the implementation and security. The progress was fully monitored based on the developed Microsoft project work chart. Authorisation of progress payments were done based on narrative and financial progress reports of the Baghdad office.

The International Federation appointed a construction engineer for technical supervision acting as a site engineer responsible for technical and organisational matters. The site engineer was in charge for maintaining contractor relations and relations with the construction department and supervisory body of the Iraqi RC. In order to support the construction engineer, the International Federation also appointed a disaster management coordinator to provide liaison and technical assistance to the engineer in terms of programme management and reporting, as well as financial tracking of the progress against the implementation rate. On the other hand, the Iraqi RC appointed a counterpart for the project from the construction department. This coordination and supervision mechanism provided an excellent example of joint effective work on the field. In the meantime, the International Federation representative was involved in all aspects of project implementation and progress. He paid occasional visits to the sites in various stages of project development.

The regional warehouse and cold store construction can be qualified as a success taking into consideration the difficult circumstances the project was implemented in Baghdad. This success could not be achieved without the financial support of the Malaysian RC. The regional warehouse will provide adequate disaster preparedness for the Iraqi RC in covering the central zone of Iraq.

#### Disaster response

During the reporting period, this outcome has not been able to be focused on due to the lack of funding.

#### **Constraints or Challenges**

The main challenge in Baghdad and in general in Iraq was the instable security conditions influencing the activities and access. During the construction, the contractor was challenged by the overall security situation and peaks of violence. Movement of heavy trucks inside Baghdad was limited and restricted. Relative delays in the implementation against the schedule were partially compensated by double shifts and intensification of the workforce. Some organisational obstacles in relation to the construction department had to be addressed in the beginning of the construction process. Due to the established monitoring system and cooperation mechanism, the undesirable obstacles were eliminated.

## Health and Care

### Outcomes

- Healthy communities which are able to cope with health and disaster challenges are increased through community based integrated health and first aid activities (community based first aid/first aid).
- Essential basic first aid knowledge to students of secondary schools (17 years of age) and teachers of primary and secondary schools will be provided (community based first aid/first aid – school first aid).
- Access to curative and preventive health services is improved in the target area by the establishment of three MMUs (MMUs).

### Achievements

#### Community based first aid/first aid (CBFA/FA)

Due to funding shortages and lack of donor interest, the wider CBFA programme has not been able to be implemented during 2009.

#### Community based first aid/first aid – school first aid

The first aid education programme in the schools has been considered as one of the most important activities the Iraqi RC has implemented with the support of the International Federation in 2009. Beyond the first aid training, these courses have provided opportunity for dissemination of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Principles and information about the Movement including the Iraqi RC, International Federation and ICRC.

The school based first aid programme was implemented in two phases. The details of the first phase implemented during 1 April – 31 May 2009 can be found in the Programme Update no.1 issued on 5 September 2009 (<http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual09/MAAIQ00209PU1.pdf>). In total, 1,077 first aid courses were implemented during this phase (314 in primary schools; 291 in intermediary schools; and 472 in secondary schools) reaching 21,540 school teachers and students.



During the phase II of the school based first aid programme, 2,557 first aid courses have been provided. A total of 51,140 school teachers and students benefited from the two-day courses in the selected schools. **International Federation.**

The second phase started on 1 October and is continuing up to 15 January 2010. Up to date, the branches and first aiders managed to deliver a total of 2,557 first aid courses (781 in primary schools; 609 in intermediary schools; and 1,167 in secondary schools). 51,140 school teachers and students benefited from the two-day first aid courses in the selected schools.

There has been a shortfall in the numbers of courses and people to be reached. In total, Iraqi RC carried 3,634 sessions of school based first aid instead of the planned 4,320. Out of the 18 governorates, the school based first aid programme was implemented 100 per cent in 11 governorates, 75 per cent in two, and 50 per cent in five.

**Table No 1: Phase II of school first aid programme**

	Primary schools	Intermediary schools	Secondary schools	Total Courses Held	Number of Beneficiaries
Baghdad	100	53	60	213	4,260
Anbar	25	25	75	125	2,500
Diyala	40	30	60	130	2,600
Kirkuk	40	30	60	130	2,600
Salahdeen	48	38	72	158	3,160
Ninewah	30	30	60	120	2,400
Kerbala	50	40	75	165	3,300
Najaf	40	30	60	130	2,600
Babilon	40	30	60	130	2,600
Basrah	60	60	120	240	4,800
Muthana	50	40	75	165	3,300
Thiqar	20	15	30	65	1,300
Missan	19	19	45	83	1,660
Wassit	50	40	75	165	3,300
Dahuk	19	19	60	98	1,960
Arbil	60	40	60	160	3,200
Suleymaniah	50	40	60	150	3,000
Diwanayah	40	30	60	130	2,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>51,140</b>

According to the plan of action of the school first aid programme, 20 refreshing courses were carried out for the Iraqi RC volunteers before the beginning of Phase I of the programme. Courses covered all branches, and one course was conducted in each branch and three courses in the Baghdad province. 200 volunteers of the National Society were targeted.

Implementation of ToT courses as a part of the capacity building had to be postponed to 2010 due to the high instability of the department and branches, lack of communications between the headquarters and the coordinators, frequent changes of the personnel as well as overall security constraints. The International Federation, in cooperation with the Iraqi RC, has prepared adequate alternative plans for modernisation/upgrading of the curricula reinforced with a strong element of dissemination, Principles of the RC/RC Movement, Red Crescent intervention and assistance programming. Beyond the original first aid curricula, components on hygiene, health lifestyle, health education and behaviour were included as well.

The Iraqi RC and International Federation provided first aid kits in support to the programme, which were distributed to all branches according to the schedule and the entitlement of each province.



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**Table No 2: Distribution of school first aid kits in the governorates/branches**

<b>Governorates/Branches</b>	<b>Number of first aid kits</b>
Baghdad	1,350
Anbar	550
Diyala	500
Kirkuk	500
Salahdeen	500
Ninewah	700
Kerbala	500
Najaf	500
Babilon	500
Basrah	700
Muthana	500
Thiqar	500
Missan	500
Wassit	500
Dahuk	500
Arbil	500
Suleymaniah	450
Diwanayah	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,250</b>

Iraqi RC has appointed and mobilised its health staff to verify the quality of programme implementation in the governorates. 950 schools were visited during the school first aid trainings. The monitoring of the programme by the International Federation was led by the health coordinator and a monitor hired for the implementation period. The International Federation team visited 350 schools.

#### Mobile medical units (MMU)

Due to funding shortages and lack of donor interest, the MMU programme has not been able to be implemented during 2009.

#### **Constraints or Challenges**

As mentioned above, the Iraqi RC carried out 3,634 school first aid trainings instead of 4,320. This was due to the deteriorating security situation and instability increased by the suicide bombings and explosions; the curfews introduced especially in the religious occasions; poor weather conditions across the provinces and many fierce sandstorms; lack of cooperation of some school directors with the Iraqi RC volunteers; and the increase in prices of the internal transportation.

The instability of the health department (the head of department changed three times during this period); frequent change of health coordinators in most branches of the provinces; and assigning other tasks to some coordinators and volunteers involved in the programme also affected the implementation of the programme.

## Organizational Development/Capacity Building

#### **Outcomes**

- The roles and responsibilities of governance and management are clarified and the two-year strategy of the Iraqi RC developed (National Society leadership capacity).

- Iraqi RC's resources (human, financial and material) are assessed; proper and effective internal and external communications, financial procedures and guidelines, and accounting systems are in place (well functioning National Society).
- National Society staff is trained to develop, run, improve and report on programmes and projects; and youth and volunteers have improved their knowledge of the Movement and Fundamental Principles (capacity for programme development and management).

### **Achievements**

During 2009, the National Society in transition experienced environmental challenges as a result of seven-years of instability and insecurity. This affected and slowed the process of internal stabilisation of the National Society. The Iraqi RC was not able to hold the General Assembly and adequate elections to stabilise the National Society from the governance point of view.

The International Federation's support to the Transitional Committee was provided through the institutionalised organisational development committee established by the parties. Orientation and formal training of the Transitional Committee members were implemented. The International Federation's Guidelines for General Assembly was shared and interpreted in order to provide clarity in this matter as well as highlight the importance to stabilise the leadership issues of the Iraqi RC.

The Transitional Committee is recipient and sensitive to the International Federation's lead role in organisational development aspects and has emphasized on various occasions and forums the support it needs in capacity building.

A series of forums were held between the International Federation's representative and the chairman of the Transitional Committee on organisational issues, project development and other matters of capacity building. The International Federation maintained close working relations with the Transitional Committee members and heads of departments. Communications with the international department were developed, which enabled smooth communications with the disaster management, health, organisational development and planning departments. Further plans exist to encourage and motivate, as well as build on the achievements.

The Transitional Committee and relevant departments have received orientation briefing and presentation on the International Federation's DRR policy and measures to be taken to enhance the National Societies' disaster preparedness and response capacities with main focus on DRR. The International Federation, in cooperation with OCHA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNAMI and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been preparing for the major event of orientation and training of high level government personnel in DRR. The first major meeting in this field took place on 13 December 2009, which set the future trend in DRR aspects. This meeting will be followed by a series of trainings for middle management of the disaster management programme. The International Federation's role in this initiative is to promote and advocate the Iraqi RC's place in the country's disaster management system. The International Federation will present its DRR policy and measures in this joint training event in Arbil in March-April 2010.

Iraqi RC staff was involved extensively in various training events organised by the MENA zone such as the field training and exercise in Libya; the DRR ToT in Morocco; the psycho-social support training; and the community based health and first aid masters' training. Positive feedback was received from the participants of the National Society, which will contribute to the ongoing processes in the Iraqi RC.

## **Principles and Values**

### **Outcome**

- The roles and responsibilities of governance and management are clarified; and youth and volunteers have improved their knowledge of the Movement and Fundamental Principles (promotion of Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values).

Activities related to Principles and Values are included in the components of the organisational development programme.

## Working in partnership

In the period of challenges, instability and insecurity, the Iraqi RC and its Transitional Committee have been working hard to stabilise the National Society and focus on programming and implementation. The Transitional Committee has been highly supportive to capacity building initiatives and trainings offered by the International Federation's MENA zone.

Regardless of the difficulties in outreach and access in some governorates, the Iraqi RC made a substantial effort to meet the expectations with regards to the school based first aid programme. The International Federation's health and social services coordinator worked very closely with the heads of health department of the Iraqi RC in planning, organising, managing and monitoring the implementation of the programme.

The Iraqi RC signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education on the school based first aid programme, which was respected by the authorities through granting access and time for the branch trainers and facilitators of the training. The programme received high mark from the authorities and contributed to raising the image of the Iraqi RC in the country.

In order to achieve better results and higher standards, the International Federation has been looking into new models of operations while implementing the school based first aid trainings by widening the scope, enhancing the curricula, upgrading the facilitators' knowledge and preparedness to address and be involved in this programme. The Transitional Committee appreciates and facilitates this tendency by actively contributing to the modernisation process.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

The Iraqi RC and the International Federation implemented a multi-layer joint monitoring of both programmes. Progress monitoring and final monitoring reports were developed on both sides, which were jointly analysed and the lessons learned were drawn for the future. Based on the monitoring and implementation reports, management decisions were affected to adjust, correct, and guide the programme.

Through the programme implementation, high level of communications was maintained with the Transitional Committee of the Iraqi RC to support the smooth implementation securing the result orientated approach. Programmes were also supported by formalised MoUs to protect interests and provide a legal instrument.

## Looking ahead

The main operational objective of the International Federation is to support the National Society's capacity building efforts and activities in response to current and future programmes. There is a broad understanding of the heightened value and importance of coordination between Movement components and local organizations in order to maximize the impact of humanitarian operations for the most vulnerable segments of the Iraqi population (victims of man-made and natural disasters).

2009 was not particularly easy in terms of implementation. On one side, the International Federation experienced lacks of funding for programmes and projects and on the other side, the instability in Iraq and the Iraqi RC pre-defined the amount of work implemented, including aspects as access, security and safety of staff.

It is obvious for the management that more organisational development and capacity building is necessary to support the Iraqi RC on the way of transition. Support to the process of statutes, General Assembly and elections still remain the focus of the International Federation in 2010.

More pragmatic approach in working with the departments in planning, monitoring and evaluation, programme and project management, reporting and communications is planned. Capacity building support to the financial and logistics departments stand also as a priority to achieve high level of accountability and transparency.

Support will be given to internal reorganizational efforts of the Iraqi RC. In 2010, more emphasise will be given to the dissemination of the Principles of the RC/RC Movement. Staff education in various fields will have to be an integral part of the organisational development and capacity building process.

The school based first aid training will have to be modernised by extending its scope and follow up mechanism. Strong dissemination component will be incorporated into the curricula along with the traditional fist aid component, hygiene component, health life style and health education, as well as epidemiological behaviour. It will have to be followed by a series of capacity building measures for the trainers. Secondary level trainings will follow this process. In the second half of 2010, the school based first aid programme will be implemented based on the new curricula.

**All 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.**

The IFRC's vision is to:

Inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

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