

Mid-Year report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Iraq

Appeal No. MAAIQ002

31 August 2010

This report covers the period 1 January to 30 June 2010.



In July a community based first aid trainer of trainers course was held for volunteers and staff of the Iraqi Red Cross Society in Suleimanya governorate.

In brief

Programme outcome: The International Federation's focus has been on working with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to build the capacity of the society's leadership, staff and volunteers. In this vein, the country representation has successfully delivered training courses in the areas of disaster management integration, disaster risk reduction, migration, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees. In addition, a community based first aid training of trainers took place for 25 trainees across the county.

The transitional committee has conducted its elections, meaning the National Society will continue its support to the vulnerable communities that have for many years received a diverse range of services to alleviate their suffering and save lives.

Programmes summary: The introduction of disaster risk reduction principles to the staff which lead disaster management at the headquarters and branches is assisting the ongoing reorganisation of the department towards a disaster management directorate.

The workshop and forum on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees held in March is an excellent example of the cooperation between the Swedish Red Cross and the International Federation for the benefit of the Iraq Red Crescent Society. More than 37 participants shared opinions on migration issues and return from EU countries. Presentations were given by the UNHCR, IOM and the French Institute of Middle East Studies, as well as the Swedish Red Cross.

Extending cooperation with the UN agencies- namely the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)- on the disaster risk reduction initiative saw a five-day workshop in Erbil, Iraq, for around 60 participants. Six Iraqi Red Crescent Society branches have worked on and produced micro projects.

In organizational development, the capacity of the finance department was enhanced by the purchase of the Navision NAV5.0 financial system software. This programme brings rapid adaptability, simplified customization and ease of use, making the society effective and competitive in the field of financial management.

Through monitoring of the programme on school first aid, the International Federation found a need for trainer of trainers community based first aid (CBFA) courses to rebuild the pool of well trained volunteers of other health programmes including the first-aid school project. This is planned to start in October.

Financial situation: The total budget for 2010 is Swiss francs 2,578,610 (USD 2,451,484 or EUR 1,913,586.50), of which Swiss francs 774,088 (30 per cent) is covered (including the opening balance). Overall expenditure during the reporting period was Swiss francs 238,769 (9 per cent) of the budget. This low expenditure rate can be explained partly by the low levels of funding- roughly 30 per of the budget for each programme area- but also because the plan of action drawn up by the Iraq country representation envisages a scaling up of implementation for the second half of the year.

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

No. of people we have reached:

- Disaster management training: 40 Iraqi Red Crescent Society personnel.
- Disaster risk reduction training: 6 Iraqi Red Crescent Society branches.
- Migration and returnees training: 8 Iraqi Red Crescent Society personnel.
- Organizational development: 10 staff members are to be integrated with the NAVISION-business management software.
- CBFA training of trainers: 25 staff members and volunteers across the county.

Our partners: The Iraq country representation works with the Iraq Red Crescent to implement all the work detailed in this Red Cross. The Swedish Red Cross, with the Swedish government's backing has been a valued supporter and partner of the operation in Iraq. Other partners are the International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR, UNOPS, OCHA and UNICEF.

Context

In spite of the improvements that Iraq has witnessed, varying levels of violence prevail. Water scarcity and pollution, food, health, education and displacements are but a few of the problems indicating deterioration of basic services.

Already many months after the election, a government is still to be formed. The population is eagerly awaiting this new government, hoping for more stability in the future. It is unclear what impact the planned withdrawal of US combat troops from Iraq will have on the security situation in the country, but the situation is not expected to improve, but to possibly further deteriorate.

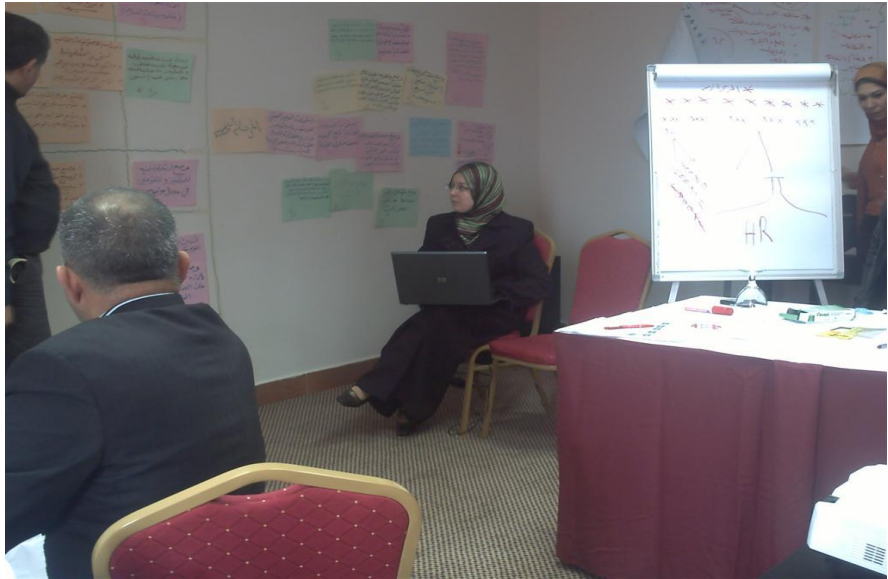
On a more positive note, it is observed that the Iraqi community has developed a sense of awareness, where negative practices are no longer as accepted within communities. In addition, the country has witnessed vast promotion campaigns addressing vital aspects of every day life, supported by numerous humanitarian organizations. Of the many activities, *awareness of unexploded war remnants and mines*, which targeted different ages of the community, *physical and psychological child abuse*; *fostering the orphans*, *the dangers of drugs and smoking* and even the *humanitarian laws* merit special mention. The promotion activities took many shapes, with seminars conducted and posters and flyers distributed to people in addition to radio programmes broadcast.

Positive health activities are widely practiced too. A vaccination campaign, as a counter measure to eradicating polio, ran in the first half of the year. Family surveys were conducted to identify the needs of the average Iraqi families in mitigating transitional diseases, improving personal hygiene, promoting breastfeeding and other health related issues. In general, there are some positive orientations, indicating a transformation is taking place slowly.

Progress towards outcomes

Disaster Management

A planning and cooperation meeting with the disaster management department of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society introduced disaster risk reduction principles to the staff of the headquarters and branches. This is part of an effort on the part of the International Federation to participate in the reorganisation of the disaster management department.



In addition, the International Federation is working with the leaders on a disaster management strategy, coaching the process of producing a national disaster management plan and the new structure that will help deliver it.

In January 2010, the International Federation conducted its disaster management integration course to assist Iraqi Red Crescent Society disaster management Dept to be in line with the general disaster management goals and orientations.

The International Federation country representation for Iraq's disaster management coordinator in Baghdad followed up after the meeting. A report defining the means and modalities of cooperation with the International Federation assistance for 2010 and beyond will be followed up by a clear plan of action for 2010-2011.

Outcomes and achievements:

- Four disaster management staff members at the headquarters trained on disaster management in general, and introduced to the principles of disaster risk reduction.
- A draft disaster management plan at the national level.

Constraints or Challenges:

- Administrative procedures in communications at Iraqi Red Crescent Society headquarters and branches are elongated.

The **migration: refugees, IDPs and returnees** workshop and forum in March is an excellent example of cooperation between the Swedish Red Cross, the International Federation and the Iraq Red Crescent. Special attention was put on the forum, where more than 37 participants shared opinions on migration issues and return from EU countries. Presentations were made by UNHCR, IOM and the French Institute of Middle East Studies, as well as by the Swedish Red Cross. One of the outcomes was an agreed approach to migration and return issues that addresses the needs of the host communities, while continuing to assist individual cases.

The **MENA migration platform/forum**, in its initial stage of development, is open to all National Societies of the MENA region hosting significant numbers of Iraqi migrants and displaced people. This includes Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Gulf states, Iran and countries of Europe. Participation requires a commitment to dedicate time and resources to the joint activities. The International Federation's MENA and Europe zone offices will also be partners, providing support, coordination and technical assistance.

Outcomes and achievements: Essential knowledge related to the state of Iraqi migrants and returnees has been provided and the awareness level related to the circumstances controlling their lives raised.

Constraints or Challenges:

Lack of funding is an outstanding constrain in the face of implementing this project.

A five-day training on **disaster risk reduction and coordination mechanisms** was held in Erbil, bringing together participants from Ninewa, Duhok, Diyala, ThiQar, Wasit and Missan governates in a joint effort of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI), the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), OCHA, IOM, the Iraqi Red Crescent and the International Federation.

Outcomes and achievements:

- Six Iraqi Red Crescent Society branches are well trained in disaster risk reduction.
- Six Iraqi Red Crescent Society branches have worked on micro projects within the frame of the disaster risk reduction, focusing on the main issues that affect the 6 concerned governorates of Iraq that had participated in the training.

Constraints or Challenges:

- The micro projects submitted were rejected by the United Nations Office for Project Services since they did not consider the Red Crescent Society to be an NGO, and therefore eligible. In spite of this, there was discontent on the part of the staff who were deeply involved in the process.

Health and Care



In August, the International Federation conducted its second CBFA trainer of trainers course for the volunteers and staff in Suleimanya governorate.

The community based health and first aid (CBHFA) programme identifies local capacity and vulnerabilities. The new curriculum for the school project included health promotion, health education and healthy behaviours in addition to first aid knowledge. To achieve a balance between the new concept of the CBHFA school and the capacity of the Red Crescent volunteers, the International Federation ran three trainer of trainers courses. It had been felt that some branches were lacking well trained volunteers due to the, at times, weak communication between the National Society and its volunteers.

Outcomes and achievements:

- 75 volunteers and the staff from 18 branches have the knowledge and are qualified in training other volunteers implement 4,200 courses in schools for teachers and students (first aider in each home).

- Every two trainers will start training their own volunteers as preparation for the community based school first aid programme.

Constraints or Challenges:

- Attracting sufficient funds to cover 3,500 basic courses at the school level and the third training of trainers course, in addition to supplying 3,500 first aid kits.

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has been interested in NAVISION, a modern business management software to computerise its finance management, human resources, inventories and fixed assets control. In the first half of the year a provider and a company for technical support based in Beirut have been identified. The finance manager and the audit commission, based on the Iraq representation's guidance, have visited the provider in Lebanon, as well as the Lebanon Red Cross, where NAVISION has already been used. Agreement with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society has been reached to go for this tool. The licence agreement to Microsoft has been paid by the International Federation, while the president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society has agreed that the society will cover the installation, maintenance, online help services and training fees, of approximately USD 30,000. The International Federation representation covered the costs for participants to attend the training in Beirut in early January 2010.

This programme will have a staged implementation schedule across 10-month timeframe. All 18 branches are involved. The proposal, outlined more fully in the International Federation support plan for Iraq, is to join efforts and make the same finance management development programme as runs in the Jordanian Red Crescent. Staff would be trained jointly by the provider in Beirut.

Outcomes and achievements:

- Total number of direct beneficiaries was 10.

Constraints or Challenges:

The legal department of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society has made some modifications to the original contract. Reaction from the company is expected soon.

Working in partnership

Cooperation between the International Federation representation and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society focusses on the first aid programme, and a bilateral MOU is to be signed. Regular cooperation meetings are held with departments of Red Crescent Society to enhance working relations and project implementation.

In order to achieve better results and higher standards the International Federation representation has been looking into new models of operating while implementing the community based first aid training of trainers by widening its scope, enhancing the curricula, upgrading the facilitator's knowledge and preparedness to address and be involved in this programme. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society appreciates and facilitates this tendency by actively contributing to the modernisation process.

Disaster management meetings are already conducted in Baghdad and a number of issues linked to organizational development and capacity building of the National Society have been agreed on.

Contributing to longer-term impact

Throughout the cooperation between the International Federation and Iraqi Red Crescent Society, a high and transparent level of communication has been maintained to sustain dynamic

implementation, while being in line with the International Federation's principles and standards. Reports are shared and exchanged with an orientation on making the best use of the lessons learned for future enhancement of delivering better services for the communities.

The first community based first aid training of trainers contributed to a large scale up in staff and volunteer empowerment. Gender balance has been taken into consideration to ensure equity and diversity. An external facilitator from the Lebanese Red Cross has been involved in delivering the CBFA training with highly satisfactory results.

Both the International Federation and Iraqi Red Crescent Society's documentation capacity proved to be systematic, well organized and provided a strong base for shared knowledge and expertise.

Looking ahead

The International Federation staff regularly visit the National Society headquarters in Baghdad and the branches in the north of Iraq. Visits to these branches to monitor progress of the programmes are also frequent and are generating positive signs of close cooperation and communications.

The International Federation will continue supporting the Iraqi Red Crescent develop a better functioning National Society capable of facing and addressing the challenges of the country.

The seminars and meetings conducted in Baghdad have resulted in rapid tangible outcomes which were reflected in the process of outlining and shaping a general disaster management plan at the national level. In addition, conducting the CBFA trainer of trainers in the northern governorates proved to be cost effective, in addition to enhancing efficiency of the programme.

How we work	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>The the International Federation's vision is to:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The the International Federation's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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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