

# OPERATIONS 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 AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS***

28 March 2003

*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](http://www.ifrc.org)*

*Appeal No. 8/03*

*Launched on 20 March 2003 for CHF 111,039,000 (USD 79,776,929 or EUR 75,481,631) for nine months for 305,000 beneficiaries.*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 75,000 in the pre-positioning phase*

*Beneficiaries: 305,000*

*Operations Update No. 02 ;*

*Period covered: 23 to 26 March 2003 ;*

*Last Update: 22 March 2003;*

*Next Update 03 expected 31 March 2003*

### **IN BRIEF**

*Appeal coverage: 5.3%*

*Related Annual Appeals: 01.54/2002; 01.55/2002; 01.88/2003; 01.93/2003*

*Outstanding needs: CHF 104,974,051*

*Summary: Red Crescent societies in neighbouring countries to Iraq remain in a high state of preparedness as increasingly major population movements are reported within Iraq. Movements of people across borders have been thus far relatively small but the future impact of the armed conflict on vulnerable people is uncertain. Red Crescent societies, with Federation support, are well braced to deal with the situation if it deteriorates.*

## **Situation w**

Considerable uncertainty regarding the duration, size and the humanitarian impact of the military action in Iraq still remains. According to information from the Red Crescent Societies and Federation delegations in the countries neighbouring Iraq, there are no reports of mass cross-border movements into neighbouring countries. The Federation, however, closely monitors the situation in Iraq, including information from the ICRC within that country.

These reports state that several hundreds of thousands of people left their homes and are displaced in northern Iraq. This number includes those who left their homes in the cities in pursuit of relative safety in rural areas as well as smaller numbers of people who fled to the Kurdish area from other towns such as Mosul and Kirkuk. There is a group of several thousand of vulnerable people concentrated in Dohuk and Arbil. Reports from Arbil area, however, state that there has been some movement back to towns due to the extreme cold in the highest parts of the country. According to the local authorities, in Sulaymaniyah governorate, some 22,350 internally displaced people (IDP) have been identified around Penjwin, close to the Iranian border. It seems that these IDPs do not seek to cross the border into Iran, some have even begun returning home while new people arrive.

The main concerns in big cities such as Baghdad and Basra are related to health and water/sanitation as water treatment plants suffer from the attacks. ICRC also remains concerned about the situation in other urban centres south of Basra that have been disconnected from the water supply network since last Friday.

The official political position of the governments in the neighbouring countries has not changed while according to the UN security classification Syria remains in phase 1, Jordan in phase 2, Kuwait in phase 4 and Iraq in phase 5.

The national societies in the countries neighbouring Iraq, supported by the Federation, are ready to deliver effective assistance to the people of Iraq in the event of a large population movement across the borders. Since the beginning of the hostilities, small scale border crossings have been registered only into Jordan and Syria. The national society in Jordan and Syria continue to extend support to the third country nationals traversing these countries on their way home from Iraq.

The remaining outstanding funding related to the pre-positioned non-food relief items is presented in the attached Mobilisation table and refers to the items which have been procured locally.

## **Operational developments and Red Cross and Red Crescent action w**

**Jordan:** The weather has deteriorated over the last 24 hours with bitter cold and winds. Out of 400 tents, a number have been blown away or collapsed. One tent caught fire as a kerosene lamp was overturned. However, the fire was extinguished by the on-camp fire brigade.

Jordan has been receiving a small but steady flow of third country nationals. On 22 March it was reported that 474 third country nationals had entered Jordan from Iraq since 20 March including 41 children.<sup>1</sup> They were mostly Sudanese, Somali, Chadian and Egyptian. Many of them were processed immediately and they continued their travel to their countries of origin. On 23 March, 170 remained, additionally including Djiboutians, Eritreans, Malians, Yemenis and South Africans. A total of 21 Palestinians who arrived yesterday and were supposed to stay only overnight, have remained in the Jordanian Red Cross camp B due to issues related to their travel documents.

IOM has developed their reporting format related to the movement of third country nationals and according to the latest information, the population in the camp is 169. Reportedly, there are five people stuck at the border due to problems with their documents..

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<sup>1</sup> Source of information: IOM statistics

The Jordanian Red Crescent camp B is fully managed by the Jordanian Red Crescent staff and volunteers (organised in teams with team leaders). The Federation provides support and advice. All three rub halls have been installed and the kitchen is now serving hot meals. Water is trucked from Ruwashed as camp A is not operational yet nor is the water plant.

There are two small basic health units in the camp. One is manned by the Medical Union of Jordan in agreement with the president of Jordanian Red Crescent. This basic health care unit comprises one doctor and 2 nurses and 25 beds equipped for minor surgeries and a laboratory. In addition, there is a Jordanian Red Crescent health clinic working in co-ordination with the one mentioned above. Around 50 cases have been registered in the last 3 days: 1 epileptic, 1 heart attack (referred to hospital), other cases mostly: fever, flu and diarrhoea. Lately, one child of Yemeni nationality with TB has been also referred to hospital.

Tracing organised by the ICRC representatives in the camp is running smoothly. There have been 367 telephone calls and 471 assistance requests registered so far. ICRC is planning to start training for up to 25 volunteers on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as training materials and posters are ready.

The president of the Jordanian Red Crescent visited the camp and there was a lot of media attention during the day. A press conference was held.

**Syria:** The Syrian Red Crescent supported by the Federation delegation mostly remains in a preparedness phase, pending any possible influx of refugees or third country nationals into Syria. However, small groups of third country nationals fleeing the conflict in Iraq have started arriving to Syria. 12 Moroccans were assisted immediately and continued their travel. The arrangements for transferring them to their final destination are made by IOM. However, the Syrian Red Crescent with the support of the Federation, may assist with provision of basic health and relief.

Currently, the national society headquarters is maintaining follow up with its branches alongside the Iraqi border to ensure the flow of information in relation to a possible influx. An uncertain situation in northern Iraq may lead to a quick saturation of refugees crossing to Syria.

In such a case, the national society's contingency preparedness of 5,000 refugees may need to be quickly reinforced to accommodate the additional number of up to 20,000 people. The Syrian Red Crescent is responsible for shelter, sanitation and basic health care at border reception points. The national society will also provide temporary shelter, relief and sanitation requirements for transit of third country nationals.

The Syrian Red Crescent and Federation delegation representatives have visited Deir ez Zor and Al bukamal/Abu Kamal. Meetings were held with local government representatives, the local branch in Abu Kamal as well as with the IOM office in Deir ez Zor. The national society has been asked to coordinate all requests from NGOs to assist at Abu Kamal.

The Syrian Red Crescent refugee camp is 7 km from Abu Kamal town, 3 km from Syrian/Iraqi border. Survey of preparations is underway: 100 family tents, provided by local government in Deir ez Zor; demarcation of site and preparation of ground are almost complete. Electricity is being installed. Back-up generators are in place. Latrines and sanitation units are under construction.

The national society and Federation technicians also visited the proposed site at al Tan. Although some limited infrastructure is in place, it is agreed that the focus for the national society will be at Abu Kamal. The national society will locate 20 volunteers at Abu Kamal on Thursday. The Federation delegates will have only the support function. The national society has office space near the site location for administration, camp management and tracing activities of the ICRC.

The Syrian Red Crescent will provide initial sanitation and basic health care facilities, pending any identified need for mobilisation of further resources through deployment of the emergency response units.

The national society has organised the operational training workshops for 150 staff and volunteers in camp management; health; site location; water and sanitation standards and requirements. A disaster management training workshop for 20 volunteers from 10 branches is scheduled to begin in Damascus on Sunday, 23 March, has been postponed till further notice.

UN agencies have completed preparations for shelter, food, health and relief support to a figure of 11,500 refugees entering Al Hol. Preparedness is targeted at 20,000 people. UNICEF and WHO support UNHCR. WFP will supply food requirements to all refugee camps, with an agreement now signed with the government for local provision of 100,000 metric tonnes (MT) of food items on loan basis from national stocks, with a monthly local procurement of 25,000 MT of wheat flour, as required.

As the national society is co-ordinating the implementation of any humanitarian response in Syria, it has been also appointed as focal point for requests from international NGOs. The Federation supports the national society as a focal point for liaison with UN agencies and international donor agencies. The co-ordination mechanisms between the national society and ICRC in Syria have been established through dissemination related to the Movement activities in Syria.

No international media is currently present to report on activities in Syria. There is good national media coverage of the national society activities, particularly because of the national society's high profile after it responded to flooding at Zeizoun dam in 2002. Contacts for a co-ordinated Movement response to media and public relations have been established between the national society, the Federation and ICRC.

**Iran:** No border-crossings registered. However, the national society continues preparations on the 10 identified camp sites in the provinces of Khuzestan, Ilam and Kermanshah with plans for up to 200,000 people. Lately, the capacity at provincial and local levels in West Azerbaijan and Kordestan have been also mentioned.

The Iranian Red Crescent raised the issue of co-operation with the ICRC in the eventuality of a cross border relief support in the northern provinces of Iraq and Iran related to possible growing need of relief activities on both sides of the northern border. In both cases the Iranian national society would provide relief items, using primarily the logistic support of ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent as partners in a cross border operation. In accordance with its mandate and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement regulations the Iranian Red Crescent would not enter Iraqi territory with Iranian Red Crescent staff and volunteers. An assessment of the capacity on the Iraqi side, in which the ICRC office in northern Iraq could take the lead in co-operation with the Iraqi Red Crescent was suggested.

The joint Norwegian, Austrian and Japanese Red Cross assessment mission related to possible deployment of the health and water/sanitation emergency response units has started their work facilitated by the Iranian Red Crescent. They have already been granted access to the camp sites in the southern provinces and will start with Kermanshah.

**Turkey:** No border-crossings registered. At the same time, the Turkish Red Crescent has established a general co-ordination unit for humanitarian assistance in Diyarbakir, Regional co-ordination Unit in Silopi and a logistics unit in Gaziantep which was also declared the first arrival point for relief items.

Also in Diyarbakir, a press and information centre for local and foreign journalists was established.

The national society has recently organised the psycho-social emergency response training for 193 national society staff. Main areas of training included general orientation, workers support, psycho-social first aid, community mobilisation. The Turkish Red Crescent psycho-social support coordinator plans to deploy some staff to Silopi at the earliest. As no other national society in the region has been engaged in psycho-social support programmes, the Turkish Red Crescent would like to strengthen the cooperation in this field. Copies of the programme material used by the Turkish national society have been already disseminated to other Federation delegations in the region for further sharing with their counterpart national societies.

ICRC started discussions for a temporary office in Turkey in order to be in a position to better co-ordinate and support their activities inside Iraq.

**Kuwait:** Border crossings between Kuwait and Iraq are officially still open only for military traffic. However, the government convoy of 7 heavy trucks with ready-to-eat meals and water was sent across the border into Iraq (Safwan) in the morning of 26 March. Within an independent action, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent also sent a convoy of 5 trucks with ready-to-eat meals and water, midday on 26 March. As no prior assessment had taken place, this distribution was “a disaster” as vice chairman of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent told BBC News Online.

### **Coordination/Relationship management w**

The Federation points out once again the importance of the continued co-ordinated action of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the spirit of neutrality and impartiality. The national societies in the region supported by the respective Federation delegations need to continue to adhere to a co-ordinated approach in this operation in order to fulfil the set objectives and contribute to alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable in the best possible way.

Co-ordination and information sharing has continued also through inter-agency meetings both at country and Geneva levels. In order to further strengthen the co-ordination between the Federation and other agencies, a Federation representative has been appointed in Cyprus to liaise with the UN Co-ordination Centre.

At headquarters level, the Framework agreement has been signed between the Federation and UNHCR which will be further translated into country documents involving another partner i.e. relevant national societies.

Since the launch of the appeal, the Federation secretariat has had an intensive exchange of information with different stakeholders. Teleconferences have been organised jointly with the ICRC with participating national societies, meetings have been held for the permanent missions and UN agencies in Geneva. Joint ICRC and Federation approach has been highly appreciated by the participants. By the end of last week, 26 participating national societies participated in teleconferences while 36 permanent missions and 6 UN and other agencies attended the meeting organised by the Federation on Tuesday, 25 March. Global corporate partners have been also contacted and their support has been sought.

As regards the electronic media, the Federation home page now incorporates a special page on Iraq which is maintained also in Arabic. Banners in Arabic have been posted on several most visited Internet sites.

### **Federation Delegation w**

Further to the information provided in the organigram which was attached to the appeal document, some delegations have been further strengthened by several new arrivals including the information delegate for the Spanish speaking audience in Amman and pre-ERU deployment delegates in Amman, Damascus and Teheran. Several others are still in the pipeline for Iran, Turkey Syria and Jordan.

### **Outstanding needs w**

Please refer to the attached List of Pledges (Annex 1) and the page with the outstanding needs of the Mobilisation table (Annex 2). For a detailed Mobilisation table, refer either directly to the Logistics and Resource Mobilisation department mentioned below or visit the Iraq page in disaster management information system (DMIS).

The Federation would highly appreciate un-earmarked contributions which would enable enough flexibility to provide assistance depending on further developments of the situation.

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*Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact Birgitte Stalder Olsen, birgitte.olsen@ifrc.org, and Phone:41 22 730 42 45; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95 in the Federation's Logistics and Resource Mobilization Department to avoid any unnecessary delays in the clearance and delivery of emergency relief assistance.*

*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.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.*

*For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.*

John Horekens  
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External Relations

Ali Said Ali  
Head  
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Iraq - Humanitarian crisis						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 08/2003		PLEDGES RECEIVED				28.03.2003
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>111'039'000</b>		<b>5.3%</b>
AMERICAN - RC		15'000	USD	20'400	07.03.03	SYRIA RC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AMERICAN - RC		15'000	USD	20'400	07.03.03	JORDAN RCS DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AMERICAN - RC		100'000	USD	136'000	20.03.03	THE REGION
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID				50'000	07.08.2002	IRAQ
BRITISH - RC		10'000	GBP	22'425	19.02.03	SYRIA CONTINGENCY RELIEF STOCKS
BRITISH RC/DFID		490'196	GBP	1'052'941	21.03.03	THE REGION
DANISH - RC		462'500	DKK	90'650	11.12.2002	IRAQ
DANISH - GOVT		5'634	USD	7'648	13.01.03	REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
DANISH - RC		925'000	DKK	182'225	20.03.03	
FINNISH - RC		40'000	EUR	58'656	12.12.2002	SYRIA & JORDAN CONTINGENCY
FINNISH - GOVT		144'231	EUR	211'082	05.03.03	IRAQ
GERMAN - RC				50'000	04.02.03	IRAQ
ICELANDIC - RC		6'000'000	ISK	105'330	24.03.03	THE REGION
ITALIAN - RC		100'000	EUR	146'350	21.03.03	
ITALIAN - GOVT		100'000	EUR	146'350	20.03.03	
JAPANESE - RC		10'000'000	JPY	121'140	16.12.2002	IRAQ
JAPANESE - RC		415'904	USD	565'629	24.03.03	
NETHERLANDS - RC		89'345	EUR	130'756	27.02.03	MOBILISATION TABLE
NEW ZEALAND - RC		25'000	NZD	18'763	04.03.03	IRAQ
NORWEGIAN - RC		67'445	NOK	13'521	10.12.2002	REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		503'000	NOK	101'204	29.10.2002	IRAQ
NORWEGIAN - RC		5'000'000	NOK	943'750	24.03.03	
SPANISH - RC		66'000	EUR	96'063	17.01.2003	REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	159'000	11.10.2002	IRAQ
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'250	20.02.03	SYRIA
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'250	20.02.03	JORDAN
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'250	21.03.03	SYRIA
SWEDISH - GOVT		500'000	SEK	80'250	21.03.03	JORDAN
SWISS - GOVT				225'000	18.10.2002	IRAQ
SWISS - RC				6'500	13.03.03	PROGRAMME SUPPORT
SWISS - GOVT/RC				230'000	19.03.03	JORDAN
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>5'232'783</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>4.7%</b>



<b>LOGISTICS AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION DEPARTMENT</b>								
<b>Outstanding Need on 26.03.2003</b>								
<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Quantity needed</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Unit price EXW (CHF)</b>	<b>Freight (CHF)</b>	<b>Total Unit cost (CHF)</b>	<b>Total cost</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Outstanding Need</b>
<b>REGIONAL STOCK IN JORDAN</b>								
Matresses	40'000	pce	6	0.6	6.60	264'000	0	-264'000
<i>ITEM CODE: HFURBEDSMATF02</i>								
Pillows	24'000	pce	2	0.5	2.50	60'000	0	-60'000
<b>SYRIA Contingency stock</b>								
Matresses	5'000	pce	6	0.6	6.60	33'000	4'300	-700
<i>ITEM CODE: HFURBEDSMATF02</i>								
Pillows	3'000	pce	2	0.5	2.50	7'500	0	-3'000
<b>CONTINGENCY IN TURKEY</b>								
Kerosene Stove, wickless	16'000	pce	3.74	0.7	4.44	71'040	0	-16'000
<i>ITEM CODE: HSHEHEATK2</i>								
Kerosene Heater 5.2 Ltr	16'000	pce	32		32.00	512'000	0	-16'000
Matresses	40'000	pce	11	1	12.00	480'000	11433	-28'567
<i>ITEM CODE: HFURBEDSMATF02</i>								
Kitchen Sets - 5 persons	16'000	pce	21.31	1.24	22.55	360'800	12021	-3'979
<i>ITEM CODE: KRELCOOSETA</i>								
Jerry Cans (20 Ltr) for water	16'000	pce	2.7	0.48	3.18	50'880	1127	-14'873
<i>ITEM CODE: HCONJCAN20</i>								
Jerry Cans (20 Ltr) for kerosene	16'000	pce	2.7	0.48	3.18	50'880	0	-16'000
Kerosene Lamps	16'000	pce			2.77	44'320	0	-16'000
Towel	48'000	pce	1.3	0.2	1.50	72'000	0	-48'000
<i>ITEM CODE: HHYGPERSHOW</i>								
Soap sets ( 5 pcs /100gr)	16'000	set			1.17	18'720	0	-16'000
<i>ITEM CODE: HHYGSOAP100G</i>								
Plastic sheetings (roll 60X4)	100	roll	150.13	20.95	171.08	17'108	0	-100
<i>ITEM CODE: HSHETARPW10X4/6</i>								

Annex 2