

# 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 - FOCUS ON JORDAN***

*14 April 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. 08/03*

*Launched on 20 March 2003 for CHF 111,039,000 (USD 79,776,929 or EUR 75,481,631) for 9 months for 305,000 beneficiaries.*

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

*Beneficiaries: 305,000*

*Operations Update No. 04 ;*

*Period covered: 20 March - 10 April 2003;*

*Last Update: 9 April 2003;*

*Next Update 05 expected 18 April 2003*

### **IN BRIEF**

*Appeal coverage: 10.6%*

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

*Outstanding needs: CHF 99,084,581*

*Summary: Since the beginning of the operation, Jordan has seen a steady, although limited, flow of people fleeing hostilities in Iraq. As such, this operations update focuses on the preparedness and response efforts of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society (JRCS) to assist third country nationals in their transit through Jordan. The national society, supported by the Federation, has quickly set up an effective response plan to assist up to 5,000, with a possible extension to 25,000 people. JRCS is hosting a camp for third country nationals, which hosts an average of 250 people daily. In cooperation with UN and a number of NGOs, JRCS assists the beneficiaries with basic food and non-food items, health care and water and sanitation facilities.*

### Operational Developments w

On 20 March, the Federation launched an appeal to assist up to 305,000 people who may be forced to flee the conflict in Iraq and seek refuge in the neighbouring countries of Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Kuwait. In the first phase of the appeal, which is estimated to last approximately 3 months, the focus has been on reinforcing effective disaster response capacity of the Red Crescent Societies in Iraq and neighbouring countries, involving updated contingency plans, pre-positioning of relief stocks, as well as disaster response training. Taking into account the capacity of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society, the target population for this anticipated operation in Jordan has been limited to 5,000 people but with possible extension to 25,000.

To this date, there have been no major population movements outside Iraq. The largest number of people fleeing Iraq has passed through Jordan. Since the registration began on 24 March, a total of 797 arrivals and 602 departures has been registered with IOM. The majority of people fleeing Iraq have been third country nationals (TCNs), as per the table below:

ORIGIN	IN CAMP	ARRIVALS	DEPARTURES
Chad	0	10	10
Djiboti	0	11	11
Egypt	0	114	114
Eritrea	2	2	0
Ireland	0	1	1
Iraqi	6	7	1
Japan	0	2	2
Jordan	4	6	2
Lebanon	0	1	1
Mali	0	1	1
Morocco	0	38	38
Palestine	24	55	31
Somalia	95	126	31
South Africa	0	28	28
South Korea	0	1	1
Spain	0	2	2
Sudan	64	377	313
UK	0	1	1
USA	0	8	8
Yemen	0	6	6
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>602</b>

Third country nationals have been accommodated in the Ar Ruwayshid camp B, established and managed by JRCS, which is 55 km from the Iraqi-Jordanian border. The nearby camp A, erected by UNHCR for up to 10,000 Iraqi refugees, has remained empty to this date. TCNs who arrive at the border are accompanied by IOM to the camp, where registration and medical check-up take place. Most people are repatriated to their countries of origin at the earliest convenience. The average number of people residing in the camp is 250. Some TCNs, mainly of Sudanese and Somali origin, refuse to be repatriated and choose to stay at the camp until they can return to Iraq. Most of them are students with scholarships in Iraq and afraid that they might lose them should they return home.

In addition, small numbers of TCNs (10 - 20 people, mainly of Palestinian origin and/or families of mixed Jordanian-Palestinian nationalities) occasionally get stranded on the strip of land at the Iraqi/Jordanian border, due to irregular identification documents. They are accommodated in JRCS tents and a rub hall erected at the border crossing, and are assisted with drinking water and sanitation, as well as basic food and non-food relief items. JRCS is actively involved in the efforts to allow them entrance to Jordan and accommodation/registration in the camp B as soon as possible.

## **Coordination w**

In addition to the overall operational coordination lead by the Geneva Support Group, intense coordination efforts have been underway at the country level, among JRCS and the Federation, ICRC, UN agencies and a number of NGOs present in Jordan.

The Federation is continuing to support JRCS efforts through a successful coordination of PNS assistance to this operation. The Spanish Red Cross representative has been present in the country since the beginning of the operation, and is looking at the ways to support JRCS in areas where gaps still exist.

There is a close cooperation between JRCS, the Federation and ICRC in Jordan. ICRC has signed an agreement with the national society on the implementation of the explosive remnants of war (ERW) awareness-raising project. According to the agreement, JRCS volunteers will be trained to raise awareness of the civilian population, essentially refugees and TCNs, on the dangers of ERW.

The JRCS has signed a number of cooperation agreements with external partners, aimed at ensuring complementarity in providing assistance to the TCNs. Those include IOM on the issue of TCN registration and several aspects of camp management, NGOs like the Evangelical Church and Jordanian Baptist Association in the food sector, UNICEF who have established the camp school, etc. In the sphere of health, regular meetings of the Health Sector Group are being hosted by WHO.

Nonetheless, there has been an increasing discrepancy between a large number of NGOs with resources and will to provide assistance in Jordan, on one hand, and a limited number of people in the camp, on the other hand. This resulted in a number of unsolicited donations, often not preceded by any official announcement to JRCS or the Federation. To prevent duplication of efforts and improve coordination, IOM and JRCS organized an inter-agency meeting in Amman on 2 April. Possible re-positioning of goods and equipment from the UNHCR camp A (currently empty) to the JRCS camp B was discussed. NGOs were requested to submit formal offers of assistance to IOM and JRCS.

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

In line with its disaster response capacity, and supported by the Federation, JRCS has been active in preparing for a potential influx of refugees since the beginning of the operation. In the first month, efforts have been concentrated on setting up the camp and ensuring its effective functioning in cooperation with a number of external partners. At the same time, JRCS is involved in the regional and global Movement efforts to plan for an effective provision of assistance to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the vulnerable population in Iraq in the second phase of the operation, following the cessation of military activities.

## **Objectives, activities and results w**

This operational update will summarise the achievements of JRCS and the Federation in Jordan with reference to the first objective of each sector, as specified in the emergency appeal. The second objective per sector will not be addressed here, as it is to be tackled in the second phase of the operation.

## **Health and care w**

### **Objective: The health situation of the targeted population is maintained at satisfactory level within the emergency period of 3 months.**

To respond to the basic health needs of the TCNs, JRCS, in cooperation with the Jordanian Medical Association, set up a basic health clinic in the camp B. The clinic was managed by approximately 15 doctors and nurses, and equipped with 8 beds, as well as the basic medical equipment and material. An average of 30 patients have been treated each day, mostly for upper respiratory tract infections, gastro-enteritis and similar problems. To this date, 5 cases of TB have been detected, and patients forwarded to a specialised hospital in Al Mafraq. Medical staff from JRCS and the Japan Platform (consortium of Japanese NGOs) cover health care needs of TCNs stranded at the border, as needed.

The Ministry of Health has set up a full EPI immunization programme for children under 5 and all TCNs who are staying in the camp for more than 7 days. The same target groups have been identified for measles vaccination and vitamin A supplements.

On 8 April, the Jordanian Medical Association withdrew its health team and equipment from the camp, in view of the absence of need for clinic services there. JRCS health staff will continue to maintain a basic health post in the camp, and all cases needing further attention will be referred to a hospital in the nearby town of Ar Ruwayshid.

## **Water and sanitation w**

### **Objective 1: The water and sanitation situation of the targeted population is maintained at satisfactory level with the emergency period of 3 months.**

The JRCS has set up 3 fixed water tanks in the camp, one with capacity of 22,000 litres and two of 15,000 litres each, which are supplied with water brought by government trucks from the town of Rwayshid, 23 km away from the camp. Regular laboratory testing of the bacteriological quality of water is carried out, as well as periodical flushing of tanks, in view of the accumulating sediment, caused by windy weather conditions in this desert area. All laboratory results have been positive and the water is safe for drinking. The tanks are supplying water to 28 wash basins, 44 taps, 130 latrines and 30 showers in the camp, constructed by JRCS. Additional 90 latrines and 20 showers are currently under construction.

Cleaning of sanitation facilities and solid waste disposal are regularly carried out by JRCS volunteers.

A number of NGOs active in the camp have been distributing bottled water, which is especially targeting children under five, pregnant and breast-feeding women. The wet-feeding programme for children is using boiled bottled water, as a measure of precaution to avoid possible water-borne diseases.

## **Relief distribution of food and basic non-food items w**

### **Objective 1: The general condition of the targeted population is maintained within the emergency period of 3 months.**

All TCNs accommodated in the camp B are provided with basic non-food items, including mattresses, pillows, blankets, kerosene heaters and lamp, jerry cans, soap and towels. The feeding is organised by the Jordanian Evangelical Church Relief and Development (JERCAD), while the Jordanian Baptist Association is carrying out wet-feeding programme for approximately 20 children under five years of age. A number of NGOs have been providing food and non-food donations, often on an ad hoc basis and without prior announcement. Efforts are being made by JRCS and the Federation to coordinate those spontaneous contributions.

Following WHO recommendations, JRCS is looking for ways to improve the quality of food distributed in the camp, by including supplements such as canned meat, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables. Possible Spanish Red Cross support in this respect is currently being looked into, and will depend on the existing resources.

## **Shelter w**

### **Objective 1: Adequate shelter facilities are maintained for the targeted population for the emergency period of 3 months.**

At present, there are approximately 250 - 300 tents in the camp B, hosting an average of 250 TCNs, out of the total capacity of 5,000 people, as well as a some 150 JRCS volunteers, IOM and ICRC, security and other support services. In addition, three rub halls are used as a kitchen, a warehouse and camp administration, respectively. IOM has set up two rub halls used for registration of TCNs (one for arrivals and departures each). UNICEF has erected a small rub hall that hosts the camp school for some 50 children in the camp. Basic infrastructure, such as the road, electricity supply and lighting, has been set up and is fully functional.

Both JRCS and UNHCR camps are located on a harsh desert terrain prone to strong winds and sand storms. On 8 April, after a night of heavy winds, the camp B has sustained considerable damages. Preliminary reports indicate that approximately 50% of family tents collapsed, as well as the JRCS camp administration tent, the rub hall hosting the UNICEF camp school, and two tents providing medical services. No injuries among TCNs have been recorded. The repair work has been undertaken immediately by JRCS volunteers. Similar weather conditions are expected to continue in the coming weeks, for which reason JRCS and the relevant government ministries are looking for more permanent solutions. In that respect, and a possible re-location of the camp residents to the nearby town of Ar Rwayshid.

### **National Society Capacity Building w**

During this first phase of the operation, the Federation is offering on-the-job training and technical advice to JRCS staff and volunteers on the issues of camp management, relief, logistics, health and water and sanitation. At the same time, the Federation is presently looking at the possibility to use this experience to build the capacity of JRCS in the spheres of disaster management, volunteer management and related areas. Following the consultations with JRCS, precise development opportunities will be identified and training plans and curricula designed.

### **Federation Delegation w**

In order to provide adequate support to JRCS in the management of this operation, the Federation has set up a disaster management team in Amman, consisting of four expatriate staff with expertise in camp management, relief, logistics and reporting. In addition, the Federation's regional delegation in Amman is extending all its support in the spheres of health, water and sanitation, information, as well as disaster management. Further needs for support to JRCS will be considered depending on the development of the situation with respect to population movements from Iraq into Jordan, and the new role of the national society in the second phase of the humanitarian crisis operation in Iraq.

### **Advocacy/Public Information w**

The Federation's regional information team is providing full support in the efforts to disseminate information on the JRCS activities to the public through the media. It is also stressing the mandate of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in this humanitarian crisis, as well as its fundamental principles and values.

To achieve that and accommodate increasing media requirements, the regional delegation's information unit, normally staffed with a delegate and an officer, has been reinforced with an audio-visual delegate documenting the operation with photos and video footage, as well as three information delegates. Two of them are responsible for the German- and Spanish-speaking media, thus widening the scope of information activities that were already targeting Arabic-, English- and French-speaking media.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the six-member regional information team gave interviews and briefings to more than 110 media from at least 25 countries. Six stories and a photo gallery were posted on the Federation's web site to illustrate the JRCS response to the current crisis, as well as its pre-war preparations.

### **Outstanding needs w**

As part of the initial contingency planning, JRCS has been equipped with basic non-food items necessary to cover the needs of 5,000 people for 3 months. The stock includes the following:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Tents	1'000
Stoves	1'000
Mattresses	5'000
Kitchen sets	1'000
Lamps	1'000
Soap	5'000
Blankets	5'000

Heaters	1'000
Pillows	5'000
Jerrycans	2'000
Towels	3'000
Plastic sheeting rolls	100

Moreover, the Federation regional preparedness stock has the capacity to assist the additional population of 20,000 in Jordan if needed. Should the situation on the ground change, and/or once the second phase of the operation begins, programmes, capacities and needs will be revised and communicated to donors. In the meantime, all additional support to JRCS in this operation should be coordinated with the national society and the Federation.

For more details on the overall funding status of the operation, please refer to the attached list of pledges (Annex 1), or a detailed resource mobilisation table, which can be sought from the Logistics and Resources Mobilisation department mentioned below.

*For further details please contact:*

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*Donors providing in-kind relief in response to large-scale emergencies are urged to contact Birgitte Stalder-Olsen, email: birgitte.olsen@ifrc.org, phone: 41 22 730 4245, fax: 41 22 733 0395 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>.*

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**Disaster Management and  
Coordination Division**

Iraq - Humanitarian crisis						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 08/2003		PLEDGES RECEIVED			14.04.2003	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
<b>CASH</b>						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>111'039'000</b>		<b>TOTAL COVERAGE 10.6%</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
AMERICAN - GOVT/PRM		3'000'000	USD	4'080'000	27.03.03	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/DIFD		490'196	GBP	1'052'941	21.03.03	THE REGION
CHINESE - RC		50'000	USD	68'075	01.04.03	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
FINNISH - RC		95'000	EUR	140'173	01.04.03	THE REGION
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	
ITALIAN - GOVT/BILATERAL EMERGENCY FUND)		900'000	EUR	1'327'950	28.03.03	THE REGION
JAPANESE - RC		10'000'000	JPY	121'140	16.12.2002	IRAQ
JAPANESE - RC		415'904	USD	565'629	24.03.03	
KOREAN, REP. - RC				50'000	04.02.03	THE REGION
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	
PRIVATE DONORS		50'000	USD	68'075	06.04.03	
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
SWISS - GOVT/SDC				100'000	18.03.2003	CAMP PREPARATION IN SYRIA
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH</b>				<b>11'067'056</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

**KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
DANISH - GOVT		86'670	USD	117'655	13.01.03	810 PCES FAMILY TENTS
IRANIAN - RC				75'000	15.02.03	500 TENTS TO SYRIA
NORWAY RC		1'548'900	NOK	310'508	10.12.2002	REGIONAL DP STOCKS
SWISS- RC				100'000	13.03.03	KITCHEN SETS FOR JORDAN WAREHOUSE
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			18'563		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			8'378		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			14'949		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			7'229		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			8'706		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			9'035		
NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			10'678		
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			15'113		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			7'228		
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES</b>				<b>703'042</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

**ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET**

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		135'780	USD	184'321	31.12.02	BILATERAL RELIEF ITEMS
<b>SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED</b>				<b>184'321</b>	<b>CHF</b>	