

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

4 June 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

Appeal No. 08/03

Launched on 20 March 2003 for CHF 111,039,000 for 9 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. 08; Period covered: 01 May - 25 May 2003; last Operations Update (no. 07) issued 21 May 2003; next Update (no. 9) expected 16 June 2003

IN BRIEF

Appeal coverage: 13%

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

Outstanding needs: CHF 96,580,648

Summary: The humanitarian situation in Iraq remains a concern, despite the recovery efforts underway. The Iraqi Red Crescent is beginning to re-establish itself, with successful elections of an interim leadership at the national and at some branch levels. The results of coordinated assessments planned for June will begin to determine the immediate program priorities upon which to base a revised Appeal.

Operational Developments w

With the disruptions and destruction caused by the war, Iraq remains a debilitated state. Health facilities have been extensively looted, and are slowly being restocked by UN agencies, ICRC and NGO organizations. The threat of critical food shortages has been averted by an extensive WFP operation, where large amounts of relief foodstuffs have been transported overland in truck convoys from the neighbouring countries, beginning first into northern Iraq, and then proceeding into the central and southern regions of the country.

Demands for health and medical services continue to outstrip supplies, due to increased morbidity resulting from a breakdown in water, sewage and electric power infrastructure. Impacts of the instability and consequent breakdown of basic services are more severe in the principal cities, and particularly in Baghdad. UNICEF has expressed concern about the increasing cases of diarrhoea in Baghdad, and especially among children, with a deteriorating situation in the capital again due to the shortage of potable water and damage to the health infrastructure.

Cholera levels remain within the norm for this time of year in Iraq, however the approaching seasonal peak of hot weather is aggravating the weakened condition of the more vulnerable, mostly in the cities. WHO is maintaining a heightened status of monitoring and containment as cholera incidents are reported, analyzed, and subsequent mitigation tactics are put into effect -- especially in Basra in the south, Iraq's third largest city after Baghdad and Mosul (Al Mawsil).

The Iraqi Red Crescent is in the early stages of returning to an operational status, having been acknowledged by the international humanitarian community as the first national organization in the country to exercise a free and democratic post-war process of electing its interim governing body. On 8 May -- World Red Cross Red Crescent Day -- representatives from 17 of the 18 branches gathered in Baghdad to discuss immediate priorities and to cast ballots for an interim governing body i.e. executive committee. The process was facilitated and monitored by a special representative of the Federation, who has been accepted by the Iraqi Red Crescent to support and advise on the rebuilding of its governance and organizational structure.

As a result of the 8 May election, the national society now has an interim president, together with four board members elected from the branches, who will serve in a caretaker capacity for six months until a comprehensive election process can take place under revised statutes.

The UN agencies are returning to the country, and re-establishing their operational capabilities in most regions, although security incidents and ongoing instability -- car-jackings, looting, road banditry, and uncertain security conditions for storage facilities -- continue to delay the much-needed re-commencement of UN activities.

The passage on 22 May of UN resolution 1483 lifting sanctions on Iraq, now paves the way for revenues from an estimated 112.5 billion barrels of oil reserves to start getting put to use towards rebuilding a nation torn apart by three wars and twelve years of crippling sanctions.

Signs of a nation awaiting stabilization can be seen in the formal dissolution of the former armed forces, security service and Republican Guard, and in the reinstatement of regular salaries for the civil service -- although the unstable value of the Iraqi dinar is causing an escalation in prices, and eroding the purchasing power of the average Iraqis fortunate enough to be receiving a wage.

Three recent and positive indicators for a potential return to normal civil society: for the first time in 35 years, free elections have taken place to choose the presidents of the universities and the deans of the colleges; in the time since the collapse of the former regime, 13 new newspapers have begun publishing in the country; and a process of general disarmament of the population is beginning, where a permit will be required to carry firearms. Heavy weapons are totally banned, except for designated policing authorities.

In a continuing attempt to curb the flagrant insecurity in parts of the country, an additional 9,000 coalition troops have been assigned to Baghdad, bringing the total military presence in the capital to 25,000; night patrols have been increased in the city, and; armed vehicle patrols by Coalition forces country-wide are averaging 1,000 per day. Even so, the rate and frequency of reported security incidents remain high.

Serious injuries and loss of life continue to be caused by contact with unexploded war ordnance, especially among children who unknowingly handle these dangerous and potentially lethal remnants of the conflict. The UN Mine Action Service is coordinating the mine-related activities of 11 UN departments and agencies, and the ICRC is working actively in its own capacity, and in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent, to educate the population on the dangers of contact with live munitions.

Movement Coordination w

On 13 May, representatives of 33 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies gathered together in Baghdad with representatives of the Federation at a meeting initiated by the ICRC to demonstrate support for the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and to discuss a coordinated response by the Movement to the continuing humanitarian crisis in the country, as well as to strengthen the capacity of IRCS to meet the needs of the Iraqi people. In attendance were an increasing number of so-called non-traditional donors, particularly from neighbouring countries, many of whom who have provided significant support to Iraq in the provision of relief supplies and,

in the case of Syria and Jordan, in the set-up, management and maintenance of transit camps during and after the crisis period.

At the meeting, it was concluded that the Movement's coordinated reinforcement and support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society remains essential, in that IRCS is the only country-wide indigenous humanitarian organization in Iraq. It was agreed that all partners will work together closely on the basis of accurate assessments, with the health sector as a first priority, specifically focused on activities encompassing medical care and hospital/primary health care facilities.

After the 13 May session, a number of informal meetings with representatives of various participating national societies were held during their stay in Baghdad, to begin determining scope of interest in addressing the immediate identified needs. As well, field trips were arranged to two branches south of Baghdad, at Karbala and Najaf.

Members of the Federation's multi-sectoral team that will be conducting comprehensive assessments in Iraq are presently being recruited and put on notice for travel. Eventual geographic coverage will be dictated by the results of a detailed security analysis now underway. The reports from the needs assessments, together with the ongoing discussions among the national society, the Federation, and the ICRC, will form the basis of the Federation's revised Appeal.

Inter-Agency Coordination w

The UN agencies responsible for the myriad humanitarian roles performed by the United Nations organization are now active again to varying extents in Iraq.

The UN has also taken the initiative to begin proactive communications with many NGOs now setting up in the country, in order to coordinate humanitarian operations between the UN agencies, the NGOs, the United States-run Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Affairs (ORHA) , as well as with the relevant Iraqi ministries that are being re-established in the country's 18 governates.

UNHAS, the UN Humanitarian Air Service, together with the UN Joint Logistics Centre, are in the process of moving their operations from Larnaca, Cyprus to Amman, Jordan, which will open up an air route for the movement of humanitarian personnel and relief supplies into Iraq. It is noted that the ICRC, in its unique role under the Geneva Conventions, and with the cooperation of the coalition in Iraq, has maintained passenger and cargo flights into the country from Kuwait City and from Amman, Jordan, on an as-needed basis, for the transport of Movement personnel and relief supplies.

Until the country's central drug distribution system is functioning again, the ICRC is making a large stock of pharmaceutical supplies available, to be distributed through the central pharmacy. The measure is coordinated with the Ministry of Health, WHO and other relevant organizations. ICRC is also monitoring the distributions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action w

The Red Crescent national societies in the countries neighbouring Iraq continue to provide their own material support to the Iraqi Red Crescent, as well as significant quantities of relief supplies coordinated with ICRC being transported into the country from Iran, made possible by public donations to the Iranian Red Crescent, and more recently from Syria, thanks to the Syrian Red Crescent provision of food parcels for distribution to the most vulnerable in Iraq.

In Jordan, the Jordanian Red Crescent maintains its transit camp at the Iraqi border, receiving, feeding and sheltering third country nationals (TCN) seeking repatriation through Jordan to their countries of origin. Numbers remain small, averaging between 200-400 residents in the camp on any given day. A core group of some 200 Sudanese and Somali citizens, who choose to neither return to Iraq nor to their home countries, remain in the camp pending a determination of their eventual onward destination or relocation to the UNHCR camp.

In Syria, the Al Tanf transit camp is now empty of residents, and the Syrian Red Crescent Society (SARC) is monitoring whether to close or maintain this facility, pending possible new arrivals crossing the border from

Iraq. At the other SARC camp, Al Bukamal, the majority of remaining Sudanese and their Iraqi spouses are being repatriated, after the Sudanese government gave permission for IOM, the International Organization for Migration, to accept ICRC-issued travel permits as valid re-entry documents into Sudan.

The Federation delegation in Baghdad is now active again, working closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent and the ICRC to determine initial priorities for action, and to prepare for a series of multi-sectoral assessments, leading to the revision of the Appeal. This process is intended to begin an effective and coordinated Movement initiative for re-building and renewing the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, its programs, and its branches throughout the country.

Jordan

As noted above, the Jordanian Red Crescent maintains its state of emergency preparedness at the transit camp referred to as Camp B.

With the support of the Federation, JRCS staff have completed a 'Lessons Learned' evaluation of their response to date. Current discussions between the Federation and members of the national society charged with disaster-related program activities will lead to a proposal for entrenching and further developing the capacity created to date, as a direct outcome of the Iraq crisis. The intended disaster preparedness, response and management initiatives of JRCS will be described in the forthcoming revised Appeal.

Syria

SARC continues to operate its two transit camps on the border with Iraq. The Al Tanf camp is now empty of third country nationals, and the number of residents at Al Bukamal continues to decline as the remaining Sudanese are repatriated. A decision has not yet been taken to close either camp, however SARC has requested the Syrian government to consider closing the camps as of 1 June. The government response is pending. In the interim, feeding, shelter and health care facilities remain available at both locations until further notice.

With the participation of Federation personnel, SARC has undergone a review of its disaster response activities undertaken since the onset of the crisis, and the conclusions drawn will form the basis of SARC's capacity-building second phase of this crisis response, as an integral part of the revised Appeal.

Iran

The Iranian Red Crescent, although well prepared to play its part in receiving, sheltering and caring for potential refugees fleeing across the border from Iraq, was not required to activate its disaster response plan for Iraq.

The national society instead channelled its energies into a relief campaign for the people of Iraq, accepting significant monetary donations from a concerned Iranian public, which were used to purchase a wide variety of relief supplies then provided in turn to the ICRC for transport into Iraq and subsequent distribution.

The extent of the Iranian Red Crescent participation in a coordinated relief effort will be detailed in the forthcoming Operations Update with special focus on Iran.

Kuwait

Preparations made by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent in its readiness to respond to emergency needs created by the Iraq crisis, and which were not subsequently put to use, have served as a stimulus for expanded disaster preparedness training and development.

Turkey

The reception camps constructed by the Turkish Red Crescent Society, as in Iran, were not required in response to the Iraqi crisis. The TRCS has completed the evaluation of its participation in the Movement's preparedness appeal, the results of which are being integrated into the national society's ongoing program of disaster planning and response.

Iraq

With a newly-elected interim governing body in place, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society is beginning to address its structural and programming priorities. Damage to buildings has not been as extensive as initially feared, although some branches have lost equipment due to looting. The national society owns some but not all of the buildings in use and discussions are underway with rightful property owners on the resolution of occupancy questions brought about by the changed situation.

Some plots of land are owned outright by IRCS, thus the national society has alternative options for relocation, if necessary.

Prior to the war, a network of IRCS primary health care (PHC) clinics had been operative, with more under construction, and an assessment of their physical conditions will help to determine the extent of rehabilitation required for revitalizing this critical community service.

Early consultations in the branches indicates that initial program priorities are the resumption of CBFA - community-based first aid - and health education, which had been prevalent activities prior to the conflict, as well as dissemination of Red Cross and Red Crescent principles and values underscored by the Movement's seven fundamental principles and the tenets of international humanitarian law, the resumption of youth and school programs to complement dissemination outreach, and a psycho-social support program to enable Red Crescent staff and volunteers to be proactive in addressing the post-conflict, post-regime stress and turmoil with which ordinary Iraqi citizens are now struggling.

Relief stocks normally maintained for disaster response and mostly looted during the conflict (in Baghdad) need to be replenished. Also, branches were active in parts of the country at the height of the conflict, with staff and volunteers providing first aid and relief items, and evacuating the wounded. Afterwards, Iraqi Red Crescent helped to identify and bury the dead, registered the missing, and continued with distribution of relief supplies. An evaluation of these experiences will contribute to a renewed disaster preparedness program.

While the needs for a renewal of the Iraqi Red Crescent are many, discussions continue on the ordering of priorities, and the state of basic capacities of the institution to begin again the traditional programs.

Following the planned assessments, and the conclusions drawn from their findings, the revised Appeal will describe the current status and intended plans of the national society, as it works with the Federation and the ICRC to re-establish its presence and to make a meaningful and relevant contribution to the re-building of the country.

Federation Delegation w

The country delegation in Iraq is working closely with the newly-elected governance of the IRCS, and with program staff and volunteers, to help determine best next steps. Delegates in Baghdad, supplemented as needed by program specialists from the regional delegation in Amman, Jordan, are collaborating with their national society counterparts to prepare the groundwork for a comprehensive needs assessment, as well as working with IRCS on draft proposals that will underscore a revised Appeal.

A senior representative from the Federation secretariat is assisting in the institutional change process, and advising on the way forward to help realize a well-functioning national society.

This rebuilding process is a tripartite initiative of the IRCS, the Federation, and the ICRC, given the lead role that ICRC has played in the build-up to, and during the conflict period. ICRC has had a strong presence in Iraq since 1980, and the three entities of the Movement are working together to realize a best possible outcome to achieve the primary mandate of alleviating the suffering of Iraq's most vulnerable -- especially in this era of reborn hope and of new possibilities.

Advocacy/Public Information w

The intense media interest experienced by the information department in Geneva and in the Amman regional delegation has subsided in recent weeks, and media relations staff have mostly returned to other duties. Articles on the rebuilding of the Iraqi Red Crescent continue to be written for and posted on the Federation

web site, and an information delegate is now in Baghdad to provide a local presence for the communication of the latest Red Crescent activities in the country.

Outstanding needs w

Please refer to the attached list of pledges, for detailed information on the coverage of the Appeal. Unearmarked contributions continue to be required to ensure enough flexibility in the design and implementation of the second phase of the operation.

Lists of open positions in Iraq are regularly shared with participating national societies in order to provide information on the needs in human resource. At present, 9 positions are vacant in Iraq, ranging from organisational development (OD) to IT.

Also, donors are requested to coordinate their contributions with the Federation and ICRC, to avoid duplication of assistance and/or gaps in the provision of the same.

For further details please contact:

- *Kalle Loovi, Head of Operations, Europe and Asia, Disaster Management and Coordination Division, Phone: 41 22 730 4281; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: kalle.loovi@ifrc.org*
- *Martin Fisher, Desk Officer for Iraq, Department for Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Phone: 41 22 730 4440; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: martin.fisher@ifrc.org*
- *John English, Regional Disaster Management Officer, Disaster Management and Coordination Division, Phone: 41 22 730 4432; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: john.english@ifrc.org*
- *Jasna Djordjevic, Regional Officer, Disaster Management and Coordination Division, Phone: 41 22 730 4550; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: jasna.djordjevic@ifrc.org*
- *Marie-Françoise Borel, Press Officer, Strategic Communications Department, Phone: 41 22 730 4246; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: marie-francoise.borel@ifrc.org.*

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>

Iraq - Humanitarian crisis						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 08/2003		PLEDGES RECEIVED				04.06.2003
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				111'039'000		13.0%
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
AMERICAN PRIVATE DONOR				3'627	09.05.03	
AMERICAN PRIVATE DONOR		900	USD	1'225	11.04.03	
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT/RC		942'911	AUD	774'601	22.04.03	IRAN
BANGLADESH - PRIVATE DONOR		25'000	BDT	584	22.04.03	IRAQI CHILDREN
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
CANADIAN - RC		25'000	CAD	23'200	09.04.03	THE REGION
CANADIAN - GOVT/CIDA		990'000	CAD	918'720	10.04.03	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	THE REGION
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
IRISH - GOVT		500'000	EUR	737'750	31.03.03	THE REGION
IRISH - RC		25'000	EUR	36'888	07.04.03	THE REGION
ITALIAN - GOVT/BILATERAL EMERGENCY FUND)		100'000	EUR	147'550	20.03.03	SYRIA
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	THE REGION
KOREAN, REP. - RC				50'000	04.02.03	THE REGION
MIRC CORPORATE		24'450	USD	33'240	08.05.03	IRAQ
MONACO - RC		15'000	EUR	22'133	20.03.03	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

NEW ZEALAND - RC		11'140	NZD	8'400	30.05.03	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	THE REGION
PRIVATE DONORS				80'422	02.05.03	
SINGAPORE - PRIVATE DONOR		2'500	EUR	3'689	29.04.03	IRAQ
SPANISH - RC		66'000	EUR	96'063	17.01.2003	REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SPANISH - RC		6'898	EUR	10'178	04.04.03	PROGRAMME MGT SUPPORT
SPANISH - PRIVTE DONORS				208	09.05.03	
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				13'508'696	CHF	12.2%
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
SPANISH - RC		106'120	EUR	156'580	04.04.03	412 FAMILY TENTS FOR JORDAN
SWISS- RC				100'000	13.03.03	KITCHEN SETS FOR JORDAN WAREHOUSE
AMERICAN RC	DELEGATE(S)			12'500		
AUSTRALIA	DELEGATE(S)			18'563		
BELGIUM	DELEGATE(S)			15'277		
DENMARK	DELEGATE(S)			23'326		
FINLAND	DELEGATE(S)			29'075		
GERMANY	DELEGATE(S)			29'897		
ICELAND	DELEGATE(S)			7'229		
GREAT BRITAIN	DELEGATE(S)			11'992		
NETHERLANDS	DELEGATE(S)			9'035		

NORWAY	DELEGATE(S)			10'678		
SPAIN	DELEGATE(S)			15'113		
SWITZERLAND	DELEGATE(S)			7'228		
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				949'656	CHF	0.9%
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
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				184'321	CHF	