

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: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS POST WAR REHABILITATION

5 April 2004

Appeal No. 08/03; Operations Update no. 13

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

The Appeal was revised on 5 September 2003, with budgets reduced to CHF 30,937,000 (USD 22,097,800 or EUR 19,705,100).

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 75,000 during pre-positioning phase early 2003 (refunded);

Period covered by this report: December 2003 to 31 March 2004

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 over 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 65.4%; See the Contributions List on the Federation's website for details:
http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/1-2-3%20-%20Ap0803.pdf

Operational Summary: On 22 December 2003, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) convened a general assembly. The assembly adopted a revised statutes of the organisation. The planned elections were postponed until August/September 2004.

On 29 January 2004, the IRCS leadership was taken over by a new interim board. The Federation and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) responded with a joint statement. On 6 February 2004 a meeting was held in Baghdad between the IRCS new leadership, the Federation and the ICRC to clarify roles and responsibilities of each party. On 20 March, the Interim Governing Council of Iraq appointed a new interim president of the IRCS.

During this difficult period, the Federation, in cooperation with the Nassiriyah Branch of the Iraqi Red Crescent and supported by the Netherlands Red Cross, responded to the needs of people affected by the floods in Nassiriyah. The Federation has also continued training of Red Crescent volunteers and personnel as planned.

Because of the fluctuation of the exchange rates, most of the ongoing construction contracts were renegotiated. This affected the progress of the work – many construction projects were suspended temporarily. Now they have all been restarted.

The PHC rehabilitation project in Rashdiya, funded by the UAE Red Crescent, has entered the final stage of the implementation. It is planned to be completed by mid April 2004. A planned review of the current emergency appeal was also postponed due to the problems within the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Operational developments

Almost all ongoing programmes were brought to a halt in January 2004 following the decisions taken by the IRCS leadership regarding specially trained IRCS programme personnel who were either removed from service entirely or shifted into other roles regardless of their training and experience. The action has also been equally counterproductive for the ICRC.

The delegates are still based in Jordan with occasional visits to Baghdad. The office in Baghdad is managed by the local staff.

Due to the turmoil in the national society and the position of the Movement, it is difficult to proceed with any capacity building and organisational development effort. The delegate team is reducing as contracts come to an end. Most positions will not be renewed pending improvement of the overall situation in the country as well as the IRCS. However, one positive development is the good information being provided to partners via the IRCS reporting officer, who has been mentored in this important role by the Federation's Middle East reporting unit in Amman.

Despite prevailing security and political problems, as well as internal disturbances within the national society, the Federation together with the local branch of the Red Crescent in Nassiriyah purchased and distributed relief items for 187 families in the Nassiriyah area who had lost their houses and possessions following the flooding at the end of December 2004.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress, impact

Organisational Development

A) Foundation, organizational structure and program design and management

Objective 1: The IRCS foundations are strengthened.

Expected results

- The new Statutes were drafted in the participatory manner and adopted at the end of 2003;
- In accordance with the new Statutes a new Governing Board has been elected and approved by the General Assembly of the IRCS;
- Roles of the governance and management being explicitly differentiated in the new Statutes;
- The Governing Board has adopted policies in all relevant fields to include policies on volunteers, youth, human resources, capacity building and communication. All these policies resulted from participatory discussions at all levels.
- The gender issues have been systematically addressed through the programmes after the workshops that have been conducted in 2004;
- National headquarters and the branches have jointly developed a national society strategic planning document in the course of 2004;
- IRCS has been recognized for its contribution to the building of the emerging civil society in the country.

Progress to date

- The new Statutes were adopted at the General Assembly on 22 December 2003.
- Following the change of the national society leadership and the meeting in Baghdad on 6 February 2004, it was planned to convene a new General Assembly and hold elections on 23-24 March 2004. However, because of several political incidents and the bomb attack at national headquarters, it was decided postpone both the assembly and the elections.
- The national society does not have a proper governance board in place yet. According to the information received from the Governing Council of Iraq, there is an attempt to bring the national society back on track and to install a proper governance body.

- Gender issues are continuously being addressed in ongoing activities. The Federation's 'Gender Pack' is being translated into Arabic and will soon be finalised.
- The development of the strategic plan has been suspended until there is stability in the national society.
- The public relations and media base has temporarily been lost. Spokespersons for an independent Red Crescent will have to be put in place.

Objective 2: National humanitarian programmes are redefined and implemented according to the Strategy 2010.

Expected results

- The IRCS (at the headquarters and in the branches) has mapped the vulnerability patterns of the Iraqi population; All branches have tailored their programmes to the needs of the vulnerable sections of the population;
- A four year national society development plan has been drafted during 2004; all activities have been regularly monitored by the national society.
- With an initial support provided by the Federation and the Movement, quality services have been delivered to the target groups;
- Youth volunteers have been profiled and their skills have been systemically used in the provision of humanitarian services;
- The IRCS has delivered special services to the target segments of particularly vulnerable population affected by the war including social and psychological support activities whenever needed.

Progress to date

- The planned VCA workshop has been postponed. Discussions with the branches are planned to start in April and May 2004.
- The work on strategies and development plans is for the time being frozen and will not commence until the national society is considered functioning
- Despite the complex operating environment, certain activities with some branches are possible to address the needs of the vulnerable population. This would be a change from the intended approach through the appeal, but is a reaction to the current problems where the Federation's activities are effectively blocked.
- The work in the five selected branches has been monitored. However, due to the present situation within the national society, this has also slowed down and some activities are not running as they should be.
- A second workshop on the psychological support for volunteers is planned for mid April 2004.



Youth Group, Baghdad Branch

Objective 3: The visibility of the IRCS has increased and the respect for the emblem has been reinforced.

Expected results

- IRCS premises, vehicles and its equipment have been clearly marked with stickers, flags, and displays; IRCS volunteers, youth members and staff members have been wearing uniforms and organizational identifications (t-shirt, vest, badges, caps, ID cards etc.)
- The public at large has been increasingly recognizing and respecting the national society, its emblem, members and activities as a result of the public awareness campaign;
- With the support of the ICRC and the Federation, the IRCS has adopted internal regulations which are clearly stipulating the use of the Emblem;
- Publicity material for the awareness campaign has been produced in Arabic and other languages spoken in Iraq (posters, TV spots, radio ads, etc.)
- The IRCS has established or re-established constructive partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Progress to date

- Uniforms for volunteers have been distributed to all branches. Stickers for vehicles and equipment have been printed and distributed.
- The planned awareness campaigns will restart as soon as the stability in the national society has established.
- No progress has been made on the internal regulations on the emblem. The templates to print a leaflet on the emblem-related issues for Red Crescent volunteers and personnel have been prepared.
- Standard Federation posters have yet to be distributed to hospitals, ministries as well as other organisations.
- As soon as the operations with the IRCS renew, efforts will be directed towards reactivating the contacts with other stakeholders too.

Objective 4: The operational and management capacity of the NS at the headquarters and in the branches has improved.

Expected results

- Nine branch offices have been rehabilitated and nine others provided through rental or construction thus ensuring that each branch has its own premises, training facilities and an appropriate working environment
- All branches have received a needed support in vehicles, equipment, furniture, IT, radio communication and training materials;
- Coordination and communication between the headquarters and the branches and among branches themselves has improved through structured meetings and knowledge sharing panels; The instructions for the use of training equipment have been translated into Arabic as well as training manuals;
- The IRCS has drafted initial fund raising plans during 2004;
- New management systems in administration, finances, human resources, IT, public relations and external and internal communication have been adopted, tested and implemented at the headquarters and in the branches;
- Reporting systems have been in place thus contributing to the transparency and the credibility of the IRCS in relation to its stakeholders.

Progress to date

- Rehabilitation work is ongoing in some of the branches; in others it has been put on hold due to the present situation
- No further distribution of equipment has been done. The two vehicles from the Korean Red Cross are still in the Amman Free Zone and will be delivered as soon as the situation allows.
- The Federation's 'Gender Pack' - a collection of case studies on gender issues for training purposes- is being translated into Arabic.
- A fundraising plan will be developed after the Strategic/Development Plan is finalised.

- The initial assessment of the management systems has been finished. The findings of the assessment will be analysed and further developed when the situation allows.
- A reporting manager of the IRCS is still there. For obvious reasons, for the time being, he is not able to continue his work as planned.

Objective 5: The IRCS is effectively managing its volunteers.

Expected results

- Policies on the IRCS youth and volunteers have been discussed at all levels of the national society. They have been subsequently adopted by the board and implemented during 2004;
- Plans of action for the IRCS youth have been approved and gradually implemented in six branches during 2004;
- The instructions for the use of training equipment have been translated into Arabic as well as the production of appropriate training manuals;
- Systems for the volunteer management have been approved and introduced by mid 2004;
- IRCS volunteers and youth members have been active and committed;
- The volunteer support systems to include reimbursement of expenses, per diems, transportation costs, food, training, rewarding, uniforms, security etc. have been adopted and implemented during the second half of 2003;
- IRCS volunteers and youth members have actively participated in the national and international meetings and Red Cross/Red Crescent youth camps;
- A gender perspective has been taken into account in all the activities that have been implemented by volunteers.

Progress to date

- Policies have been formulated but need to be reviewed and discussed at all levels of the national society.
- The action plan presented has been put into practice and some programmes are ongoing. They will be further developed when the situation allows.
- Production of the training manuals as well as the translation of the instruction for the use of the training equipment, have been postponed to the second half of 2004.
- Systems for the volunteer management are functioning in five branches. More branches will be included in the future.
- Totally 25 youth volunteers have been recruited in five branches. Ten of them are female.
- A system of benefits has been developed and a printed in October 2003.
- Another training session for volunteers on the psycho-social support is planned in April 2004 in Amman.
- The gender issue has been addressed through programmes/activities and substantial progress has been achieved. However, further improvements are required.



Volunteers from Nassiriyah Red Crescent Branch train local communities on disaster preparedness

Impact: Due to the turmoil within the national society – the national headquarters as well as some of the branches – it is difficult to measure the impact. However, as reported above, a small-scale relief operation was carried out in response to the floods in Nassiriyah. The operation gave some indications of the capacity – the management and volunteers - of the Red Crescent branch in this region. The work was carried out smoothly and all goods were distributed to the families in need. It is obvious, however, there is a need for further training for branch volunteers and staff.

Constraints: The general security situation, which restricts the movement within the country and hampers planned activities, has been the main obstacle and is unlikely to change in the near future. In addition, the turmoil within the national society has added to difficulties to implement programmes.

The Federation has not yet managed to clarify the situation with regard to its registration in Iraq although the issue has been discussed at high levels in the US and Iraq. The deadline for registration is 1 May 2004.

Federation Coordination: Meetings with the leading agency, the ICRC, and the Iraqi Red Crescent have become less frequent although the dialogue with them has been maintained to address the current impasse. Specific meetings have also been held with the ministry of foreign affairs, French, Korean and Italian Red Cross Societies as well as the UAE Red Crescent and other donors/interested parties, both in Amman and Baghdad.

B) Physical Rehabilitation: transfer of technical expertise

Objective: The Iraqi Red Crescent rehabilitation and maintenance department gained the needed technical and managerial skills to operate independently and has rehabilitated a number of buildings and/or water/sanitation plants owned or managed by the National Society.

Expected Results

- An appropriate technical support infrastructure, with an immediate focus on the maintenance of already existing IRCS health facilities and water sanitation projects has been established;
- A joint IRCS/Federation rehabilitation and maintenance department has been established to support and train national society staff to manage designated building rehabilitation of three PHCs, of the IRCS Maternity Hospital in Baghdad and other interventions on infrastructural systems owned or managed by the IRCS;
- The necessary and related technical skills in water and sanitation engineering according to established SPHERE standards have been transferred to the IRCS;
- An independent IRCS rehabilitation and maintenance department has been fully functional by the end of 2004;

- A functional cooperation network with stakeholders such as ICRC, NSs, international organizations and NGOs;
- The results achieved by the NS rehabilitation and maintenance department have been contributing to the overall profile, recognition and relevance of the National Society and this has been communicated to external stakeholders;

Progress to date

- The IRCS is now able to handle all technical and maintenance support on its own.
- The joint office has been divided due to the turmoil in the national society and the Federation contracted team has returned to the Federation office. The joint office will resume when the situation allows.
- The UAE RC-funded PHC project in Rashdiya will be completed in mid April 2004. The two planned buildings (Suleymaniah and Basra), funded by the German Red Cross, to be used as psycho-social support training centres have been delayed for different reasons : in Suleymaniah, the authorities demanded a building permit at the last minute and in Basrah, neighbours caused problems and threatened the contractor. The work in Suleymaniah has now resumed. In Basrah, the contractor, even though the neighbour has now left, decided to withdraw. The rehabilitation of the Paediatric Surgical Hospital and the Maternity Hospital will commence in the beginning of April
- All planned training has been finished.
- The new rehabilitation office is self supporting with regard to technical and knowledge capacity. The planned training has been completed.
- The rehabilitation office is constantly in contact with other non-governmental organisations, the ICRC, Federation and other relevant agencies.
- The process of improved public relations is ongoing and is coordinated with the information department.

Impact: The national society has profiled the rehabilitation office in a way that it is well recognised by the local authorities, the Movement components and other relevant parties.

2. Health and Care

A) Community-Based Health Intervention (CBHI)

Objective 1: The IRCS has an increased capacity in planning, organizing and implementing the Health Education programme in the PHCs and the community, and organizing volunteer participation in National Immunization Campaigns (NIDs), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF.

Expected Results

- Nine hundred thousand (900,000) beneficiaries in all 18 governorates have benefited from a health campaign for the prevention of diarrhoea and dehydration, malnutrition, and HIV/AIDS, through the implementation of Home-Visit or activities, and health education in PHC centres and other public institutions.
- Volunteers have participated as an independent monitoring body in immunization campaigns in all governorates.
- Oral Rehydration Units (ORU) attached to Primary Health Care (PHC) centres in high-risk areas of the cities have been established and operated by volunteers and trainers using the existing CBFA course.
- Health Coordinators at the headquarters and branches have established regular coordination meeting with community leaders in order to ensure community participation in the development of health programmes.
- Beneficiaries were provided with the basic resources for the treatment of diarrhoea, and basic hygiene implements.
- For the purpose of sustaining implementation of the CBHI programme in each identified community, 900 new IRCS volunteers in the country have participated in training courses.
- Communication and consultation has been established and maintained between the IRCS headquarters and the branches.
- Regular communication with relevant international institutions, and with the ministry of health locally in the governorates and nationally (as the ministry of health is reconstituted post-war) has been established in order

to maintain updated information on health problems in the various communities served by the IRCS, and to coordinate and cooperate in health-related programs, as opportunities to do so are identified.

- A Red Crescent health clinic has been constructed in a poor area in Baghdad, preferably Sadr City, and established community based programme with the support of volunteer intervention, and Mother and Child health care services with the support of semi volunteer medical work that serves 300,000 beneficiaries.

Progress to date

- Due to the current problems within the national society, the updated figures are not yet available. According to national society personnel, programmes have resumed and further progress has been achieved.
- Due to the security situation in Iraq, the planned cooperation with the UNICEF with regard to immunisation campaigns has been postponed. Meetings have been held with UNICEF in Amman and further meetings are planned in the near future.
- 75 Oral Re-hydration Units (ORUs) attached to PHCs in high-risk areas have been established and operated by 300 volunteers and trainers. Volunteers were trained in the new CBHI modules.
- 18 health coordinators at branches have established regular coordination meetings with community leaders operative in the physical of selected PHC's, in order to ensure community participation in the development of health programmes.
- Approximately 25,000 beneficiaries have been provided with the basic resources for the treatment of diarrhoea, and basic hygiene implements. Further supplies are planned to be provided for the beneficiaries in the coming period to help tackle more health problems they encounter.
- 300 volunteers have been trained throughout Iraq in the newly established basic CBHI programme.
- Reporting and monitoring system has partly been established. This has to be improved in the beginning of 2004.
- Coordination and communication on a regular basis have been established between branches and ministry of health in respective governorates.
- The construction of a clinic in Baghdad and the establishment of a community based programme and mother and child health care services is planned for the second half of 2004.

Objective 2: The IRCS has an increased capacity in planning, organizing and implementing First Aid and Health Promotion courses in order to improve the National Society volunteer capacity that will enable expansion of volunteer intervention y Red Cross/Red Crescent programs in the country.

Expected Results

- The IRCS at headquarters and branch level have developed their capacity for professional planning and supervision in training program matters.
- Training materials are produced and a training centre has been organized in each branch.
- ToT's are actively implemented in the branches for the health-related programmes.
- The national society in all branches has developed the capacity to plan, organize, and train sectors of the public (i.e. ambulance drivers at national level, school teachers, etc.) as part of a generating income activity.
- National society branches have developed a proficiency in recruitment, scheduling and training of new volunteers in Basic First Aid and for the CBHI program.
- Nine hundred (900) volunteers have been trained in health promotion, four thousand three hundred fifty (4350) in first Aid and ninety (90) in advanced first aid
- As a standard part of their induction, new incoming IRCS volunteers are being trained in Basic First Aid and also oriented to the CBHI program opportunity.

Progress to date

- Planned actions have temporarily stopped and will resume as soon as possible.
- The CBFA training manual is presently being prepared and a draft has been prepared to be reviewed by the national society prior to printing it.
- The CBHI training is still functioning in some of the branches and will be further improved. ToTs are planned for the second half of 2004.

- This activity is postponed indefinitely. This was planned as a pilot project in selected branches as a first step.
- The branches have been able to identify, recruit and train volunteers for the CBHI programme, who are already now active in the field.
- So far, 300 volunteers have been trained in health promotion activities in all branches.
- Upgraded programme training is planned for the second half of 2004.



First Aid training by IRCS Volunteers.

B) Psycho-social programmes

Objective 1: The IRCS volunteers have an improved psychological well-being after being released from tension and stress and their coping strategies and the capacity to provide psychological support to individuals and families in the community have consequently increased.

Expected results:

- All volunteers and staff members have been granted with the possibility of expressing their professional experiences and have been acknowledged for their achievements;
- A supportive working environment for volunteers has been created and the number of active volunteers has increased;
- The IRCS branches have been increasingly aware of the “best practices” in the field of psychosocial support;
- Communities have an increased awareness of the importance of rebuilding people’s emotional well being in highly stressful and traumatic situations as the one in Iraq;
- Capacity and ability to cope with psychologically reactions in the community has strengthened;
- Elements of psychosocial support program have been formally introduced into programs and curricula of the CBHI training, OD and Volunteer management, Youth programs, Principles and values, Tracing, DM;
- Close corporation with ICRC in caring for of volunteers working in tracing and ERWA has been established;

Progress to date

- This will be reactivated when the situation allows
- Due to the present situation there is a tendency that volunteers are abandoning the national society and this need to be re-established.
- This has been brought to a halt.
- Not yet implemented.

- To be evaluated during 2004.
- All planned training programmes and other activities include selected elements with regard to psychosocial support.
- Due to the present security situation this has yet to start. The plan is, pending security clearance, is to start this in the three Northern Governorates.

Objective 2: Six hundred victims of wars were provided with an appropriate vocational education as a part of their psychosocial rehabilitation aimed at empowering coping mechanisms of vulnerable individuals and their communities.

Expected Results

- Two centres for rehabilitation of war victims have been constructed and used for their vocational education.
- Six hundred victims of war have gain new skills and are ready to put them into the practice.
- The psychosocial support groups for victims, their families and communities are fully functional.
- Awareness sessions within the communities on limitations and capacities of victims of war were regularly conducted in the branch.
- The number of war disabled serving as IRCS volunteers is increased by 600 new volunteers per annum.
- Advocacy meetings and public disseminations were taking place
- Radio, television and print publications are being successfully used for program awareness building
- Increased corporation and co-ordination between ICRC, IRCS and specialized NGOs such as Handicap International.

Progress to date

- Due to several unforeseen situations the projects have been delayed and are estimated to be finished only by October/November 2004. Only at that stage can the training programmes, with the associated activities, begin. Certain contacts with the ICRC and the NCCI (NGO Coordination Committee in Iraq) are ongoing.

3. Disaster Management

Objective: The IRCS has an effective disaster preparedness and response mechanism that ensures an optimal utilization of human and material resources in times of emergencies.

Expected results

- The approach of the IRCS to disaster preparedness and response has been systematized through the organizational capacity-building and planning ongoing at HQ and at branch levels.
- By incorporating the results of vulnerability & capacity assessments, the Iraqi Red Crescent has developed, disseminated and begun implementation of the disaster preparedness plan at all levels, linked integrally to a government DP Plan, at such time that national and regional DP plans are in place.
- The IRCS has eighteen Branch Disaster Response Teams in place to respond quickly to known and anticipated hazards and disasters, based on geographical and historical probabilities.
- The IRCS has sufficient technical resources to successfully implement the disaster preparedness programme at all levels.
- The IRCS has developed DM logistics system and has an adequate logistical capacity for responding to minor and medium disasters and related emergency needs
- The Iraqi Red Crescent has an adequate, pre-positioned, basic disaster preparedness stock standing ready at all levels, in order to respond in a timely and adequate manner in times of emergency.
- The access to educational and non-material support for vulnerable populations has improved through the building of capacities for non-food distribution and as an outcome of the DP awareness seminars.

Progress to date

- The system put in place has been disturbed as the trained personnel have left the national society.

- VCA has only been done partly and only in a few of the branches. Further VCA training, assessment and implementation will commence as soon as possible.
- The branch disaster response teams have yet to be formed and implemented. (Compare Pos.2 above).
- The national society has received necessary basic equipment at headquarters level. Branches are still to be fitted out.
- Logistics training and implementation has commenced at headquarters level. Further training will be done when possible.
- Certain emergency relief stocks exist, delivered by the ICRC, Saudi Arabian, Iranian and Turkish Red Crescent Societies. Limited disaster preparedness stocks also exist on the regional level in Jordan for Iraq.
- A short term relief operation for 187 families was carried out in Nassiriyah following the floods. This was supported by the Netherlands Red Cross and Government, the ICRC and the Federation, with most of the goods being bought on the local markets and driven to Nassiriyah. A series of disaster preparedness awareness lectures were carried out for flood victims in Nassiriyah, and some 5,000 bags have been stored at the branch, ready for filling with sand.



Registration of beneficiaries in Nassiriyah





Beneficiaries, Nassiriyah

Impact: It still needs to be analysed what kind of impact the national disaster preparedness/disaster management activities have had on the population. However, the relief operation in the south has certainly had some direct impact with those families who were affected by the flooding.

B) Disaster Management in the neighbouring countries to Iraq: Jordan and Syria

Objective: Jordan and Syrian Arab Red Crescent Societies have well-functioning DM capacities and have been implementing integrated DM programs.

Expected Results

- Disaster Management Units (DMU) have been established to manage all activities related to natural and man-made disasters;
- National interventions teams of both national societies were strengthened;
- Logistics systems and procedures have been fully integrated into *the modus operandi* of the two National Societies.
- Selected volunteers and or staff members from these national societies were trained in disaster preparedness,

- The regional cooperation in the Middle East has been strengthened through the establishment and the training of a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT)

Progress to date

A separate report on this will be available in due course.

4. Humanitarian Values

Objective: Staff and volunteers of the IRCS at headquarters and in the branches, have a good understanding and appreciation of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values of the Movement as well as concerned new Government officials such as the police and the army.

Expected Results

- All members of the national society are aware of the humanitarian values of the Movement
- All training curricula include interactive sessions on Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values;
- Increased visibility of the IRCS has contributed to a better understanding of its mandate by external stakeholders.

Progress to date

- The distribution of leaflets has stopped and will resume when possible.
- All training done under the Federation supervision includes elements with regard to the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values.
- Public relations and information work is not presently done in an organised way. Hopefully the problems in the national society will cease and a proper information department can be restructured.

5. Federation Management and Coordination

Objective: The Federation presence in Iraq has evolved into an advisory role, with a focus on capacity-building that will yield an autonomous and accountable organization.

Expected Results

- National society staff have achieved a level of operational independence that minimizes the need for continuing technical support of the Federation.
- The Federation and the ICRC have harmonized their support of the national society to the maximum benefit of the IRCS.
- The National Society is collaborating with UN agencies and with established NGOs in the country where the programs of these 3rd-party entities serve the goals and objectives of the IRCS.

Progress to date

- A few of the department managers within the national society had reached a point of ToT as well as capacity to coordinate and cooperate with other stakeholders, organisations and potential donors. The problem we are facing now is that the majority of them have left the national society for various reasons.
- The Movement components need to re-establish the working relationship with the national society as soon as the situation allows
- A meeting/conference was held with the UN and several other high profile organisations in Amman on 15 and 16 February 2004. Due to the internal problems, the IRCS was not represented.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement -- Principles and initiatives

Overall the programme is advancing as planned, although very much delayed due to the general security situation in Iraq and the present uncertainty in the national society. The promotion of the Movement Fundamental Principles is included in all training and is continuously advocated for. Vital documentation and leaflets are being translated into Arabic and are distributed on an ad hoc basis – for example, printed leaflets were included in the NFI packages in Nassiriyah.

Issues related to gender as well as ethnic diversity are addressed and the national society has taken important steps forward with regard to this. However, improvements are still required.

The promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness is incorporated in the health programmes as well as programmes related to Youth.

National Society Capacity Building

All efforts to support and increase the capacity of the national society have been blocked due to the present situation. ‘Way forward’ scenarios are discussed with the ICRC and hopefully this can be finalised by the end of April 2004.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

For the time being communications has been interrupted and can not be properly resumed until the national society has reached a stable situation and a proper understanding with the ICRC and the Federation has been established.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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