

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 EMERGENCY

Appeal No. 05EA026
21 September 2006

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 3; Period covered: November 2005 to June 2006; Appeal target: CHF 7,925,770 (USD 6,333,866 or EUR 4,995,340); Appeal coverage: 55 per cent¹; Outstanding needs: CHF 3,552,000 (USD 2,837,479 or EUR 2,238,710).

Appeal history:

- Appeal was launched on 10 November 2005 for CHF 16,750,000 (USD 12,000,000 or EUR 10,000,000) to assist 60,000 families or 350,000 beneficiaries for twelve months.
- The budget was decreased to CHF 7,925,770, and the operation was extended, by one month to the end of 2006); Final Report is therefore due on 31 March 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Iraq: Floods Emergency Appeal. (Appeal no. MDRIQ001)

For details, please go to the website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRIQ001.pdf

Iraq and Neighbouring Countries: Humanitarian Crisis Revised Emergency Appeal. (Appeal no.08/03).

For details, please go to the website at: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/0803revised.pdf

Operational Summary: The continuing state of high alert, resulting from conflict between armed insurgents and the joint allied and Iraqi security forces and the ongoing sectarian violence and displacement of thousands of families, has severely affected the ability of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (Iraqi RCS) and the International Federation to meet the objectives outlined in the emergency appeal. However, despite the harsh realities faced by the Iraqi population, support from the international community is in drastic decline.

The slow response to the appeal, launched on 10 November 2005 on behalf of the Iraqi RCS has forced the International Federation to revise its action plan and budget for the second half of 2006, although retaining the objectives of the appeal. In June 2006, the initial plan was consolidated and adjusted to meet the existing realities. The appeal budget was subsequently also revised to reflect the capacity of the Iraqi RCS to absorb and efficiently use the available resources.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity."

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

- **Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**
- **Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.**
- **Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.**

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Iraqi Red Crescent Society: Mazin al Salloum, Secretary-General, phone: 00964-7901-389-742; e-mail: ircs_int_dep@yahoo.com**
- **Iraq Federation delegation: Gurgen Boshyan, Head of Delegation, phone: 00962-79-504-2922; fax: 00962-6569-4556; email: gurgen.boshyan@ifrc.org**
- **Geneva MENA department: Evgeni Parfenov, Senior Regional Officer, phone: 0041-22-730-4325; fax: 0041-22-733-0395; email: evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org**

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

Iraq has been in a continuous state of high alert because of the ongoing conflict between armed insurgents and the joint allied and Iraqi security forces. In addition, sectarian violence which sparked off in February 2006 has fueled greater insecurity than was previously the case. This has led to more arbitrary killing, kidnapping, and to the displacement of thousands of families. Illogical or inhumane attacks on innocent civilians by criminal, as well as political factional groups, have remained rampant in the country. For the residents of Baghdad and all the other major urban centres of the country, the day to day realities of their lives have become harsh and difficult.

A recent report sent from the International Federation field office provides a clearer picture of the security situation and living conditions in Iraq, saying that, "3,438 Iraqis have been killed last July in violence actions." According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) statistical data, 110 people are killed daily. And according to a report published by Al-shareq Awsat newspaper on 17 August 2006, "within the last seven months, 17,776 Iraqis have been killed by violent actions."

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has been supporting the Iraqi Emergency humanitarian needs for over three years – from April 2003 to the present day. During this period, the socio-economic situation in the country has significantly deteriorated as a direct consequence of political instability and the dramatic deterioration of security - recently fuelled by the cyclical sectarian violence.

These unresolved security situations in the country have hampered the rehabilitation and economic recovery or development efforts of the government, UN and international agencies. As a result, the country has made little progress in these sectors in the past three years. The increase in the price of gas and oil, as of January 2006, has been the latest blow, particularly for sectors of the population that fall within the low income bracket.

Besides the feedback reports from the Federation's field office in Iraq, two reports mentioned below - prepared and produced by UN agencies jointly with the relevant Ministries of the Iraqi government - remain as important reference materials used in preparation of the International Federation's appeal documents (2006/07) that continued to focus on response programmes geared to alleviating the suffering of the socially vulnerable sector of the Iraqi population.

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The Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and World Food Programme (WFP)¹ joint report released in early May 2006 confirms the deteriorating living conditions of the Iraqi population:

The survey found that just over four million people (15.4 percent of the surveyed population) are food insecure and in dire need of different types of humanitarian assistance including food despite the PDS² rations they are receiving. This is an increase from the estimated 11 percent which were found to be extremely poor in WFP's 2003 Baseline Survey. The current survey also indicates that a further 8.3 million people (31.8 percent of the surveyed population) would be rendered food insecure if they were not provided with a PDS ration. An estimated 47 percent of the total population will face real difficulties in ensuring their food security if the PDS is discontinued.

The data from the WFP report clearly depicts the level of deterioration in living conditions of the population in the past two years - doubled compared to results of the first baseline survey. Likewise, the UNHCR /IOM reports on the internally displaced (IDPs) have shown a drastic increase in number of IDPs following the upsurge of sectarian violence that ripped the entire country. The new situation has also increased security concerns. This report, released in April, gives a new high record population figure of 1.3 million IDPs in Iraq.

The International Federation launched the Emergency Appeal on behalf of the Iraqi RCS in November 2005, reflecting the policy of the National Society in relation to the most acute humanitarian needs in the country and outlining the required external support towards these needs, including the newly emerging vulnerabilities. The emphasis in the appeal was placed on supporting 60,000 socially vulnerable families, expanding the health and related programmes and enhancing the operational capacity of the National Society in all priority areas.

All operational plans and budgets were based on the assumption that the adoption of the new constitution and formation of the new government in Iraq would lead to the consolidation of the different political forces and the subsequent, if not immediate, restoration of order in the country. It was thought that positive developments at the national political level and the generally improving security environment would allow the Iraqi RCS, supported through the Federation's appeal, to concentrate on addressing the new vulnerabilities and, in parallel, accelerate the process of enhancing the society's organizational structure and service delivery.

Contrary to these expectations, the situation has continued to deteriorate through the reporting period. While the needs of the vulnerable have continued to grow, the working environment of the Iraqi RCS staff and volunteers has been worsening in a dramatic way. The movement of Iraqi RCS workers through the country was restricted and determined by very few safe roads, or where there was some form of guarantee they would not be attacked or caught in cross-fire between the various armed groups.

Planning and implementation of country wide activities (like Community Based First Aid, for example) in these volatile circumstances or environment remained difficult. Experience shows that the implementation of activities was either substantially delayed or ground to a complete halt depending on the level of safe access or movement of the staff and volunteers.

The same circumstances influenced the implementation of the activities under the Emergency Appeal 03EA008, which were planned to be completed by the end of 2005. A substantial part of these activities was represented by the rehabilitation and equipment of the Iraqi RCS health institutions and other fixed assets. Because of the total absence of safety and security for their workers (the Federation and Iraqi RCS contractors), it has been their major argument for not meeting the contractual deadlines for the implementation of the projects.

Operational developments

In spite of the continually deteriorating security situation and related security problems, the Iraqi RCS has continued to provide the most essential humanitarian services to wide groups of the population. These groups included poor families deprived of any sources of social support, the unemployed, growing numbers of internally

¹ WFP /Ministry of Planning and Development – Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis report, page 2, 2006

² PDS – Public Distribution System (Iraqi food Safety Net) introduced when under the international sanction

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displaced people (IDPs) and victims of substantial devastation caused by the floods disaster in the northern and central parts of the country in early February 2006.

In doing its humanitarian work, the Iraqi RCS continued to rely upon the support of the International Federation, the ICRC, sister National Societies, and, increasingly, on the support of its own government. While recognising the extremely important role of the Iraqi RCS in supporting the needs of the IDPs as well as other specific groups of the population, this report reflects mainly the activities of the Iraqi RCS which were supported through the International Federation mobilisation channels.

The Iraqi RCS, supported by the International Federation and ICRC, is playing a significant role towards the Movement's mission in Iraq and its commitment to serving the most vulnerable. Its strength is based primarily on its countrywide branch structure, experienced and dedicated staff, and network of volunteers who carry out their humanitarian duties in this difficult environment.

Disaster Response

Overall goal: To assist the IRCS address vulnerability of the deprived groups of the population severely affected by political instability, economic decline and collapse of the social security structures.

Objective: To assist 50,000 families identified as “socially vulnerable,” through distributing winter non-food kits containing the most essential relief goods; and the pre-positing of preparedness stocks enough for 10,000 families so as to make timely response in case of disaster events.

The International Federation supported the Iraqi RC in carrying out the following major activities during first half of 2006:

- 25,000 socially vulnerable families were provided with the sets of non-food relief items (NFI) – winter kits.
- The Iraqi RC assisted 2,500 families (up to 15,000 people) affected by the severe floods in the northern and central governorates with non-food items during the months of February - April 2006. For details, please refer to the final report on the emergency appeal MDRIQ001: http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?06/MDRIQ001final.pdf
- Procurement of a contingency stock (non-food relief items) enough for 7,500 families started in July. It will be delivered to the Iraqi RCS warehouses towards the end of September 2006.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective: Enhance the disaster management capacity and technical skills of the staff and volunteers; develop response plan and the mechanisms for emergency information, communication and resource mobilisation.

Capacity building: Two training workshops in January and April 2006 were held on Sphere (Minimum Standards in Disaster response) and in logistics for staff/volunteers of Iraqi RCS to develop their skills in disaster response and management. This is an integral part of the overall human resources capacity building of the Iraqi RCS.

Organisational Development

Programme Goal: The IRCS has provided effective and efficient services to vulnerable groups on the basis of its clear legal identity, in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its own constitution, and through a well-developed organizational and management infrastructure.

Objective: The IRCS has developed and implemented an effective youth & volunteer management system.

As a follow up to the training offered in 2005, twenty one youth and volunteers coordinators (branches and HQs) have received one week specialised training with support from the Regional Delegation. The workshop covered two important topics: a) Volunteers Management procedures, and b) Planning Youth activities. The coordinators

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have developed a draft for the Iraqi RCS volunteers' management and draft Plan of Action (PoA) for Youth activities.

Health and Care

Overall Goal: Reduce the impact of endemic health problems in the 18 governorates through the development of community organizations; and enhance the active participation of IRCS volunteers in the health intervention /promotion; and the psychosocial support activities.

The Iraqi RCS activities have been geared in light of the Ministry of Health/WHO³ joint survey of 2004 - up to 70 per cent of the children were affected by acute respiratory infection (ARI); Typhoid cases increased three-fold between 1996 and 2000 as a direct result of poor sanitation and water supplies, with 5,460 cases recorded in the first quarter of 2004 alone. The Ministry of Health is intensifying immunization campaigns to halt the rise of vaccine preventable diseases by mobilizing support from the UN agencies and involving the Iraqi RCS and its volunteers in its health campaigns.

Iraqi RCS activities in the health sector have therefore included:

- Expansion in the Community Based First Aid training – trained 900 volunteers in 45 courses and 40 Trainers (ToT) in two courses – country wide.
- There has been active participation of the Iraqi RCS in the immunization campaigns. It monitored two polio campaigns conducted by the Ministry of Health that covered some 90,720 and 66,960 children in the first and second campaigns respectively.
- Health promotion /education including public awareness in HIV/AIDS has trained 720 volunteers/Youth members in 36 courses country wide.
- Psychosocial support programmes (PSP): Basra has trained 40 volunteers as area coordinators and who in turn organized and conducted different activities for 400 children during this summer.

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

The ongoing activities in rehabilitation have been funded from the emergency appeal 03EA008, extended to the end of June 2006. Substantial delays in the implementation of this set of projects can be explained mainly by the new wave of sectarian violence which affected International Federation contractors too. There is still a need for CHF 892,000 to meet this objective.

Revised Appeal Budget

Implementation of the plan of action designed in pursuance of the Emergency Appeal 05EA026 has been affected by a number of factors outlined in the previous sections. Subsequently the International Federation has been compelled to revise the appeal budget.

The general operational concept and directions have not been changed. The Iraqi RCS and the International Federation have committed to continue working for the achievement of the initial objectives outlined in the emergency appeal 05EA026. The revised plan of action and budget will reflect exclusively partly reduced scale of the planned activities. The only substantial change will be the withdrawal of support for the Iraqi RCS hospital renovation project.

Revision of the emergency appeal, combined with the still expected support, will lead to realistic objectives being achieved before the end of 2006. The appeal requires extending until the end of this year; however, further extension is not envisaged. On 13 August 2006 Iraqi RCS and the International Federation entered a new round of consultations regarding the modalities of cooperation after the completion of the current emergency appeal.

³ MoH / WHO survey report of 2004

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The table below outlines the outstanding fund requirements to the ongoing /planned activities.

Iraq Emergency Appeal 05 EA 026
Revised Appeal Budget - 30 June 2006

Title /Activity	Appeal budget	Revised Budget	Still Required
Organisation Development (OD)	923,345	230,000	
Disaster Preparedness (DP)	1,025,855	300,000	
Rehabilitation	4,437,952	1,530,000	892,000
Health :CBFA /HIVAIDS	1,357,290	720,000	
Psychological Support (PSP)	345,048	350,000	
Immunisation Campaigns	368,984	200,000	
Disaster Relief (DR)	8,420,321	4,595,770	2,660,000
Total	16,878,805	7,925,770	3,552,000

Although the appeal budget is revised, the goal to deliver relief assistance to the 60,000 social vulnerable families during 2006 and the support to the building of the response capacity of the Iraqi RCS remain the same. The revised budget demonstrates that up to 70 per cent of the priority needs have been covered through the carry over funds, cash contributions. In the table presented above, the soft pledges from the Norwegian and Malaysian National Societies (CHF 1,030,000) are taken into consideration, meaning that the International Federation is seeking an additional CHF 3,552,000, of which CHF 2,660,000 is most urgently needed to procure, preposition and distribute “winter kits” (non-food relief items) before middle of December to the 25,000 target beneficiaries. For budget details, please refer to Annex 1.

Coordination and Management

The complexity of the general political, security and socio-economic situation in Iraq has been affecting all spheres and aspects of daily life in Iraq. It has placed enormous pressure on all actors of the humanitarian field who have been able to continue their activities in Iraq. The number of such actors has been very limited, dramatically increasing the workload of the Iraqi RCS which, in fact, continued to be the only national organization continuing to extend its humanitarian activities through the whole country

In an effort to increase the efficiency of the response to the increasing humanitarian challenges in a coordinated manner, the Federation and ICRC had intensive consultations with the Iraqi RCS that was followed by signing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding in November 2005. The MoU emphasized the roles and responsibilities of Movement components working in the prevailing situation in Iraq. This MoU laid a solid foundation for practical cooperation on the ground between the parties.

Six months later, the idea of having Movement Coordination Meeting on Iraq evolved. The main aim was to establish a common reading of the humanitarian problems in this country and to further enhance the coordination mechanism. The idea was welcomed by the Red Cross/Red Crescent or major players in the Iraqi response operation. The meeting was hosted by the Turkish RC in Istanbul on 4-5 July 2006 and attended by representatives of 16 national Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies including four from countries neighbouring Iraq.

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This meeting allowed the Iraqi RCS, the International Federation and the ICRC to inform participants about the concrete plans to increase Movement support to the most acute humanitarian needs in Iraq.

Further discussion emphasized the need for more coordination and transparency from all actors involved to ensure efficient use of the Movement resources. Participants called on the International Federation and ICRC to be more concrete in presenting the uncovered needs. Some of the participants expressed the opinion that the International Federation and ICRC should use a unified approach to needs assessment, practical implementation and reporting.

The general conclusion of the meeting was that the humanitarian situation in Iraq continued to be extremely alarming and that more efforts are required to mobilise adequate resources from all components of the Movement so as to meet the outstanding needs.

Management and Cooperation at the field level

During the reporting period, the Federation delegation has continued to operate from the Regional Delegation office in Amman/Jordan. Its sub-office in Baghdad, staffed with experienced and committed national staff, has been offering the required technical support to the Iraqi RCS. Programme implementation and coordination responsibilities in Iraq has continued to be with the Iraqi RCS

The regular consultation between the ICRC and the Federation has strengthened the collective commitment of the two institutions to the Iraqi response operation.

The delegation has continued to participate, as one of the prominent members, in the Iraqi Emergency Working Group (EWG). It is a forum that is facilitated by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) for exchange of current operational information, situational analysis on developments in Iraq; and the coordination of pledges or support/assistance needed to the affected populations in the war torn country.

[Please click here to go to the Budget Summary. Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

ⁱ This figure includes the CHF 1.2 million to be carried forward from Emergency Appeal 03EA008 and the soft pledges totaling CHF 1,030,000 from Malaysian RC and Norwegian RC.

ANNEX 1: BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. M05EA026

Iraq (Humanitarian Emergency) (revised appeal)

TYPE	PREVIOUS BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF	IN CHF
Shelter	1,990,000	640,000
Clothing & Textiles	3,200,000	1,443,575
Food		
Water & Sanitation	330,000	
Medical & First Aid	1,612,000	80,000
Utensils & Tools	4,692,000	2,234,150
Other supplies (eg. Hygiene Parcels)		144,801
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	11,824,000	4,542,526
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Vehicles		
Computers & telecom. equipment	589,015	253,172
Medical Equipment		450,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme support (6.5% of total)	1,097,122	515,175
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		
Distribution & Storage	23,000	23,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	174,000	102,089
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff	253,000	197,145
National staff	867,521	571,667
Consultants	17,000	27,000
Workshops and training	1,435,961	648,632
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses	70,000	95,782
Administrative & general expenses	528,185	499,581
Communication Expenses		
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	5,054,804	3,383,244
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	16,878,804	7,925,770
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		4,373,770
NET REQUEST		3,552,000