

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
31 December 2006

FOCUS ON THE SECURITY SITUATION AND FLOOD DISASTER RESPONSE

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. 5; Period covered: 25 October to 25 December 2006; Appeal target: CHF 7,953,524 (USD 6,528,647 or EUR 4,947,637); Appeal coverage: 44 per cent
(Click [here](#) for the interim financial report to end of November.)

Appeal history:

- Launched on 10 November 2005 for CHF 16,750,000 (USD 12 million or EURO 10 million) for 12 months to assist 350,000 beneficiaries.
- Appeal plan and budget were revised in June 2006 (Appeal budget was decreased to CHF 7,953,524 or USD 6,528,647); and the operation extended by two months, to 31 December 2006.
- The appeal period is once again being extended to 31 January 2007 due to delays in implementing ongoing activities as a consequence of grave security situation in the last quarter of 2006 in particular. The final appeal report will be due at the end of April 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: N/A.

Operational Summary

During the reporting period of 25 October to 25 December 2006, (1) the country, and particularly Baghdad and neighbouring governorates, have suffered the highest levels of violence and criminal activity recorded; (2), the four governorates in the north of the country were also badly affected by flash floods that killed 13 people and inflicted heavy damage on infrastructure and people's livelihoods; and (3) for the first time, the Iraqi Red Crescent (IRCS) Baghdad branch office has been targeted by one of the armed groups, in uniform, and its staff /volunteers abducted. This incident occurred on 15 December, and 13 of those taken are still in the hands of their abductors. The Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement has continued exerting massive pressure on the government for the quick and unconditional release of its staff and volunteers.

IRCS, with support from the Federation, ICRC and Sister National Societies has responded to the plight of the victims of both human-made and natural disasters during this period. In addition, the IRCS had to work aggressively to enhance its operational alliance with the government and UN agencies to meet the gaps and short falls in humanitarian service delivery. All in all, over 150,000 beneficiaries have received relief assistance in the past four months through the National Society operational structures and mechanisms.

Background

The security situation in the country is still very difficult, with more internal displacement and increased death rates reported during this reporting period. The mere fact that Saddam Hussein has been convicted and sentenced

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to the death penalty, leads most Iraqis to anticipate increased armed conflict, including killing and kidnapping, that would possibly worsen the security situation more than ever.

According to UN report, the number of Iraqi civilians killed in October was 3,709; and the scale of killing for the months of November and December have remained at almost the same monthly rate of 3,000 if not more- more than the previous three times months. Violence in Baghdad has become the most prominent feature of the conflict in Iraq. Attacks by insurgents and counter-insurgents continue and sectarian violence deepens and spreads, with Iraqi civilians remaining the primary victims.

According to the UNHCR statement released on 3 November, since the first Gulf War at least 1.6 million Iraqis have been displaced internally and up to 1.8 million have fled to neighbouring countries. Families have become increasingly afraid of attack by armed groups during the dark hours. Some families have even decided to split up and sleep in different houses to avoid an entire family being killed. As a consequence of such high level insecurity and instability, lots of people are leaving the country and are residing in neighbouring countries: 750,000 in Jordan; 500,000 in Syria; 90,000 in Iran and others have escaped to Egypt, Lebanon and the Gulf countries. Estimates show that some 50,000 Iraqis are fleeing their homes each month, adding to the more than 1.5 million already displaced or made homeless within Iraq.

Such figures have however become increasingly controversial, notably since the United Nations put the monthly civilian toll at over 3,000 this summer and a group of medical statisticians estimated that over 650,000 civilians might have been killed since the invasion of 2003. Evidence of civilian casualties is scarce and collecting such data could be a very risky undertaking. As of recent, the Iraqi government has also tightened the internal regulations to prevent officials from releasing such figures other than the prime minister's office. Bloodshed intensified in the holy month of Ramadan, as it has in recent years in Iraq, making it difficult for many people to go out as freely as they would like. This year, however, has been even worse. The religion-based nature of much of the violence, frequent curfews and random armed group checkpoints have kept most people, especially the residents of Baghdad, behind locked doors.

Inflation

When prices are increasing and people do not get more money, poverty also increases. Unemployment is rising and more and more children are leaving school to work and supplement their parents' income.

A senior official in the strategy department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs stated that nearly 5.6 millions Iraqis are living below the poverty line, according to the most recent studies. At least 40 percent of this number is living in absolute and desperate deteriorated conditions and this level of poverty is a 35 percent increase on the level before 2003. The unemployment rate has risen to around 76 per cent.

Basic services are reduced to almost nothing, electricity is a problem and there is no gas so even breakfast has to be forgotten in most of the Iraqi houses. An official source at the Ministry of Finance said that the annual rate of inflation for goods in the twelve months from August 2005 to August 2006 amounted to 76.3 per cent.

Education

Iraq's school and university system is in danger of collapse in large areas of the country as pupils and teachers take flight in the face of threats of violence. Professors and parents no longer feel safe to attend their educational institutions. In some schools and colleges, up to half the staff have fled abroad, resigned or applied to go on prolonged vacation, and class sizes have also dropped by up to half in the areas that are the worst affected.

Professionals in higher education, particularly those teaching the sciences and health, have been targeted for assassination. Universities from Basra in the south to Kirkuk and Mosul in the north have been infiltrated by such organisations which also regularly intimidate female students at the school and university gates for failing to wear the hijab. Women teachers have been ordered by their ministry to adopt Islamic codes of clothing and behaviour.

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Refugees from Iraq are on the move. More than 1.2 million of them have already fled the country and at least 425,000 newly internally displaced persons have been registered since the sharp rise in sectarian attacks, abductions and killings that followed the bombing of the holy shrine in Samarra's Golden Mosque on 22 February 2006. This has presented Iraq with an explosive problem: sectarian-induced displacement. Many displaced people

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have found refuge with relatives and are thought not to have registered, which means that actual figures may be far higher.

The table illustrates the total number of the displaced families since Samarra events

No.	Date	Children	Women	Men	Families total No.	Individuals total No.
1	(22/3-7/4)	18332	13888	14189	6615	46409
2	(7/4-15/4)	32460	20881	17983	9916	71324
3	(15/4-22/4)	54244	25322	19421	10916	98987
4	(22/4-25/4)	55199	27765	20240	11391	103204
5	(25/4-30/4)	38889	28022	20389	11879	87,300
6	(1/5-20/5)	43643	32321	26658	14881	102,622
7	(20/5-5/6)	52473	38950	33746	19138	125,169
8	(5/6-26/6)	62742	46891	40139	23450	149,772
9	(26/6-22/7)	71671	54918	47467	28027	174,056
10	(22/7-23/8)	80331	64839	45999	32409	191,169
11	(19/9-5/10)	100999	133323	124215	42255	358,537
12	(5/10-11/12)	135716	161760	149738	54728	447,214

Iraq: IRCS data on Internally Displaced People (IDPs) - between 22 March and 11 December 2006.

Operational developments

Human-made and natural disasters have continued to hit the country and the consequences are unfortunately likely to drag on throughout 2007 as well. The IRCS, with support from the Federation, ICRC and sister National Societies from neighbouring countries, is making all efforts to reach those most in need of emergency assistance. Furthermore, IRCS has expanded its operational alliance with the government and UN agencies to deliver assistance to the hundreds of thousands of people directly and/or indirectly affected by natural disasters such as flash floods.

The need for emergency assistance is enormous and far beyond the capacity of the country. The emergency situation has been worsened because humanitarian agencies cannot get access to deliver the much needed assistance to those most in need.

For the first time, the IRCS Baghdad branch office was targeted by uniformed armed groups, highlighting the further tightening of the humanitarian space. On 15 December, 35 IRCS staff, volunteers and beneficiaries were abducted from the office while on duty. Although the majority have been released, more than ten are still in the hands of the abductors. Efforts to get them released safely are in progress.

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

Emergency Relief

Objective: To ensure that 50,000 most vulnerable families, across the country, are identified according to clearly established criteria and are assisted through the distribution of the non-food kits containing the most essential relief goods.

Assistance to socially vulnerable and displaced people:

The IRCS has set up small displacement camps near the capital and has warned that thousands of people are suffering because they do not receive assistance. In general, except in extreme emergency situations, camp setting/management is generally avoided because of insecurity and/or risks of armed attacks at such settlement sites. Despite the tense security situations, the IRCS has made efforts to reach those most in need, and in October played a large role in assisting IDPs, as shown below:

- IRCS has distributed 100,000 Eid's gift to IDPs, vulnerable and orphanages throughout its offices and branches across the country.



Food parcel distribution by ICRS.

- IRCS Baghdad office has distributed Eid Al-Fater's gift to 40,000 vulnerable families. The gifts consist of ten items (clothes, shoes and bags). In addition, the branch will distribute 5,000 relief materials (stove, kitchen equipment and jerry cans) to the needy.
- IRCS Kadomiya office has established two camps for forced displaced families who left Saba'a Al-Bour city. In cooperation of Al-Sadr bureau in Al-Kadomiya city, the branch office has set up 100 tents for 300 families (about 1,800 persons).
- 50,000 food parcels have been distributed during Ramadan to IDPs in Baghdad and other Iraq provinces by Ministry of Immigration (MoI) in cooperation with IRCS.
- The head of IRCS Douche branch stated that the number of IDPs who reached Douche during September and the first half of October are about 6,000 families. The branch has distributed relief materials including tents, blankets, kitchen equipment, clothes and food parcels. The relief materials were received from the Federation and Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MoDM).
- IRCS in cooperation with UNICEF has established a transit IDPs camp of 100 tent for the families who left Saba'a Al-Bour city.
- MoI declared that 60,000 food parcels were distributed before Eid in cooperation with IRCS.

Assistance to victims of November Floods disaster

In November 2006, northern governorates of Iraq including Duhok, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Neneva witnessed continuous heavy rains for more than a week, causing floods that led to huge damage and destruction in nearby villages of the affected districts. Some houses were swept away by the huge floods, others were completely flooded, and the residents had to leave their homes. The floods caused 13 deaths most of which were children, women and aged people (all from Erbil governorate).



According to the UN report, over 10,000 people have been affected by this recent floods disaster. The IRCS responded by distributing food and non-food items secured from its Federation supported contingency stock, ICRC stock and from donations from neighbouring sister National Societies. IRCS assisted some 2,000 families in total, and also managed to replenish pre-positioned relief stocks at its branches.

The National Society has also scaled up its operational alliance with the MoDM and UN agencies (UNICEF) to meet the outstanding relief needs of the disaster victims.



IRCS response: arriving Relief goods



Distribution of Relief goods

Constraints: The planned winter assistance to 25,000 families was abandoned, mainly due to financial constraints.

Health & Care

Conditions or situations facing in health service delivery:

The health system is deteriorating as health structures lack critical drugs and equipments and face attack and occupation by military forces. There are fewer and fewer medical personnel as many medical staff are fleeing the system and even the country due to violence; about 2000 physicians have been killed since 2003. Hundreds of private clinics have been closed in the capital after gangs started to kill doctors while they were attending patients. There are not enough professionals and the ones available are in hospitals trying to work out how to treat patients in improvised operating theatres.

- Malnutrition is increasing: the public food distribution system is not fully operational and yet more than 40 per cent of the population depends on it.
- Only 32 per cent of Iraqis have access to drinking water, whilst a mere 19 per cent have access to good sewerage system.
- Mental health is becoming a crucial concern: continuous stress and anxiety generate psychological vulnerability. A recent study found that 92 per cent of Iraqi children have learning difficulties.
- Director of the Anaemia Centre in Nasiriyah Governorate confirmed that more than 300 children are suffering of Althelasima disease (breaking of red haemoglobin). More children are infected, and 10 - 15 children have died during the last two years.

Overall Goal: To contribute to the reduction of endemic health problems of vulnerable populations in the eighteen governorates through the development of community organizations, and the intervention of professionally trained volunteers in disease prevention and health promotion activities.

Objective 1: The IRCS has an increased capacity in planning, organizing and implementing First Aid and Health Promotion (HIV/Aids) courses in order to improve the National Society volunteer capacity that will enable expansion of volunteer intervention by Red Cross/Red Crescent programs in the country.

- During the reporting period, the society has conducted 32 basic CBFA skills training in the 18 governorates in which 640 volunteers have participated. These courses were conducted in Baghdad (six), Anbar (four), and six branches each two, and while the remaining ten of the 18 branches have conducted one course each.
- In addition, one Training of Trainers course has been conducted in Dahuk for 20 participants drawn from the neighbouring branches.

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Objective 2: The IRCS has an increased capacity in planning, organizing and mobilising volunteer participation in National Immunization Campaigns (NID's), in close collaboration with the Ministry of health and UNICEF.

The Society has actively participated in the Polio National Immunisation campaign- the third campaign was in April 2006. The planned, last round campaign that was supposed to have taken place on 17 December has been postponed indefinitely because of the tense security situation that evolved in this last quarter of the year.

National Society Capacity Building

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 Red Cross and Red Crescent Principles and its own Constitution, and through a well-developed organizational and management infrastructure.

Objective: The IRCS has enhanced its organizational and operational capacity at all levels.

Planning and Reporting Workshop: the gaps and needs in good planning and reporting have been felt by both the delegation and the society's leadership and it was agreed to arrange a skills training workshop to enhance the IRCS planning and reporting capacity. To this effect, a one week workshop was organised for 16 IRCS staff in early December 2006. The staff has, through this training, acquired much needed skills in planning and reporting - two important and vital tools for fund raising and guaranteeing continued support from donors.

Federation Coordination

The Federation delegation is assisting and supporting the IRCS in its emergency response and capacity building endeavours. The emergency needs of the most vulnerable have worsened as a direct/indirect consequence of the security situation in the second half of 2006. Since the summer, killing and kidnapping have drastically increased with an estimated 2, 000 to 3,000 people fleeing to neighbouring countries. To meet the increasing needs in the country, the society has scaled up its response operation by coordinating more closely with the components of the Movement, and enhancing as well as expanding its operational alliance with government and UN agencies.

Constraints: Security and shortage of funds have been the two main problems, particularly in the last quarter of 2006. Unfortunately, almost all humanitarian agencies working for Iraq have suffered inadequate financial support. This holds true for the Movement's operation as well. There was a Partnership Meeting in Istanbul in early July, where stakeholders were informed of the constraints and difficulties in financing the response operation. There have also been efforts to mobilize resources locally by contacting the US' Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and UK's Department for International Development (DfID), but this has not produced much result. In effect, and to our dismay, the plan to procure and distribute Winter Assistance kits has been abandoned due to the lack of adequate funding.

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:

Iraq Humanitarian Emergency (05EA026). For details, please go to the Federation website at,

<http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?05/05EA026.pdf>

More information on Red Cross Red Crescent work in Iraq is available on the Federation's website at:

<<http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/cn6.asp?countryid=87>>

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:

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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>

[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page and contact information](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05EA026 - IRAQ: GENERAL COORDINATION

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/11-2006/11
Budget Timeframe	2005/11-2006/12
Appeal	M05EA026
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget	1'270'000	6'453'524		230'000	0	7'953'524
B. Opening Balance	0	0		0	0	0
Income						
Cash contributions						
American Red Cross		89'986				89'986
Australian Red Cross		48'115				48'115
Australia - Private Donors		9'524				9'524
Capacity Building Fund				50'000		50'000
Finnish Red Cross	78'500					78'500
Irish Red Cross Society		3'122		3'230		6'352
Japanese Red Cross Society		323'153				323'153
Monaco Red Cross		46'695				46'695
New York Office		1'276				1'276
On Line donations				6'257		6'257
South Africa Government		82'840				82'840
Swedish Red Cross		824'340				824'340
United States - Private Donors		0				0
C1. Cash contributions	78'500	1'429'050		59'486		1'567'036
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
Irish Red Cross Society		2'622				2'622
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		2'622				2'622
Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)						
American Government		376'798				376'798
Australian Government		65'931				65'931
Danish Red Cross	604'418					604'418
Irish Government	275'000	40'000				315'000
Italian Government		77'664				77'664
Japanese Red Cross Society	16'175	0				16'175
Monaco Red Cross		0				0
Netherlands Red Cross	26'786	49'751		2'238		78'775
Norwegian Red Cross	269'139					269'139
South Africa Government		-82'840		82'840		0
Swedish Red Cross		2'135		87'762		89'897
C3. Reallocations (within appeal)	1'191'518	529'439		172'840		1'893'797
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	1'270'018	1'961'111		232'326	0	3'463'456
D. Total Funding = B + C	1'270'018	1'961'111		232'326	0	3'463'456

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0	0		0	0	0
C. Income	1'270'018	1'961'111		232'326	0	3'463'456
E. Expenditure	-663'371	-1'579'920		-231'047	0	-2'474'338
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	606'648	381'191		1'279	0	989'118

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

M05EA026 - IRAQ: GENERAL COORDINATION

Interim financial report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2005/11-2006/11
Budget Timeframe	2005/11-2006/12
Appeal	M05EA026
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		1'270'000	6'453'524		230'000	0	7'953'524	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	640'000							640'000
Clothing & textiles	1'443'575		354'334				354'334	1'089'241
Medical & First Aid	80'000							80'000
Utensils & Tools	2'234'150		273'766				273'766	1'960'384
Other Supplies & Services	144'801		395'358				395'358	-250'556
Total Supplies	4'542'526		1'023'458				1'023'458	3'519'069
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Computers & Telecom	50'316	1'117	72'428		128'814		202'359	-152'043
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	202'856		2'856				2'856	200'000
Medical Equipment	450'000							450'000
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	703'172	1'117	75'284		128'814		205'215	497'957
Transport & Storage								
Storage	23'000							23'000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	102'089	22'833	11'172		2'168		36'173	65'916
Total Transport & Storage	125'089	22'833	11'172		2'168		36'173	88'916
Personnel Expenditures								
Delegates Payroll	158'114	30'642	62'625				93'268	64'846
Delegate Benefits	63'031	19'297	31'232				50'529	12'502
National Staff	464'667	44'227	109'204		31'731		185'161	279'506
National Society Staff	107'000	53'872					53'872	53'128
Consultants	27'000	10'004					10'004	16'996
Total Personnel Expenditures	819'812	158'042	203'061		31'731		392'833	426'979
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	648'632	227'019	4'530		62'895		294'444	354'189
Total Workshops & Training	648'632	227'019	4'530		62'895		294'444	354'189
General Expenditure								
Travel	95'782	19'518	39'028		2'406		60'952	34'830
Information & Public Relation	188'175	11'034	16'706		500		28'240	159'935
Office Costs	187'275		8'507		256	22'983	31'746	155'528
Communications	54'582	2'600	6'389			14'803	23'793	30'789
Financial Charges	68'500	-541	16'969		-12'741	19'946	23'633	44'867
Other General Expenses	3'000	5'979	52'545			-57'732	793	2'207
Total General Expenditure	597'313	38'591	140'145		-9'579	0	169'157	428'156
Depreciation								
Depreciation			1'229				1'229	-1'229
Total Depreciation			1'229				1'229	-1'229
Program Support								
Program Support	516'979	43'119	102'695		15'018		160'832	356'147
Total Program Support	516'979	43'119	102'695		15'018		160'832	356'147
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		172'651	18'346				190'997	-190'997
Total Operational Provisions		172'651	18'346				190'997	-190'997
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	7'953'524	663'371	1'579'920		231'047	0	2'474'338	5'479'187
VARIANCE (C - D)		606'629	4'873'604		-1'047	0	5'479'187	