

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

MIDDLE EAST: POPULATION DISPLACED FROM IRAQ

Appeal No. MDR81002
30 October 2007

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 185 countries.

In Brief

Operations Update no. 2; Period covered: 21 August to 30 September, 2007. Appeal target: CHF 12,820,095 (USD 10,915,885 or EUR 7,671,375); Appeal coverage: 64%; Outstanding needs: CHF 4,592,854 (USD 3,909,980 or EUR 2,748,445)

(Please click [here](#) to go directly to the attached interim financial report).

Appeal history:

- Launched on 16 April 2007 for CHF 18,272,727 (USD 15,050,820 or EUR 11,119,092) for 12 months to assist 100,000 families.
- On 20 September 2007, the budget was revised to CHF 12,820,095 for 12 months to assist 50,000 families.
- Final Report is due in June 2008.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 40,000 (USD 32,947 or EUR 24,325) allocated for a technical assessment mission to the region. Another CHF 250,000 (USD 206,900 or EUR 151,865) was released to start the operation. Following the generous response from the donors, both allocations were returned to DREF.

Operational Summary:

The initial plan and budget of the emergency appeal was reviewed in close consultation with the Jordan Red Crescent Society (Jordan RC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (Syrian Arab RC). The discussions resulted in reducing the targeted number of families from the two countries to 50,000 (20,000 in Jordan and 30,000 in Syria). In view of this change, the initial appeal target of CHF 18,272,727 was revised downwards to CHF 12,820,095.

The JRC basic health centre (BHC) in Jabal Al Taj neighbourhood, Amman, is fully operational and providing health services (including dental services and psychosocial support) to the displaced Iraqis and the host communities. During the reporting period, 1,233 people benefited from the services of this centre. The second health centre, which will be located in Marka neighbourhood, is planned to be opened in October. The German Red Cross, who runs bilateral activities in the region, agreed to support this health centre within the International Federation's emergency appeal.

In the 2nd week of October, the Jordan RC and the German RC will begin the distribution of 9,000 hygiene kits to the displaced Iraqi families in addition to some from the host community. Preparations are also under way to procure non-food items for 3,000 families, which will include blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, and school kits. In the meantime, volunteers of the Jordan RC started home visits to Iraqi families in order to promote public health awareness and monitor their health status. 128 families benefited from these home visits.

The Syrian Arab RC has started the distribution of school kits and uniforms to displaced populations in the provinces, and also assisted the vulnerable host communities in these areas. Relief and school kits assistance within Damascus and rural Damascus is being carried out by the National Society together with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP). Up to date, 9,676 school children were reached by the International Federation supported distribution programme.

The situation is very challenging for Syrian Arab RC, since there is a considerable pressure from United Nations (UN) agencies (notably UNHCR and WFP) to implement their projects without delay; particularly now that the school year has started and therefore the uniforms and stationery should be distributed. There is also an urge to complete the first round of food distributions before Eid al Fitr, which is in the second week of October. Syrian Arab RC received seasonal donations of dates from partner National Societies of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, with a request to distribute these amongst the Iraqi externally displaced persons (EDPs) during the holy month of Ramadan.

Non-governmental organisation (NGO) coordination has begun with the Netherlands Red Cross delegate working with Syrian Arab RC and international non-governmental organisation (INGO) partners in order to agree on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will allow them to begin activities in Syria. The draft has been approved by Syrian Arab RC and its legal advisor, and the final review and agreement from the concerned government ministries are being awaited before signing with NGO partners. A total of 8 INGOs have been approved to work in coordination with Syrian Arab RC on humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi EDPs programme, and there is an urgency expressed from UN agencies and donors that these should be authorised as soon as possible to become operational as implementing partners.

Reports following a recent field trip to branches outside Damascus indicate that several branches have performed detailed registration of displaced Iraqi families. It was noted that there is expectancy amongst these communities that assistance in food and non-food items will be given by the National Society branches. Syrian Arab RC wants to concentrate on non-food item distributions as the first phase of the appeal, and therefore has started procedures for the tender and procurement of hygiene kits. The distribution of these kits to the 20,000 families targeted in this phase is expected to be completed before the end of the year. This first phase of assistance will also focus on support to Syrian Arab RC basic health clinics and mobile health centres. Identification of suitable locations, that will be complementary to assistance offered by partner National Societies in Syria (Netherlands RC, French Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent) is in process.

The Syrian Arab RC has been entrusted by the government to be the focal agency with the mandate to coordinate external humanitarian assistance and activities targeting the Iraqis displaced in Syria. It has been agreed with the leadership of the National Society that the International Federation representative in Syria, who took office as of the beginning of September, will assume the lead role in coordinating the assistance and activities of the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) family working in Syria, and support the National Society in contacts with the UN agencies; whilst the Netherlands RC is supporting Syrian Arab RC in its task to coordinate the work of international NGOs in Syria. To assist the Red Crescent with the fulfilment of this huge mandate, the International Federation has integrated in the appeal the provision of assistance in building the capacity of the headquarters and branches, including systems development, training and staffing, reporting, monitoring and project management.

Agreement has been reached on holding a regional psychosocial conference to be organised by the International Federation and the Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support in Denmark, and to be hosted by Syrian Arab RC in Damascus on 7-8 November. The objectives of the conference are to share the good practices of and lessons learned from the psychosocial support programme (PSP), and to develop clear strategy and practical steps on how best to respond to the psychosocial needs of the displaced Iraqis.

The International Federation would like to express its gratitude to the American Government, Swedish Red Cross, OPEC Fund for International Development, Japanese Red Cross, American Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, British Red Cross and Hong Kong Red Cross for their generous contributions to this appeal, which have allowed significant humanitarian assistance to displaced Iraqis.

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:

- *In Syria: Mr. Marwan Abdallah, Executive Director, Syrian Arab Red Crescent; phone: +963 11 442 9662; email: sarc@net.sy*
- *In Syria: Mr. Alasdair Gordon-Gibson, International Federation Representative; mobile: +963 956 543 075; email: alasdair.gordongibson@ifrc.org*
- *In Jordan: Mr. Mashal Al Hadid, Programme Coordinator, Jordan Red Crescent Society; phone: +962 6 477 3141; email: jrc@index.com.jo*
- *In Jordan: Mr. Ahmed Gizo, Head of Regional Representation, Middle East Regional Representation, Amman; phone +962 6 5681060; mobile: +962 79 5158204; fax: +962 6 5694556; email: ahmedadam.gizo@ifrc.org*
- *In MENA zone: Mr. Marwan Jilani, Head of Zone, MENA Zone Office (temporary in Amman); phone: +962 6 5681060; mobile: +962 79 6340346; fax: +962 6 5694556; email: marwan.jilani@ifrc.org*
- *In Geneva: Mr. Evgeni Parfenov, Federation Regional Officer, MENA Department; phone +41 22 730 43 25; fax +41 22 733 03 95; 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

Approximately two million Iraqis are currently seeking a place of safety abroad, mainly in Syria and Jordan, but also in other countries. This population movement resulted from the extremely volatile security situation, the high level of criminality, and an economy in chaos.

Every month thousands of Iraqis are forced to either leave their country or look for a safer location inside Iraq. The UNHCR estimated the number of Iraqis who leave their country for Syria or Jordan as high as 40,000 - 50,000 persons each month. The majority of these people settle in Syria because the Jordanian authorities have introduced strict procedures for Iraqis entering the country. In addition, the families now leaving Iraq have less financial resources than those who left earlier and therefore choose Syria, where the cost of living is lower. The vast majority of people have been displaced since 2003, but the estimates include an unknown number who were already displaced before that time.

The burden on the host communities and governments in Syria and Jordan is enormous. If the situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate and more Iraqis are forced to seek a place of safety in neighbouring countries, preparations for a totally new situation will be required. In response to this situation, the International Federation launched an emergency appeal in April 2007 to contribute in easing the burden on the host countries by taking a fair share of responsibility for the displaced through the operating Red Crescent Societies in Jordan and Syria.

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

In Syria, unconfirmed reports put the number of displaced Iraqis over 1,400,000, who have arrived with very limited resources. High inflation rate and high rent for accommodations deplete the already dwindling resources. There are no prospects of legal work for the Iraqis in Syria, which makes their daily life even more difficult. The huge number of additional residents in Damascus and other cities is also stretching the already inadequate services and infrastructure. The Iraqis in Syria are in principle entitled to the same services as the Syrian residents. Iraqi children are welcome to attend the cost-free Syrian primary schools.

In Jordan, there are over 750,000 displaced Iraqis and very little information is available regarding vulnerabilities among these people. However, it is evident that life is difficult for the majority of the displaced Iraqis in Jordan. Prices for the necessities of life and accommodations continue to rise. Many Iraqis are running out of money and there is a growing uncertainty as to whether or not they will be allowed to remain in the country.

Based on preliminary observations and needs assessments carried out by various stakeholders in Syria and Jordan (UNHCR, Syrian Arab RC, International Organisation of Migration, etc.), health and psychosocial support have been identified as two of the priority sectors to support the Iraqi EDPs and the vulnerable host communities in both countries. The lack of available services for the EDPs justifies the intervention of the RC/RC Movement and the host National Societies to organize adequate basic health care services in general medicine and dentistry to support the needs of EDPs.

The aim is to mobilize adequate resources to enable and support both host Red Crescent societies in providing adequate basic curative and preventive health care services to the Iraqi EDPs and vulnerable host communities. These services include free of charge general medical assistance, maternal and child health, and dental consultation/treatments for the most frequent pathologies among the beneficiaries; free of charge distribution of essential medicines; psychosocial support and community based health promotion and disease prevention activities. Additional funds to support a minimum volume of secondary health care for selected vulnerable individuals on a case-by-case basis are needed (10% of overall budget for basic health care).

Furthermore, the International Federation will be working with the Red Crescent Societies to ensure access to safe and good quality drinking water for the displaced Iraqi communities and provide essential non-food items (hygiene kits, school uniform and stationary, kitchen sets and other basic household items such as mattresses, bed linen, blankets etc.) on an ad hoc basis.

Operational developments

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

Goal: The health status and living standards of Iraqi EDPs in Syria and Jordan will be maintained or improved through the curative and preventive primary health care services, water and sanitation activities and essential non-food assistance of the host Red Crescent National Societies.

The signing of the cooperation and project agreements between the International Federation and the Jordan RC on 1 July and with the Syrian Arab RC on 3 August marked important developments in the efforts towards a comprehensive implementation of the appeal objectives. It is foreseen that this will help speed up the process of establishing the planned services to support the needs of the displaced Iraqis in Jordan and Syria in the best possible way.

Basic Health Care Objective: Externally displaced Iraqi families and vulnerable local host communities in Syria and Jordan have access to good quality curative and preventive basic health care services (general medical and dental) provided by BHCs and mobile health units (MHUs) to maintain a satisfactory health status.

Progress/Achievements

Jordan

The Al-Taj BHC which was inaugurated on 8 August 2007 continued providing primary health care for the displaced Iraqis and the local host community. The services included medical examination and treatment; mother and child care; psychological support; free of charge medication and health education. Basic dental care services

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

started on 15 September 2007, including tooth extraction, tooth canal treatment and filling. Patients with further needs for specialized consultation and laboratory tests have been referred to the Jordan RC hospital.

An information note has been distributed among the displaced Iraqis to be aware of the health services provided by the centre. The number of the patients increased every passing day and by the end of September reached 1,233 people (including 80 dental cases). Health information software for statistical data was used in addition to the daily manual registration.

Number of patients

Month	Age under 5 years			Age over 5 years			Total
	Male	Female	Subtotal	Male	Female	Subtotal	
August	14	7	21	121	122	243	264
September	48	84	132	390	447	837	969
Total	62	91	153	511	569	1,080	1,233

The staff of the centre consists of two general practitioners, one psychological counsellor, one dental surgeon, two nurses and a team of Jordan RC volunteers. Recruitment of the programme support staff at headquarters level was completed.

According to the already approved list of medicine and medical supplies which was procured and delivered in the beginning of August, the replenishment of consumed medicines and procurement of medical supplies/equipments (ultrasound machine, autoclave and dentistry chair) was completed. The International Federation ensured that the procurement of medical supplies and equipment followed the standard International Federation procedures, guidelines and policies.

Scientific journals, articles and publications of the International Federation and WHO were shared with the staff in the centre. In addition to the continuous visits of the health coordinator, the deputy head of MENA Zone and head of the regional representation in Amman visited the health centre and discussed relevant issues with the staff.

Marka neighbourhood of north Amman was chosen as the new location for the second BHC, due to that area being densely populated with displaced Iraqis. A building has been identified and negotiations are underway with the owners in order to finalize the lease agreement. The new centre is planned to be opened in October.

Syria

During the reporting period, discussions were held with Syrian Arab RC, partner National Societies, and local and international organizations in Syria in order to identify the optimum profile and location for the proposed International Federation support in primary health care. It has been agreed that Damascus and rural Damascus will bear the hardest role in providing basic health care to the displaced Iraqis, as well as to the residents within the host community living in the poorer sub-urban districts. Studies are still being conducted to avoid duplication of health activities in the capital. Outside Damascus, the focus will be on establishing a BHC in Homs, and MHUs in the north-east of the country (Qamishli, Albukamal and Hassake) which will be complementary to the support of the Qatar RC who will establish basic health care facilities in the same region.

Following an in depth analysis and discussion with the Syrian Arab RC management and the signing of cooperation and project agreements with the National Society on 3 August, a series of immediate initiatives were put into force to facilitate the induction and future course of operational implementation.

With due consideration given to the specific nature of the Syrian Arab RC's health capacity, more specifically to the existing structures and health services in Damascus and rural Damascus areas, it was decided to focus on supporting the Red Crescent in establishing up to six basic health care services. Additionally, four MHUs will be organized to support the health needs of displaced Iraqis and vulnerable host communities.

The International Federation representative in Syria will be the focal point for coordinating the operational activities with the Syrian Arab RC and other humanitarian stakeholders. A local program coordinator, health officer and advisor whom have been appointed by the National Society will facilitate the implementation of the

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

appeal and enhance the program management capacity of the Red Crescent. In the meantime, close cooperation will be maintained with the Netherlands RC to utilize their technical expertise in the health sector.

The standard list of essential medicines and medical supplies prepared by the International Federation's health consultant has been shared with the Syrian Arab RC health team in order to facilitate the adoption of a similar policy like the Jordan RC.

Psychosocial Support Objective: The impact of war related psychological traumas among externally displaced Iraqi families in Syria and Jordan is alleviated through qualified psychological/social support and rehabilitation programs of Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC, supported by the International Federation.

Progress/Achievements

Preliminary contacts and discussions have been held with the Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support in Denmark in order to ensure a close cooperation aimed at developing strong and effective institutional presence in both countries. A regional psychosocial conference will be organised by the International Federation and this Centre and is to be hosted by Syrian Arab RC in Damascus at the beginning of November, 2007. The objectives of the conference are to share the good practices of and lessons learned from the PSP, and to develop clear strategy and practical steps on how best to respond to the psychosocial needs of the displaced Iraqis.

Currently, the Danish Red Cross is conducting a psychosocial needs assessment in Syria in order to identify the specific needs of the displaced Iraqis in psychosocial support area. Similar surveys and assessments will be conducted in Jordan to finalize a common operational strategy for the victims of the conflict in Iraq.

Three Arabic documents on guidelines for planning and implementation of the PSP in emergencies (originally prepared by the International Federation Reference Centre for PSP) were provided to Jordan RC to assist the psychological counsellor and the National Society volunteers in the psychosocial services provided to the displaced Iraqis.

Initial renovation of the designated building for the planned PSP Centre was started. The essential renovation will be made according to advices and recommendations of the PSP/psychological specialist.

Community Based Health Care Objective: The ability of externally displaced Iraqi families and vulnerable local host communities in Syria and Jordan to prevent disease and injury is strengthened through community based first aid (CBFA) activities managed by the Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC headquarters and local branches.

Progress/Achievements



Gender equity was maintained during the basic health training course carried out in Amman for 24 volunteers of the Jordan RC

In Jordan, a basic health training course for 24 volunteers was carried out from 25 to 30 August 2007 in Amman. Gender equity was achieved and five Iraqi volunteers were among the participants. The six day course included topics on: RC/RC Movement, international humanitarian law (IHL), health promotion and disease prevention, basic understanding of hygiene, water/sanitation, diarrhoea, nutrition, communicable diseases, first aid techniques, PSP and working with the community. Time was allocated to describe and build on the understanding of the main objectives of the programme, role of the volunteers and community based health approach. Facilitators were from the International Federation, Jordan RC, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The training course included field visits to Al-Taj BHC, Jordan RC hospital and other health clinics and centers. Home visits were paid to the displaced Iraqi

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

families during the last day in coordination with the PSP counsellors and the clinic's staff.

The volunteers started their work in September in and around the health centre according to the schedule arranged by the volunteer coordinator. They helped the medical staff in simple routine work like manual registration of the patients and conducted home and school visits aiming to raise the health awareness of the displaced families and monitor their health status.

Number of families/beneficiaries reached through volunteer visits

Number of families	Male beneficiaries	Female beneficiaries	Total number of beneficiaries
128	314	327	641

In Syria, the National Society already has a large number of well trained volunteers who will be provided with complementary training in order to engage in health activities within the framework of the community based health objective. Up to 250 health volunteers will be mobilized and trained in Syria to perform CBFA.

Non-Food Items Assistance Objective: The material needs of vulnerable displaced Iraqi families and local host communities in Syria and Jordan are covered through the ad hoc distribution of essential items by the host National Societies, supported by the International Federation.

Progress/Achievements

Preparations to finalize the list of contents of various kits involving household items are ongoing. The list of items shall include kitchen utensils, blankets, mattresses, pillows, bed sheets, towels, school books, school uniforms, stationary, and hygiene articles.

Discussions were held with Jordan RC to identify the vulnerable families that will be covered by the non-food items distribution. It was agreed that the first round of distribution will include kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses, bed sheets, hygiene kits, and school kits (uniform, stationary, bags). During the 2nd week of October, the Jordan RC will start the distribution of 9,000 hygiene kits donated by the German RC within the bilateral agreement, as part of the response to the International Federation appeal.

During the reporting period, Syrian Arab RC distributed school kits and uniforms to EDPs registered with the UNHCR in the communities within Damascus and rural Damascus. Following a request from the National Society, the International Federation distributions in this phase will focus its assistance to EDPs living in communities outside this area, and lists for the distribution of school uniforms and stationary have been agreed through the branches. Since these rural areas contain a high number of impoverished and vulnerable host families, the International Federation has agreed to match numbers for distribution to vulnerable Syrian families in the same districts. This flexible targeting has been viewed very favourably, since it is clear that with the rise in the cost of living over the recent months (as much as twice for many basic foodstuffs, especially in the Damascus area), the purchasing power of many Syrian families has dropped considerably.

The distributions began on 23 September, using a voucher system which allowed beneficiaries to collect uniforms and footwear in the correct sizes and colours (according to school-class grades) from approved state suppliers in the districts. These were accompanied by the provision of stationery and books, procured following the standard International Federation procedures, and packaged in carrier-bags bearing the Syrian Arab RC logo.

Distribution of school kits and uniforms (23-26 September, 2007)

SARC Branch	Number of kits (Grade 1)	Number of kits (Grade 2)	Total
Lattakia	346	318	664
Homs	470	666	1,136
Hama	72	92	164
Tartous	360	658	1,018
Daraa	414	470	884
Al Hassake	368	406	774
Idlib	310	270	580
Raqqa	74	94	168
Aleppo	2,236	2,052	4,288
Total	4,650	5,026	9,676

Water and Sanitation Objective: Externally displaced Iraqi families and vulnerable local host communities in Syria have access to safe and good quality drinking water.

Progress/Achievements

The needs assessment of the access to safe water and sanitation facilities has been postponed, pending the findings of a technical survey in water and sanitation requirements in the Damascus area conducted by ICRC in September.

If recommendations are approved, and an intervention agreed, then ICRC activities might include support to the improvement of the supply of clean water in areas where Iraqi EDPs live. These will also be areas served by Syrian Arab RC clinics and therefore be complementary to the services of the National Society and Movement partners. Discussions have also been held between Syrian Arab RC and the German RC in order to support the distribution of clean water in these areas, which would be complementary response to the International Federation appeal.

Coordination and cooperation with humanitarian stakeholders

In Jordan, bilateral and multilateral coordination with various humanitarian organizations have been established. The International Federation representation and Jordan RC regularly attend the monthly coordination meetings hosted by UNHCR for the partners involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition, the RC/RC Movement partners established their own coordination forum which will be co-chaired by Jordan RC and the International Federation. Bilateral meetings were held with the French RC project coordinator (for Jordan), German RC regional representative (for Jordan), Swedish RC regional coordinator (for MENA region), and Norwegian RC regional coordinator (for MENA region) in order to harmonize the support to the National Society and enhance coordination and cooperation.

The German RC expressed their willingness to support financially the establishment of the proposed new health centre in Marka within the International Federation appeal. The International Federation's regional representation in Amman provided the German RC with the estimated budget for the BHC in Marka.

In Syria, the first movement coordination meeting (MCM) was held at Syrian Arab RC headquarters in September, co-chaired by the National Society and the International Federation. Partner National Societies working with Syrian Arab RC in its headquarters include the Netherlands RC (in coordination, and health and care areas); French RC (in BHC and feasibility studies in order to support a school to train Iraqi and Syrian nurses in Damascus); and Danish RC (in PSP programme). The Turkish Red Crescent has signed a MoU with Syrian Arab RC to support its activities with Iraqi EDPs on distributions of non-food items. In addition, the Qatar RC will support the National Society's health and care activities in the northeast of the country (Deir ez Zor, Albukamal). The ICRC has agreed to study a government request in order to assist in the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in Damascus and rural Damascus where Iraqi EDPs live. If the intervention is agreed, it is likely to include the distribution of clean water to dispensaries and schools. It is possible that Movement partnership

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

cooperation in water/sanitation activities with Syrian Arab RC and ICRC will develop from this in the coming months.

WFP has requested a more coordinated flow of information at branch level from Syrian Arab RC regarding the distribution sites and dates. Following meetings with UN agencies – including ones with the country representatives of the WFP and UNHCR, and deputy representative and project manager of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) - improved communication procedures have been identified, and regular coordination meetings agreed. These will be in effect by the time of the next round of distributions. Syrian Arab RC has approved the terms of reference presented by the Norwegian Refugee Council country representative to assist it in distribution planning, reporting and communication. General coordination meetings with the UN and INGOs are planned to be held monthly at the initial stages, with technical/sectoral meetings held on a more regular basis as MoUs with partners are signed and work in the programmes develop.

The Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) has presented a proposal to Syrian Arab RC that will engage a consultant to work with its headquarters in Damascus who will assist in identifying optimum management practices and structures within the new office, and its expanded role and responsibilities.

In addition to the above meetings conducted with representatives of stakeholders, the Syrian Arab RC had meetings with the ECHO emergency coordinator and was visited by the British RC desk officer for EurAsia, Danish RC and German RC.

National Society Capacity Building

The capacity of the host National Societies to deliver services and address the vulnerabilities of the externally displaced Iraqi families are continued to be improved at headquarters and branch levels. Initiatives to enhance a sustainable operational capacity within both Red Crescent Societies have been put into place in order to ensure reliable management and delivery of services to the beneficiaries. The recruitment of the support staff at Jordan RC is completed and is ongoing at the Syrian Arab RC, and interviews of new staff and coordinators to support SARC clinics in Damascus area are finalised. The International Federation representative has been working with the National Society’s senior management team to agree a standard salary scale for Syrian Arab RC employees working in partnership projects in its headquarters, its health clinics and within branches, as well as on rates of compensation for staff on field trips and reimbursement of costs for volunteers. Agreement on this will enable to have a standard rate and scale for this across all partnership programmes working in support of the Iraqi EDPs.

The International Federation is working with partner National Societies and Syrian Arab RC on standardizing data-collection at headquarters and within the National Society branches, including criteria for registration of beneficiaries, data on visits and treatment of Iraqi patients visiting the National Society clinics, and working with UNHCR and WFP on selection criteria for beneficiary registration.

The International Federation representative will be working closely with Syrian Arab RC and the SDC consultant in its study of management capacities and procedures, which will begin on 1 November.

The National Societies’ ability to fulfill their mandate of coordinating the provision of assistance to the displaced Iraqis will be further improved through the strengthening of the capacity of their international departments as well as branches.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

In Jordan, the International Federation, represented by the head of regional representation, attended the UNICEF global workshop on internally displaced persons (IDPs) during 4-6 September 2007. The representative participated as panellist along with other partner agencies including the Office of the Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights of IDPs, ICRC, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNHCR, International Organisation for Migration (IOM), and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA). The panel discussion on the session facilitated by the International Federation centred on the question of how humanitarian reform has changed the way the International Federation responds in IDPs situations.

Middle East: Population displaced from Iraq; Appeal no. MDR81002; Operations Update no. 2

In Syria, partners and stakeholders have been notified about the scheduling of a regional conference on psycho-social programmes in Damascus on 7-8 November. The MENA Zone office in Amman, in collaboration with the Reference Centre for PSP in Copenhagen, will be setting an agenda and agreeing on facilitators for this event. Invitations will be sent to UN agencies and Movement partners in the region, as well as external stakeholders, and this will provide an important forum for discussion for the National Society and partners in Syria.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR81002 - MIDDLE EAST - DISPLACED FROM IRAQ

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/3-2007/9
Budget Timeframe	2007/4-2008/3
Appeal	MDR81002
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		12,789,132			30,963	12,820,095
B. Opening Balance		0			0	0
Income						
<u>Cash contributions (received)</u>						
American Red Cross		301,000				301,000
Finnish Red Cross		165,700				165,700
Hong Kong Red Cross		5,936				5,936
Japanese Red Cross		303,000				303,000
Monaco Red Cross		33,140				33,140
On Line donations		26,318				26,318
OPEC Fund For International Developm		1,203,000				1,203,000
Polish Red Cross		152				152
Swedish Red Cross		876,000				876,000
Switzerland - Private Donors		500				500
United States - Private Donors		185				185
C1. Cash contributions		2,914,931				2,914,931
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
American Govt, PR&M		4,402,960				4,402,960
Swedish Red Cross		900,000				900,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		5,302,960				5,302,960
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
Monaco Red Cross		-30,963			30,963	0
C3. Reallocations (within appeal or		-30,963			30,963	0
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
British Red Cross		9,350				9,350
C5. Inkind Personnel		9,350				9,350
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		8,196,279			30,963	8,227,241
D. Total Funding = B + C		8,196,279			30,963	8,227,241

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0			0	0
C. Income		8,196,279			30,963	8,227,241
E. Expenditure		-402,721				-402,721
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		7,793,558			30,963	7,824,521

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR81002 - MIDDLE EAST - DISPLACED FROM IRAQ

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/3-2007/9
Budget Timeframe	2007/4-2008/3
Appeal	MDR81002
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)		12,789,132					30,963	12,820,095
Supplies								
Construction Materials	66,900		663				663	66,237
Clothing & textiles	1,174,600							1,174,600
Medical & First Aid	2,018,700		57,125				57,125	1,961,575
Teaching Materials	449,200							449,200
Utensils & Tools	1,032,000		195				195	1,031,805
Other Supplies & Services	2,768,000		12,402				12,402	2,755,599
Total Supplies	7,509,400		70,385				70,385	7,439,015
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	232,000							232,000
Computers & Telecom	85,000		1,003				1,003	83,997
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	72,000		1,616				1,616	70,384
Medical Equipment	1,003,500							1,003,500
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,392,500		2,619				2,619	1,389,881
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	140,000							140,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	117,635		2,468				2,468	115,167
Total Transport & Storage	257,635		2,468				2,468	255,167
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	345,000		63,864				63,864	281,136
Delegate Benefits	146,400							146,400
National Staff	95,360		47				47	95,313
National Society Staff	1,479,904		27,549				27,549	1,452,354
Consultants	72,000		28,891				28,891	43,109
Total Personnel Expenditures	2,138,664		120,351				120,351	2,018,312
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	370,000		1,500				1,500	368,500
Total Workshops & Training	370,000		1,500				1,500	368,500
General Expenditure								
Travel	36,000		9,506				9,506	26,494
Information & Public Relation	77,500		2,625				2,625	74,875
Office Costs	114,790		255				255	114,535
Communications	52,800		1,047				1,047	51,753
Financial Charges	8,500							8,500
Other General Expenses	29,000							29,000
Total General Expenditure	318,590		13,433				13,433	305,157
Program Support								
Program Support	833,306		26,137				26,137	807,169
Total Program Support	833,306		26,137				26,137	807,169
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			165,827				165,827	-165,827
Total Operational Provisions			165,827				165,827	-165,827
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	12,820,095		402,721				402,721	12,417,374
VARIANCE (C - D)			12,386,411			30,963	12,417,374	