

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East: Population Displaced from Iraq

Emergency appeal n° MDR81002
Operations update n° 3
24 January 2008

Period covered by this Ops Update: 1 October to 31 December, 2007

Appeal target: CHF 12,820,095 (USD 10,915,885 or EUR 7,671,375)

Appeal coverage: 63% [<click here to go directly to the interim financial report attached, or here to link to contact details >](#)

Appeal history:

- This Emergency Appeal was initially launched on 16 April 2007 for CHF18,272,727 (USD 15,050,820 or EUR 11,119,092) for 12 months to assist 100,000 families.
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 40,000 (USD 32,947 or EUR 24,325) was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF 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.
- On 20 September 2007, the budget was revised to CHF 12,820,095 for 12 months to assist 50,000 families.



Distribution of non-food items by Jordan Red Crescent Society

Summary:

The second basic health care (BHC) centre was opened in Marka neighborhood in the northern districts of Greater Amman on 29 November 2007. Marka area is known to be a densely populated neighborhood for Iraqi externally displaced persons (EDPs). Jordan Red Crescent Society (Jordan RC), with support from the International Federation, started the distribution of the non-food items (NFIs) which include hygiene kits, kitchen sets, blankets, and bed sheets. By the end of December, the total number of families that received NFIs reached 1,804. Distribution will continue in January 2008 and will include school kits.

The two BHC centers - Al Taj and Marka - provided health care services to the displaced Iraqis and the total number of people that benefited from the centres since their inauguration in August and November respectively reached 5,348; including 665 dental cases. In addition, the outreach services provided by the Jordan RC volunteers reached 2,057 beneficiaries. The procurement of a mobile health unit (MHU) and an ambulance, in order to enhance the outreach services and facilitate the referral of emergency cases to the Jordan RC hospital, is underway.

The Middle East/North Africa (MENA) Zone Regional Conference on Psychosocial Support Programme (PSP) was convened in Damascus, Syria, during 7-8 November, 2007. The Conference was initiated by the International Federation's MENA Zone Office, supported by the Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support in Denmark and hosted by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (Syrian Arab RC). The context in which the conference was convened not only considered the short-term perspective of the immediate suffering of the internally and externally displaced Iraqis, but also the long term need for psychosocial support in a region characterized by complex political environment and protracted conflicts. The conference was attended by 11 National Societies from MENA Zone, namely; Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen. In addition, five participating national societies (Sweden, Turkey, France, Denmark, and Norway), and agencies of the United Nations system such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), were present at the conference. The International Federation was represented by MENA Zone Office and the Representations in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Syrian Arab RC has completed the procurement process for the first phase distribution of 20,000 hygiene kits to the displaced Iraqi population. In view of some changes in the location and numbers of families targeted for assistance, the Syrian Arab RC branches have been requested to re-issue an updated list of beneficiaries, as well as vulnerable families within the host population, for the distribution to be completed in January 2008. In addition, procedures for the local purchase of 20,000 kitchen sets have been completed and these are expected to arrive at the National Society's warehouses by January 2008, allowing distribution early in the new year. During the reporting period, the Syrian Arab RC completed the first phase distribution of school kits and uniforms to displaced people in the provinces, and also assisted the vulnerable host communities in these areas. A total of 9,732 school children were reached by the International Federation supported distribution programme in this phase.

The first phase of the International Federation's support to Syrian Arab RC in health and care activities has begun with the procurement of four vehicles for conversion into MHUs. These will serve the displaced population and vulnerable members of the host community in the north east, and the National Society branches in rural Damascus and the south of the country. In the meantime, the planning for the first BHC centre was concluded, and the International Federation's support will complement the activities of the Qatar Red Crescent in providing primary health care services in the north east. Additional support to displaced Iraqis living in this region will be provided through the rehabilitation and re-equipment of an existing Syrian Arab RC clinic at its sub-branch in Albukamal.

The situation continues to be very challenging for Syrian Arab RC, since the National Society remains the largest national humanitarian organization working in support of the people displaced from Iraq. Currently, around 130 volunteers and 25 staff in 10 branches are engaged on a regular basis, assisting the Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Movement partners and UN agencies. It 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. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to authorize international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) to work in Syria was approved by the Syrian authorities and hence the process of signing the MoU with INGOs working in Syria has started. A total of 14 INGOs have been approved to work in coordination with the National Society on humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi EDPs programme.

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 RC/RC family working in Syria, and support the National Society in contacts with the UN agencies; whilst the Netherlands Red Cross will support Syrian Arab RC in its task to coordinate the work of INGOs in Syria. To assist the National Society with the fulfillment 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. Interviews and selection have taken place to engage additional support at the National Society headquarters, with a focus on finance management, health and care and human resource management. The new staff to support these functions will be in place at the beginning of January 2008. Support is already being given to provide resources for monitoring and reporting on distributions.

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 situation

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.

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 750,000¹ displaced Iraqis and very little information is available regarding vulnerabilities among these people. However, it is evident that life is difficult for the majority. 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.

¹ According to the Norwegian Research Institute Fafo report, the number of Iraqis in Jordan is 450,000-500,000 as of May 2007.

Coordination and partnerships

In **Jordan**, bilateral and multilateral coordination with various humanitarian organizations have been established. Bilateral meetings were held with the German Red Cross, French Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Swedish Ambassador to Jordan, and representatives from the UNHCR Community Services. Related issues were discussed and operational information and experiences were shared.

The German RC will financially support the newly opened Marka BHC through the International Federation's multilateral system. The UNHCR acts as the lead agency in ensuring coordination among various stakeholders. During the reporting period, the International Federation health consultant attended all the health coordination meetings organized by UNHCR and Jordan RC and had an effective participation. In the meantime, the head of the International Federation's regional representation and health consultant met the consultants of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) who are commissioned by the organization to conduct an assessment of the needs of the Iraqis displaced in Jordan. The meeting discussed the coordination mechanism by various stakeholders and the best practices to cover the gaps in the services provided to the Iraqi EDPs.

Other bilateral meetings were conducted with the head of the Regional Support Office of ECHO based in Jordan, American Friends Service Committee, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Jordan, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme officer, and the counselor (development-Iraq) of the Canadian Embassy in Jordan.

The regular RC/RC Movement coordination meeting was held at the Jordan RC headquarters on 13 November, chaired by the National Society and attended by the International Federation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the French, Danish and German Red Cross representatives. Update on the Iraqi displaced operation in Jordan was discussed and information was shared among the components of the Movement. This was followed by another meeting on 6 December, where updates on the operation and a briefing on the outcome of the International Federation's General Assembly were shared. In addition, future cooperation among the Movement's components to develop strategies regarding the immigrants' issues was discussed.

In **Syria**, Movement coordination meetings continue to be held twice a month at Syrian Arab RC headquarters, co-chaired by the National Society and the International Federation. Partner National Societies (PNSs) 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 Society 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), and will assign one medical coordinator to work with Syrian Arab RC on this programme.

The ICRC has agreed to a government request to assist in the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities in Damascus and rural Damascus where Iraqi EDPs live. The intervention will include the provision of clean water to dispensaries and schools, and assistance to the water board in upgrading capacities in Damascus and rural Damascus.

The Syrian Arab RC continues its close cooperation with UN agencies, as the main implementing partner in delivering food and non-food assistance to the population displaced from Iraq throughout Syria. The second round of distributions to around 38,000 UNHCR registered refugees began in Damascus and rural Damascus on 17 November, and to around 12,600 UNHCR registered refugees through the National Society branches in Homs, Hama, Idlib, Aleppo, Raqqa, Hassake, Latakia, and Dara'a on 25 November. Distributions continued through the first half of December. In addition, general information and coordination meetings with the UN and INGOs continue to be held at regular intervals. There are now 14 INGOs that have been accepted to work in assistance programmes for Iraqis displaced in Syria. The MoU to authorize them to commence operations is expected to be signed by a number of INGOs in January, 2008.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has begun implementation of its proposal to help strengthen the capacity of Syrian Arab RC by identifying management training needs and to elaborate the required tools that will enable the National Society to respond to the demands from partners and stakeholders. A consultant with considerable experience at senior level within the RC/RC Movement began work with Syrian Arab RC headquarters in Damascus in November, and has worked in close cooperation with the International Federation and all Movement partners.

National Society Capacity Building:

The capacities 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 in place to ensure reliable management and delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

The recruitment of the medical staff of Marka BHC in Jordan is completed. 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.

In Syria, the International Federation representative has worked closely with Syrian Arab RC in identifying needs and conducting interviews for new staff and coordinators to support the National Society headquarters and its partnership programmes in Syria. Standard salary scales for Syrian Arab RC employees working in partnership projects in its headquarters, its health clinics and within branches, as well as rates of compensation for staff on field trips and reimbursement of costs for volunteers were agreed. Proposals for cost-sharing between partners working at Syrian Arab RC headquarters have been presented, and prospective costs included in budget planning for 2008.

The Netherlands and French RC are working with 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 clinics, and working with UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) on selection criteria for beneficiary registration.

There were some significant absences in technical support within national staff at Syrian Arab RC headquarters; notably the medical coordinator, finance managers and human resources manager. With support from the International Federation, interviews have been held and suitable candidates have been selected to fill these positions, starting from January 2008.

The International Federation representative is working closely with Syrian Arab RC and the SDC consultant in its study of management capacities and procedures, which began on 1 November. The ICRC facilitated a workshop on information and communication with the National Society branches in November, and discussions were held with MENA Zone on proposals for International Federation support to build capacities in this sector in 2008.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

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 MHUs to maintain a satisfactory health status.

Progress:**Jordan**

On 29 November 2007, the second of the planned five Jordan RC BHC centers was opened in Marka neighborhood of north Amman which is densely populated with displaced Iraqis. The health center started to provide high quality primary health care for the displaced Iraqis and local host community. The services include general medical examination and treatment, mother and child care, basic dental care, psychological support, free of charge medication and health education. Patients with further needs for paramedical examination and specialized medical care will be referred to Jordan RC hospital. Extremely vulnerable patients will also have the opportunity to receive support for paramedical examination and secondary level health care (hospitalization). As in the first BHC center, Marka health center has two general practitioners, one dental surgeon, one psych-social counsellor, two nurses and a team of Jordan RC volunteers to support the outreach services through home visits.

An information note about the clinic was circulated and the volunteers contacted the displaced Iraqi families to be aware of the health services provided by the center.

Tender process was completed for the procurement of medical and non-medical supplies for Marka center and all procurements were managed and guided by the International Federation's standard procedures. The clinic will be supported financially by the German RC through the multilateral channels of the International Federation.

In the meantime, the Al-Taj BHC continued providing primary health care. The total number of patients of the two centers by end of December 2007 reached 5,348 people (including 665 dental cases).

Table no.1 Number of patients**Al-Taj BHC**

Month	Age under 5 years			Age over 5 years			Total
	Male	Female	Subtotal	Male	Female	Subtotal	
August 2007	14	7	21	121	122	243	264
September 2007	48	84	132	390	447	837	969 (including 80 dental cases)
October 2007	124	85	209	377	506	883	1,092 (including 174 dental cases)
November 2007	84	74	158	605	878	1,483	1,641 (including 219 dental cases)
December 2007	50	45	95	357	594	951	1,046 (including 187 dental cases)
Total	320	295	615	1,850	2,547	4,397	5,012 (including 660 dental cases)

Marka BHC

December 2007	30	31	61	123	152	275	336 (including 5 dental cases)
Total for the two centres	350	326	676	1,973	2,699	4,672	5,348 (including 665 dental cases)

Operational guidelines were drafted to organize the referral of the vulnerable patients to Jordan RC hospital in order to cover the costs of their laboratory test and x-ray examination. The guidelines included evaluation of the patient's situation, forms to be used and filing of the test results.

Health information software for statistical data was used and indicated that the percentage of patients with acute respiratory infection during the reporting period was the largest among other diseases, constituting 29.4 % of the total number of patients. The figure is acceptable due to seasonal changes. Dental cases constituted 14.2 %, gynaecological & obstetric cases formed 8.2 %, and the sum of different chronic diseases (like hypertension, diabetes, hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, asthma, gastric and duodenal ulcer, gout, arthritis, etc.) constituted 12.7 %. The percentage of other individual diseases was less than 4 %. The daily observation and statistical data revealed that there is no significant epidemiological disease outbreak among displaced Iraqis.

The replenishment of the consumed medicines was completed by the end of each month. Procurement followed the standard International Federation procedures and guidelines. In the meantime, the International Federation Office in Amman continued providing the medical staff with scientific journals and publication of the International Federation and WHO.

The procurement of a MHU and an ambulance, in order to enhance the outreach services and facilitate the referral of emergency cases to the Jordan RC hospital, is underway.

Syria

The International Federation's support to Syrian Arab RC in the first phase of its primary health care programme has begun with the local procurement of four vehicles that will be converted into MHUs. These arrived at Syrian Arab RC headquarters in Damascus in the middle of December, where they will be equipped with material and supplies, ready for mobilization in January 2008. The identification of staff is expected to be completed in January 2008, and the first units will be mobilized to assist the affected displaced populations through branches in the North East (Qamishli and Albukamal). The locations of the remaining two units are to be identified, but will most likely serve the displaced population in rural Damascus and the south of the country.

Planning for the first BHC center was concluded. The International Federation's support will complement the activities of the Qatar RC in providing primary health care services in the north east. Additional support to displaced Iraqis living in this region will be provided through the rehabilitation and re-equipment of an existing Syrian Arab RC clinic at its sub-branch in Albukamal.

Following requests from the National Society, and the confirmation of an absence of adequate medicines to treat the prevalence of chronic diseases amongst the displaced population (see UN Joint Agency Appeal for support to the Health Sector, dated 18 September), the Swedish RC has agreed to allow a proportion of its multi-lateral funding to the International Federation's Emergency Appeal to be used for the procurement of required medicines for Syrian Arab RC, which will be distributed through its clinics. The methodology for this is now being discussed, with most supplies likely to be procured locally in Syria through existing well established sources and procedures. A suitable technical resource may be requested for a short-term assignment to support the National Society in this initial process of identifying and selecting suppliers, and formalizing procurement procedures.

Challenges:

A constraint in the implementation of support to Syrian Arab RC health care programmes has been the absence of a medical coordinator at its headquarters in Damascus, following the return of the previous coordinator to higher education in October. A replacement was interviewed and selected in December, and will begin work in January, 2008.

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:

A Regional Conference on PSP was initiated by the International Federation's MENA Zone Office, supported by the Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support in Denmark and hosted by the Syrian Arab RC in Damascus on 7-8 November 2007.

The conference brought together experts and field practitioners from the region and outside the region, in a two-day active and practical multi-stakeholder meeting. The aim of the meeting was to bring together key stakeholders, from within the RC/RC Movement and beyond, to share experiences and discuss possible approaches in providing relevant psychosocial services for the displaced Iraqis.

The objectives of the conference were to share the good practices of and lessons learned from the PSP in the MENA region, to develop a clear strategy and practical steps on how best to respond to the psychosocial needs of the displaced Iraqis and review existing cooperation modalities and develop appropriate strategy for PSP in the region. The conference activities included presentations on ongoing services to externally displaced Iraqis in Syria by UNHCR and UNICEF in cooperation with the Syrian Arab RC; services to the same group in Jordan by Jordan RC; Iraqi RC PSP activities inside Iraq; and a final presentation on the outcome of the psycho-social needs assessment of the displaced Iraqis in Syria, conducted by the Syrian Arab RC and Danish RC. Working groups discussed the gaps, needs, capacity building and themes for a strategic plan of action for externally displaced Iraqis.

The outcome of discussions and working groups was as the following:

- A strategic plan of action for the response to the needs of Iraqis should include capacity building of Iraqi Red Crescent Society and host National Societies, assessment, evaluation, sustainability, coordination, and adopting the International Federation's psychosocial support strategy with the support of the MENA zone.
- PSP should follow a community based approach and should include internally and externally displaced Iraqis.
- The most evident needs to the displaced Iraqis are survival and safety needs, involvement, and vocational training. Gaps of PSP for Iraqis are found to be in lack of proper assessment and resources, focusing of services in the cities and lack of it in rural areas. Capacity building of the host National Societies is a step for filling these gaps.
- In Iraq, inclusion of PSP in relevant activities like community based first aid (CBFA), tracing, disaster management, is a strength of the PSP and an experience that can be shared with other National Societies.
- Income generating activities should be part of psychosocial interventions. In addition, care for the staff and volunteers are necessary.
- Child friendly spaces in Douma, Syria are a trial to normalize children's life and an example of partnership between Syrian Arab RC, UNICEF and UNHCR.

Full report of the conference is available and can be requested from the MENA Zone office.

In **Jordan**, training modules on PSP were provided to the PSP counsellors. The counsellors conducted home and school visits to build up and strengthen the relationship with the displaced families and monitor their psychological situation.

In coordination with Jordan RC and Nour Al-Hussain Foundation, the PSP counsellor and a general practitioner doctor from Al-Taj BHC centre participated in a three days workshop on PSP. The workshop was conducted on 29-31 October 2007 and included subjects on PSP needs of displaced Iraqis, psychological problems and best methods/practices in providing psychological support services. The counsellor also attended a one day PSP workshop on 11 December 2007, organized by International Medical Corp in coordination with UNHCR.

In coordination with Jordan RC vocational training centre, 30 Iraqi displaced women participated in a one day training workshop on "learning through play". The workshop was conducted on 4 December 2007 aiming at empowering the women/mothers ability in dealing with children and infants and building up the motor and sensory skills of the children. On the other hand, the workshop provided psychological support.

The International Federation's health consultant met the community services PSP team of the UNHCR and discussed the nature of PSP services provided to the EDPs by different NGOs and agencies. Both agreed on establishing a PSP forum for the PSP counsellors/practitioners to have a common understanding on counselling, increase their capacity and share information and experiences.

Syria

The Danish RC completed its needs assessment on future support to Syrian Arab RC in its psychosocial activities with Iraqis displaced in Syria, and a draft proposal has been given to the National Society. The findings of the assessment showed an urgent need to provide support to members of the displaced population, with adolescents being identified as the most vulnerable group. The Syrian Arab RC-Danish RC proposal will complement ongoing

Syrian Arab RC activities with UNICEF in Damascus and rural Damascus, as well as provide assistance to communities in the north and north east of Syria, through activities in community centres. Once approved, the project will begin in February 2008, supported by two delegates from the Danish RC.

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:

In **Jordan**, the volunteers continued their work in and around Al-Taj BHC centre according to a weekly time schedule. They helped the medical staff in simple routine work like filing and manual registration of the patients. The volunteers conducted home and school visits aiming to raise the health awareness of the displaced people and monitoring their epidemiological situation. They provided basic psychological first aid to the families in need and coordinated with the PSP counsellor the monitoring of the psychological status of the displaced people. In addition, they contacted the Iraqi displaced families in Marka neighborhood to be aware of the services provided by the health center. Recruitment of a new group of volunteers is in progress, mainly to support the work of the newly opened Marka BHC.

Table no. 2 Number of families/beneficiaries reached through the volunteer visits

No. of families	Male beneficiaries	Female beneficiaries	Total No. of beneficiaries
487	1,046	1,011	2,057

In **Syria**, the National Society already has a large number of well trained volunteers who are being provided with complementary training to engage in health activities within the framework of the community based health objective. This is complementary to the activities of partners, such as the British RC, working with Syrian Arab RC in disaster management and community based risk reduction, and the Danish RC who will provide support to the National Society in PSP activities, as well as the Netherlands RC and the French RC who support the host National Society in health and care. In addition, ICRC is assisting in training Syrian Arab RC volunteers in first aid and standardisation of its first aid manuals.

Non-Food Items (NFIs) 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:



The non food items, packed in boxes bearing Jordan RC and International Federation logos, were distributed to displaced Iraqis

Jordan

During November 2007, the Jordan RC finalized the identification of the displaced Iraqis in need and started the distribution of the first round of NFIs to the displaced families on 26 November, 2007. The distributed package contained blankets, bed sheets, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. Vouchers were used to dispense the material from the Jordan RC warehouse.

The volunteers played an active role in the registration, filing, and distribution of items, in order to support the warehouse staff. The number of families that received NFIs reached 1,804 by the end of December and the distribution will be continued during January, 2008. Procurement of the

materials followed the standard International Federation guidelines and procedures and the materials were packed in boxes bearing the Jordan RC and International Federation logos. The distribution process was supported by field visits and monitored by the deputy head of MENA Zone and head of the Amman regional representation, in addition to continuous daily support from the International Federation's health consultant who is assigned to support Jordan RC in this operation.

Syria

The first phase of distribution of school kits and uniforms was completed during the period of this report, with a total of 9,732 vouchers issued to families of displaced Iraqis and vulnerable Syrians through nine Syrian Arab RC branches. In November, the distribution planning for the first phase of hygiene items to 20,000 families was completed and 20,000 kits were delivered to the National Society's warehouse in Harasta in December, packaged in individual well marked boxes bearing both the International Federation and Syrian Arab RC logos.



Syrian Arab RC volunteer participating in delivery of the hygiene kits to the warehouse

The criteria for selection of beneficiaries will include families of five or more, female headed households, widows and families with carers and disabilities. Syrian Arab RC branches will also be in a position to identify vulnerable groups within the Iraqi displaced and the host Syrian communities. The distribution will begin in January 2008 and the hygiene kits will include the following contents: soap (five pieces); washing powder (two kg); washing liquid (four bottles); toothpaste (three pieces); toothbrush (three pieces); shampoo (two bottles); dish cloth (four pieces); sanitary towels (two packs); and hand towels (five pieces).

Procurement of a revised number of kitchen sets (total 20,000 instead of 40,000) began in December, following the approval of procedures, provision of detailed numbers and location of beneficiaries from Syrian Arab RC branches. The distribution plan will follow the same criteria for selection as above.

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:

The needs assessment of the access to safe water and sanitation facilities has been cancelled, following the conclusion of a technical survey in water and sanitation requirements in the Damascus area conducted by ICRC in August.

Recommendations in its findings have been approved, and an intervention by ICRC has been agreed. ICRC activities will 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.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

Jordan

The health consultant, representing the head of Amman regional representation office, participated with other INGOs, Jordan RC, Jordan University and UN agencies in the final discussion meeting of ICMC mission findings on the challenges facing the externally displaced Iraqis and related issues.

The deputy head of Zone and head of Amman regional representation attended a reception hosted by UNHCR Jordan on the occasion of the visit to Jordan by UNHCR donors mission which included representatives of Foreign Affairs Ministries from Canada, Spain, Ireland, Germany, UK, the Netherlands, Japan, Finland, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, USA, Iceland and European Union in addition to UNHCR senior officials from the headquarters in Geneva.

Syria

The International Federation representative made a short presentation during the Syrian Arab RC information and communications workshop facilitated by ICRC in Syria in November. Plans for International Federation support to the National Society in this sector were discussed during the senior management meeting with the MENA Zone in Amman in December, and it was agreed that once the technical resources and a location for the Zone Office is confirmed, suitable support can be provided from the region. Proposed topics include general induction to the Movement for new middle and senior National Society management, finance training, public relations and communications with affected populations and stakeholders in humanitarian assistance.

The representative also participated in visits to schools during a road safety campaign with the National Society's Homs branch, during which volunteers facilitated discussions and playgroups with young school-children to raise awareness of road safety issues in the community. A number of Iraqi children attend schools in the Homs area.

The regional PSP conference hosted by the National Society in Damascus, and attended by Movement partners from 16 National Societies and three UN agencies, successfully raised the profile of psycho-social support in the region.

Miscellaneous Movement partnership support:

Two workshops in disaster management supported by the International Federation were held on 1 November in community based risk reduction at Syrian Arab RC Deir Ez Zor branch disaster management centre, and one national intervention team training for Damascus branch in the Sweida branch training centre. These were complementary to a British RC workshop held at Sweida in September. The British RC has continued support to fund Syrian Arab RC branch field visits throughout November and December.

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[<Interim financial report attached below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR81002 - Middle East - Displaced From Iraq

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/03-2007/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/03-2008/03
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</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>		301,000				301,000
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>		165,700				165,700
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>		5,936				5,936
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>		303,000				303,000
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>		2,177			30,963	33,140
<i>On Line donations</i>		30,071				30,071
<i>OPEC Fund For International Developm</i>		1,203,000				1,203,000
<i>Polish Red Cross</i>		152				152
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		876,000				876,000
<i>Switzerland - Private Donors</i>		500				500
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>		185				185
C1. Cash contributions		2,887,722			30,963	2,918,685
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>American Govt, PR&M</i>		4,267,600				4,267,600
<i>On Line donations</i>		239				239
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>		877,000				877,000
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)		5,144,839				5,144,839
<u>Inkind Personnel</u>						
<i>British Red Cross</i>		34,850				34,850
C4. Inkind Personnel		34,850				34,850
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)		8,067,411			30,963	8,098,373
D. Total Funding = B + C		8,067,411			30,963	8,098,373
Appeal Coverage		63%			100%	63%

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0			0	0
C. Income		8,067,411			30,963	8,098,373
E. Expenditure		-1,961,863			-29,360	-1,991,224
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		6,105,548			1,602	6,107,150

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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		42,971				42,971	1,131,629
Medical & First Aid	2,018,700		197,464				197,464	1,821,236
Teaching Materials	449,200		106,682				106,682	342,518
Utensils & Tools	1,032,000		389,608				389,608	642,392
Other Supplies & Services	2,768,000		537,120				537,120	2,230,880
Total Supplies	7,509,400		1,274,509				1,274,509	6,234,891
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	232,000							232,000
Computers & Telecom	85,000		3,661				3,661	81,339
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	72,000		10,850				10,850	61,150
Medical Equipment	1,003,500							1,003,500
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,392,500		14,511				14,511	1,377,989
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	140,000		316				316	139,684
Transport & Vehicle Costs	117,635		3,847				3,847	113,788
Total Transport & Storage	257,635		4,163				4,163	253,472
Personnel								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	345,000		94,457			25,802	120,259	224,741
Delegate Benefits	146,400							146,400
National Staff	95,360		3,904				3,904	91,456
National Society Staff	1,479,904		70,138				70,138	1,409,766
Consultants	72,000		56,110				56,110	15,890
Total Personnel	2,138,664		224,608			25,802	250,410	1,888,253
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	370,000		6,190				6,190	363,810
Total Workshops & Training	370,000		6,190				6,190	363,810
General Expenditure								
Travel	36,000		11,199				11,199	24,801
Information & Public Relation	77,500		2,729				2,729	74,771
Office Costs	114,790		461			1,650	2,111	112,679
Communications	52,800		1,866				1,866	50,934
Financial Charges	8,500		2,865				2,865	5,635
Other General Expenses	29,000							29,000
Total General Expenditure	318,590		19,120			1,650	20,770	297,820
Programme Support								
Program Support	833,306		127,374			1,908	129,282	704,024
Total Programme Support	833,306		127,374			1,908	129,282	704,024
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions			291,387				291,387	-291,387
Total Operational Provisions			291,387				291,387	-291,387
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	12,820,095		1,961,863			29,360	1,991,224	10,828,871
VARIANCE (C - D)			10,827,269			1,602	10,828,871	