

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Middle East: Population Displaced from Iraq

Period covered by this Ops Update: 1 July to 31 December, 2008.

Appeal target: CHF 17,072,655 (USD 14,718,440 or EUR 11,454,480).

Appeal coverage: 78% [<click here to go directly to the interim financial report or here to link to contact details>](#)

Summary:

The continuous generous support from the partners has made the International Federation and host National Societies in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Jordan) and Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) able to provide the needed humanitarian assistance to the displaced Iraqi population in these two countries. The partners included the US Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), American Red Cross, OPEC Fund for International Development, Swedish Government through Swedish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, British Red Cross, Hong Kong Red Cross, Monaco Red Cross, and other contributors.

In Syria, the International Federation assumed a much larger role for the provision of basic health care (BHC) support to displaced Iraqis following the completion of the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO) funded Netherlands Red Cross health programme on 30 September 2008. This increased responsibility included the provision of medicines for 12 BHC clinics, the payment of fees for external referrals in 12 clinics, the covering of operational costs in 10 clinics and payment of staff salaries in six clinics. Staff and operating costs were also covered for four mobile health units (MHUs) and for eight Syrian Arab Red Crescent (Syrian Arab RC) headquarters support staff involved in programme implementation. The additional expenditure associated with this increased commitment was able to be absorbed within the current International Federation Appeal budget. Additionally, a cheaper, more equitable and predictable flat rate fee-for-service system was introduced to replace the previous variable service fee and this has given rise to an increase in the number of vulnerable Iraqis visiting International Federation supported Syrian Arab RC clinics. This new system has been well received by vulnerable Iraqis and has proven to be much easier to administer by clinic staff.

The humanitarian situation pertaining to the displaced Iraqis in Jordan and Syria remains largely unchanged. The economic hardships aggravated by food prices hikes coupled with the depletion of personal resources

Emergency appeal n° MDR81002
Operations update n° 6
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Jordanian Red Crescent volunteers providing relief items to externally displaced Iraqis in Amman, Jordan.

increased the vulnerability of the majority of Iraqi families and forced some of them to return home. Despite efforts from the Iraqi government and the host countries to encourage voluntary return of displaced Iraqis to their home country, in view of the current humanitarian situation in Iraq, they are not expected to return in the near future embracing the International Federation and Jordan and Syrian Arab RC Societies for a long term commitment to provide assistance. Therefore, the International Federation is extending the time frame of this Emergency Appeal from 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009. In the meantime, the Emergency Appeal budget will be revised to reflect the changes brought to the programme following the ongoing review of the Appeal which will be completed by mid February.

Through the implementation and extension of the timeframe of the current Emergency Appeal, the International Federation support to the host National Societies in Syria and Jordan will continue to include humanitarian assistance to 50,000 displaced Iraqi families (30,000 in Syria and 20,000 in Jordan). The services will include basic health and care, psycho-social support, capacity building support to the two National Societies in systems' development, health information systems and general reporting and monitoring.

Syria

The procurement and distribution of 30,000 kitchen sets, school uniforms and school kits covered by the International Federation Appeal has been completed. In addition, procurement of 20,000 mattresses and 30,000 blankets for distribution in January and February 2009 has been completed, and tenders for additional hygiene kits are under review. Rehabilitation and equipping of five BHC centres has been completed and various forms of support are now being provided to 12 clinics, while all four MHUs have been equipped and commissioned. An existing Syrian Arab RC unit was also fully equipped and is now also operational. Capacity building support continued and included staffing at headquarters and branches, training of volunteers in disaster management and programme planning, monitoring and reporting. Procurement of equipment to establish a VHF radio network to support five Syrian Arab RC disaster management units has been completed and distribution will occur in January and February 2009. Preparations and training of staff and volunteers for the opening of the psycho-social support programme (PSP) counselling centres in Qamishley, Aleppo and Rural Damascus has been completed and the centres are now operational. The fourth counselling centre will be commissioned in Hassekeh in January 2009. Contracts have been let for the construction of two school classrooms in Damascus for completion in January 2009 and plans are underway for the establishment of a nursing school in Damascus in the first quarter of 2009.

Previously reported concerns of Iraqis regarding visa extensions and residency permits appears to have been resolved with visas being available for one to three months (renewable) and residency permits for one to two years, particularly for those with children in schools. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also advises that simple overstays in Syria do not lead to automatic deportation while security breaches, acts of crime, illegal entry and forged documents may. The number of Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR has stabilised at approximately 220,000 persons.

Jordan

The third phase of the operation which started in July saw the opening of the third BHC centre in Jabal Al Hussein, a neighbourhood frequented by many Iraqis. The ambulance and the MHU were delivered to the National Society; however, the MHU will be converted into an ambulance due to its limited space which is not suitable for the necessary services. In addition, more equipment will be procured to make the MHU fully operational as an ambulance. In the meantime, the International Federation is working with the National Society to procure a MHU to replace the one converted into an ambulance. The three BHC centres consolidated their primary health care services providing 13,245 consultations during the reporting period; bringing the total number of consultations performed by the three centres since the beginning of the operation in August 2007 to 28,592. 11.5% of the consultations were children below the age of five and 58% of the adult consultations were females. The volunteers' outreach services to monitor the general health welfare of the displaced families and provide psycho-social support services reached 6,528 beneficiaries during the reporting period; bringing the total number of beneficiaries since the beginning of the outreach services in September 2007 to 12,612. Despite distribution of food items not being set as an objective of the Emergency Appeal, due to the increase of prices, the International Federation and the National Society decided to add food parcels to the in-kind assistance provided to the displaced Iraqis during Ramadan. The third round of hygiene kits distribution was supplemented by food parcels for 3,500 families who received rice, tea, sugar, edible oil, tomato paste, lentils and salt. In December, the German RC, on bilateral basis, funded the procurement of 2,500 food parcels and hygiene kits which were distributed by Jordan RC to the displaced Iraqis. The two service vehicles (Toyota Prado units) ordered through the regional logistics unit (RLU) in Dubai were delivered to the National Society to enhance its logistical capacity.

The situation

Despite claims that the security situation in Iraq has improved, the general conditions on the ground are not conducive and encouraging for the displaced Iraqis in Syria and Jordan to return home. In many occasions, the UNHCR declared that they are not encouraging voluntary repatriation; however, they stand ready to assist those who wish to go back. The introduction of entry visa to Jordan and Syria has not limited the flow of Iraqis to these countries and many are heading towards these countries fleeing Iraq mainly for security concerns. In view of this volatile situation, the International Federation will continue its support to Jordan and Syrian Arab RC to provide the needed humanitarian assistance to the displaced Iraqis.

In Syria, an increase in the number of families moving from Damascus to other provinces (especially Aleppo and Homs) continues. Financial constraints appear to be motivating Iraqi refugees to seek cheaper rentals and opportunities to generate income by working illegally outside Damascus. The number of refugees from Iraq registered with UNHCR living outside Damascus and Rural Damascus has exceeded expectations. Syrian Arab RC figures are showing a larger than expected number being recorded at their branches. Iraqis presenting for registration advise that their main reason for coming to Syria is to obtain subsidised medical services followed by the availability of food and non-food items (NFIs) assistance.

Coordination and partnerships

Syria

The International Federation continued to assist Syrian Arab RC to meet its coordination responsibilities with partner National Societies (French Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent and Turkish Red Crescent); International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); international non-governmental organisations (INGOs); as well as liaison with UN Agencies like UNHCR, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Programme (WFP). This includes harmonization of support to Syrian Arab RC, standardization of reporting, security and related issues plus updating partner mapping.

The ICRC sponsored workshops that addressed the need for a standard National Society logo and for the production of a Syrian Arab RC logo standards manual. The International Federation supported this initiative together with the development of a National Society communications guide and the commissioning of a website. The ICRC and the International Federation also cooperated in the procurement of VHF handsets, base stations, mobile units and repeater stations to establish networks to support operations in five key Syrian Arab RC disaster management units with distribution to commence in January 2009.

The Danish RC has now commissioned PSP counselling centres in Qamishley, Aleppo and Rural Damascus with a fourth to be opened in Hassekeh in January-February 2009. The French RC completed modifications to its clinic at Sayda Zienab and continued with planning for the opening of a nursing school in Damascus in the first quarter of 2009.

The Turkish RC signed an agreement with Syrian Arab RC for the construction of two schools in Rural Damascus and for the distribution of limited food items. Contracts for construction of the schools have been signed and construction is expected to be completed in January 2009. Approximately, 200 students will be served by the new schools.

The International Federation and the British RC continue to support Syrian Arab RC's disaster management training, including conducting workshops for branch disaster management coordinators, exercises focusing on camp management, national intervention team (NIT) training and Sphere standards. Ongoing community based risk reduction and road safety programmes were also supported during the reporting period.

Jordan

The International Federation, UNHCR and ICRC are continuing to harmonise and coordinate their support to the National Society. Regular consultation meetings were maintained with partner National Societies' (PNSs) representatives based in Jordan (German, Danish, French) and the ICRC to harmonize support to Jordan RC through the Movement coordination meetings and bilateral meetings. External relations briefings and

consultations included the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) on the International Federation operations in Jordan, the assistance provided to the displaced Iraqis, and the support provided to Jordan RC to strengthen its disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity. In addition, PRM at the US Embassy in Amman and the women's commission for refugee women and children were briefed on the International Federation support to the Iraqi displaced.

The International Federation representation participated actively in the UN consolidated appeal process (CAP) and shared the country plans with the partners. Other regular consultations and coordination meetings regarding the implementation of the Emergency Appeal for the assistance of the displaced Iraqis included International Medical Corps (IMC), CARE International, and International Relief and Development (IRD).

The Jordan RC and the Danish RC finalized the write up of the project proposal to be submitted to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval of funding. The cooperation between the two National Societies will include volunteers and staff exchange, DRR, and dialogue on culture, religious tolerance and neutrality.

National Society Capacity Building:

Syria

The International Federation is supporting Syrian Arab RC with core staff at headquarters (17 positions) and National Society clinics and MHUs. During the reporting period, technical support and training was also provided to the key staff to enhance their monitoring, administration and reporting capabilities. This included the national headquarters as well as the branches.

Support was provided through disaster management training at headquarters and branch level. The International Federation supported disaster management planning, reporting and monitoring workshops, which were conducted for the National Society's disaster management coordinators. Two disaster management exercises sponsored by the British RC were conducted in October and a NIT exercise was conducted in November, while three Sphere standard training workshops were organized in October/November. Syrian Arab RC staff and volunteers were sponsored by the International Federation for camp management training in Geneva, water/sanitation training in Austria and Jordan, and field training in Cambodia.

To enhance the National Society's response capacity, two mobile operations room caravans have been procured and fully equipped with furniture/tools to be mobilized and deployed at short notice in case of an emergency. In addition, the joint procurement by ICRC and the International Federation of VHF radio equipment to establish networks in five Syrian Arab RC disaster management units will further enhance the disaster response capacity of the National Society.

Jordan

The International Federation representation supported the National Society technically and financially, and facilitated a meeting for the disaster management working group to develop the country DRR proposal to be submitted to the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) through the World Bank. Representatives from the branches of Al Karak, Al Aqaba, Ajloun, Jarash, Al Mafraq in addition to the staff from the headquarters participated in the meeting. The proposal was presented to the National Society's executive committee, the ICRC and the PNSs based in Jordan.

With financial support from the American RC, the International Federation supported five participants from Jordan RC to attend the earthquake preparedness workshop hosted by Turkish RC in Ankara during 8-12 August 2008. The workshop was facilitated by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) in Bangkok. Other participants from the region included Palestine Red Crescent, Magen David Adom in Israel and the Turkish RC. The workshop came at an important time as the National Society was consolidating its DRR project.

The International Federation's country representation facilitated the first consultative meeting of the National Society task force assigned to review and update the National Society's strategic development plan 2009-2012. The National Society and the International Federation are planning to convene a wider consultative meeting to discuss the main features of the strategic plan.

The International Federation country representation facilitated the participation of the National Society representatives to attend the road safety workshop in Qatar. Representatives from the International Federation, Jordan RC and Syrian Arab RC participated in the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) regional health and care meeting, held in Tehran during 20-23 October. Information on the International Federation representation and the National Society services delivered to the externally displaced Iraqis were presented at the meeting.

The International Federation representatives paid a visit to Jordan RC Aqaba branch to monitor the implementation of the DRR project. During the visit, the branch conducted a community based first aid (CBFA) workshop for its volunteers who are playing an active role in the implementation of the project. The CBFA is one of the components of the DRR interventions at the community level.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Progress towards objectives

Goal: The health status and living standards of Iraqi externally displaced persons (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.

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:

Syria

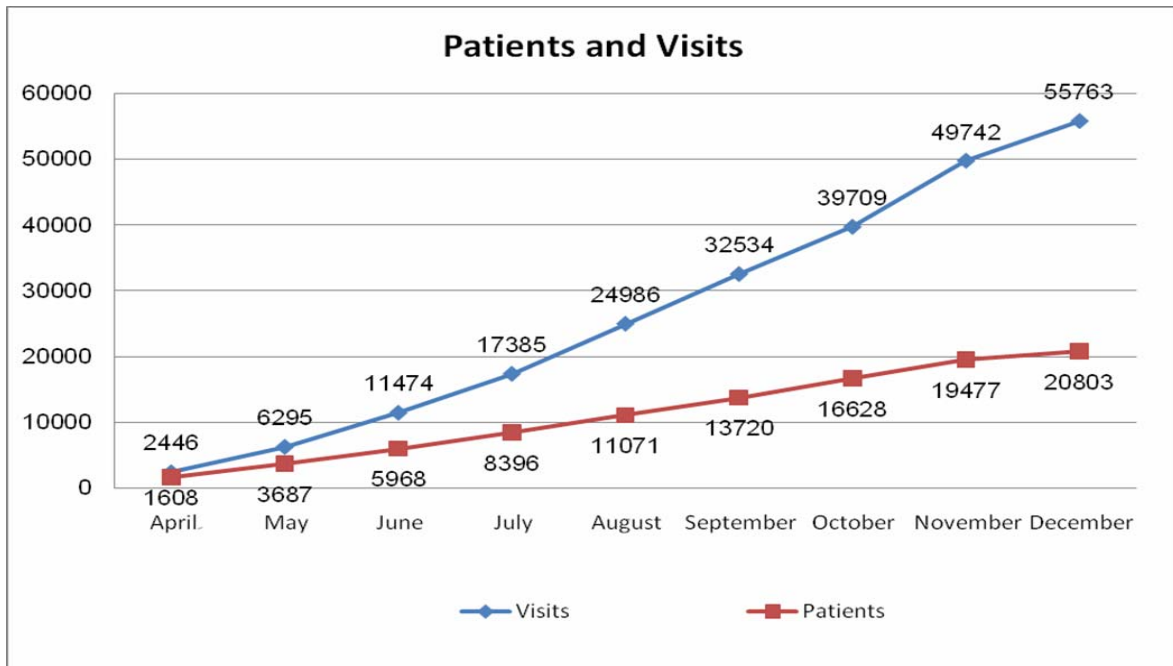
With the completion of the DG ECHO funded Netherlands RC programme on 30 September 2008, the International Federation assumed responsibility for specified support in 12 clinics and four MHUs with effect 1 October 2008. This support includes the provision of salaries for 69 clinic staff in six fixed clinics and four MHUs (three staff each) plus eight headquarters support staff. In addition, operating costs were covered in 10 fixed clinics and four MHUs. Medications sourced through externally contracted pharmacies were covered in 12 clinics. The additional expenditure associated with these expanded commitments (approximately CHF 220,000 for the reporting period) has been accommodated within the existing International Federation Appeal funding.

International Federation support continued to complement the activities of the Qatar RC in providing BHC services in the north at Syrian Arab RC clinics in Hassakeh, Qamishli and Albukamal. Support will also be provided to existing Syrian Arab RC clinics in Al Othman and Al Akram.

The International Federation has also assumed responsibility for the Netherlands RC developed Syrian Arab RC health information system (SCIS). A workshop was conducted in October to train clinic staff on the implementation of the system and the introduction of the flat rate fee for the health services provided in the National Society clinics.

The total cumulative number of Iraqis and vulnerable Syrian patients treated in the International Federation supported Syrian Arab RC clinics during the reporting period reached 14,835 with the total number of 44,289 consultations. From July to December, the patients visited approximately three times the BHCs. 16% of all patients that had access to the Syrian Arab RC health services were poor Syrians. The below graph indicates the cumulative figures of this reporting period, along with the previous one (April-June 2008).

Graph no.1 Total number of patients and consultations (visits) to Syrian Arab RC clinics



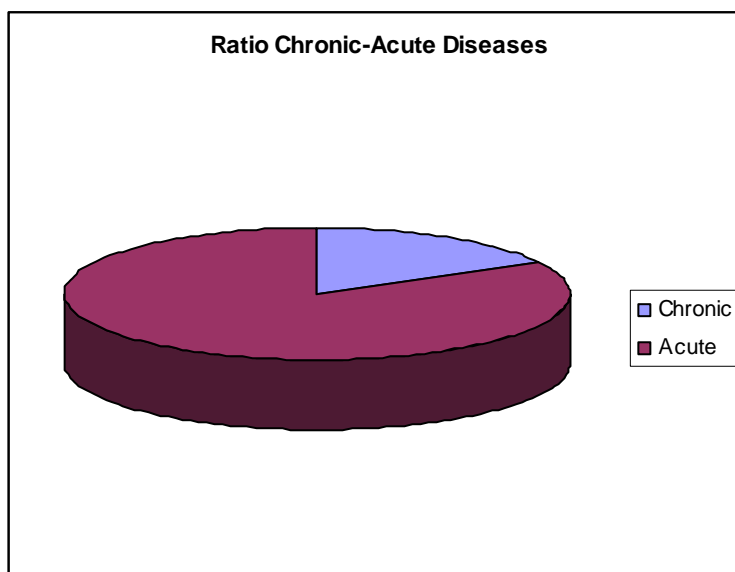
There has been an increase of approximately 20 % in the number of the Syrian Arab RC registered Iraqis attending the International Federation supported National Society clinics since the introduction of the cheaper, more equitable and more predictable flat rate user fees system. The flat rate was introduced in November.

Graphs no. 2 Observed diseases

The classification in Syria is using the International Classification of Diseases No.10 (ICD 10).

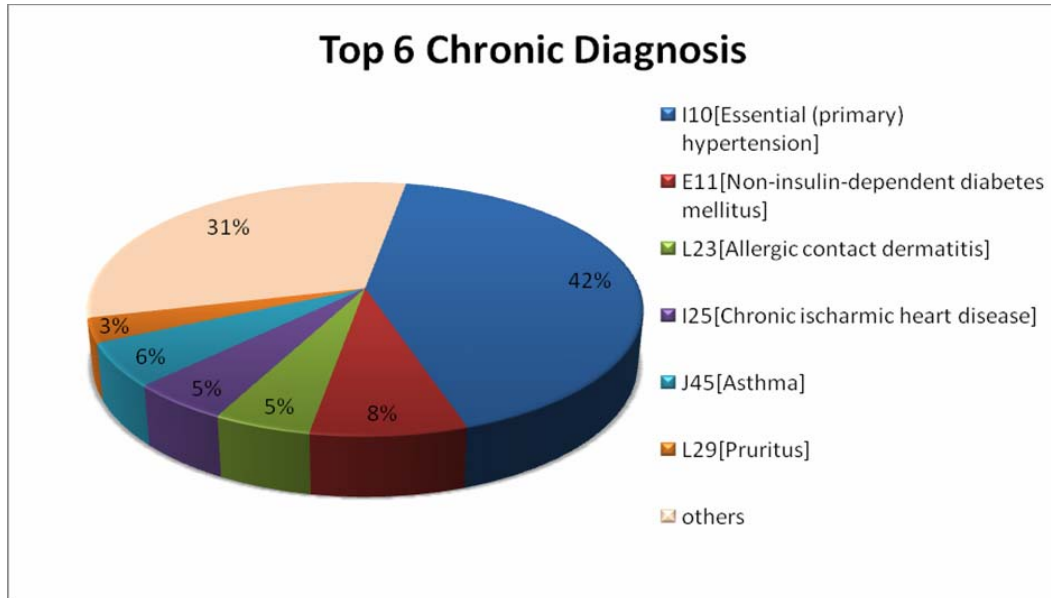
Chronic-Acute

17% of all patient consultations occurred due to chronic diseases related to the relatively aged population of displaced Iraqis.



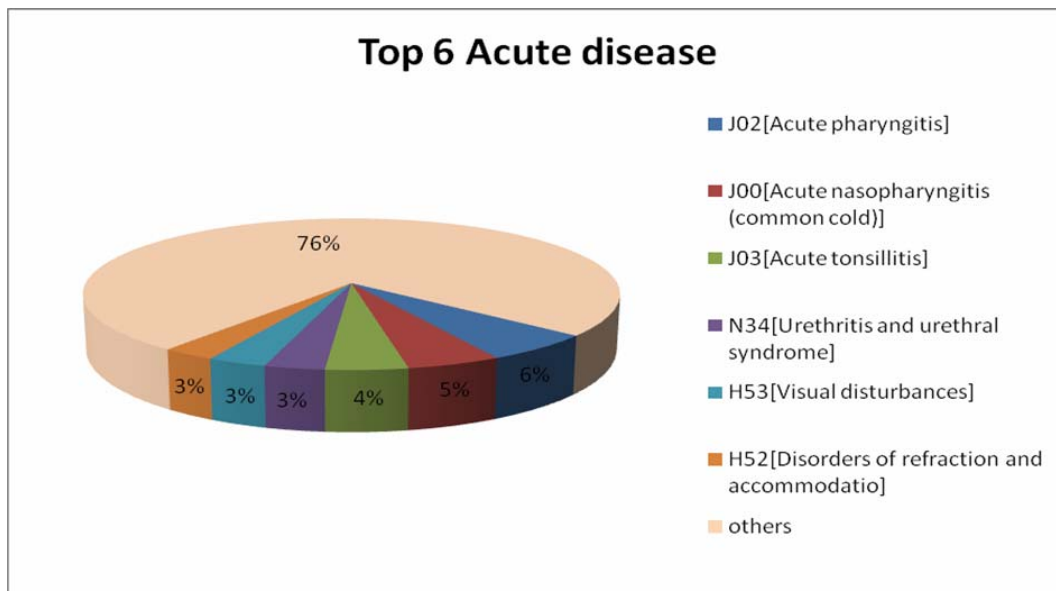
Chronic diseases:

The graph below shows the breakdown of chronic diseases. Hypertension followed by non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, allergic contact dermatitis, chronic ischemic heart disease, asthma and prurities represent the most common chronic diseases. The graph shows all reported chronic diseases that represent more than 3% of the chronic diseases. Some patients may have consulted the clinic because of chronic and acute medical problems.



Acute diseases:

The graph below shows the most common acute diseases. Acute pharyngitis, common cold, acute tonsillitis, urethritis, visual disturbances and disorder of refraction are the most encountered acute diseases. All acute diseases that encounter less than 3% are displayed as others.



Jordan

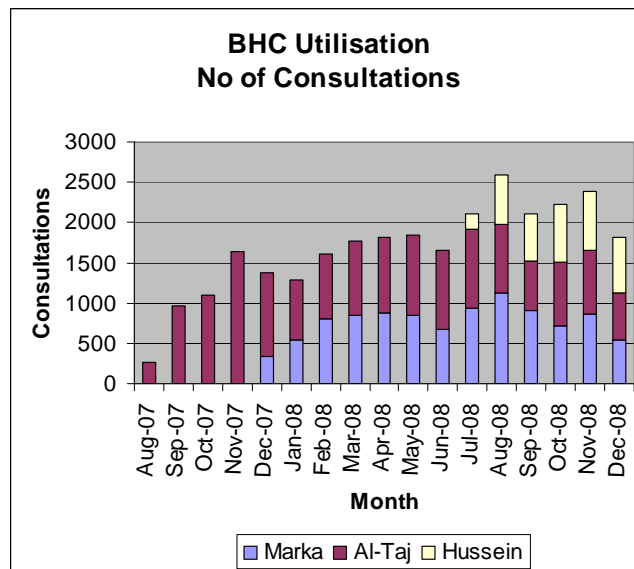
The third BHC was opened in Jabal Al-Hussein neighborhood on 17 July 2008. The neighborhood is known to be one of the densely populated areas with displaced Iraqi families. As in the other two centers, the staffing of the centre consists of two general practitioner doctors, one dentist, one psychosocial counsellor, two nurses and a team of volunteers to support the outreach services.

During the reporting period, the number of consultations carried out by the three BHC centres - Al-Taj, Marka and Jabal Al-Hussein - reached 13,245 bringing the total number of consultations since the start of the emergency operations in August 2007 to 28,592.

Table no.1 Total number of consultations performed since the commence of the programme:

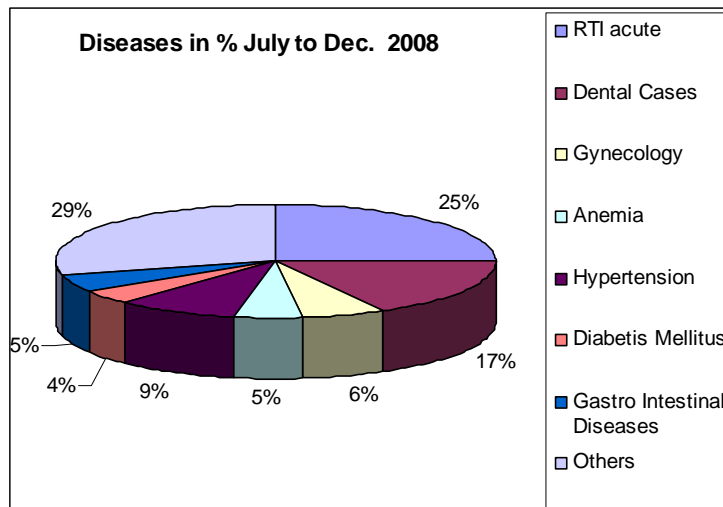
Month	Al-Taj BHC	Marka BHC	Jabal Al-Hussein BHC	Total
August 2007	264	-	-	264
September 2007	969	-	-	969
October 2007	1,092	-	-	1,092
November 2007	1,641	-	-	1,641
December 2007	1,046	336	-	1,382
January 2008	747	543	-	1,290
February 2008	812	803	-	1,615
March 2008	917	854	-	1,771
April 2008	943	871	-	1,814
May 2008	1,009	842	-	1,851
June 2008	990	668	-	1,658
July 2008	983	941	188	2,112
August 2008	848	1,134	615	2,597
September 2008	625	901	586	2,112
October 2008	793	713	715	2,221
November 2008	784	864	743	2,391
December 2008	592	537	683	1,812
Total	15,055	10,007	3,530	28,592

Graph No. 3 The utilization of the health facilities in Al-Taj, Marka and Jabal Al-Hussein BHC centres



The statistical data showed that 11.5% of consultations were children below the age of five and 58 % of adult consultations were females. It also showed that there is no disease outbreak among the displaced Iraqis.

Graph No.4 The percentage of observed diseases during the reporting period



Note: The percentage of other individual diseases is less than 3%. Malnutrition rate among children below five years of age is 0.2 %.

The Jordan RC received the two ambulances that were procured from Dubai. The first one is ready for operation whereas the second one which was originally ordered as a MHU is in need to be modified to serve as an ambulance.

The International Federation representation in Jordan continued supporting the training of the clinics' health staff to enhance their skills and broaden their knowledge in the related fields of expertise. Two doctors from Al-Taj and Marka BHC attended a mental health care workshop during July 2008. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the IMC. The doctor from Jabal Al-Hussein BHC attended a four days workshop on primary health care during October 2008. The workshop was organized by Jordan RC in collaboration with IMC.

During August 2008, the three psycho-social counsellors attended the collaborative workshop for psycho-social workers which was organized by UNICEF and IMC and attended the practitioners' forum, hosted by CARE International. The three counsellors participated in a three days training on neuro-linguistic programming, organized in October 2008 by Jordan RC. The International Federation representation arranged for the participation of the PSP counsellors to attend a five days psychological training on "Children Affected by Armed Conflict". The training was organized during November 2008 by the French RC in coordination with Palestine RC and Jordan RC. In November 2008, the counsellor from Al-Taj BHC participated in a training course in Morocco on communication skills organized and supported by the Danish RC.

During November 2008, the International Federation representation organized a joint technical meeting for the health staff from the four BHC centres run by Jordan RC. The participants discussed the health services delivery system in the clinics and the coordination of the referral of the patients to the Jordan RC hospital. The participants agreed on the list of secondary health referrals.

To share and exchanges experiences, the International Federation representation invited a colleague from the Syrian Arab RC to present the National Society's health clinic information system to Jordanian colleagues and representatives of other humanitarian actors. The meeting which was organized and facilitated by the International Federation took place in Amman on 4 September and was attended by the International Federation, Jordan RC, French RC, WHO, IMC, and UNHCR representatives. A follow up meeting was organized on 18 December to discuss the modality of introducing the health information system in Jordan and to assess the willingness to compile one consolidated public health report for all health providers working with Iraqi displaced people. The participants agreed that this system can be adopted by the health agencies in Jordan and a time frame to fully implement the system in Jordan is set for a maximum of six months. The participants decided to form a working group to facilitate the implementation. The working group comprises the International Federation, UNHCR, Jordan RC, WHO, MoH, IMC, Jordan Health and Aid Society (JHAS), and Caritas. The International

Federation will facilitate the working group meetings and the working group will make recommendations to modify the system to meet the local requirements in Jordan.

In coordination with IMC, two specialized psychiatric doctors visited Al-Taj and Marka BHC during August and September and assisted the doctors in the centres in referring the patients to a specialized mental health hospital in Amman. The IMC covered the costs of the referral cases.

Psycho-social 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 programmes of Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC, supported by the International Federation.

Progress:

Syria

The Danish RC has commissioned counselling centres in Qamishley, Aleppo and Rural Damascus which are now fully operational including the provision of community outreach programmes. A fourth counselling centre will be commissioned in Hassekeh in January-February 2009. At the time of writing the report, the Rural Damascus counselling centre has registered 975 Iraqis, while the one in Aleppo registered 900, and the one in Qamishley registered 460.

Jordan

The psycho-social counsellors in the three BHC centres continued conducting home visits and providing psycho-social support to the Iraqi displaced families. The International Federation representation organized a schedule for the psycho-social counsellors to visit each other during July 2008 and exchange knowledge and best practices. They visited Nour Al-Hussein Foundation to exchange experience and share knowledge in providing psychological support to mothers and children.

In coordination with the MENA regional PSP coordinator, the International Federation representation organized a training course on PSP for 27 Jordan RC volunteers. The course was conducted during 22-25 September and attended by 15 participants from the International Federation supported BHC centres and 12 from Al-Hashimi community centre supported by the French RC. In addition, three social workers from CARE International were invited to attend the course to strengthen the working relationship with the key players in the field of PSP.

The International Federation representation discussed the main psycho-social problems of the displaced people with IMC and arranged for the training of BHC doctors on mental health care in the beginning of 2009. The representation discussed the psycho-social needs of the displaced families with Terre des Hommes (TdH) and the possibilities of supporting the psycho-social services provided to the displaced Iraqis.

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 activities managed by the Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC headquarters and local branches.

Progress:

Syria

With the support of the International Federation and the British RC, Syrian Arab RC has implemented school based first aid training and road safety awareness as part of its ongoing community based risk reduction programme. To support this programme, 140 first aid kits and 17,000 road safety educational publications have been distributed to 60 schools.

Jordan

The Jordan RC volunteers continued monitoring the health and social well being of the displaced Iraqi people. Health messages were disseminated and basic psycho-social support was provided to the families in need. The

home visits conducted by the volunteers strengthened the relationship between the service providers and the beneficiaries and built confidence and trust between them.

The number of beneficiaries reached through the volunteers' home visits during the reporting period was 6,528. The total number of beneficiaries reached since the start of the home visits activities in September 2007 reached 12,612.

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

Month	Number of families	Male beneficiaries	Female beneficiaries	Total number of beneficiaries
September 2007	128	314	327	641
October 2007	158	304	328	632
November 2007	165	349	289	638
December 2007	36	79	67	146
January 2008	64	174	148	322
February 2008	102	238	204	442
March 2008	162	360	378	738
April 2008	273	594	540	1,134
May 2008	192	390	352	742
June 2008	181	327	322	649
July 2008	192	345	317	662
August 2008	290	523	538	1,061
September 2008	368	685	672	1,357
October 2008	551	770	887	1,657
November 2008	231	520	461	981
December 2008	215	442	368	810
Total	3,308	6,414	6,198	12,612

In coordination with CARE International, the International Federation representation organized a two day training course on vulnerability assessment for 13 Jordan RC volunteers to enhance their capacity to carry out the outreach services. The course was held on 17 September and four volunteers from Al-Hashimi community centre, supported by French RC, were among the participants. Coordination with CARE continued and arrangements were made for field visits to train Jordan RC volunteers on vulnerability assessment to resume in 2009.

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:

Syria

The procurement and distribution of the 30,000 kitchen sets, school uniforms and school kits covered under the International Federation Appeal budget has been completed. Procurement and distribution of the second round of 20,000 hygiene kits has been completed with further procurement under review. The procurement of 20,000 mattresses and 30,000 blankets has been completed and these will be distributed in January-February 2009.

Jordan

The representation organized a meeting with Jordan RC to discuss the future interventions with regard to relief distribution to the Iraqi displaced. It was agreed that there is no need to continue the distribution of NFIs such as blankets, bed sheets and kitchen sets. In the meantime, it was agreed to distribute food parcels and hygiene kits to assist the displaced families during Ramadan. Jordan RC logistics and procurement unit, with technical support from the International Federation representation, prepared the list of beneficiaries and quantities of items to be distributed for 3,500 families. The International Federation actively participated in the tendering process which included request for price quotations, bids analysis, checking of the samples and selection of the successful bidders. Procurement of the materials was completed in September; Jordan RC started the distribution in the last week of September and completed it in October 2008. The tables below show the items and quantities received by each family.

Food Parcels

Item	Quantity
Rice	10 kg
Tea	2 kg
Cooking oil	5 liter
Tomato paste	1.7 kg
Salt	0.8 kg
Sugar	4 kg
Lentils	2 kg
Packing materials	1 carton

Hygiene Kits

Item	Quantity
Washing powder	6 kg
Toilet paper	8 pcs
Bath soap (100 gm)	10 pcs
Tooth paste (100 gm)	5 pcs
Tooth brush (medium)	5 pcs
Shampoo	1200 ml
Disposal shaving razors	5 pcs
Sanitary pads	40

The German RC provided funds to the National Society to procure and distribute food parcels and hygiene kits to 2,500 families based on the standard list of items distributed by the International Federation and the National Society. The distribution started on 22 December 2008 and is expected to be completed in early January 2009.

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:

Syria

This component of the Emergency Appeal was covered by the ICRC and was completed in November 2008. Through cooperation with Syrian Arab RC, the ICRC provided water and sanitation needs to 29 public schools in Damascus and Rural Damascus benefiting 28,000 pupils. A drilling project also provided 10 fully equipped potable water boreholes.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC activities are regularly highlighted in the local media giving visibility and recognition to the two National Societies in the humanitarian work. The host National Societies are regularly invited to the humanitarian forums organized by international organizations and the local authorities.

Syria

Syrian Arab RC and the International Federation regularly attended the various inter-agency meetings and highlighted the role of the National Society and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement in supporting the displaced Iraqis. A communications guide is being developed and a website has been commissioned and maintained by Syrian Arab RC.

Jordan

The International Federation's representation and Jordan RC regularly attended coordination and the inter-agency monthly meetings. The advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable displaced Iraqis and promotion of the National Society activities is enhanced through meetings with and visits to the partners and other stakeholders. During the reporting period, the International Federation visited the SDC to brief on the International Federation support to the displaced Iraqis and on the Jordan RC DRR activities.

The International Federation, Jordan RC, ICRC delegation in Jordan, and ICRC Iraq attended the third meeting of the working group of the neighbouring countries hosting Iraqi refugees, namely Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon. The meeting was organized and hosted by Jordan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-chaired by Iraq and Jordan. The meeting was attended by representatives of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, the G-8, the Arab League, the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the UN system led by UNHCR, and Iran and Turkey as observers. The meeting focused on the importance of facilitating the voluntary return of the Iraqi refugees as the ultimate solution to the problem and urged the international community to support financially the countries hosting refugees to cope with the pressure on their infrastructure and services, mainly, health and education.

Jordan representation and Jordan RC played an active role in the celebration of the International Volunteer Day. The International Federation was represented in the steering committee which prepared for the celebration which took place on 4 December. Representatives from the MENA Zone and the International Federation Jordan country representation attended the celebration. Two of Jordan RC volunteers were awarded as best volunteers among other volunteers from different organizations.

Impact

The generous contribution from the partners has enabled both National Societies to provide the much needed assistance to the externally displaced Iraqis. The free health services provided and the free distribution of food and NFIs to the most vulnerable enabled the displaced Iraqi families to use their meagre financial resources to meet other urgent needs. The two National Societies' volunteers and staff gained more experience in handling emergency situations and enhanced their response capacities. Through the implementation of the emergency operation, both Syrian Arab RC and Jordan RC gained more confidence and recognition which allowed for the expansion of their partners network.

Constraints and challenges

The distribution of the NFIs has faced some problems at the beginning and one of the main constraints was the accessibility to the beneficiaries. The uncertainty about the exact numbers of displaced Iraqis makes it difficult to plan for the in-kind support. The majority of displaced Iraqis in Syria and Jordan are middle class urban dwellers who entered these countries during intervals and found their way to the different urban neighbourhoods of Greater Damascus and Amman. The vulnerability of many displaced Iraqis is aggravated by their legal status (visas and residence permits). This has discouraged many eligible beneficiaries to come forward to the distribution centres or the BHC centres to seek assistance. This is compounded by problems surrounding the registration process as many beneficiaries are hesitant to come out fearing of being apprehended for violating immigration laws. Verification of documentation to ascertain the eligibility of the beneficiaries to receive assistance takes a lot of

time as the beneficiaries are scattered in different urban neighbourhoods where they are integrated with the host communities. Inflation is becoming a considerable source of concern as well.

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	2007/3-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/4-2009/3
Appeal	MDR81002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	17,041,693				30,963	17,072,655
B. Opening Balance	0				0	0
Income						
Cash contributions						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	301,000					301,000
<i>British Red Cross</i>	2,265					2,265
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	165,700					165,700
<i>German Red Cross</i>	436,050					436,050
<i>Hong Kong Red Cross</i>	5,936					5,936
<i>Japanese Red Cross</i>	303,000					303,000
<i>Monaco Red Cross</i>	3,780				29,360	33,140
<i>On Line donations</i>	31,954					31,954
<i>OPEC Fund For Int-l Development</i>	1,203,000					1,203,000
<i>Polish Red Cross</i>	152					152
<i>PRM, US Dept. Population Refugees & Migration</i>	4,066,104					4,066,104
<i>Swedish Red Cross (from Swedish Government)</i>	1,607,000					1,607,000
<i>Switzerland - Private Donors</i>	500					500
<i>United States - Private Donors</i>	185					185
C1. Cash contributions	8,126,626				29,360	8,155,987
Outstanding pledges (Revalued)						
<i>PRM, US Dept. Population Refugees & Migration</i>	4,999,473					4,999,473
C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)	4,999,473					4,999,473
Inkind Personnel						
<i>British Red Cross</i>	89,250					89,250
<i>German Red Cross</i>	68,200					68,200
C4. Inkind Personnel	157,450					157,450
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	13,283,549				29,360	13,312,909
D. Total Funding = B + C	13,283,549				29,360	13,312,909
Appeal Coverage	78%				95%	78%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0				0	0
C. Income	13,283,549				29,360	13,312,909
E. Expenditure	-8,715,646				-29,360	-8,745,006
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	4,567,903				0	4,567,903

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDR81002 - Middle East - Displaced from Iraq

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/3-2008/12
Budget Timeframe	2007/4-2009/3
Appeal	MDR81002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		17,041,693				30,963	17,072,655	
Supplies								
Construction Materials	20,663	663				663	20,000	
Clothing & textiles	2,081,411	1,250,288				1,250,288	831,123	
Food		195,506				195,506	-195,506	
Medical & First Aid	2,975,709	776,690				776,690	2,199,019	
Teaching Materials	456,482	1,031,547				1,031,547	-575,066	
Utensils & Tools	1,495,408	1,167,667				1,167,667	327,742	
Other Supplies & Services	4,053,588	1,376,889				1,376,889	2,676,699	
Total Supplies	11,083,262	5,799,251				5,799,251	5,284,011	
Land, vehicles & equipment								
Vehicles	522,600	323,457				323,457	199,143	
Computers & Telecom	70,021	35,183				35,183	34,838	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipm.	142,450	12,219				12,219	130,231	
Medical Equipment	630,000						630,000	
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	1,365,071	370,859				370,859	994,212	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		5,086				5,086	-5,086	
Distribution & Monitoring	95,016	15,890				15,890	79,126	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	128,427	42,207				42,207	86,220	
Total Transport & Storage	223,442	63,183				63,183	160,260	
Personnel								
International Staff	943,958	488,473			25,802	514,275	429,684	
National Staff	134,425	94,572				94,572	39,853	
National Society Staff	1,513,082	590,134				590,134	922,948	
Consultants	108,610	67,159				67,159	41,451	
Total Personnel	2,700,075	1,240,338			25,802	1,266,140	1,433,935	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	290,190	96,218				96,218	193,972	
Total Workshops & Training	290,190	96,218				96,218	193,972	
General Expenditure								
Travel	41,266	36,779				36,779	4,486	
Information & Public Relation	81,915	6,914				6,914	75,001	
Office Costs	54,710	19,800			1,650	21,450	33,260	
Communications	68,265	23,330				23,330	44,936	
Professional Fees		915				915	-915	
Financial Charges	25,485	40,107				40,107	-14,622	
Other General Expenses	29,250	312				312	28,938	
Total General Expenditure	300,891	128,158			1,650	129,808	171,083	
Programme Support								
Program Support	1,109,723	561,624			1,908	563,532	546,190	
Total Programme Support	1,109,723	561,624			1,908	563,532	546,190	
Operational Provisions								
Operational Provisions		456,015				456,015	-456,015	
Total Operational Provisions		456,015				456,015	-456,015	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	17,072,655	8,715,646			29,360	8,745,006	8,327,649	
VARIANCE (C - D)		8,326,047			1,602	8,327,649		