

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## IRAQ: RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

*Appeal No. MDRIQ002  
5 April 2007*

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

**Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 1 January to 31 March 2007; Appeal target: CHF 10,346,869 (USD 8,338,196 or EUR 6,420,644); Appeal coverage: 11.3 per cent; Outstanding needs: CHF 9,179,149**  
*(Click [here](#) for the interim financial report to the end of March).*

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 12 February 2007 for CHF 10,346,868 (USD 8,338,196 or EUR 6,420,644) for 12 months to assist 50,000 families (300,000 beneficiaries) with relief items and 150,000 beneficiaries in the health sector.
- Final Report is therefore due by the end of April 2008.

#### Operational Summary:

The security situation under the new security plan is showing some positive signs in Baghdad, although living conditions continue to worsen due to inflation, a steady deterioration in communal services and limited access for ordinary people to public facilities. Suicide bomb attacks, targeted kidnappings and road side bomb attacks remain part of everyday life.

From an operations standpoint, the International Federation and Iraqi Red Crescent Society (Iraqi RCS) need resources to be mobilized in order to fulfil their humanitarian mandate of assisting the most socially vulnerable and victims of natural disasters in Iraq. Response to this appeal is vitally important to implement the planned programmes outlined in this appeal.

The Iraqi RCS programme management staff have taken operational lead over several important humanitarian directions during the planning phase for the appeal programmes and projects. Detailed operational plans of action for disaster relief and preparedness, health and care, organizational development and youth programmes have been completed and will be the basis for the work of Iraqi RCS in the coming year.

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

#### Global Agenda Goals:

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

**human dignity.**

*For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:*

- *In Baghdad: Mazin Saloum, Secretary General of Iraqi Red Crescent Society, [mazin2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mazin2003@yahoo.com)*
- *In Iraq: Gurgun Boshyan, Head of Delegation; phone +962-79-661-7939; [Gurgun.Boshyan@ifrc.org](mailto:Gurgun.Boshyan@ifrc.org);*
- *In Geneva: Evgeni Parfenov, Regional Officer,, Geneva; phone 41.22.730.4325; fax 41.22.733.03.95; [Evgeni.Parfenov@ifrc.org](mailto:Evgeni.Parfenov@ifrc.org)*

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

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

## Background

Four years have elapsed since the beginning of the current crisis in Iraq. The country is still on a high security alert and in social and economic decline. Following the 22 February 2006 bombing of the al-Askariya Shrine in Samarra, sectarian violence has risen markedly and had a direct effect on the everyday lives of ordinary Iraqis. During the first quarter of 2007, more than half of all attacks against Iraqi nationals occurred in two of Iraq's 18 provinces, namely Baghdad and Anbar. The new Security Plan has raised expectations, but tangible results on the ground have been few. The scale and magnitude of the political, economic, and consequently humanitarian, crisis have deepened and the humanitarian space has been further constrained.

## The Iraqi Red Crescent

In December 2006, 12 Iraqi RCS staff members were abducted from their Baghdad branch office. As a consequence, programme activities were halted for a period of two months, mainly in Baghdad Branch. There still has not been clarity on the fate and whereabouts of the abducted Red Crescent staff. Iraqi RCS activities during January and February were conducted in low profile, but relief and other major Iraqi RCS programmes have resumed since early March.

In a further traumatic incident for the Red Crescent, the Salahaddin branch chairman was kidnapped and his driver was shot dead in March of this year. Basra Branch activities were also halted by the Iraqi RCS headquarters from early March due to security considerations.

Within the reporting period the Iraqi RCS assisted internally displaced people mainly in the most exposed governorates:

No	Date	Children	Women	Man	Families	Individuals
1	19.12.06 – 08.01.07	163,492	148,414	135,431	85,368	447,337
2	08.01.07 – 06.02.07	188,575	164,833	145,508	99,174	498,916
3	06.02.07 – 05.03.07	206,195	178,393	159,274	106,919	543,862

*Remark: This number of assistance programme is carried out by Iraqi RCS using Government funds*

Iraqi RCS faces severe operational challenges to delivering its humanitarian services to the most vulnerable. These can be summarized as:

- accidental attacks on staff, volunteers, convoys of relief items;
- frequent and extended curfews;
- difficulty in gaining access and with project implementation;
- unreliability of communication;
- shortage in reporting and accessibility of branches;
- insufficient means of transporting relief, equipment and staff;
- limited warehouse capacity; and
- high turnover of staff and volunteers.

In light of the challenges and ever-changing environment Iraqi RCS developed a response strategy. Key aspects include:

- opening new sub-offices all over Iraq so the humanitarian supply is closer to the beneficiaries;

- placing emphasis on branch capacity development;
- encouraging better strategic pre-positioning, planning for the unexpected interventions, contingency planning;
- widening Iraqi RCS dissemination campaign,
- placing emphasis staff and volunteer training,
- placing emphasis on project and programme management staff capacity building; and
- placing emphasis on information and reporting capacity building.

## Operational developments

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Operational documentation is being developed by the delegation and Iraqi RCS. So far a Cooperation Agreement between the Federation and National Society has been agreed. Project agreements are also being discussed. The Iraqi RCS has invested considerable time developing more detailed programme plans of action, operational budgets and implementation time schedules during the first three months of 2007.

### Preparation for operations

- The annual Middle East and North Africa Regional Information and Management Meeting, was held in Beirut in early March. One day was fully dedicated to the Iraq crisis with analysis of the situation in Iraq and challenges facing the Iraqi RCS. In this context the National Society's ongoing programmes and planned activities for 2007 were presented by the Secretary General and followed by two presentations by branch chairmen. Participants from Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies then had the opportunity to discuss in more detail how the Iraqi RCS was working with its partners to address the needs in the country.
- An information sharing and planning seminar was organized for programme and project managers of the Iraqi RCS between in late March to develop the capacities of managers plan programmes. Positive results were achieved and detailed operational plan of actions are now developed for the present appeal for 2007.
- Programme review and planning workshop for Iraqi RCS reporting officers was held between in February.

### Disaster Management (DM)

The DM programme has three components: disaster relief, disaster preparedness and capacity building of physical structures, each with a specific objective.

**Overall programme goal:** The suffering of families left vulnerable by the economic decline and collapse of the social security systems in the country and by natural and human-made disasters is alleviated.

**Objective for Emergency Relief:** The suffering of 50,000 socially vulnerable families and victims of natural disasters such as floods is alleviated by delivering non-food items.

As a result of the planning workshop the following steps were agreed in relation to relief assistance to the socially vulnerable and victims of natural disasters:

#### *Two major distributions are planned:*

- the first distribution will be in June-July (summer distribution) for 20,000 families;
- the second distribution in October-November (winter distribution) for 20,000 families.

Using the available funds to date a total of 4,000 family kits will be purchased in April-May 2007.

#### *Contingency stock*

Contingency stock will be procured and pre-positioned by the 15 - 20 May 2007 for emergency purposes in Iraqi RCS regional warehouses in Baghdad 5,000, Basra and Erbil 2,500 sets in each location. The emergency stock is intended to support victims of natural disasters, particularly the annual floods which strike the country usually in spring and autumn. A programme coordinator for relief has been appointed to act as counterpart to the Federation DM manager. Iraqi RCS will conduct assessment in April to identify beneficiaries in 18 governorates according to the criteria stipulated in the appeal document.

A operational plan of action, time schedule and operational budget has been developed. The plan can be implemented only if there is a positive response from donors to this appeal.

**Objective for Physical Rehabilitation/Construction:** Two regional warehouses in Basra (main port) and Baghdad are constructed to increase the Iraqi RCS warehouse storage capacity.

Based on an official request of the Iraqi RCS and taking into consideration the strategic flow of major relief to Iraq the location of the planned warehouse for Basra was changed to Erbil in northern Iraq. In addition, the area enjoys relative safety and this played a decisive role in the decision making, further motivated by the suspension of activities in Basra Branch due to instability of the management system in the branch.

### **Progress/Achievements**

#### ***Baghdad Regional Warehouse Construction Project***

Preparation for Baghdad regional warehouse is underway. Relevant permissions and technical documentations have been obtained, and planning and design documentation completed. Iraqi RCS provided a formal request and allocated a plot of land at Iraqi RCS headquarters.

The regional warehouse will have the following features:

- a main warehouse area with a floor space of 510 m<sup>2</sup> and a guard room of 25 m<sup>2</sup> with shower facilities;
- a cold warehouse for medicines with a 200 m<sup>2</sup> floor space.

The call for tender and request for contractors to send their qualifications for the project will start in early April.

#### ***Erbil Regional Warehouse Construction Project***

An initial site assessment mission will take place in the middle of May to obtain relevant site measurements and available documentation from Iraqi RCS Erbil branch. A Baghdad based construction team is engaged in drafting operational plans. However, there has not been a soft pledge earmarked for this specific project to date.

#### ***Suleymania Branch Construction Project***

This activity is beyond the scope of the appeal. At the same time the project is linked to the German Red Cross' request to assess the needs in the northern governorates of Iraq. In coordination with Iraqi RCS headquarters and Suleymania branch the following project was identified as a priority for capacity building of the branch.

The scope of the construction project:

- 240 m of masonry fence- perimeter wall to provide higher perimeter security for the Iraqi RCS Suleymania branch main office;
- guard and information room:
  - 12 m<sup>2</sup> for the information room; 9 m<sup>2</sup> guard room; 2.25 m<sup>2</sup> of kitchen; 1.5 m<sup>2</sup> shower.

Project plans, documents and bills of quantity have been developed. The project proposal has been submitted to the German Red Cross, who committed a soft pledge for the project.

## **Health and Care**

**Overall programme goal:** Reduce the prevalence of common health problems in the 18 governorates of Iraq by providing training and mobilising the Iraqi RCS volunteers and community organizations to meet the set goal.

As one of the outcomes of the planning workshop held in February, a detailed plan of action for all four directions under the Health and Care programme were developed:

- **School first aid:** Taking into consideration the holiday season in the schools in Iraq and the limited amount of funds allocated for health, a decision was taken to begin with school first aid, from 1 April. First aid promotion for school children (School FA), especially in the conflict prone areas and governorates, remains one of the major priorities. The programme is closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and comprises multi-layer training sessions. In the selected nine governorates 180 teacher-volunteers will receive first aid training for trainers (ToT) in a five-day long course (nine courses). The newly trained school teachers/first aid trainers will conduct 2,160 trainings in the selected nine governorates.

- **Community Based First Aid (CBFA):** The programme will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Health and closely monitored by the Federation Baghdad Office and Iraqi RCS headquarters Health Department joint monitoring team. The plan of action comprises training of new trainers in four courses (80 trainers). Newly trained trainers along with trainers trained in previous years will conduct 105 CBFA courses (2,100 trained in CBFA) in the 18 governorates. HIV/AIDS ToT (for 40 volunteers from college and university students) and HIV/AIDS prevention/awareness training for 1,440 volunteers is an integral part of the CBFA programme, which will start as soon as the funding becomes available.
- **National Immunization Campaign:** The Iraqi RCS has increased capacity in planning, organising and mobilizing volunteer participation in National Immunization Campaigns. Working in close coordination with the Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO), the monitoring immunisation campaign is an active and dynamic monitoring activity carried out each year by the Iraqi RCS. More than 600 staff and volunteers are involved in each round in the 18 Governorates of Iraq. The supervisory body consists of eight headquarters staff members and 18 health coordinators. This year the campaign is planned for four rounds; in April/May and November/December. In each round the expected number of vaccinated under five year old children will be 100,000. The delegation is expecting positive donor response to begin with the implementation of the programme.

## **Organisational Development/Branch development**

**Programme Goal:** The Iraqi RCS capacity to provide effective and efficient services to vulnerable groups is strengthened in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Red Cross and Red Crescent and its own Constitution.

**Objective for OD:** The Iraqi RCS has enhanced its organizational and operational capacity at all levels.

### ***Programme review and planning workshop for Reporting Officers***

The Federation's Iraq delegation in cooperation with the National Society organized a five-day workshop for reporting officers. During this workshop the team of five dedicated programme and reporting officers developed and formulated the Iraqi RCS's vision on the situation in the country, gave a presentation on the organization's response in 2006 and provided planning featured concept for 2007. The goals and expected results of the workshop were fully met. The final outcome was presented by the Secretary General at the Middle East and North Africa Regional Information and Management Meeting in early March.

### ***Impact and results of the workshop:***

- Presentation skills were improved;
- National Societies participated in the Regional Information Meeting in Beirut received overall view on the current situation (challenges) in Iraq, Iraqi RCS plans for 2007 based on the presented materials.

### **Information Sharing and Planning seminar/workshop**

Information Sharing and Planning seminar/workshop was organized for programme and project managers of the Iraqi RCS. Programme and project managers of disaster management, relief, logistics, health, organizational development and youth were present. The aim of the workshop was to develop capacities of the managers in planning and programming activities. Positive results were achieved and operational plans of actions developed under appeal 2007 for all directions of activities of Iraqi RCS. The Iraqi RCS programme and project management staff has increasingly taken control responsibility and the operational lead over several important humanitarian directions in planning phase under Appeal programmes and projects.

### ***Impact and results of the Information Sharing and Planning seminar /workshop:***

- Operational plans and budgets for appeal MDRIQ002 are completed;
- Time schedule for programme/projects implementation are ready;
- Programme/project management staff received training on planning phases.

### ***Constraints:***

- High turnover of programme/project staff- periodic training is necessary to keep a high profile,
- Importance of future nomination of staff for similar trainings and seminars – selection criteria.

**[Interim financial report below; click here to return to the title page.](#)**

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRIQ002 - IRAQ - RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/02-2007/03
Budget Timeframe	2007/02-2008/01
Appeal	MDRIQ002
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
<b>A. Budget</b>	1,711,230	8,325,479		310,160		10,346,869
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0	0		0		0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Cash contributions</u>						
<i>American Red Cross</i>	62,679					62,679
<i>Japanese Red Cross Society</i>	227,896	61,000				288,896
<i>On Line donations</i>		9,665				9,665
<b>C1. Cash contributions</b>	<b>290,575</b>	<b>70,665</b>				<b>361,240</b>
<u>Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</u>						
<i>Finnish Red Cross</i>	162,000					162,000
<i>Malaysian Red Crescent Society</i>		644,480				644,480
<b>C2. Outstanding pledges (Revalued)</b>	<b>162,000</b>	<b>644,480</b>				<b>806,480</b>
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>	<b>452,575</b>	<b>715,145</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>1,167,720</b>
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>	<b>452,575</b>	<b>715,145</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>1,167,720</b>

## II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>	0	0		0		0
<b>C. Income</b>	452,575	715,145		0		1,167,720
<b>E. Expenditure</b>	0	-73,654		-9,118		-82,772
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>	<b>452,575</b>	<b>641,491</b>		<b>-9,118</b>		<b>1,084,948</b>

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRIQ002 - IRAQ - RESPONSE TO HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2007/02-2007/03
Budget Timeframe	2007/02-2008/01
Appeal	MDRIQ002
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>1,711,230</b>	<b>8,325,479</b>		<b>310,160</b>		<b>10,346,869</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Construction Materials	1,162,000							1,162,000
Clothing & textiles	3,020,000							3,020,000
Medical & First Aid	340,000							340,000
Teaching Materials	220,000							220,000
Utensils & Tools	2,000,000							2,000,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>6,742,000</b>							<b>6,742,000</b>
<b>Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>								
Computers & Telecom	10,000							10,000
<b>Total Land, vehicles &amp; equipment</b>	<b>10,000</b>							<b>10,000</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	120,000		5,870		18		5,887	114,113
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>120,000</b>		<b>5,870</b>		<b>18</b>		<b>5,887</b>	<b>114,113</b>
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
Delegates Payroll	228,000		160				160	227,840
Delegate Benefits	60,000		10,090				10,090	49,910
National Staff	746,000		27,576		883		28,458	717,542
National Society Staff	140,000							140,000
Consultants	50,000							50,000
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>1,224,000</b>		<b>37,826</b>		<b>883</b>		<b>38,708</b>	<b>1,185,292</b>
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>								
Workshops & Training	879,035							879,035
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>879,035</b>							<b>879,035</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	134,000		5,692				5,692	128,308
Information & Public Relation	237,115		1,498				1,498	235,617
Office Costs	255,323		7,825				7,825	247,498
Communications	60,849		3,747		7,625		11,372	49,477
Financial Charges	12,000		5,801				5,801	6,200
Other General Expenses			186				186	-186
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>699,287</b>		<b>24,749</b>		<b>7,625</b>		<b>32,374</b>	<b>666,913</b>
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	672,546		5,210		593		5,802	666,744
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>672,546</b>		<b>5,210</b>		<b>593</b>		<b>5,802</b>	<b>666,744</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>10,346,869</b>		<b>73,654</b>		<b>9,118</b>		<b>82,772</b>	<b>10,264,097</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>1,711,230</b>	<b>8,251,826</b>		<b>301,042</b>		<b>10,264,097</b>	