

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: DISPLACED PERSONS & HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

15 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin is being issued on behalf of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. The response outlined is the result of close coordination between the IRCS, the ICRC (lead agency for the Movement in Iraq), and the Federation, with additional support from outside agencies. CHF 250,000 has already been allocated from funds on hand through the current Iraq Emergency Appeal to enable the IRCS to respond with local purchases and operating costs. Based on further updates and details from ongoing assessment reports, the Federation will consider requesting additional international support to continue this emergency support.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

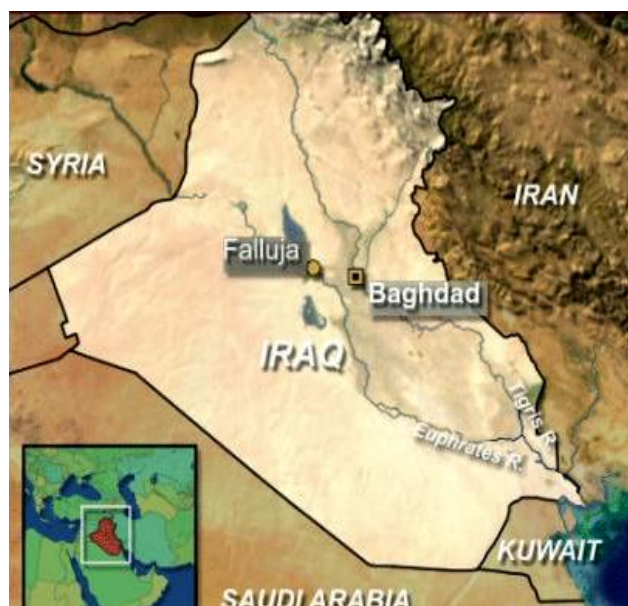
- In Amman, Jordan: Per Andersson (Head of Delegation), email ifrciq10@ifrc.org, phone 00962-79-504-2922
- In Amman, Jordan: Mazin Salloum, IRCS International Director (same contacts as above)
- In MENA Department Geneva: Martin Fisher, Regional Officer; phone: 41 22 730 4440; fax 41.22.733.03.95; email: martin.fisher@ifrc.org
- In Baghdad: Tahseen Zayouna, IRCS Director of Reporting, e-mail tnzayouna@yahoo.com

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

Iraqi and Multi-National Forces launched a second large-scale offensive against the 'insurgents' in the city of Falluja in Al-Anbar Governorate. The city, with an estimated population of 300,000 people, is situated 50 kms west of Baghdad. Fierce fighting began on 7 November 2004, reportedly resulting in heavy casualties. Unconfirmed reports indicate bodies of the dead are lying in the streets, and the injured have not been able to access first aid.

Prior to the attack an all-round city siege was imposed, with the Iraqi and Multi-National Forces advising the residents to evacuate the city. The families were heading to the nearby cities and villages, including towards Baghdad, where many found shelter with relatives or



friends. At least an additional 4,000 families have fled Falluja in recent days, and they are now struggling to cope without adequate water, food, or medicine (according to reports received from the IRCS branch in Al-Anbar). There are approximately 250,000 people displaced, temporarily accommodated in 12 different camps in the area.

There is an urgent need to respond to the needs of the displaced families and to gain access to any civilians still inside Falluja. There is currently no water, power or food stocks, no access to medical assistance, or possibility (at this stage) of evacuating the wounded.



Families moving away from the city

Loading IRCS trucks with donation from the Emirates RC

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In close coordination with other partners in the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as outside agencies, as an immediate first response, the IRCS dispatched a consignment of food and non-food relief items to the following areas on Wednesday 11 November (arriving at 1330 hrs):

Relief items for 500 families in Amiriyat – Al Falluja:

Item	Quantity per family	Total	Source of Donation
Blankets	3 blankets	1,500	UNICEF
Soap	5 pieces	2,500	UNICEF
Food Basket	1 basket	500	Saudi RC
Water sack	4 sack	2,000	IRCS stores
Fish (cans)	3 cans	1,500	IRCS stores
Date Syrup	1 can	500	Local Purchase by IRCS
Beans (cans)	5 cans	2,500	IRCS stores

Relief items for 550 families in Amiriyat –Al Falluja (two cargo deliveries):

First delivery

Item	Quantity per family	Total	Source of Donation
Blankets	2 blankets	600	UNICEF
Soap	6 piece	900	UNICEF
Food Basket	1 basket	300	Saudi RC
Dates	1 packets	300	Emirates RC
Dates Syrup	1 can	300	Local Purchase by IRCS
Biscuit	1 packet	300	Local Purchase by IRCS

Second delivery

Blankets	2 blankets	500	UNICEF
Sterilized water	As needed	3 containers	UNICEF
Soap	6 piece	1500	UNICEF
Food basket	1 basket	250	Saudi RC
Beans can	10 can	2500	IRCS stores
Fish can	5 can	1250	IRCS stores
Cheese	1 packet	252	Local IRCS Purchase

Another donation from the Iraqi Ministry of Immigrants and IDPs of 135 food parcels was also sent on 11 November 2004

A second convoy composed of seven vehicles, including four trucks and three ambulances, traveled to Al-Falluja city at 1030 hrs on Saturday 13 November led by the secretary general of the IRCS, with a number of its staff and volunteers, to carry relief items for 700 families. However, access to any remaining civilian population within the city was not permitted by the military.



Loading the IRCS trucks for Falluja

This convoy carried a water purification station, food baskets, blankets, soap, other foodstuffs and water sterilizing tablets, donated by the ICRC, and various national societies (released from the IRCS' own stocks or purchased locally).

The Needs

Although the IRCS has no intention to set up a parallel system to the government's PDS (Ministry of Trade food distribution system), there is an urgent need to bridge the immediate gap until the PDS-distributed supplies reach the IDPs. The outstanding needs for the displaced families will be delivered as they become available or bought locally.

In coordination with other partners, the Federation has agreed to support local purchases and operating costs for the IRCS, and has already transferred CHF 250,000 for immediate action. There will be a need to rent additional vehicles in order to transport relief cargos to the affected areas.

Further Information Bulletins will be issued in the coming days.

[*Click here to return to the title page or contact information.*](#)