

# 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: FLOODS

16 February 2006

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

Appeal No. MDRIQ001; Operations Update no. 1; Period covered: 8 16 February 2006; Appeal budget: CHF 1,802,000 (some USD 1.3 million or EUR 1.1 million); Appeal coverage: 17.4%; ([click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website](#)).

#### Appeal history:

- Launched on 8 February 2006 for CHF 1,802,000 (some USD 1.3 million or EUR 1.1 million) to assist 5,000 families (25,000 beneficiaries) for 2 months.
- CHF 400,000 was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF).

Outstanding needs: CHF 1,487,640

**Operational Summary:** On 8 February 2006 the International Federation launched an emergency appeal to support 5,000 families (out of the estimated 10,000 affected) by the floods in the northern and other parts of Iraq. The Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has responded to the acute humanitarian needs in the affected areas by mobilizing its internal resources and alerting the international community on the most urgent requirements which could not be covered through its own means. The Federation's Iraq Delegation (based in Amman) has been actively supporting the national society in its efforts to help the thousands of affected families.

According to the IRCS, at least 15,000 blankets are still required, as well as kerosene heaters, tents, medical supplies and food parcels. Part of the needs have been covered through the distribution of the pre-positioned relief supplies. The resources mobilized through the current appeal allow for purchasing and distribution of approximately 3,000 emergency winter kits and additional quantities of tents.

The International Federation urges the donor community to respond to this emergency appeal. Due to the very difficult access to the affected areas the International Federation is relying on the IRCS's operational infrastructure to carry out the planned activities. In-kind donations are not recommended since the time span required for their delivery in Iraq is too excessive for the items to be useful to those affected.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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>

## Background

Heavy rains in northern Iraq in early February 2006 caused rivers to overflow, leading to extensive flooding (please see attached map). The flooding was compounded by the natural melting of the ice in the mountainous north of the country. The most affected governorates include Erbil, Sallahaddin, Kirkuk, Dyjala and Missan. More than 7,000 families were forced to leave their houses, according to information received from the Iraqi Red Crescent Society (IRCS's) rapid assessment team (made up of staff and volunteers). The assessment revealed that a large number of those affected are women and children.

Responding to a request from the IRCS, the International Federation launched this Emergency Appeal to support the IRCS in delivering immediate assistance to families in acute need of relief, and to provide vital support to the IRCS itself. In the process, the ICRC and the Federation have strengthened the collective commitment of both institutions to ensure coordinated programme and operational support to the IRCS. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Movement components (the International Federation, IRCS, and the ICRC) in November 2005 is intended to coordinate the Movement's response in Iraq.

## Operational developments

The Iraqi Ministry of Environment has attributed much of the flooding to excessive rains in mountainous areas, which has led to rising water levels in the Tigris River. IRCS volunteers are providing medical assistance with help from local doctors, and have also warned of the possible spread of water born diseases.

The worst affected regions are in the northern governorate of Erbil, where nearly 3,300 families have been forced to leave their homes and seek shelter. In Salahuddine (north of Baghdad), an estimated 2,900 families have been displaced, with further displacements in Kirkuk, Diala and Missan in southern Iraq. In the southern governorate of Missan, continuous rainfall has resulted in overflows of sewage onto streets, leading to cases of diarrhoea and vomiting among children in these areas, according to a volunteer doctor in Salahddine governorate. The table below reflects the number of severely affected families and their location:

Governorate	Affected families	Affected Localities	Remark
Erbil	3,000	Turka, Kazara and Qeshaglou	3 bridges destroyed, road to main town cut off,
Dahuk	81	Husayenih	Turkish/kurd refugees accommodated in school, sharing with villagers
Sulaymaniyah	315	Shahnadri & Said Sadiq (215), (100) Rania	More than 200 families displaced, mud houses destroyed
Salahadhin	2,575	Bayji, (2000), Al'Aam (175), Al Rahseeda (250), Al Hai al assri (150)	
Tameem, Kirkuk	350	Fuzkari, Rounaki, Taza, Al Failak, Al Mala'b	
Diyala	620	Khanaqin (Shaah Camp for IDPs and Returnees) (150), Miqdadiya (470)	
Missan	1,370	Al Nassafera, al Saada, Al Bekhat, Al Abouss,, Al Jaiaznaa (250), At Tib (600), Aldebon (400), Umm Al Khanazir (120)	
Wassit, Kut	67	Al Rahmania (25), Al Jamhuria (42)	
<b>TOTAL (Affected Families)</b>	<b>8,378</b>		

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

### Emergency relief (non-food items)

**Objective:** to ensure that 5,000 families in the northern part of the country are assisted through the distribution of non-food emergency kits, containing the most essential relief goods.

#### Expected results:

- 5,000 target beneficiary families have received the emergency kits.
- The vulnerability of the at-risk population is reduced through the Federation and IRCS's joint assistance program.

#### Progress/Achievements

The Iraqi RCS has been mobilizing its own resources and relying on international support in its efforts to supply and get access to the displaced people. The organization has already provided food supplies, kerosene stoves, blankets and tents as well as other non-food relief supplies to nearly 3,000 families in affected areas.



The key role in the emergency relief operation is played by the Iraqi RCS branches supported by the national headquarters and the staff of the Federation's delegation in Baghdad.

The national society, with support from the Federation, ICRC, and as well as other donors, distributed the following relief items during the first week of February 2006.

Relief Items	Quantity
Food	500 (parcels)
Sugar	50 (50 kg sacks)
Beans	75 (50 kg sacks)
Canned fish	3,750 (cans)
Tents	270 (units)
Blankets	10,000 (units)
Cooking stoves	1,150 (units)
Heating stoves	150 (units)
Kitchen sets	150 (units)
Jerry cans	1,450 (units)
Lamps	150 (units)
Plastic sheeting	3,000 (roles)
Soap	90 (cartons)

- The CHF 400,000 allocated from the Federation's DREF was used to procure 1,400 tents. The distribution of the tents to the affected governorates was reportedly completed on 15 February 2006 (see photo and table below).
- By 15 February 2006 the International Federation had mobilized CHF 1,000,000 (including the above mentioned allocation from DREF) in support of the ongoing relief operations in the affected areas. Support has been either announced or pledged by the Danish, German, Japan, Swedish, United Kingdom and American Red Cross societies.

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- Federation delegation and ICRC country office have been closely cooperating in their efforts to support the society with resource mobilization and information sharing.
- The IRCS /Federation assessment and monitoring teams have been operating in the affected governorates. There are, however, difficulties in accessing parts of the affected areas because of security considerations and the direct effects of the floods on infrastructure (damaged roads /bridges, telephone lines, etc).

### Distribution of non-food items - tents (11-15 February 2006).

According to the IRCS report, people affected by the floods are seeking shelter on higher ground or safe areas "We have improvised tent camps in these governorates", said Ms. Al-Abadi, responsible officer of the national society. Other families have sought refuge with relatives' homes or in abandoned government buildings or schools.



No. of Tents	Destination	Planned Date of Distribution	Actual Date of Distribution	Remarks
214	Erbil	11 Feb. 2006	11 Feb. 2006	The tents were received by IRCS Warehouse in Baghdad and distributed directly by IRCS trucks.
200	Kirkuk	11 Feb. 2006	11 Feb. 2006	
250	Tikrit	12 Feb. 2006	12 Feb. 2006	
300	Suleimaniya	13 Feb. 2006	13 Feb. 2006	
200	Missan and Thi Qar	14 Feb. 2006	14 Feb. 2006	
250	Anbar	15 Feb. 2006	15 Feb. 2006	
1,414	Total No. of Distributed Tents.			

### Constraints and Challenges:

- Inadequate access to some of the governorates or affected areas due to road /bridge damage and insecurity.
- Inadequate supplies and difficulty in rapidly mobilizing resources and large quantities of relief items.
- Delay in information sharing /reporting also because of damaged telecom lines - poor media coverage in branch response activities.
- The floods are expected to get worse as the ground is already saturated and additional rainfall will cause flooding. In addition, dams in Turkey and northern Iraq may release water as the water is rapidly increasing to critical levels.

### Federation Coordination

From the initial onset of the flooding the International Federation has established close cooperation with the ICRC offices in Iraq and other relevant locations. The ICRC has played an important role in providing relief to those affected in the northern part of the country. Close cooperation has been also established and a regular exchange of information maintained with UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and other agencies. UNICEF offered 10 emergency health kits, 1,000 blankets, and 20,000 jerry cans to the operation.

[Contributions list below; click here to return to the title page.](#)

# Iraq - Floods

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MDRIQ001

## PLEDGES RECEIVED

16/02/2006

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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### CASH

					<b>TOTAL COVERAGE</b>	
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				<b>1,802,000</b>		<b>17.4%</b>
BRITISH - RC		40,000	GBP	90,962	14.02.06	
JAPANESE - RC		42,900	USD	55,148	14.02.06	
SWEDISH - GOVT		1,000,000	SEK	168,250	15.02.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				314,360	CHF	17.4%

### KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				0	CHF	0.0%

### ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	